



East District Corner Stone.

is shown in the fact that there were five Baptist churches, one colored, the first on 10th street near E street, which afterward became Ford's Theater and the Army Medical Museum; the second at 4th street and Virginia avenue southeast; the E street, near 6th street, lately removed to 10th and N streets northwest, and the colored, the original building of the denomination at 19th and I streets northwest; five Catholic churches, St. Patrick's, at 10th and F streets; St. Peter's, 2d and C streets southeast; St. Matthew's, 15th and H streets northwest; St. Mary's, 5th street between Washington and H streets, and St. Dominic's, 6th and F streets southwest. There were four Episcopal churches, Christ, on G street between 6th and 7th streets southeast; St. John's, 16th and H streets northwest; Trinity, newly erected, at 3d and C streets northwest, and Epiphany, on G street between 13th and 14th streets northwest. One Friends', or Quakers', meeting house, on I street between 18th and 19th streets. Three Lutheran, the Concordia, 20th and G streets; St. Paul's, 11th and H streets, and St. John's, on 4½ street near D street southwest. Eight Methodist, two of them colored, East Washington or Ebenezer, on 4th street near G street southeast; Foundry, 14th and G streets; Wesley, 5th and F streets; McKendree, Massachusetts avenue between 9th and 10th streets; Ryland, 10th and D streets southwest; the Southern Methodist, on 8th street between H and I streets; Asbury, 11th and K streets. John Wesley, Connecticut avenue, and Israel, south of the Capitol, were the colored churches. There were two Methodist Protestant Churches, one at 5th street and Virginia avenue southeast, and the other on 9th street between E and F streets northwest. There was one Unitarian Church, in the building now used as the Police Court. Other denominations which have now church edifices were then meeting in the court house and public halls and in private houses.

There were orphan asylums, controlled by the Catholic denomination, known as St. Vincent's, at 10th and G streets, and St. Joseph's, on Vermont avenue near K street, and one under the Protestant denominations, known as the Washington City Orphan Asylum, on H street between 9th and 10th streets.

The Young Men's Christian Association had been but recently established and was located in Fowler's building, on 7th street near E street. The officers were Z. Richards, president; Dr. J. S. McKee, Dr. R. H. Coolidge, W. B. Waugh and W. O. Force, vice presidents; W. Chauncey Langdon, corresponding secretary; William J. Rhees, recording secretary; Mitchell H. Miller, treasurer, and A. L. Edwards, librarian.

The Colonization Society, having rooms on the north side of the avenue near 4½ street, was about erecting its building at



South District Corner Stone.

The stone is under the steps.

the southwest corner of the avenue and 4½ street.

The graveyards were situated as follows: St. Patrick's, at the north end of 3d street west, just outside the city limits; St. Peter's, between H, I, 4th and 5th streets northeast; St. Matthew's, between 14th, 15th, U and V streets; Congressional, between E, G, 18th and 19th streets southeast; Ebenezer, between D, E, 17th and 18th streets southeast; Foundry, between 13th, 14th, V and W streets northwest; Holmead's, between S, T, 19th and 20th streets northwest; African, between 5th, 6th, S and T streets northwest. There was also a public graveyard near the east end of H street northeast, which had been but little used, and a few others the exact locations of which cannot now be recalled.

There were a number of charitable, benevolent and fraternal organizations, as also lodges, chapters, etc., of the secret orders. The Masons had six blue lodges, two Royal Arch Chapters and a Knights Templar commandery, most of them meeting at 10th and E streets. The Odd Fellows were principally in their new hall on 7th street between D and E streets, having fourteen lodges and five encampments. The Red Men had five tribes. Seven divisions of the Sons of Temperance, a band of Brothers of Temperance, two or three tents of Rechabites and a few other organizations represented the temperance sentiment. The Union Debating Society, the Vine Lyceum, the Franklin Lyceum and some other like organizations met regularly. There were also three building organizations established and doing business.

For transportation in and about the city we had the hack and the cab, and it was a good business at that time, numbers of hack drivers not only owning their horses, carriages and stables, but other property. Some of these whose names are familiar were Henry Turner, Joseph Abbott, William Hicks, George Beardsley, Andrew Schwartz, Singleton Golden, R. F. McGee, H. Kinchey, Thomas Walsh, William Dalton, John Sheetz, James Bowen, James Fleming, K. De Neele, Peter Carroll, William Bagnam and Robert Kelliher.

Nailor's line of omnibuses, the Union line of Reeside & Vanderwerken, the Citizens' line of Weeden & Ryther, had routes on the avenue to the navy yard, Georgetown, the steamboat wharves and North Washington, the fare being a "fippenny bit," or 6¼ cents. Then old-fashioned mail coaches carried passengers to adjacent towns in Maryland and Virginia, most of the lines being but tri-weekly, and the offices were in the neighborhood of 4½, 6th street and the avenue. Frederick, Rockville, Brookville, Marlboro', Port Tobacco, in Maryland, and Leesburg, Warrenton, Middleburg and other places in Virginia were thus in communication with the capital of the nation.

Railroad and Steamboat Facilities.

The Baltimore and Ohio railroad, then advertised under the name of the Washington and Baltimore railroad, though it had been operated over fifteen years, had a diminutive brick station with carsheds along the Tiber, at Pennsylvania avenue and 2d street. This was surmounted by a small belfry and bell, to summon the passengers. The running time then between Baltimore and this city was over two hours, and there were but four or five trains daily. Over this was the line of travel from the north, east and west, and on the arrival and departure of the trains this was perhaps the most animated section of the city. The through passengers for the south were conveyed by a large omnibus to the mail boats at the 11th street wharf. Between Alexandria and this city there were several steamers, the Phoenix, Joe Johnson, Tom Collyer, George Page and Union, two or more being on regularly, and each making five or six round trips daily, the single fare being a "levy," or 12½ cents. A line of mail boats carried the great southern mail between this city and Aquia creek, among them the steamers Baltimore, Augusta and Powhatan. The steamer Tom Collyer made trips to Mount Vernon, the steamer Osceola was on the Norfolk line, making semi-weekly trips; the Columbia made trips to Baltimore, touching at intermediate landings, and had one day lay off for excursions.

The City Post Office.

Our city post office was located in the dwellings on 7th street north of the Post Office Department, known as McLean's row, formerly occupied by Col. William Benning, Mrs. Ironsides and others. These were three-story brick houses, and the office then was under Mr. William A. Bradley, who a few years after gave way to Dr. William Jones. Then 5 cents was the postage for a half-ounce letter for 300 miles or less, and 10 cents over that distance. The telegraph office, the Morse line, was in the second story of this building, and promised the public that messages should be sent through in half a minute. This line ran northward. There was also a line known as Bayne's line, for the south-

ern business, with offices on the avenue near 4½ street.

The Adams Express Company had established itself here in the iron-front, three-story building on Pennsylvania avenue a few yards west of the depot, which is still standing.

The Banks.

The Bank of Washington was then at the corner of Louisiana avenue and 7th street, as now. The present National Metropolitan was then the Bank Metropolis, in the same place, opposite the treasury. The Patriotic Bank, which had been on 7th street near D street, had gone out of existence, and in its place was the Exchange Bank of Selden, Withers & Co. There were a Bank of Republic, at 7th street and Louisiana avenue, and a Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, on Pennsylvania avenue between 4½ and 6th streets; the Bank of Columbia, of Statham, Smithson & Co., was in the same section. The house of Corcoran and Riggs, then known as Exchange Bank, was at 15th street and New York avenue. The Washington City Savings Bank was conducted on the present site of the Traders', at 10th street and the avenue, by Lewis Johnson & Co. T. W. Pairo was in business at 15th and F streets, and Chubb Brothers were close by. This being in the days of state and private banks, there was a currency in circulation of a variegated character, some good, some not so good, and a portion of it very bad. At one time there was so much danger of taking counterfeit money that some business men, to avoid the knowledge of the spuriousness of a note, adopted the custom of taking anything that came along showing the denomination and name of the bank. As may be supposed, this condition made business, for much of the state bank money was taken at a discount. Some of those engaged as exchange and stock brokers were Thomas E. France, F. A. Harry, John Hand, G. W. Hall & Co., W. H. Ritter, Daniel Rowland, C. S. McElfresh, J. W. Maury, M. Snyder, J. Raymond, G. W. Phillips, O. S. Morse and Robert Gogins.

A grist mill on F street between 6th and 7th streets southwest, a shipyard, Page's, near the foot of 7th street, where the steamers William Selden, Champion and other vessels were launched, another shipyard at the west end of G street, Easby's, where a fine revenue cutter was built, and the smaller boat-building plant of Cumberland, near the latter, are some of the places which are still remembered by the older inhabitants.

Through the Old Canal.

Through the canal, which skirted the river from Georgetown, connecting with the old Washington city canal at 17th street, came down Cumberland coal, lime and other material from up country. Anthracite coal was then fast coming into use, and the cargoes in vessels of about a hundred tons were mostly unladen at the 17th street wharves. The western outlet of the Washington canal was at this point. The bed of that canal was in B street to between 6th and 7th streets, where it turned southward for a few hundred yards, thence eastward to 3d street, from which point, by a southeast and south course, it reached the Eastern branch near the foot of New Jersey avenue. It was spanned at 14th, 12th, 7th, 4½, 3d streets, Virginia avenue, New Jersey avenue and M street by bridges for vehicles. Several streams and sewers flowed into it, and it was continually filling up, and to keep it navigable for craft drawing a few feet of water mud machines were frequently employed. Contractors were then dredging it and putting in new walls. Along its banks had been the gas works, at 10th street, but recently removed to Maine avenue near 3d street. There was traffic along its banks, particularly in wood, sometimes brought in small schooners, but more often by flat-bottom long boats or scows, from the lower river, and also in lumber, market truck, etc.

Hotels.

The hotels, taverns and refectories at that day, and numerous boarding houses, afforded ample accommodations, and, except on occasions of great public interest, such as inaugurations, there was no need for walking the streets. It is true that some of the older Capitol Hill hotels had ceased business as such, but still existed as boarding houses, and other old-time places had been modernized. The Franklin Hotel, of O'Neal, and afterward Gadsby's, had disappeared from 21st street. Willard's, at 14th street and the avenue, under a new management, had resumed business, and the old Mansion House was again running. The present site of the Raleigh was occupied by the modest Irving House, kept by John Thomas. The old Indian Queen Hotel, first kept by Colonel Keowin, followed by the well-known Jesse Brown, thirty years before this time, had been demolished and the imposing marble-front Metropolitan, under Mr. Brown's sons, was about completed on its site with extensions, while Rumpf's City Hotel, op-



North District Corner Stone.

posite, had disappeared as a hostelry. The National, erected twenty-five years before, was then managed by W. H. Willard, who was succeeded in a few months by M. A. Dexter. The United States, under E. H. Fuller, and Potomac, under M. Jordan, were on the avenue between 3d and 4½ streets. William Gadsby gave his name to the hotel at the corner of 3d street and the avenue, while Charles Gilbert conducted the St. Charles Hotel, opposite, now known as the Belvedere. North of the avenue on 3d street was Isaac Beers' temperance hotel. On the south side of the avenue were some smaller hotels, the Metropolis, of G. W. Topham; Congress Hall, of P. H. King; the Waverly, of P. A. De Saules; the Verandah, of M. Snyder; the Star, or Bald Eagle, of Andrew Hancock; the Franklin, of Conrad Finkman, and the Western, or Indian, of James Maher. There were Caspari's, on Capitol Hill; House's and the Railroad, of M. Brady, near the depot; the Exchange, on C street, kept by McIlheny; the Franklin, T. Baker, at 8th and D streets; the Farmers', by John Kelly, opposite; the Union, A. Butler, F street near 13th street; two steamboat hotels, John West, at 7th street near the avenue, and Job Corson, near the wharf; P. W. Dorsey's, 7th and I streets, and Fountain, C. Kloman, 7th street between D and E streets; European House, 7th and G streets.

There were any number of boarding houses to be found, some housing little coteries of members of Congress and friends, for the congressional mess was then in vogue with many, and not infrequently would there be found in some boarding house a delegation of genial friends, political and personal. Even the staid and dignified justices of the Supreme Court of the United States had a little colony at Gadsby's Hotel, the entire number stopping there, or close by, more than one season. Capitol Hill, and that portion of the city south of the city hall and east of 7th street, taking in Missouri avenue, had many boarding houses, most of them first class. They were mostly conducted by ladies, and among the names remembered are those of Peyton, Whitwell, Galvin, Duvall, Wimsatt, Elizabeth McPherson, Mrs. Adams, Mary McPherson, Wallingsford, Topping, Taylor, McDaniel, Harrison, Beveridge, McQuillan, F. Williams, Kennedy, Keyhoe, Hough, Stetson, Lewis, Little, La Truite, Stone and Schot.

On Capitol Hill the names of well-known bonifaces were McDuffie, Lambs, Hill, Clements, Spriggs, Waite, Carter, Scrivener, Gordon and Wells. The names of Briscoe, Janney, Lamb, Robinson, Johnson, Nevitt, Kleiber were known on Pennsylvania avenue; Bryant and Ulrich on 15th street; Donn, Manning, Wise and Malone on 13th street; Kirkwood, two Kings and Wilson on F street; Nalley, Selving, Ridgway and



West District Corner Stone.