

PULLING DOWN THE TREASURY

BY RENE BACHE

HISTORIC BUILDING AT WASHINGTON SOON TO BE DEMOLISHED

CHURCHMAN AND PUBLICIST

There are no American churchmen who are more widely known than is Bishop Potter of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of New York. Few exercise a wider influence in public life, for it is especially along this line that the supremacy of Bishop Potter is most marked. His voice is often heard expressing opinion on questions of public interest and import, and although one may not always agree with him in his conclusions, the influence is nevertheless a most potent one. Bishop Potter might almost be said to have acquired his episcopal dignity by inheritance. His father was bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Pennsylvania, and it was as coadjutor to his uncle, Bishop Horatio Potter, that he was consecrated in New York in 1853. Besides these family episcopal connections, the present bishop of New York served for twenty years, beginning in 1863, as secretary to the Episcopal house of bishops. Certainly he was well versed in episcopal administration when, at the death of his uncle in 1887, Henry C. Potter succeeded him in ecclesiastical head of the New York diocese.

It is just fifty years since Bishop Potter became a clergyman in the Episcopal church. He was born in Schenectady, N. Y., in 1835, and was educated at the Episcopal academy in Philadelphia and the Theological seminary of Virginia. In 1857 he received deacon's orders in his church and a year later he was advanced to the priesthood. After serving churches in Greensburg, Pa.; Troy, N. Y.; and Boston, Mass., he became rector of the influential Grace church, New York City. It was as the rector of Grace that he began to exert influence in his church and the community that has been referred to. Of course his position was greatly strengthened by his election as bishop of New York, but his forceful personality would have made a lasting impression even if he had contained in the rectorate, although he might not have become so widely known.

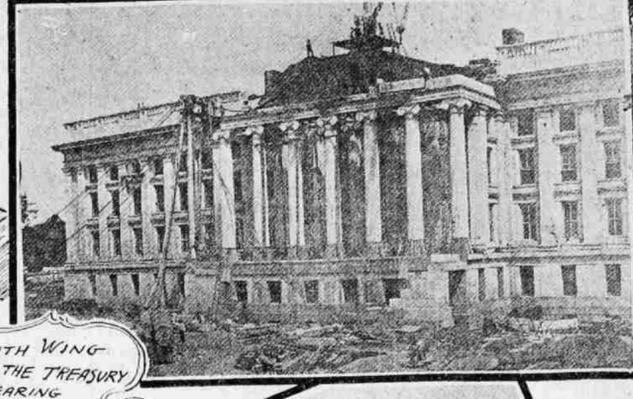
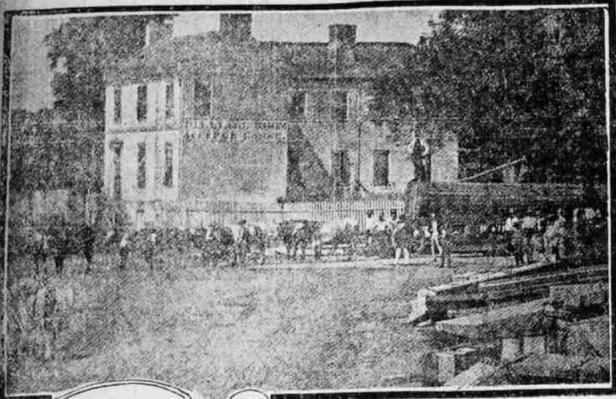
When Dr. Greer, then rector of St. Bartholomew's church, New York, was elected coadjutor bishop of New York in 1894, Bishop Potter gave up to him much of the administrative detail which was beginning to prove burdensome. Since that time the bishop has been even more free than he was before to fill public engagements that were not ecclesiastical. He is especially noted for his addresses on the problems of church and labor, of marriage and divorce, and other topics relating to great moral issues. He is much in demand as a speaker before public gatherings, but still finds time to make episcopal visitations with reasonable regularity in the rural districts of his diocese.

No man has ever erected a greater monument to his leadership than the Cathedral of St. John the Divine which is now building on Morningside Heights, New York. This is wholly Bishop Potter's project, and is a project of such dimensions that neither the bishop nor any of his colleagues is likely to live long enough to see its completion. Indeed, Bishop Potter has made no secret of the fact that he wants the great edifice, costing a score of mil-

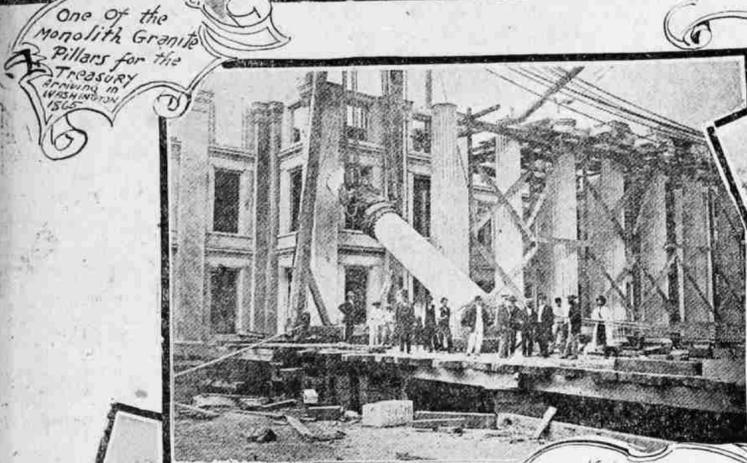


Right Rev. Dr. Henry C. Potter.

lions of dollars, to be long in the building. He wants an edifice that shall be an honor to his church; one to which the whole country may point with pride, and he realized at the outset that this was not capable of speedy accomplishment. The story is told that one of New York's famous millionaires, who has since died, told Bishop Potter that he would give him one million dollars with which to build a cathedral. The sum was so paltry, compared to the plan which had been developed in the bishop's mind, that the offer was indignantly refused. It is the only case on record in which such a sum for such a purpose has been declined.



SOUTH WING OF THE TREASURY NEARING COMPLETION



One of the Monolith Granite Pillars for the Treasury Building in Washington



U.S. Treasury TO-DAY. The Middle Section, with Colonnade, is the Part To Be Torn DOWN



Old State Department as it stood before the Civil War



The Treasury as it stood before the Civil War

The treasury is to come down. Within six weeks from the present time the work of demolition will be begun, and the historic edifice at Washington—all of it, that is to say, which stood before the Civil war—will be reduced to a wreck, the entire front, including the thirty great Ionic pillars upholding the roof of the Fifteenth street facade, being torn away.

For this purpose Congress has appropriated the sum of \$300,000, the plan being introduced in the sundry civil bill approved on the fourth day of last March. The contract has been formally awarded to a New York firm, and unerring has already been begun at Milford, N. H., for granite which is to take the place of the sandstone of the present structure. This sandstone, which was fetched from Aquia Creek, in Virginia, in 1849, is poor stuff, and shows a disposition to disintegrate. Large chunks of the por-

ground and said: "This is the best place for the building; put it here!" Now the intention had always been that Pennsylvania avenue should run in a straight and unobscured line. In fact, it had always done so up to that time, extending directly from the capitol past the front door of the White House, which in those days was on the south front of the President's dwelling, and not on the north, as at present. But the building of the treasury in this badly-chosen spot broke the avenue in two, so that it loses itself for a couple of blocks in a manner puzzling to the stranger in Washington.

Former Treasury Buildings. The seat of government was moved from Philadelphia to Washington in 1800. When, in the autumn of that year, Abigail Adams, the first mistress of the White House, took up her residence in that historic dwelling, her impressions of the national capital were decidedly unfavorable. In a letter of about that date she refers to the town as "only a city in name—here and there a small cot without a glass window interspersed among the forests." Not far from the White House, however, on the very site of the present building, was a wooden structure, then newly finished, which was occupied by the treasury department. This wooden building, which faced Fifteenth street, was three stories high, but of such inadequate size that fifty clerks, who at that time composed the fiscal staff of the government, did not find comfortable room in it. On which account the official records of the department, which had been brought over from Philadelphia, were deposited in Sears's store, near by, where they were partly destroyed by fire soon afterwards, many priceless historical documents being thus lost. The structure occupied by the treasury was itself partly burned in 1801, and thirteen years later was entirely wiped out by fire, together with most of its files and archives. Rebuilt in 1817, it was burned again in 1833, and this led, in 1836, to an appropriation of money by Congress for a new building.

One Lesson Learned. This new building, which was finished in 1842 at a cost of \$651,000, stands today. It is the one that is now about to be torn down—at all events, the whole front of it. One lesson it has taught is that, with Greek temples doubtless afford handsome architectural models, they are not good for office purposes. The structure in question is today, as it has always been, badly lighted and ventilated, with rooms so small that no official will occupy any of them who can possibly help it. When it was only half finished, there was a strong movement in Congress to demolish it, the sandstone used in its material being specially condemned, and subsequent experience has shown that the idea was a wise one.

On the site of the old Treasury burned for the last time in 1843, was erected a building which for many years was occupied by the department of state. During the Civil war this interesting structure, old-fashioned in its architecture, still stood at the north end of the "new" treasury. But meanwhile Congress had appropriated

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Copy of Old Temples. It will be understood that the treasury, as it stood in the forties and early fifties, was a long building, fronting on Fifteenth street and of no great depth, which today forms the middle section of the east side of the huge rectangular structure occupied by the financial department of the government. As originally erected, it was a copy of the Temple of Pallas Minerva at Athens, and its site was chosen by that irascible and obstinate old gentleman Andrew Jackson. Congress had left the matter to him, and one day, as it is related, he walked over from the White house, thrust his cane into the

Gigantic Pillars. Which reminds one to say that visitors at the national capital are much impressed, not unreasonably, by the information conveyed to them by professional guides, that the gigantic pillars which uphold the roof of the porticoes on the north, south and west sides of the treasury are monoliths, the largest in the world, each of them being hewn out of a single block of granite. They are further astonished when told that these pillars were brought all the way from Dix Island, near Rockford, in Maine, being put aboard sailing vessels, landed at Georgetown, and hauled to the building site by teams of eight oxen.

The treasury as it stands today is a building of granite—save only for the old and original sandstone structure which, as already explained, forms the middle section of its east side. It is now intended to remove the entire front of this ancient edifice. Architecturally speaking, there will be no alterations; it is simply a matter of substituting one material for another. However, incidentally to the operation, the sandstone pillars, which are composed of series of superposed cylindrical sections, will be replaced by granite monoliths.

Giant Monoliths Ready. A dozen or fifteen of these monoliths have already been quarried out at Milford, N. H., and made ready for shipment to Washington. So huge are they that the task of getting them out and shipping them by water might fairly be termed spectacular. The pillars for the north, south and west porticoes, constructed during the sixties, were fetched from Maine by sailing vessels. Each of them was a little over thirty-three feet high and weighed thirty tons. It is a matter of importance that the granite used for the present purpose should match that of the rest of the treasury building. Such granite, it seems, is found only in New England, but there are quarries of it in various places in that part of the country, and the material from Milford corresponds closely to that from Dix island, it is exceedingly hard—so much so, indeed, that the huge blocks

WILLIAM TELL IN VAUDEVILLE BY SAM LOYD

William Tell, Jr., who claims to be a direct descendant of the famous Swiss, in his original vaudeville stunt, goes his ancestors two better by shooting three apples at once. His sharpshooting feat also involves a pretty puzzle which he gives us to solve.

Which three apples can he shoot out so that the remaining five letters will spell a word?

Answer to the inspector's problem in Wednesday's Tribune. It was explained that the scales were "off center"—one arm longer than the other—and yet weighted to balance evenly.

Articles weighed on such scales will register out of their true weight in the same proportions as the lengths of the arms from the fulcrum point are to each other.

The rule of ascertaining the discrepancy of such scales and the true weight of articles weighed upon them is as follows: Weigh the articles on one side of the scales, then upon the other. Multiply the two results together and the square root of the product will be the true weight of the articles.

The inspector found that three pyramids on the long arm of the scales balanced against eight cubes on the short end. Therefore, one pyramid weighed against two and two-thirds cubes.

Then, reversing matters, he found that six pyramids on the short arm balanced with one cube on the long arm.

One-sixth multiplied by two and two-thirds equals four-ninths, the square root of which is two-thirds.

Therefore, a pyramid weighs two-thirds of a square.

Assuming that a pyramid weighs one ounce, a cube would weigh one and one-half ounces, and the answer to the question, "What should have been the true weight of the eight cubes?" is twelve ounces.

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