



"Hew to the Line, Let the Chips Fall Where they May."

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Olympia, April 18, 1899.

THE NATION'S CAPITAL.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS CONCERNING IT.

Some National Evidences of a Country's Growth—It was at First a Moveable Headquarters for the Government—Its History in Brief from Madison to McKinley.

Washington Evening Star.

As the approaching centennial celebration, it is well worthy of note that the one hundred years that have elapsed since the establishment of the seat of the Federal government in Washington practically represent for us almost the whole substantial history of the United States as a nation, aside from its preliminary beginnings. Prior to the year 1800 the government's operations can scarcely be said to have been reduced to an orderly system, since up to that time they had been largely experimental and tentative. A nation without a visible and permanent political headquarters is hardly accounted and recognized as a nation in the sense now generally accepted with respect to established governments, and hence it was only with the actual founding and occupation of the Federal capital that our career as an enduring power really began.

From President John Adams to President William McKinley is a long and glorious span in our governmental history, and the themes it offers for retrospection and reminiscence are embarrassing in their riches. A few little tidbits, mainly in the way of comparison, will suffice here.

In 1800 the population of the national capital was only 3,000, as against 278,800 to-day, and most of those 3,000 were transient residents—artisans and laborers employed on the early public buildings then in course of construction.

In 1800 the civil list of the government in Washington embraced but 126 persons, distributed thus: In the State Department, 8 clerks; in the Treasury, 75; in the War Department, 17; in the Navy Department, 16; and in the Post Office Department, 10. To-day the government civil list in Washington comprises 20,000 persons—President John Adams arrived in Washington from Philadelphia on June 1, 1800. Mrs. Adams did not follow until November, and even then the habitable rooms in the White House were only partially ready for her occupancy.

The government archives and effects were removed from Philadelphia in sloops and schooners, coming by water down the coast and up the Potomac to this point. The removal cost \$40,000. The transfer of furniture, records and official paraphernalia began June 5, and was completed by June 15, 1800. The records must have been of considerable bulk, even then, for the government had been in existence ten years and had inherited all the State papers, records, revolutionary muster rolls and accounts of the old government under the articles of confederation.

Congress (the sixth) convened for the first time in the Capitol November 17, 1800, but no quorum was obtained in Senate or House until November 21. The preceding session had adjourned at Philadelphia May 14.

When Congress convened the only government buildings even partially ready for occupancy were the White House, the Capitol (the west wing of the old portion) and the Treasury. The biggest thing visible above the level of the ground between the Capitol and the White House was Samuel Blodgett's "Great Hotel," which stood near the corner of Ninth and E streets northwest.

The Treasury stood on the site of the south front of the present Treasury building, and was a plain two-story structure of brick and stone, containing thirty rooms, with attic and basement. It was destroyed by fire in 1833.

The War Office building, at the southwest corner of the White House grounds, was not ready, and accordingly the War Department leased a three-story private house on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue between Twenty-first and Twenty-second streets, nearly opposite the famous hotel kept by William O'Neal, afterward father of that beautiful and fascinating Peggy who subsequently, as the wife of Secretary of War Eaton, made such a stir in Washington society during the Jackson administration.

The Post Office Department occupied a rented building belonging to one Dr. Cracker, at the corner of Ninth and E streets, near Blodgett's. The other two departments then in existence—State and Navy—secured temporary quarters in rented houses near the Executive Mansion. Meanwhile, and until all the departments were permanently located, a large amount of governmental effects were kept stored in a stone warehouse on the water front at the foot of Twenty-

fifth street, built by Col. Tobias Lear, who served as private secretary to Gen. Washington.

Besides the public buildings in process of construction, there were, May 15, 1800, 109 brick and 253 frame houses in Washington, all save half a dozen of them having been erected after the year 1791.

It is interesting to recall that before the establishment of the permanent capital at Washington no less than eight other cities were occupied as seats of national legislation at one time or another after the heroes of '76 threw off the English yoke. Philadelphia, Baltimore, Lancaster and York, Pa.; Princeton and Trenton, N. J.; Annapolis, Md., and New York City, served in turn as the home of Congress, the visible center of government and the sanctuary of its laws. During the revolution the sessions of the Continental Congress had been held at the most convenient points permitted by the exigencies of war, the temporary capital—a sort of peripatetic and fugitive capital—being moved about from time to time and from place to place as occasion demanded.

Under the old regime of that Congress, and later under the articles of confederation, the same anxiety and rivalry existed among the original States for the honor of having Congress sit within their respective borders as were experienced after the Constitution was adopted and before the permanent capital was established. In the old continental days the State of New York had offered the town of Kingston as the abiding place of the American government; Rhode Island had tendered Newport; Maryland had proposed her capital city, Annapolis, and Virginia had proffered her ancient capital, Williamsburg.

In October, 1783, while in session in Philadelphia, Congress was grossly insulted by a band of mutinous soldiery from Lancaster county, whose pay was in arrears, and hastily adjourned for personal safety to Princeton, N. J. This incident called attention more pertinently than anything that had happened before to the necessity of providing a permanent capital where the deliberations of Congress would not suffer interference or disturbance from mobs or other outside influences.

The subject was accordingly taken up with vigor, and in 1784, while Congress sat at Trenton, an ordinance was passed authorizing three commissioners to purchase ground and lay out a Federal town on the banks of the river Delaware, and to enter into contracts for erecting "in an elegant manner" the necessary government buildings. Repeated attempts were afterward made to repeal the ordinance and substitute the river Potomac for the Delaware, and the consequence was that the commissioners, being in doubt as to the outcome, did nothing.

For several years thereafter, and until the adoption of the Constitution in Philadelphia in 1787, the delegations from Massachusetts, New York, Virginia and Georgia strongly favored locating the federal city at Georgetown on the Potomac, while the delegations from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland stiffly opposed this. Again nothing was done, and when in 1789 the old federation gave place to the "more perfect" union and the new government, with Washington as President, got under way, the plan that eventually resulted in the session of the present ten-mile-square District of Columbia by Maryland and Virginia was formulated and submitted to Congress. The Virginia Legislature offered a tract ten miles square in any part of its territory that Congress might choose and a bonus of \$120,000 toward erecting public buildings. The Maryland assembly seconded the proposition and agreed to cede a supplemental tract and furnish \$72,000 toward the building fund.

Later on the choice narrowed down between a point on the west bank of the Susquehanna river in Pennsylvania—supposed then to be the center of population, wealth and territory—and a point on the banks of the Potomac, and bills in behalf of these propositions were offered, exciting extreme bitterness and sectional jealousy. The Virginians were especially insistent that the Potomac site be chosen, and, when, on September 5, 1790, a bill passed the House of Representatives to locate the permanent capital on the Susquehanna, the Virginians took it so greatly to heart that James Madison, then a representative in Congress, asserted, with heat, that if this action had been foreseen by Virginia, that State would have refused to become a party to the Constitution. The bill was subsequently amended in the Senate by striking out the clause referring to the Susquehanna and substituting for it a provision naming Georgetown near Philadelphia, in case the State of Pennsylvania or her citizens should secure the payment of \$100,000 to-

ward erecting public buildings. These amendments were concurred in by the House, with, however, a seemingly innocent proviso that the "Federal City" and the "Federal Town," and Washington wrote of it as the "Federal City." A little later, on March 26, 1802, Major Peter Charles L'Enfant, the French Engineer in charge of the platting, called it the "Capital City." Finally the commissioners appointed to lay out the place in accordance with L'Enfant's plan christened it, September 9, 1791, with happy taste and fine discrimination, the "City of Washington."

The streets and avenues of the new city were beautifully delineated and carefully named on Major L'Enfant's maps, but for many years there was but little indication, if any, that there were really any streets or avenues about it. As late as the year 1842 Charles Dickens, then on his first visit to America, described Washington physically the "city of magnificent distances," as really the "city of magnificent intentions," and stated that its characteristic features were "spacious avenues that begin in nothing and lead nowhere, streets miles long that want only houses, roads and inhabitants, and public buildings that need but a public to be complete." From all that we can learn of it from old letters, printed chronicles and recollections of aged inhabitants, it would seem that Dickens' dull description must have held good clear from the war of 1812 down to the close of the Civil war.

It was only after the close of the Civil war, in Grant's administration, and through the courage of the District Governor, Alexander Shepherd, that L'Enfant's original plans were carried out. Then it was that the abnormal growths and chaotic excrescences that had sprung up to mar its first design were cleared away and the foundation laid for that splendid development which in thirty years has made Washington the most beautiful city in the land and the most attractive capital in the world.

How narrowly it escaped destruction as our symbolic capital, in two distinct crises of our national history, is known to every student—first when British barbarity and vindictiveness reduced its executive and legislative halls to blackened ruins in 1814, and next in our civil strife fifty years later, when the confederate hosts drew so near that thunders of their artillery shook the Capitol dome and reverberated in the chambers of the Executive Mansion.

To-day safe, preserved, magnificent, the whole country is proud of it and proud of all that it stands for. Aside from its mere physical aspects, it is as a seat of world-power and diplomacy no longer inferior to the proudest capitals of Europe, and its steady rise in the past and its substantial splendors of the present are the best auguries for a still more glorious future.

QUITS PULPIT TO TRAMP.

A Boston Pastor Travels the Country to Gain New Impressions of Working People.

Rev. Charles Merriam, of Highland Congregational church, of Lowell, Mass., a Yale graduate and a former editor of the Yale News, in an old suit of clothes and a flannel shirt, with his belongings strapped in a blanket, left his home on May 11 and roughed it for three months, going from Boston to Portland, Me., and from there to Colorado. He has just returned to his pulpit. He mingled with the laboring folk, working as a deck hand on a canal boat and resorting to conventional travel only when he had to. His aim was to study the people. One of his most interesting experiences was on the canals of New York State. At Troy he shipped on an old-fashioned mule power canal boat and went 352 miles. He lived in the crew's quarters, took a hand in all the work and learned locking and steering. He says of his associates:

"Strange men I found these poor fellows—these offscourings of the earth. Coarse, profane, even evil, yet under this rough exterior I found often a marvelous amount of mental capacity. Poor fellows. They all wanted to get away from the life, but they never do."

By a Large Majority. "I am informed that Miss Gherkin, the milliner, has suddenly quit. The business has gone into the hands of a receiver, has it not?" "Into the hands of a receiver? Well, I guess yes. It's gone into the arms of a receiver. She was married last week."

Miss Eugenia Washington, great-granddaughter of George Washington, one of the founders of the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and President of the Society of Founders and Patriots, died in Washington City, on the morning of the 30th ult.

A "DISPOSSESS" PARTY

A JOVIAL GERMAN MADE LIGHT OF MISFORTUNE.

Had a Jolly Time With His Friends When His Landlord Ordered Him to Move—Band and Fireworks And to Success of Occasion. Herr Frank Haberman, President of a "Don't-worry-more-than-you-have-to" club at Guttenberg, N. J., showed his fellow members the other night how to comport themselves when they receive a dispossession notice. They had learned by previous experience what to do when their mothers-in-law left town, but the dispossession notice formula was a new proposition.

Herr Haberman lives in Franklin avenue. His friends went there to see what his move would be. He had nailed the dispossession notice on the wall and sat laughing at it. The landlord evicted Haberman because of the many jollifications in the flat. He did not mind Haberman's not worrying, but he did mind his doing it in a noisy manner to the accompaniment of banjos and "growlers."

"I will give a dispossession party," said Haberman. "It will be a nice thing." Then he sent these cards broadcast:

You are invited to attend a Dispossession Party. Franz Haberman. At home at midnight.

Haberman invited all his friends and the most distant relatives, and bought pickles, cheese, beer and whisky until there was not room in the flat for another edible.

The party began at midnight. The overture was performed by a German band on the stairs. After that it was a go-as-you-please between the professional musicians and the amateurs to see who could make the most noise.

Then the band went to the street and serenaded Haberman. He sang from the window, "Tis Sad to Leave the Friends We Love."

Next he made a speech on the beauties of not worrying, and wound up with the toast: "To our landlord who cannot lord it over us."

A grand display of fireworks ended the fete.

MORMONS TO BUILD A TEMPLE.

Proposed Independence (Mo.) Structure is to Be Made the Head Church.

Twenty-four Mormon elders from Utah are at work in Missouri preparing for the building on the famous "temple lot" at Independence of the great temple which is to supplant that at Salt Lake as the earthly throne of Mormonism, and Jacob N. Larsen is president of the elders who are working chiefly in the vicinity of Kansas City and Independence.

"We cannot say yet just how soon we shall build the temple," said Mr. Larsen, "but you and I will live to see its completion and to see Independence the new center of Mormonism, as Salt Lake is to-day. Joseph Smith prophesied that Independence was to be the new Jerusalem of Mormonism and we are working in fulfillment of that prophecy. Utah will not be forsaken by our people when we get ready to build a temple in Independence. Of course, a great many will come here from Utah, but we will have our churches out there, all of which will be under the control of the Independence church."

Already the Utah Mormons are coming. Five years ago there were only four families of Brighamites (Now Mormons) in Jackson county. Now there are hundreds. Some of these are local converts, but more are immigrants from Utah.

Sweet Fish.

Among the queer experiences of fishermen the following should have a place:

A man was fishing for perch in one of the lakes of Maine. He stood near the dam, and was fishing below. He noticed an old barrel lying on its side in several feet of water.

On examination he found that it was an old molasses barrel, lying so that he could see the bug-hole.

Out of curiosity he dropped his hook through the hole. Immediately there was a great commotion inside the barrel, and the fisherman knew he had caught something. He was so sure of this that he walked half a mile to get a saw, and then sawed a piece out of the top of the barrel, and drew forth a three-pound trout.

The fish must have gone into the barrel when small, and lived there until caught.

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of *Wm. D. Galt*

There is no sadder event at the threshold of the century than the war between the British Empire and a little nation which is determined to perish to the last woman, if need be, to defend its independence.

GHOSTS ARE PLAINLY VISIBLE.

Some People So Constituted That They See Supernatural Beings.

Westminster Review.

There is no doubt that a person may apparently see objects and hear words which another person close by cannot see and hear. Such impressions are to be referred not to actually existing objects, but to the action of the subject's mind. Dr. Abercromby tells us of one patient who could, by directing his attention to an idea, call up to sight the appropriate image or scene, though the thing called up were an object he had never seen but had merely imagined. When meeting a friend in the street he could not be sure whether the appearance was his friend or a spectral illusion till he had tried to touch it and had heard the voice. Goethe saw an exact counterpart of himself advancing toward him, an experience repeated by Wilkie Collins. Sir Walter Scott relates that soon after the death of Lord Byron he read an account of the deceased poet. On stepping into the hall immediately after he saw right before him, in a standing posture, the exact representation of his departed friend, whose recollection had been so strongly brought to his imagination. After stopping a moment to note the extraordinary resemblance he advanced toward it and the figure gradually disappeared.

Some of the cases narrated by Sir David Brewster are particularly instructive. The subject was a lady (Mrs. A.) and her hallucinations were carefully studied by her husband and Sir David. On one occasion she saw her husband, as she thought, who had gone out half an hour before, standing within two feet of her in the drawing-room. She was astonished to receive no response when she spoke to him. She remembered that Sir David had told her to press one eyeball with the finger when the impression of any real object would be doubled. She tried to apply the test, but the figure walked away and disappeared. The simple scientific experiment diverted her attention from the creation of her mind, and this, no longer being in sole possession, could not maintain itself and was dissolved. Another hallucination took the form of her dead sister-in-law. The figure appeared in a dress which Mrs. A. had never seen, but which had been described to her by a common friend.

SPARROWS PURSUE A CAT.

How a Tabby Lost Her Life by Indulging Her Marauding Disposition.

The ivy which climbs the north wall of the United Congregational church in Newport, R. I., furnishes a retreat for thousands of sparrows. A cat had noticed the birds, and no doubt conceived the unreasonable idea that here she might possibly find a nest with a toothsome young bird in it. So pussy climbed the ivy and reached a point where she had seen one of the birds disappear amid the thick leaves. Stretching out its paws where it supposed a nest would be a loud chattering ensued and a myriad of sparrows darted out and attacked the cat with fury.

It was indeed a vicious onslaught. They pecked and chattered and fluttered at a great rate and the cat was bewildered. To free itself from the assault the cat spit and fought and howled, but it was of no use, the bird kept at it until its enemy fell to the ground. This did not stop the combat of the birds. They kept pecking away until they were tired. The cat did not move and occasionally a sparrow would drop to the ground a safe distance from its enemy, as if to see if it was dead. Some little time afterward a witness of this strange struggle went to the spot and found that the cat was dead. Its eyes had been literally dug out and its head was a mass of bleeding wounds.

There are more ways than one of paying campaign debts. A Chicago dispatch says the government has given the firm of Armour & Co., the head of the great beef trust, the contract of printing internal revenue stamps on checks and sleeping-car and parlor-car tickets, at a price from five to ten times the amount that would be charged by a printer on a competitive bid. The clear profit is said to be about \$1,000 per month, which for forty-three months is not a bad graft. But then the Armours are poor folk, who need a little lift, so nobody should complain.—Portland Telegram (Rep.)

INDIA RUBBER MILLS ARE A NOVELTY IN GERMANY.

They are used in places where metallic nails would be liable to corrode.

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