

## MANY DEMOCRATS WANT CHIEF JUDGE PARKER, OF THE NEW-YORK COURT OF APPEALS, TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT



ROSEMOUNT HALL.

Home of Judge Parker, on the Hudson, near Esopus.

and sculptors, and those of the bishops, assuming that a century shall suffice for the completion of the structure, what an imposing array of names the tablet will bear! There would be sixty for the building committee alone.

At the meeting of the trustees when the committee vacancies were filled it was reported that a legacy of \$200,000 from Georgiana E. Morris had become available through the death of her sister, Mrs. Julia E. Bain, for whom it had been held in trust. One who lived at the inception of the enterprise had endowed it with almost a quarter of a million dollars, to revert to the cathedral fund at the close of a life for the enjoyment of which it had been temporarily reserved, had passed to her reward, the loved one had followed, and only ten years had gone by, and only one arch of the four had spanned the yet shapeless aisle. If ten years round out one such story, what will be brought forth in twenty, forty, eighty or a hundred years? And yet, what is \$200,000 to such an undertaking! A tenth of such a sum was required to build the wooden form for turning; the curve of one of the six flying buttresses supporting the single arch already built! The whole will not pay the cost of transporting the stone to the site for the three arches yet to be erected. By such comparisons only can the mind be made to conceive the vastness and the costliness of this prospective New World rival to the greatest religious edifices of Europe.

The trustees of the meeting referred to awarded a contract for the erection of three of the eight columns about the chancel. They are to be sixty feet high, and each will consist of two pieces. The intention to make them monoliths has been abandoned. There is said to be no practicable means for conveying such enormous weights to the site and erecting them. Stones of the size required would weigh three hundred tons each in the rough and two hundred tons each dressed. It was feared that such weights could not be transported over the streets of New-York, and there is a fear that, even when divided into two parts, their conveyance from the river front to the site may cause much damage. The monoliths for the new Hall of Records, the hauling and raising of which was a matter of great interest even to building engineers, weighed only fifteen tons each. The halves of the cathedral columns, undressed, will be ten times that weight.

Work has been begun on the choir of the cathedral. Stonecutting has been going on for some time. Forty stonecutters are employed constantly at this work, and it is said that the same force, working every day in the year except Sundays and legal holidays, at the rate and even with the improved appliances provided to aid in the task, cannot in less than ten years cut all the stone required to finish the interior of the choir. As fully half as much will be required for the exterior of the same part of the cathedral, unless the force is still increased or a more speedy means for accomplishing the task is found, even if every other branch of the work keeps pace with the stonecutting, fifteen years more will be consumed in building the choir. The choir will fill the space of 120 feet between the Belmont Chapel and the arch already erected. It will be 54 feet wide, and the distance from the floor to the highest point in the vaulted ceiling will be 108 feet. The area of the floor will be approximately 6,500 square feet. It is almost impossible for the lay mind to comprehend the quantity of material necessary to construct the choir. The Belmont Chapel is said to contain 15,000 cubic yards of stone, and brick enough to erect a six story house, the latter having been used only in lining and filling the walls.

The ornamentation of the cathedral will probably occupy the lifetimes of several sculptors. Its extent, like nearly everything else about the edifice, can be comprehended only by piecemeal. In the Belmont Chapel there are niches for no less than fifty-two statues. To fill these is a task which few sculptors working in the old way would be able to complete from the time of mature experience in their art to the end of the average life. J. G. C. Hamilton, one of the most prolific sculptors in the United States, has undertaken the task of supplying all the decorations in stone for this chapel. Mr. Hamilton

declares that, even with the assistance of his son Alexander and by the use of an expensive and elaborate collection of pneumatic carving machines, already contracted for, he will require at least four years to design and execute these decorations. He says that should he be selected to furnish the carving and statuary for the choir, the work would in all probability occupy the remainder of his life, and lack much of being completed at his death.

"I have reason to hope for twenty years more of usefulness in my art," said he, "but twoscore would not be too much for the 256 statues re-



CHIEF JUDGE ALTON B. PARKER.

quired in the choir, for eight pillars alone." Forty years of incessant work for a sculptor, with plenty of assistance and fast-working pneumatic carving machinery to fill the niches for statuary in eight pillars of the choir! Can one appreciate the almost interminable task of decorating the whole cathedral, of which the choir represents only a little more than a fourth of the length and a fifth of the breadth? What time will be required to decorate the great dome, almost as high as the cathedral is long, which is eventually to rest upon the four massive arches? And what time will the chancel and

the altar require? Forty years for the statuary of eight pillars! How much for the other carving in the choir? Mr. Hamilton, when these questions were asked, said in reply: "It seems like a task to which there is no ending."

The immense weight of the tower, which is to rise to a height of 425 feet, will be supported by the eight pillars of the four arches, and has been roughly estimated at 150,000,000 pounds, or 75,000 tons. It may exceed even these stupendous figures, for, as in every other part of the work not yet actually under way, the details of construction have not been worked out, and probably will not be until the need for them becomes far less remote than now. The arches have been planned, however, and that already standing has been constructed to withstand a weight as great as any form of tower construction can impose and leave the usual margin for safety.

In the ten years since the adoption of the first general plan the details have been altered so many times that Heins & La Farge have grown weary of counting. Many important details have been changed from time to time, and the minor changes are numbered by hundreds. Nor is the period of development at an end. Mr. La Farge says:

"The plans are kept in such a condition that, when we are through with them—when we shall have laid down our studies and cares and our anxieties—whatever the stage of work on the cathedral may be, our successors can understand what has been done and much of what will remain to be accomplished. I can hardly hope that we shall ever live to see the Cathedral of St. John the Divine completed, even on paper, for, while we are comparatively young men, we shall be in our graves, in all human probability, many years before hundreds of the details have been studied out, and possibly even before the great tower surmounts the building. As we advance with our elaborations of the many parts of the general plan we branch into details which themselves are a labyrinth of architectural problems that seem to wind round and round every main item interminably. The vastness of the work grows on us daily. The possibilities are so many and so alluring that the more we study detail the more detail we find awaiting consideration. We have been held back by the deaths of Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Babcock. Our drawings and plans are submitted to the building committee for approval as we go along, and until a main detail of the general plan is approved it would be a waste of time and labor to

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## JUDGE PARKER'S HOME.

OVERLOOKING BANKS OF THE HUDSON—  
A RURAL RETREAT.

Esopus, N. Y., Dec. 13.—There are two departments of the State government that never become wholly dormant. These are the executive and the judicial. Unlike the legislative power, with its period of "suspended animation" from late in March to the succeeding January, they continue on duty the year around. There may be less work in midsummer, but there is no complete cessation from it for them.

The head of the judiciary system, Alton B. Parker, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, has his summer home near this village, and there continues all through the months of July, August and September, while the Court of Appeals is not in session, the hard and responsible work of his office.

The lawyers of the State within the past three years have seen under the skilful management of Chief Judge Parker and his associates, combined with unceasing work by all the members of the court, a large reduction in the number of cases on the calendar.

Rosemount Hall, Chief Judge Parker's home, is a new acquisition of his. For many years he lived in the winter time in a handsome residence he owned in Kingston, and in the summer time in a farmhouse near the village of Accord, in this county. Always a lover of country life, he welcomed every year the arrival of the day when he could set out for Accord. There he had a fine law library, and, surrounded by the scenes of country life, he could go on pleasantly, even on a hot summer day, with the work of writing opinions. But Accord was a considerable distance from Kingston, the home of his daughter, and, moreover, he had long desired to possess a home directly on the banks of the Hudson River. He therefore took advantage of an opportunity to buy a handsome house and with it an estate of ninety acres, with a frontage on the Hudson River and extending half a mile back, nearly to the quaint little village of Esopus.

Rosemount Hall is a stately and capacious mansion on a bluff directly overlooking the river, and the grounds slope abruptly to the bank. From the summit of the bluff one can look out upon the river for a long distance. Opposite is Esopus Island.

Judge Parker was born in Cortland County in 1851, and when a young man came to Ulster County, and taught school in the town of Rochester. There he became acquainted with Mary L. Schoonmaker, daughter of Moses L. Schoonmaker, of Accord, and subsequently they were married. Judge and Mrs. Parker had two children, a son, who died when seven years old, and a daughter, Bertha, who is the wife of the Rev. Charles Mercer Hall, rector of the Church of the Holy Cross, at Kingston. Mr. and Mrs. Hall have two children.

Rosemount Hall has a big hallway running through its centre. Entering from the east one finds at the left a parlor and back of that a law office. Upon the right of the hallway is the dining room, of large dimensions, with many windows hospitably turned toward the morning sun. The parlor is a cheerful room. Judge Parker's law office is a room of large size, and shelves around the walls contain a large law library. Here Judge Parker, in company with his secretary, examines the law papers submitted to him, looks up the law bearing upon each case, considers the points raised by counsel, and writes any opinion of the court assigned to him.

Large as is the amount of work of the Court of Appeals that must be done in the summer time, Judge Parker does not permit it to engross every hour while the sun shines. He takes much pleasure in watching the farm



JUDGE PARKER'S LIBRARY IN ROSEMOUNT HALL.