WASHINGTON IN 1800.

AS IT USED TO BE

What Washington Looked Like Over a Century Ago.

LITTLE BETTER THAN A WILDERNESS

Plans That Have Been Developed Into a Noble City.

SOME EARLY VISITORS

Written for The Evening Star by P. Lee Phillips.

The people of Washington will in a short time celebrate with becoming pride and dignity one hundred years of existence. The founders were not false prophets as to the city's future greatness, as a study of the original plan made by L'Enfant in 1791, magnificent in detail, would be a safe guide for the visitor of 1900.

Why L'Enfant's reputation should be diminished by writers of the present day is hard to understand, when we examine the records of the past and compare his plan of the city with the one made by Ellicott. I will not express an opinion here as to whether L'Enfant or Ellicott planned the city of Washington, for this paper is intended only for a few descriptions of Washington at the beginning, made by contemporaneous writers; but if the so-called "paper map" of L'Enfant is compared with the map made by Ellicott, which was reproduced many times separately, and in books, the impartial student cannot fail to give all the credit to L'Enfant.

The first published description of the city which I have been able to discover is found in "The Maryland Journal," Friday, September 30, 1791, signed "A Spectator." This article was republished in the New York Magazine for November, 1791, pages 656-658. I will not give the article in whole, but quote what is said about L'Enfant.

High Praise for L'Enfant.

"The plan of this city, agreeably to the direction of the President of the United States, was designed and drawn by the celebrated Major L'Enfant; and is an inconceivable improvement upon all other cities in the world, combining not only convenience, regularity, elegance of prospect, and a free circulation of air, but everything grand and beautiful that can possibly be introduced into a city.

"Among the many fortunate circumstances which have attended this country during the present administration in government, the residence of Major L'Enfant in America at this time may be considered as one of the most material. The plan he has now produced, and which is happily adopted, exhibits such striking proofs of an exalted genius, elegance of taste, extensive imagination and comprehension, as will not only produce amazement in Europe, but meet the admiration of all future ages; having therein so happily combined the beauties of situation with general convenience, and at the same time effectually guarded against those inconveniences which arise in other great cities."

Let me state here that a "Plan of the city of Washington; Tiebout, engraver," is found in the June, 1792, number of the same magazine, and on the back of the title page the following statement is made: "The reader is requested to turn to the New York Magazine for November, 1791, for a description of the city of Washington. We have not seen any other account of this place that would serve as an explanation of the plate which accompanies this month's magazine, but what is there contained in substance, and we judged it inexpedient to republish either the whole or any part of what had been so recently inserted."

Some Early Plans.

The Massachusetts Magazine for May, 1792, has a plan, entitled "Plan of the City of Washington, S. Hall, Boston," which is not accompanied by any description, and is evidently from the Ellicott map. While noticing these maps of Washington, the reader may be interested to examine the one in the Universal Magazine for July, 1796, London, and the curious little plan in a more curious volume of the Gotha Almanac for 1796, in the Library of Congress. Russell's American atlas, published in London, in 1795, has also a plan of Washington, as has also Reid's American atlas to Winterbotham's history, the first atlas published in America, 1796.

One of the earliest descriptions of the city, with plan, published in book form, is by Ellahan Winchester, and is found only in the second edition of his "Oration on the Discovery of America, delivered in London, October the 12th, 1792," and published there. The oration must have had considerable interest, for two editions came out the same year. The description was published as an appendix, and, being short and unique, I quote in full:

Winchester's Description.

"The city of Washington stands at the junction of the rivers Pawtomack and the Eastern-branch, extending nearly four miles up each, and including a tract of territory exceeded, in point of convenience, salubrity and beauty, by none in America. For, although the land in general appears level, yet, by gentle and gradual swellings, a variety of elegant prospects are produced, and a sufficient descent formed for conveying off the water occasioned by rain. Within the limits of the city are a great number of excellent springs; and, by digging wells, water of the best quality may readily be had. Besides, the never-failing streams that now run throught that territory may also be collected for the use of the city. The waters of Reedy branch and of Tiber creek may be conveyed to the President's house. The source of Tiber creek is elevated about 236 feet above the level of the tide of said creek. The perpendicular height of the ground on which the Capitol is to stand is seventy-eight feet above the level of the tide in Tiber creek. The water of Tiber creek may, therefore, be conveyed to the Capitol, and after watering that part of the city, may be destined to other useful purposes.

River and Harbors.

"The Eastern-branch is one of the safest and most commodious harbors in America, being sufficiently deep for the largest ships for about four miles above its mouth, while the channel lies close along the bank adjoining the city, and affords a large and convenient harbor. The Pawtomack, although only navigable for small craft for a considerable distance from its banks next to the city (excepting about a mile above the junction of the rivers), will, nevertheless, afford a capacious summer harbour, as an immense number of ships may ride in the great channel opposite to, and below, the city.

"The situation of this metropolis is upon the great post road, equi-distant from the northern and southern extremities of the Union, and nearly so from the Atlantick and Pittsburgh, upon the best navigation, and in the midst of a commercial territory, probably the richest, and commanding the most extensive internal resources of any in America.

"It has, therefore, many advantages to recommend it as an eligible place for the permanent seat of the general government; and, as it is likely to be speedily built, and otherwise improved, by the public-spirited enterprise of the people of the United States, and even by foreigners, it may be expected to grow up with a degree of rapidity hitherto unparalleled in the annals of cities.

Natural Advantages.

"The plan of this city appears to contain some important improvements upon that of the best-planned in the world, combining in a remarkable degree convenience, regularity, elegance of prospect and a free circulation of air. The positions for the different public edifices, and for the several squares and areas of different shapes, as they are laid down, were first determined on the most adventageous ground, commanding the most extensive prospects; and, from their situation, susceptible of such improvements as either use or ornament may hereafter require. The Capitol will be situated on a most beautiful eminence, commanding a complete view of every part of the city and of a considerable part of the country around. The President's house will stand on a rising ground, possessing a delightful water prospect, together with a commanding view of the Capitol and the most material parts of the city. Lines or avenues of direct communication have been devised to connect the most distant and important objects.

"These transverse avenues or diagonal streets are laid out on the most advantageous ground for prospect or convenience, and are calculated not only to produce a variety of charming prospects, but greatly to facilitate the communication throughout the city. North and south lines, intersected by others running due east and west, make the distribution of the city into streets, squares, &c., and those lines have been so combined as to meet at certain given points with the divergent avenues, so as to form on the spaces first determined the different squares or areas.

On an Elaborate Plan.

"The grand avenues and such streets as lead immediately to public places are from 130 to 160 feet wide, and may be conveniently divided into footways, a walk planted with trees on each side and a paved way for carriages. The other streets are from 90 to 110 feet wide.

"In order to execute this plan Mr. Ellicott drew a true meridianal plan, by celestial observation, which passes through the area intended for the Capitol. This line he crossed by another, running due east and west, which passes through the same area. These lines were accurately measured and made the bases on which the whole plan was executed. He ran all the lines by a transit instrument, and determined the acute angles by actual measurement, leaving nothing to the uncertainty of the compass."

In the Monthly Review of London for July, 1793, page 350, is a rather satirical criticism on this oration of Winchester, from which the following:

"Mr. W., on the contrary, treats his reader with much more than his title page gives him reason to expect. Besides a curious description and plan of the intended great, magnificent and commodious city of Washington, the buildings of which is actually going forward, the pamphlet contains political hymns for America, composed during the late war, and a sketch of the life and character of General Washington. Page 48 contains an explanation of the plan, and speaks of the stone bridge connecting Washington and Georgetown as "superior to anything of the kind in America."

An Interesting Pamphlet.

I cannot finish this description of Washington before 1800 without referring to a small pamphlet published anonymously, entitled "Observations on the river Potamack, the country adjacent and the city of Washington," 30 pp., New York, printed by Loudon and Brower, in Water street, 1794. This pamphlet has been erroneously attributed to Andrew Ellicott.

Mr. Griffin, bibliographer of the Library of Congress, in his volume of great research entitled "A Catalogue of the Washington Collection in the Boston Athenaeum," mentions a copy given to Washington by the author, Tobias Lear. Before printing, Lear submitted two copies of his MS. to Washington. One of these is preserved among the Washington papers in the State Department. The other was returned to Lear, as appears from the following: "I have, however, run over your observations on the Potomac navigation, etc., etc., and in a hasty manner, as I went along at the first reading, made the notes and remarks which are returned with one of the copies. German Town, 6 November, 1793." Washington to Lear.—From the Washington letter book in the State Department.

The copy of this pamphlet in the Library of Congress is unfortunately lacking the map which is noted in the copy of the Boston Athenaeum. Copious extracts could be made from this little volume which would be of present interest. This one, however, is curious: "Besides the buildings for the accommodation of the government of the United States, a very suburb Hotel is erecting, the expence of which is defrayed by a lottery, the Hotel being the highest prize. This building, with its accommodations and dependences, will perhaps be equal to any one of the kind in Europe."

Twining's Description.

This article is not complete without a reference to a neat little volume published in 1893 entitled, "Travels in America 100 Years Ago," being notes and reminiscences by Thomas Twining. The author was an Englishman journeying home from India by way of the United States. In his travels through the country he stopped April 26, 1794, at the "Indian Queen," at "Blandensburg, a small solitary inn, surrounded by a few rude cottages." While at dinner, one of the party informed Mr. Ross, the civil landlord, that I came from Bengal. 'Why,' observed Mr. Ross, "the gentleman speaks English as we do.'" Over the fireplace in the dining room was a plan of Washington, with the streets, squares and public buildings of the intended city minutely detailed. The author further says and gives a description of the city which is worthy of preservation. "I set out for Washington, situated lower down the Potomac, in the territory of Columbia, the name given to a portion of land ceded by the contiguous states of Maryland and Virginia for the construction and convenience of the new metropolis.

Not Like It is Today.

"Having crossed an extensive tract of level country somewhat resembling an English heath, I entered a large wood through which a very imperfect road had been made, principally by removing the trees, or rather the upper parts of them, in the usual manner. After some time this indistinct way assumed more the appearance of a regular avenue, the trees here having been cut down in a straight line. Although no habitation of any kind was visible, I had no doubt, but I was now riding along one of the streets of the metropolitan city. I continued in this spacious avenue for half a mile, and then came out upon a large spot, cleared of wood, in the center of which I saw two buildings on an extensive scale, and some men at work on one of them. The only human beings I should have seen here not a great many years before would have been some savages of the Potomac, whose tribe is said to have sent deputies to treat with William Penn at the assembly he held at Chester. Advancing and speaking to these workmen they informed me that I was now in the center of the city, and that the building before me was the Capitol, and the other destined to be a tavern. As the greatest cities have a similar beginning, there was really nothing surprising here, nor out of the usual order of things; but still the scene which surrounded me—the metropolis of a great nation in its first stage from a sylvan state—was strikingly singular. I thought it the more so as the accounts which I had received of Washington while at Philadelphia, and the plan which I had seen burg up in the dining room at Bladensburg, had prepared me for something rather more advanced. Looking from where I now stood I saw on every side a thick wood pierced with avenues in a more or less perfect state. These denoted the lines of the intended streets, which already appeared in the engraved plan with their future names. The Capitol promised to be a large and handsome building, judging from the part, about two-thirds, already above the ground. I walked through several of the lower apartments and saw the halls designed for the representatives and Senate, now in an unfinished state, and incumbered with building materials. I did not go into the tavern. It was a large building of red brick and in a much more advanced state than the Capitol, being roofed in.

A Silent Wilderness.

"The masons having answered all my questions with much civility, I rode on, following the avenue they pointed out to me. After going about three-quarters of a mile through a silent wilderness I found myself upon a trackless plain, partially covered with trees and brushwood. I in vain looked about for Mr. Law's house or some one to guide me to it. I therefore rode on in the direction I judged the most likely to lead me out of this labyrinth. I knew that in case of my not succeeding, my retreat was always open to the Capitol, for while talking with the workmen I observed that all the avenues converged to that point. I continued therefore to explore my way through the thickets, keeping my horse's head rather toward the right, to gain, if necessary, the Potomac, whose bank I might then follow."

The "Vue de la ville de Washington en 1800," to illustrate this paper, is the earliest I have seen of the city, and is evidently taken from some book. I have been unable to identify, so far, this interesting addition to my collection.

PORTO RICO PESTS.

Some of the Things That Make Life There Disagreeable.

From Leslie's Weekly.

To northern men, campaigning in a tropical country during the rainy season presents many discomforts and disadvantages; but all of these, being recognized as unavoidable incidents to the climate, have been accepted by our soldiers in Cuba and Porto Rico in a remarkably cheerful spirit.

The tarantula of Porto Rico is the most venomous and aggressive spider in the world. It has a brown, furry body as large as, and sometimes larger than, a fifty-cent piece, supported by long, hairy legs. It does not spin a web, but makes its home in holes which it excavates in the ground and lines with its silk. It is the terror of insects, wandering about after dark in search of its prey, and pouncing upon and devouring its victims with surprising activity.

Almost, if not quite, as dangerous as the tarantula is the scorpion, whose sting is greatly feared. It resembles somewhat a tiny lobster, and has a curved and sharp stinging apparatus through which it emits the venom contained in its poison glands. It lives in the ground and in dark places, often invading dwellings. When disturbed it runs very fast, with its tail curled over its back. Its bite is painful, but there is some doubt as to its ever proving fatal, except, perhaps, to persons in a low state of health. I know of no instance of a soldier being bitten by a scorpion.

Then there are swiftly moving centipedes of various sizes. They travel with a snake-like movement and are very repulsive in appearance. The ones I saw were about four inches in length, but others twice as long exist. They feed on insects and conceal themselves in dark places. Their bite is said to be very painful and possibly dangerous.

The loathsome, dark-brown land crabs, dinner plate size, such as the American soldiers encountered in Cuba, are as common in Porto Rico as hop-toads in the United States. Aside from the pinching propensity possessed by all crabs, they are harmless. The natives consider them to be good food. One morning at Ponce I met a native fairly loaded down with a string of them which he had caught during the night, which is the time they sally forth in search of food. These crabs live mostly on vegetables.

There are several kinds of lizards on the island, including small and large black ones which would chase up and down the tents. One day I saw one run up on the back of a horse tied on the picket line. These are innocent; there is, however, a brilliant-hued variety which I occasionally observed, and which is said to be dangerous; at least, the natives warned us to keep out of its way, asserting that no cure is known for its bite.

The mosquitos of Porto Rico might feel aggrieved if I failed to make some mention of them. They are distinguished by bodies as big as our house flies. During the night they would congregate in the little shelter tents and amuse themselves by singing and making onslaughts on the soldiers, drawing blood every time. In the morning we would see them at the top of the tent, gorged after the banquet. In fact, these buzzards of the insect tribe spilled more American blood than did all the Spaniards in Porto Rico. At first they were very annoying, but after a time we became mosquito immunes and indifferent to them; or perhaps they ignored us when the climate had reduced us in weight all the way from twenty to fifty pounds apiece. Mosquito netting was early discarded by the men, the atmosphere being too close for its use with any comfort.

The ants should not be forgotten in this connection. The large black ones would infest our mess kits by the thousands, and the little red fellows would get between our fingers and bite with a viciousness out of all proportion to their size. Then there are the wasps, which one of the men stirred up one day while knocking down a green cocoanut, and which swarmed over the horses and caused them to stampede. Another insect well to avoid is the "jigger" flea, which is fond of burrowing in a person's flesh and laying its eggs under the skin, necessitating surgical attention. The soldiers were not troubled by them, however, as they prefer to devote themselves to persons who go about in bare feet.

A new method of preserving telegraph poles is to surround the portion in the ground with an earthenware pipe like a drain pipe. Into the space between the pole and the pipe is poured a mixture of sand and resin.

TO TERPSICHORE

A Temple at the Exposition Devoted to the Goddess.

FOR DANCES OF ALL NATIONS

Easy Journey From Venice to Land of the Moors.

A NEWER HOME FOR ART

Special Correspondence of The Evening Star.

PARIS, January 25, 1900.

Terpsichore is to have a temple at the exposition.

The dance has always been popular with the Parisians. They love it. They adore it.

Historians tell us that one month before the French revolution of 1830 (when an insurrection took place in Paris in order to overthrow King Charles X) a grand ball was given in the Palais Royal by the Duke of Orleans in honor of his brother-in-law, the King of Naples. At that fete Monsieur de Salvandy remarked: "We are dancing on a volcano!" Four thousand persons attended the Palais Royal ball. A few months later the reign of Charles X came to an end, and with it closed the oldest of European dynasties. M. de Salvandy's remark, which has remained famous until the present day, still serves in current language to characterize the circumstance in life when a person abandons himself to joy and pleasure on the eve of a catastrophe. In 1900, as in 1830, the lightheartedness of Parisians is proverbial; they are as willing as ever to bury their sorrows in dance.

Such being the case, it is not surprising to find, on the Cours-la-Reine, a handsome building devoted to the art and called the "Palace of Dance." But don't jump to the conclusion that there will be dancing in this palace only. The haunts of Terpsichore on the exposition grounds will be exceedingly numerous, and dancing of some kind will be witnessed also in many of the Midway attractions. As to the dancing halls of various kinds that are to be found in the city of Paris itself, I can best convey some idea of their number when I mention the positive fact that at the time of the directory, that is to say, just before the great Bonaparte became emperor of the French, when the population of Paris had not attained one million inhabitants, there were no fewer than 600 public dancing rooms—and they have been increasing steadily ever since. Dancing in Paris may be looked upon as a popular, traditional and national pleasure.

Dances of All Nations.

In the Palace of Dance it is intended to give a complete illustration of dance in all countries of the world at various periods of history. In ancient times the dance occupied an important place in all religious ceremonies; at all epochs it has been held in high honor both in the palaces of emperors and kings and at popular rejoicings. Hundreds of thousands of persons flock to Paris annually to witness the choregraphic eccentricities of the celebrated danseuses. The Ping-Vou dance of the Chinese will be performed, as will the Indian dance of the Bayaderes of Sivah; and on the program will also be found the Egyptian dance of the Bee, and the ancient dance of Isis.

Historic Revels Revived.

Among other historical revels we shall witness the Pyrrhic dances of Greece, the Roman Bacchanalia or drunken feasts, the sword dance of ancient Gaul, the juggler's dance of medieval times, the passepied of the Renaissance, the sarabande, the minuet and the gavotte. Following in their footsteps the fricassee of the directory period will come upon the scene. In these dances, women wore such decollete costumes and such slight garments that if their beautiful physiques were greatly admired their health suffered tremendously from the effects of the weather. So when the directory vanished the mode changed. In truth, with each change of government in France, a new fashion in dance seems to have been inaugurated; so that one will be able to master the somewhat complicated history of the French by admiring the various tableaux presented in the palace.

The Palace of Dance will be found on the right bank of the Seine, not very far from Alexander III bridge. In addition to the theater itself, which is a copy of the Bayreuth auditorium, there will be copious smoking rooms and bars. The entire choregraphic arrangements have been intrusted to the care of M. J. Hansen, ballet master of the Grand Opera House, and the leader of the orchestra will be M. Felix Desgranges, who is no less a person than chef d'orchestra to the presidency of the republic. Six performances will be given in each twenty-four hours, three during the day and three at night. The whole undertaking appears to have been arranged in a most artistic, business-like manner. On the stage beauty, music, dance will appeal to the soul of the spectator, and everything else in the building will address itself to a well-garnished purse.

A Trip to Venice.

After so elaborate a show as the Palace of Dance, Venice itself would be liable to pale; yet visitors will doubtless direct their steps toward "Venice at Paris," for do we not all live in the hopes of some day seeing the city of the Doges? Let us, therefore, cross to the left bank of the Seine, over the Alma footbridge, which has been built at a point where the river itself has been made to bear a strong resemblance to a canal of the Italian city. The French Venice is located on the Champ de Mars, and the principal view shown is the Piazzotta. After all it is only a reproduction—a Venice in canvas and paint, but the gondolas are the real article and there is an abundance of water. The renowned artist, Ziem, who has painted an endless number of views, has assisted the organizers of this attraction in the production of a very faithful panoramic view of the city of mysterious love.

From the Italian peninsula to the Iberian the distance, in one's imagination, is not great. After the splendors of the Lido and the numerous lagoons in the midst of which rises the proud queen of the Adriatic, the Paris exposition supplies another huge attraction under the title of "Andalusia in the days of the Moors."

The Land of the Moors.

As everybody is aware, Andalusia is as romantic as it is mountainous—romantic because of its historical associations. Here we are taken back to the time of the fierce battles of the Moors, fighting for their religion and independence against the soldiers of Ferdinand and Isabella, and so heroically depicted in Spanish ballads. Andalusia in Paris is located in the Trocadero gardens. The cities of Sevilla, Grenada, Toledo and Cordova are all to be partially reconstructed at a total outlay of two million francs, and on an area of sixty thousand square feet. The grand entrance and court of honor of this miniature Andalusia recalls the architectural beauties of the Alcazar. In the theater there will be dancing galore to the music of an "estudiantina," while in the arena Moors on horseback will give displays of their prowess and skill in arms with swords and lances.

Parisian Freak Shows.

In spite of these foreign importations from southern Europe, gay Paris has herself organized a score of minor attractions on the fair grounds, some of which will be up-to-date shows in the Parisian conception of the term. Among the number are the "Roulotte," "The Topsy-Turvy Manor," the "Gay Authors" and the "Black Cat." "The Roulotte" is a sort of cafe concert that has been in existence for a few years past on the famous hill of Montmartre. Here decadent poets recite their verses and make fun of the leading politicians, painters, poets, actors, danseuses and cocottes of the day. At the Roulotte the Bohemians of the quarter are supposed to congregate, and Parisians and foreigners alike drive up from the boulevards to witness a little troupe of performers as incoherent at times as they are decadent. "The Topsy-Turvy Manor" is quite original, although it bears more or less a resemblance to what is known as the haunted swing. In the manor everything is upside down. Visitors gain access to the rooms by coming down the chimney instead of entering by the door. Once within the portals of the manor, visitors discover to their intense amazement that they are walking on the ceiling instead of the floor, that the windows open downward, and that the chairs, tables and other pieces of furniture are as topsy-turvy as the house itself. Finally one can make an exit through an ordinary door concealed from view, but which an obliging employe will kindly indicate to persons who grow prematurely alarmed at finding themselves inside a place which they penetrated down the chimney.

The Black Cat Show.

Apropos of chimneys, an immense one, artistically carved and beautifully decorated, plays an important role in the Black Cat, or Chat Noir entertainment, which is an importation from Montmartre to the banks of the Seine. The pantomimes presented here have always been given in a chimney—the idea which it is intended to convey being that the performance is for the delectation of a few friends assembled around the hearth. The show will not be quite so brilliant as in the days of M. Salis, the founder of the Black Cat tavern, who died a few years ago; but his widow has preserved all the accessories of the establishment, and has acquired the right to perform the successful Caran d'Ache pantomimes.

The ready wit and the humorous descanting of the late Salis will of necessity be lacking, but no doubt his place will be fairly well filled by other poets and singers from Montmartre, who still maintain, as they empty their bocks of beer, that their soul is in the moon and that they alone (poets, scribblers, artists and philosophers) are of any account in this world. At the Black Cat improved Chinese shadows, with a piece of white cloth for scenery, enact short plays. The dramatis personae are carved in zinc from a design by a Black Cat artist. As many as 4,000 persons—in zinc—are made to appear upon the stage in the course of one entertainment. They do not come in and slide away, as is the case of a magic lantern or ordinary Chinese shadows, but they move about and perform the part assigned to them. Soldiers are dressed in the correct military attire of their country. The ladies are gowned in dresses by the famous makers. These zinc actors and actresses may be said to move and converse without ever uttering a syllable.

The Sculptor's Part.

Sculptor Recipon, whom I recently interviewed, says that the exhibition of sculpture, executed by the most renowned artists of France expressly for the Paris exposition, will be remarkable. The sculptors of the present day, although perhaps they have followed in a great measure in the footsteps of their predecessors and have proven themselves to be heirs to tradition, have made many innovations. When their work is terminated, a couple of months hence, one will be enabled to judge if their productions are of a higher artistic value than the decorative subjects that have lately been removed from the top of the main entrance of the old palace of industry, which, by the way, was erected in the Champs Elysees as the main building of the Paris exposition of 1855. The last stones of this palace are being removed as these lines appear, and Bougereau and many other famous artists and sculptors are shedding tears as the last loads of debris are being carted away, and the home of art in which they earned well-merited success and glory disappears forever.

FREDRIC MAYER.

EARTHQUAKES.

A New Theory and Some Queer Comments Upon It.

From the Mexican Herald.

Almost every day of late the telegraph has brought news of earthquakes in different parts of the world, not temblores, which merely shake things and do little harm, but veritable terremotos, which destroy buildings and kill people. At San Jacinto, Cal., a little town is almost ruined, in Italy the land slides and carries off a monastery and destroys ships and houses, on the Mississippi river the levees have been partly destroyed and in Tennessee the famous Pinnacle Rock is shaken down. The prediction is made by a scientific observer of seismic phenomena that next month the earth will "stretch," and we shall witness much devastation wrought by earthquakes. The usual theory has been that the earth shrinks continually—that is, its crust—and the new notion of "stretching" is a novelty. It seems evident that at the present time the globe is giving an end-of-the-century performance, and we may find our geography a little the worse for wear when the stretching process is over.

In this country the volcano of Colima is making a grand display of fireworks and there are indications of subterranean activity noted. In a certain region down in the state of Guerrero it is always shaking, and one carries his cup of coffee to the lips with many precautions. A clergyman, who has been doing missionary work there, says that there are often thirty temblores in a single day.

Nature has her housework to do, like an industrious dame; her ideas of the permanency of the planet's arrangements are clearly not ours. She shakes and dusts in the course of her cleaning-up operations and makes nothing of killing off tens of thousands of human beings when she has to upset a populous island and flings the dust in the air to remain a cause of red sunsets for many months. Man, who stays so short a time on the planet, fancies that the whole great show of nature, splendid beyond the powers of artist's brush or writer's pen to depict or describe, was made for him alone. It is quite as reasonable to suppose that other beings, invisible to us, have part in the great spectacle. It is certain that nature does not always give heed to our human arrangements and has small regard for human life, for can she not renew the world perpetually? Men are always dying, but the world is always fresh and wonderful. Man has clearly put too high an estimate on his puny self.

AUCTION SALES OF REAL ESTATE, &c.

Tomorrow.

C. G. Sloan & Co., Aucts., 1407 G st. n.w.—Trustees' sale of No. 2214 Va. ave. n.w., on Saturday, February 10, at 4:30 p.m. Washington Danenhower and W. Irving Boswell, trustees.

Thomas J. Owen, Auct., 913 F st. n.w.—Trustees' sale of No. 20 Defrees st. n.w., on Saturday, February 10, at 4:30 p.m. Blair Lee, trustee.

James W. Ratcliffe, Auct., 920 Pa. ave. n.w.—Constable's sale of household furniture, &c., on Saturday, February 10, at 10 a.m.; also, at 12 m., horses, wagons, carriages, &c., at auction rooms.

Walter B. Williams & Co., Aucts., 10th and D sts. n.w.—Sale of household furniture, carpets, &c., on Saturday, February 10, at 10 a.m., at auction rooms.

C. G. Sloan & Co., Aucts., 1407 G st. n.w.—Sale of household furniture, &c., on Saturday, February 10, at 10 a.m.; also, at 12 m., carriages, harness, &c., at auction rooms.

Magrath & Kennelly, Aucts., 205 11th st. n.w.—Sale of two carloads of horses, on Saturday, February 10, at 10 a.m., at auction rooms.

AUCTION SALES.

FUTURE DAYS.

JAMES W. RATCLIFFE, AUCTIONEER.

TRUSTEES' SALE OF UNIMPROVED PROPERTY ON D STREET NORTHEAST BETWEEN NINTH AND TENTH STREETS.

By virtue of a deed of trust, duly recorded in Liber 2124, folio 287 et seq., one of the land records for the District of Columbia, and at the request of the party secured thereby, we will sell, at public auction, in front of the premises, on TUESDAY, THIRTEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1900, AT HALF-PAST FOUR O'CLOCK P.M., the following described real estate, situate in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, to wit: Lot numbered eighteen (18), in William A. Gordon, trustee, and others' subdivision of lots in square numbered nine hundred and thirty-seven (937), as per plat recorded in Liber 18, folio 12, of the records of the said District, being the same property conveyed to the said Stephen Gaus by deed of Gordon and Padgett, trustees, dated December 5, 1890, and recorded in Liber 1549, folio 323, of the District land records, together with all the improvements, rights, &c.

Terms: One-third cash, balance in one and two years, with interest from the day of sale, at 6 per cent per annum, secured by deed of trust on the property sold, or all cash, at the option of the purchaser. A deposit of $100 required upon acceptance of bid. Terms to be complied with in fifteen days. All conveyancing, stamps, etc., at purchaser's cost.

SAMUEL H. WALKER,
MICHAEL I. WELLER,
fe2-d&ds Trustees.

THOMAS DOWLING, AUCTIONEER.

TRUSTEES' SALE OF VALUABLE PROPERTY ON "D" STREET BETWEEN 17TH AND 18TH STREETS NORTHWEST.

By virtue of a deed of trust, dated the 28th day of May, 1896, and recorded in Liber 2129, at folio 236 et seq., one of the land records of the District of Columbia, and at the request of the party secured thereby, we, the undersigned trustees, will sell at auction in front of the premises, on MONDAY, FEBRUARY TWELFTH, 1900, AT HALF-PAST FOUR O'CLOCK P.M., the following described land and premises, situate in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, and designated as and being all of original lot nine (9) in square numbered one hundred and seventy-two (172), improved by a large, nearly new 2-story brick stable.

Terms: Sold subject to trust of $3,000. Balance cash.

JESSE V. N. BUYCK,
J. HENRY GULICK,
fe1-d&ds Trustees.

AUCTION SALES.

TOMORROW.

JAMES W. RATCLIFFE, AUCTIONEER.

CONSTABLE'S SALE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, CARPETS, &c.

TOMORROW (SATURDAY) MORNING, AT TEN O'CLOCK, I will sell, within the sales rooms of James W. Ratcliffe, 920 Pa. ave. n.w., Furniture, etc., consisting of Bed Room Suites, Parlor Furniture, Chiffoniers, Wardrobes, Leather Couches, Combination Washstands, Medical Books, Carpets, etc., etc.

ALSO

Horses, Carriages, Wagons, Harness, etc., AT TWELVE O'CLOCK.

It VIRGIL G. WILLLIAMS, Constable.

HORSES.

2 CARLOADS.

TOMORROW, TEN O'CLOCK, at our auction stables, 205 11th st.

Wm. Shoemaker will sell a load of extra good, young, sound Horses. 50 head of Horses and Mules by other shippers. All will be sold for the high dollar.

It MAGRATH & KENNELLY, Auctioneers.

WALTER B. WILLIAMS & CO., AUCTIONEERS.

OUR REGULAR SATURDAY SALE.

On TOMORROW, FEBRUARY TENTH, AT TEN O'CLOCK A.M., we shall sell, at our sales rooms, corner 10th and Penna. avenue northwest, a general assortment Furniture, Carpets, etc., Counters, Large Tables, Lumber, etc.

It WALTER B. WILLIAMS & CO., Aucts.

Buy HORSES AT AUCTION.

Remember our regular auction sale of Horses SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY TEN, BEGINNING AT TEN O'CLOCK. We have received on consignment a number of excellent work and driving horses, which must be sold regardless of value.

ALSO

Carriages, Wagons and Harness.

Bensinger's Bazaar, 940 La. Ave.

fe9-f,m,w,20 S. BENSINGER, Auctioneer.

C. G. SLOAN & CO., AUCTIONEERS, 1407 G ST.

OVERSTUFFED PARLOR SET, HANDSOME WALNUT BED ROOM SET, DWARF BOOK CASE, OFFICE COMBINATION WASHSTAND, OAK SIDEBOARDS AND EXTENSION TABLES, BOW-GLASS CHINA CLOSETS, OAK AND WALNUT CHIFFONIERS, FOLDING BEDS, WARDROBES, OAK AND OTHER BED ROOM SETS, ODD BUREAUS AND WASHSTANDS, DINING CHAIRS, ROCKERS, OFFICE CHAIRS, COUCHES, PARLOR CHAIRS, TABLES, MIRRORS, BRIC-A-BRAC, ETC., SHOW CASES, STOVES, RUGS, TOILET SETS, CHINA AND GLASSWARE, KITCHEN REQUISITES, ETC.

All within our auction rooms, 1407 G street, on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY TENTH, 1900, AT TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

AND AT TWELVE M.,

SATIN-LINED RUBBER-TIRE BROUGHAM, DOUBLE SET CARRIAGE HARNESS, HORSES, VEHICLES, ALSO ONE BAY HORSE FOR THE NAVY DEPT., ETC.

Terms cash.

fe8-2t C. G. SLOAN & CO., Aucts.

C. G. SLOAN & CO., AUCTIONEERS, 1407 G ST.

TRUSTEES' SALE OF A VALUABLE TWO-STORY BRICK DWELLING, NO. 2214 VIRGINIA AVENUE NORTHWEST.

By virtue of that certain deed of trust, duly recorded in Liber No. 2148, folio 488 et seq., of the land records of the District of Columbia, and at the written request of the holder of the note secured thereby, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale, at public auction, in front of the premises, on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY TENTH, 1900, AT HALF-PAST FOUR O'CLOCK P.M., the following described real estate, situate in the said District of Columbia, to wit: Subdivision numbered ten (10), in square numbered fifty-nine (59), with all the improvements thereon, being house No. 2214 Virginia avenue northwest.

Terms made known at time of sale. A deposit of $100 will be required from the purchaser. All conveyancing, recording, notarial fees and revenue stamps at cost of purchaser. If terms of sale are not complied with within ten days from day of sale the property will be resold at risk and cost of defaulting purchaser after five days' advertisement of such resale.

WASHINGTON DANENHOWER,
W. IRVING BOSWELL,
ja31-10t Trustees.

THOMAS J. OWEN, AUCTIONEER.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF BRICK DWELLING HOUSE, NO. 20 DEFREES STREET NORTHWEST.

By virtue of a certain deed of trust, recorded in Liber 2240, folio 45 et seq., of the land records of the District of Columbia, I will sell at public auction, in front of the premises, ON SATURDAY, THE TENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1900, AT HALF-PAST FOUR O'CLOCK P.M., the following described real estate, situate in the city of Washington, in said District: All of lot numbered seventy-eight (78), in A. B. Shepherd's subdivision of lots in square numbered six hundred and twenty-three (623), as described in Book R. W., page 39, of the surveyor's office of the said District, together with the improvements, consisting of a brick dwelling house—seven rooms and bath room. This sale is subject to a prior trust to secure a note for nine hundred dollars, recorded December 5, 1896, Land Records, Liber 2172, folio 221.

Terms: One-third cash, balance in equal installments, one and two years, interest five (5%) per cent, semi-annual, from day of sale, secured by a deed of trust on property sold, or all cash, at option of the purchaser. A deposit of $100 will be required at time of sale. All conveyancing, recording and revenue charges at purchaser's cost. Terms to be complied with in ten days, otherwise the trustee reserves the right to resell at cost of the purchaser in default.

ja31-10t BLAIR LEE, Trustee.

FUTURE DAYS.

DUNCANSON BROS., AUCTIONEERS.

TRUSTEES' SALE OF A NEAT AND ATTRACTIVE TWO-STORY AND BASEMENT BRICK DWELLING, KNOWN AS PREMISES NO. 1228 TWENTY-NINTH STREET NORTHWEST (GEORGETOWN).

By virtue of a certain deed of trust, dated the 22d day of April, A.D. 1892, and recorded in Liber 1668, folio 470 et seq., one of the land records of the District of Columbia, and at the request of the holder of the note secured thereby, we will offer, at public auction, in front of the premises, on THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-SECOND DAY OF FEBRUARY, A.D. 1900, AT HALF-PAST FOUR O'CLOCK P.M., the following described property, situate in the city of Washington (formerly Georgetown), District of Columbia, to wit: All that certain piece or parcel of land and premises, known and distinguished as and being lot numbered one hundred and eighty-six (186), of Barr and Sanner's subdivision of lots numbered one hundred and seventy-one (171) and one hundred and seventy-two (172), and part of lot numbered one hundred and seventy (170), in Beall's addition to Georgetown, being in square numbered forty (40), as said Barr and Sanner's subdivision is recorded in Liber A. B. B., folio 255, of the records of the surveyor's office of the District of Columbia, together with the improvements thereon.

Terms of sale: One-third of the purchase money to be paid in cash, and the balance to be paid in three equal installments, in one, two and three years, respectively, secured by a deed of trust upon the property sold, with interest thereon, payable semi-annually, at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, or all cash, at the option of the purchaser. A deposit of $200 will be required at the time of sale. Sale to be closed in fifteen days from day of sale, otherwise the property will be resold at the risk and cost of defaulting purchaser, after five days' advertisement in some newspaper published in Washington city, D. C. Conveyancing and revenue at cost of purchaser.

LOUIS D. WINE,
CLARENCE B. RHEEM,
fe9-d&ds Trustees.

DUNCANSON BROS., AUCTIONEERS.

TRUSTEES' SALE OF A LOT 25 FEET FRONT BY 99 FEET 10½ INCHES IN DEPTH, ON THE EAST SIDE OF 11TH BETWEEN D AND E STREETS SOUTHWEST, IMPROVED BY PREMISES NO. 428 11TH STREET SOUTHWEST.

By virtue of a certain deed of trust, dated the 31st day of July, A.D. 1896, and recorded in Liber 2144, folio 327 et seq., of the land records of the District of Columbia, and at the request of the holders of the notes secured thereby, we will offer at public auction, in front of the premises, ON FRIDAY, THE TWENTY-THIRD DAY OF FEBRUARY, A. D. 1900, AT HALF-PAST FOUR O'CLOCK P.M., the following described real estate, situate in the city of Washington, District of Colum