DEVELOPING THE CITY.

NEW BLOCKS AND NEW HOUSES AND PLANS FOR NEW RAILWAYS.

Encouraging Status of the Rock Creek Park Project—Need of a Real Estate Exchange—How Such an Institution Could Be Established—Plans for New Buildings

Two amendments to the Rock Creek Park bill were offered on Tuesday by the committee having the matter in charge. First, that the name be changed to "Columbus Memorial Park;" and second, that one-half of the original cost be put upon the District. The latter is of monetary interest to the tax-payers here, and will meet with a certain amount of disapproval, but I believe that a large majority will be satisfied with the arrangement. While at first it will temporarily deplete the District's pocketbook very quickly, the increased value of taxable property will reimburse all outlay. The bill has been reported favorably, and it appears that at last we will secure our great National Park.

A REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE.

In Washington there are over three hundred real estate agents, with an aggregate business amounting to several millions of dollars annually, yet there is no real estate exchange here—no place where the brokers can meet and fraternize, and where harmony and unity of action may be promoted. A large number of the brokers are unknown to each other, and for this reason confidence and cordiality does not exist between them, thereby lessening the volume of business and proportionately the profits of each broker. We have a Board of Trade, a Stock Exchange, a Builders' Exchange, and a Business Men's Club, but none of these meets the requirements of the real estate agent. What we need is an exchange composed exclusively of real estate brokers and devoted wholly the interest of real estate, where all matters pertaining to Washington realty can be discussed and where joint effort can be put forth for the advnacement of Washington property. Such exchanges are now in successful operation in New York and many other large cities. A great portion of the growth and improvement of Washington is due to her real estate agents; they have built handsome houses, erected magnificent business blocks, established street railways, opened and improved miles of streets on the suburbs—in truth, help make Washington the queen of American cities. Such a record achieved without organization is but an evidence of what can be accomplished with a perfected real estate bureau, where coaction would be universal.

A real estate exchange can be made a financial success within itself. Of the three hundred and twenty agents doing business here, say that only two hundred and fifty would become members of the association. An initiation fee of $50 each would give the exchange $12,500 cash, and annual dues of $25 each would bring a yearly revenue of $6,250, or all these figures could be increased or diminished according to the needs of the exchange. Such an amount would maintain the association handsomely and satisfactorily. A prominent office building could be erected and made a paying investment. The exchange could issue stock to the extent of $250,000, payable 10 per cent. monthly, or otherwise, for the purchase of ground and the erection of a suitable building, and an average subscription of $1,000 by each of the 250 members would quickly exhaust the issue. With this sum a magnificent building could be constructed, the exchange handsomely housed, and good dividends accruing from the rents of the building declared to the stockholders. The Atlantic Building, built and owned by a stock company, has been signally prosperous, and in like manner would this project prove a success. Such an organization would promote honorable and liberal dealings between the members, and debar all whose requirements did not comply with the laws and regulations of the association.

The Eckington Railroad Company's amended charter, allowing them to run up G street to Fifteenth, has caused a flutter in G-street ground. For several years this thoroughfare has been abandoned to boarding-houses, livery-stables, and small shops, but lots are now eagerly sought for and bring handsome figures. A number of sales have been effected and many more are under way.

The Builders' Exchange has completed its negotiations for the purchase of the old First Baptist Church, located on Thirteenth street, near G northwest. Mr. T. J. King, the secretary, bought the property some weeks ago for $45,000, and he has now transferred it to the Exchange for the same figure. The building has a frontage of 65 feet on Thirteenth street by a depth of 155 feet. It will be entirely remodeled and have a stone front.

It is rumored that the trustees of St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum, whose property is on G street, extending the entire width of the square from Tenth to Eleventh streets northwest, will consider an offer for the sale of same, they being willing to remove further from the centre of the city to some section where they may obtain larger and more healthful quarters. Their property is large and valuable and will command a handsome figure.

DISTRICT RAILROADS.

The incorporators of the Georgetown and Tenleytown Railroad Company were before the Commissioners Wednesday to discuss the bill to amend their charter so as to allow their tracks to occupy the roadway instead of purchasing the right of way along the road. The company only has until August next to complete their road, and if much delay is occasioned them this will be impossible. Under the plan presented twenty-eight feet of roadway will be left, which for present purposes is all that is required. Permanent extension and widening of the streets will soon be made, and then greater traveling facilities will be granted this thoroughfare. No cable will run down Seventeenth street. Opposition was bitter and the plan has been changed. The altered route will commence at Florida and Connecticut avenues, run to Eighteenth street, thence westerly, crossing Columbia road, and extending to Rock Creek. Here an iron bridge 800 feet in length will be erected, over which the double track will be laid. Thence the road will run through Woodly Park, on Connecticut avenue extended, along Connecticut avenue to the District line. Connections will be made with the Washington and Georgetown Railroad at the corner of Fourteenth and U streets northwest.

The Seventh-street cable line is nearing completion. Several open-grip and closed cars are now in the company's car-house, and it is confidently expected that the cable will be laid and everything in perfect running order by April 1. Seventh street is the only prominent business thoroughfare upon which the rough cobblestones remain. The grooved rails of the cable line are a great improvement, but the roughness of the street prevents carriages and other light vehicles from traveling it, and thereby works serious harm and disadvantages to the merchants located thereon.

It is believed that the Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company will also build cable lines on Fourteenth street and Pennsylvania avenue by next October, thus giving a continuous cable system over all their property.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Mr. John W. Payne will soon build eight brick buildings on K and Nineteenth streets at an aggregate cost of $40,000. Mr. T. F. Schneider is the architect.

Mr. Leroy Tuttle will at once build a handsome brick dwelling on Leroy Place, Washington Heights, at a cost of $23,000.

Frank N. Carpenter will erect a $10,000 dwelling for George A. Jordan at 1517 P street northwest.

The flats being built by Oliver Cox, on the corner of Tenth and H streets northwest, are nearing completion. They are of handsome design and will be a great improvement to that section.

Permits have been issued C. W. Simpson to construct nine brick dwellings on Tenth street northwest, being Nos. 1021 to 1031.

Sales on the Rockville and Georgetown road have become less frequent, but there is yet considerable activity in that section. All available ground as far as the District line is exhausted, and the operations now extend to and several miles beyond Bethesda, Md. The advanced values at this remote point are largely based upon the hope of the electric road which was incorporated several weeks ago to run from Rockville over this route to the District line. Among the sales consummated last week in this vicinity are H. Offutt to J. B. Wimer, 100 acres, for $30,000, and Spencer Watkins to John E. Beall, 102 acres, for $60,000.

A. M. GORMAN,
625 F street northwest.

GILDED CLEAR THROUGH.

Young Men of Classic Antiquity and Their Habits.

From Texas Siftings.

The term "gilded youth" is as old as the latter days of the Roman republic, and was a favorite phrase early in the empire. It could be traced in Greece to the age of Alcibiades, who was perhaps the most famous specimen of his class in all antiquity. The gilded youth who flourished in Rome during the reign of Augustus were the antitypes of modern Europe and young America.

When the wealthy young Roman arose in the morning he went at once to the thermæ, the hot baths which for magnificence, luxury, and size have never been equaled. This establishment was upon so vast a scale that it formed a village almost in itself. The halls where the brilliant triflers lounged were spacious. They were decorated with statues and engravings. Above them were apartments for every imaginable comfort. In the refectories were delicate viands, from nightingales' tongues sent from afar to turbot from the Adriatic and oysters from Britain, washed down with all the delicious wines of Italy, Sicily, and Greece.

The Romans were as fond of the game of ball, tossed from hand to hand, with many complicated rules, as the English are of cricket or Americans of base ball. For this there was ample accommodation within the walls in large halls specially set apart for the players, and by this exercise and other gymnastics, young and old alike preserved their health and strength, and what many of them valued even more highly, their appetite.

The bath, which was a most elaborate affair, was often taken three or four times a day. The final stage was the anointing with aromatic oil and robing the body with the most loosely-fitting raiment of the softest and costliest fabrics. The gilded exquisite, then garlanded with a chaplet of flowers, was ready either to dream away the hours on the most luxurious couches, to play—and gambling ran very high—or to indulge in any of the other amusements of the place. One of these was listening to the recitations of poets or the compositions and discussions of the sophists or philosophers, most of whom were immigrants from Greece. A number of the young men wrote verse and prose of their own and assembled all their friends together to hear them read, and if they were very rich and very liberal in dining and wining they had hosts of sympathetic auditors. Then followed visits to the schools where gladiators were trained, laying bets on their favorites, and to taverns where riotous nights were passed, making still more imperative the refreshment of the next morning's bath.

A Startling Disclosure.

From the New York Mercury.

The following story is told about the editor of one of Maine's most prominent dailies:

"When a small boy his father, now one of the most prominent men in the State, was running a printing office and publishing a weekly paper in one of the largest towns in Kennebec County. One day the advance agent of a show came along and ordered some posters printed upon cotton cloth. His order was filled, but for some reason he neglected to call for them and they were thus left on the printer's hands. The printer's wife ran across them, and as cloth was then high she took the cloth home and used it to line a pair of pants she was then making for the editor above mentioned, then a boy about ten years of age. As the months rolled by the pantaloons grew threadbare, and at school one day he accidentally tore the seat out, leaving about one foot of the lining exposed to view. This in itself would have made the boys smile, but they laughed till the tears came when they observed the following words standing out boldly upon the lining in large type: 'Doors open at 7:30. Performance begins at 8.' It is needless to state that the boy was sent home to his mother in tears."

A Queer Fad of Fair Parisiennes.

From the London World.

As soon as a famous French *demi-mondaine* dies the Parisienne is excited until she knows when the sale of her belongings will begin; and to have something once possessed by one of these women is counted, only a woman knows why, a great glory. When Mme. Musard's effects were sold, there were boxes upon boxes of fine silk stockings which had never been untied, and the other night, at a smart dance in London, a beauty, whose costume was of green tulle, put out her little foot and told with great glee that the green silk stocking incasing it had been among those bought at the notorious Musard's sale. Mme. Musard was among the first of the women, of this century, at least, to regard the serpent as an ornament, and people who remember her at the opera in the glory of her wonderful diamonds never fail to tell you of the tiny viper which encircled her neck, bringing out its incomparable whiteness and making the jewels look all the brighter by its dark skin. A young married woman in New York possesses the famous turquoise which was the delight of Cora Pearl, and another glories in an emerald band with which it is said her golden locks were for one evening held in position.

Catarrh Cured.

A clergyman, after years of suffering from that loathsome disease Catarrh, and vainly trying every known remedy, at last found a prescription which completely cured and saved him from death. Any sufferer from this dreadful disease sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Prof. J. A. Lawrence, 88 Warren street, New York, will receive the recipe free of charge.

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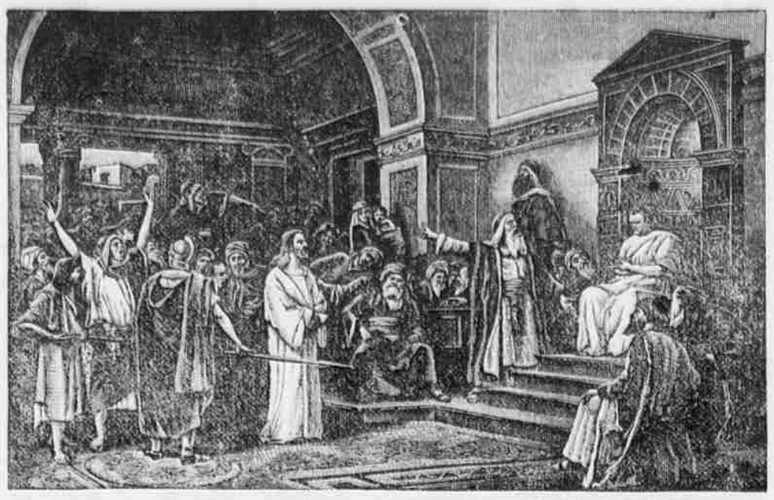
THE MOST COSTLY PAINTING IN THE WORLD.

Mr. John Wanamaker, the Postmaster General, paid Over One Hundred Thousand Dollars for the Famous Painting entitled "CHRIST BEFORE PILATE."



Millions of people, in this country and in Europe, have traveled many miles and paid an admission fee to get a view of the remarkable painting,

Christ Before Pilate,

And it has been the topic of conversation in hundreds of thousands of homes for many months. It is pronounced by critics to be the most notable picture ever brought to America, a masterpiece, truly grand and wonderful as a work of art beyond the power of language to describe, and worth a thousand sermons as a moral lesson.

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2 PRIZES OF	10,000 are	20,000
5 PRIZES OF	5,000 are	25,000
25 PRIZES OF	1,000 are	25,000
100 PRIZES OF	500 are	50,000
200 PRIZES OF	300 are	60,000
500 PRIZES OF	200 are	100,000
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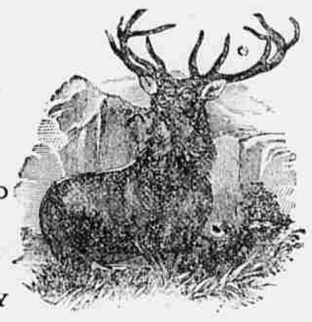

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