J. MUNROE'S MURDERER.

INTERVIEW WITH CHARLES MANLEY.

Who will be Executed at Alexandria To-day—He Declares that He is Innocent, and Accuses the Prince—A Talk with William Jackson.

The execution of Charles Manley, colored, for the murder of John Munroe, a peddler, on the night of the 15th of July last, at Alexandria, Va., takes place to-day in the jail yard at that city between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock. It will be remembered that on the night above mentioned Manley, with two boys, waylaid the peddler on one of the dark and lonely streets in Alexandria, and after stabbing him with a knife, robbed him of the valuables he had. The two boys escaped, but the condemned man was apprehended, tried in January last and sentenced to be executed to-day. A reporter of the REPUBLICAN yesterday visited Alexandria for the purpose of finding the closing incidents in this case where a man is about to pay the penalty that justice exacts.

The jail, located at the corner of Princess and St. Asaph streets, is certainly an ancient appearing structure, and no modern improvements have ever been added to change its old style. It is two stories high, constructed of brick, the front lying on St. Asaph street, while a roomy yard, surrounded by a high brick wall, affords space for walking to those prisoners permitted the privilege of the yard. The prison is divided into two parts, Sheriff O'Neal, of the county, having the first floor for his prisoners, and Sheriff Stewart, of the city, those on the second floor for his convicts. The cells on the first floor are somewhat narrow, allowing only a small space between the wall and bed for the movements of the inmate, while all the light enters through the closely-grated doorway, which has a small aperture at the top, sufficiently large to admit of the passage of a hand. The cells on the upper floor are large and more roomy, especially that occupied by Manley, which would compare in size to a regular bed-chamber.

The condemned man, at the time our reporter called, was in consultation with his wife, and during her stay a visit was paid to the jail yard, where

THE SCAFFOLD

had been erected. It is situated about 20 feet from the southeast corner of the building and fronts west, and, being intended for future use, is a substantial structure. It is 12 feet square, the platform being about 15 feet from the ground, supported by six-by-four timbers at the corners, extending 4 feet above the floor of the platform, a railing at that height extending round it. In the centre of the platform is the trap, 3 by 4 feet, dush with the floor. On the east side a piece of plank 4 inches long and 3 wide extends an inch above the floor. This piece rests on the end of an iron rod attached to the curved iron, the ends of which support the trap, and a foot being placed on it, the trap is sprung. A flight of twelve wide steps is on the west side of the structure, near the southwest corner, and in the centre of the north and south sides two upright timbers extend to a height of 20 feet, supporting the cross-beam of four-by-eight timber, from the centre of which the fatal noose hangs.

The rope had not been put in place, but one end will be made fast on the north side of the scaffold and then run through the cross-beam, near the end, and along the top to the centre, where it runs through and terminates in the fatal noose. On returning to the jail and finding that Manley's wife was still in company with him, Sheriff O'Neal invited our reporter to walk through his portion of the prison. After passing two or three cells, the one occupied by William Jackson, colored, convicted of the murder of his wife at Freedman's Village last fall, was reached. The Court of Appeals granted a stay of proceedings in his case until the argument for a new trial could be heard, and consequently, though sentenced to be executed last month, he obtained a lease of life. Since that time the argument has been heard, and the motion for a new trial denied, but as the court does not meet again until next May, Jackson will not be sentenced to be hung probably before June.

As our reporter approached his cell Jackson came to the wicket, where the following conversation ensued. The prisoner seemed anxious to talk, although every word was uttered with a tremulous tone, and he appeared very much excited:

"Well, Jackson, are you feeling well to-day?"

"In pretty good health, thank you."

"I suppose you know what they are doing in the jail yard?"

"Yes, sir."

"Does Manley?"

"He ought to know and be prepared to go."

"How about your case?"

"I wish to see my counsel. I have not seen him for sometime, and I think he might do something to still help my case."

"In what way?"

"Why, I have two more witnesses that would contradict much that was said against me."

"Didn't you do the deed?"

"I am innocent, and ought to have another trial, because there was much said on the other trial that I did not contradict. You see I never knew anything about law, and when they told lies upon me I did not know that I could tell my lawyer and have him question them on the points. I sat still and let them go ahead; but now I know better, and think I ought to be given a new trial."

"Do you think the court did you any injustice?"

"No, sir; I don't suppose they meant to; but then the witnesses testified against me, and the judge did not know when they were wrong. The other witnesses I have now would change the appearance of things."

"Well, you ought to consult your counsel; but I fear you will meet the same fate as that man to-morrow."

"I expect I will, sir; but don't think it will be right, for I am innocent."

MANLEY.

A visit was then paid to Manley, who was found in his cell, sitting with his wife (a bright, intelligent-looking woman) at the foot of the bed. The interview was brief, as the condemned man seemed desirous of returning to his wife's side, and took little heed of the crime for which he was to pay the penalty inside of twenty-four hours. After making the object of the visit, the following conversation took place:

"Have you had any visitors to-day?"

"No, sir; I don't wish to see many persons."

"You are preparing for to-morrow?"

"As well I can, I shall try to be strong enough until the end," (voice quivering.)

"Is there anything connected with that act you would like the public to know that they do not?"

"Yes; I would like to have them know that I did not murder that man."

"Who did it?"

"The two Paine boys did it. I saw them on the man about here," (pressing placing his hand on the right side of the rejacket, just above the abdomen.)

"Where were you then?"

"I was standing in the street begging them to stop."

"What did they do after the cutting?"

"They ran away; left the city; and, as I did not, I was arrested, tried and have got to suffer for it."

"Have you written anything, or will you speak when you go out to-morrow?"

"I don't know that I can say anything more than I have to you. I am innocent of having done anything wrong to that man."

"Try to keep your courage to-morrow."

"I will bear it as well as I can."

Seeing that the prisoner did not desire the interview prolonged, our reporter took his good-day, passed down stairs and then into the street. As he came to the jail wall groups of colored people were gathered here and there, talking of the execution that was to take place to-day, while others, more curious, were gazing through cracks in the large gate and see the scaffold within.

The execution to-day was the subject of conversation yesterday throughout Alexandria.

The Queer Game.

Edward Brown, the colored man who practiced the "queer" game on Mr. Schwarzenburg Tuesday night, was taken to Gardner's gallery yesterday by Detective Cousins, where his photograph was taken. He was afterwards taken to the Police Court, and a warrant was sworn out by Mr. Schwarzenburg and E. Hamburger, charging Brown with uttering and passing counterfeit money. The latter gentleman is a clothing dealer at 405 Pennsylvania avenue, and received six of the "queer" from Brown on Wednesday in payment for a suit of clothes. The published statement in yesterday's REPUBLICAN caused Mr. Hamburger to suspect that something was wrong, and on examining the money he found it to be counterfeit. Brown was committed to jail to await the action of the grand jury, in default of $5,000 bail.

Death of the Oldest Soldier in the Service.

The death of a remarkable soldier of the United States army has taken place very recently at Fort Washington—that of Ordnance Sergeant Cameron. He has been in the service for sixty-seven years, and for forty years past has been stationed at Fort Washington, and in all this time it is said that he has never failed of lighting the lamp in the light-house once, an remarkable his task his unfailing strength and health. He was in command of the fort at the time of the breaking out of the late war, and was at the time the only officer there. He has a very interesting and eventful history, dating back to a period prior to the time when General Winfield Scott was in the army, and many has been the weary evening beguiled and made pleasant by the stories of his camp life in early wars.

Complimentary Entertainment.

The Mount Vernon Musical, Literary and Dramatic Association of this city will give a complimentary entertainment to company D, Washington Light Infantry, in their armory, on Seventh street, near L, this evening. This association has already given two entertainments, both of which have proved successful, and it is the determination of its members to make this an occasion transcended by their previous endeavor. A programme has been prepared, which will comprise reading, recitations, vocal and instrumental music and tableaux—the whole to conclude with the farce entitled "Buck and Cox." There is no doubt but that the third undertaking of this young association will be most successful, and appreciated by the presence of a large audience, and the receipts of the same handsome to company D.

Compensation to the Old Corporation.

Governor Shepherd has forwarded to the Hon. W. A. Hocker, Comptroller of the Treasury, a statement of work done on Pennsylvania and Indiana avenues for payment, verified by official certificate of the engineer in charge of public buildings and grounds, as required by act of Congress, that the late corporation may be reimbursed for the same to an amount not exceeding $50,000, this being the sum appropriated.

THE D-STREET SEWER.

Increased Compensation Allowed the Contractors.

A meeting of the board of arbitrators appointed some time since by the Board of Public Works to decide upon the claim of Messrs. Gaurt & Appleman, contractors for building the D-street sewer from Seventh to Seventeenth street, was held last night at the Governor's office, corner of Seventeenth street and Pennsylvania avenue. The board consists of Messrs. Wise and J. A. Baker, with Mr. Appleman for his firm and a member of the board for the Board of Public Works. The claim is for extra work of excavation over the contract, which was changed from seven feet deep, for which the board agreed to give forty cents per yard, to nine feet deep, for which the contractors asked a fair price for the labor required on the two extra feet, owing to the condition of the earth after going the two feet deeper. The sewer is now nine feet high by eleven feet wide, with 3,5 running feet in its length. The following witnesses were examined under oath as to the work and the necessity of a larger price for the same in payment over that given for the seven feet: J. J. Burns, Col. Dupree, Dr. Wallace, T. J. Galt, W. Wise, Jas. Bowen, F. Reeside and J. J. Barrows. The question was thoroughly discussed, and a fair rate per yard was agreed upon to be paid. Col. Samo, of the Washington Republican, acted as referee.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Meeting of the Board Yesterday—Dismissals and Appointments—Applications for Licenses Rejected.

The Board of Metropolitan Police met yesterday, and transacted, among other business, the following:

Private Charles A. Owens, charged with violating the rules of the board, was dismissed the force. B. H. Cook and Thomas Young were appointed additional privates for twelve months, the former to do duty at the Department of Agriculture, and the latter at the Police Court. Charles Giddings and Jas. G. Harper were appointed privates on the force.

Applications from the following persons for liquor licenses were disapproved: John J. Vermeyer, No. 1303 C street southwest; John B. Ruth, No. 1114 Seventh street west; Michael Holihan, No. 1204 Seventh street west; William Simmons, at 8th wharf, Georgetown; Amos Fox, Piney Branch hotel, near Brightwood.

THE PETITION FOR OLD HATS.

Fulmination of the Protestant Irish Society.

It seems the application or petition of Captain R. H. Hannemann, of the Washington Grenadiers, to the King of Bavaria for fifty helmets has stirred up the virtuous indignation of quite a number of people, and among others of the Protestant Irish Society, who held a meeting yesterday afternoon at the Colonization building. This subject of old hats was one with which Dr. Darby was entirely familiar, and he felt from the crown of his castor to its rim that it would be a disgrace to Washington to take the King of Bavaria into partnership in the business, therefore he offered the following resolution, which was adopted by the society:

Resolved, That we read with pain in yesterday morning's *Chronicle* that the Washington Grenadiers petitioned the King of Bavaria for some "old Palmetto army hats" belonging to his troops, to be worn by our citizen soldiery, and that taking as much pride as we do in other foreign organizations we must protest against such a humiliating proposal being spread from the capital of the republic, and will cheerfully "pass round the hat" ourselves, that our fellow-adopted-citizens may be dressed as they desire, in a whole suit of new clothes, if it be necessary, though the silly pride of some of them in this city and their well-known economical habits would seem to make such a course unnecessary.

LOCAL NOTES.

The semi-monthly social gathering of friends at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association this evening promises to be of more than ordinary interest. Free to all.

A memorial meeting will be held in all the Baptist churches of the Union in honor to the late Rev. J. N. Johnson on the Sabbath, the 30th instant. The Nineteenth-street Baptist church congregation are most respectfully invited to visit the various churches of the Union to commemorate the name of their late pastor.

A letter has been addressed by the Board of Public Works to Major Richards, calling his attention to the condition of Fourteenth street, between M and N streets northwest, which is very much obstructed with material for building purposes, and requesting that it be given attending the enforcement of section one of the building regulations, page 89, Webb's Digest.

NOTICES OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Rooms for rent at 436 E street northwest.

The furniture of a house for sale.

A young gentleman of good habits can obtain board in a small family.

The Ohio Republican Association will meet this evening.

Saxton & Brother's self-raising flour for sale by H. Egan.

Young Men's Christian Association free reading-room, &c., corner Ninth and D streets.

The three-story and basement brick dwelling-house, No. 209 B street, between Second and Third streets, is for rent.

B. H. Warner, real estate broker and auctioneer, will sell on Wednesday, April 16, at 4 o'clock, p. m., a valuable farm in the District. He has postponed the sale of a three-story brick house on the southeast corner of Eleventh street and Maryland avenue southwest; also, a three-story brick dwelling on the north side of C street, between Four-and-a-half and Sixth streets southwest. He will sell on Friday, April 25, at 5 o'clock, p. m., a two-story frame house on E street, between First and Third streets northwest.

J. P. Milburn & Co., druggists, are agents for the Gettysburg Katalysine Water.

The semi-annual meeting of the Medical Association of the District of Columbia will be held on Tuesday evening, April 1.

A light brindle bull-terrier dog has been lost.

A special meeting of the stockholders of the Territorial Savings, Loan and Building Association will be held this evening.

Fred. Koones will take certificates of indebtedness for lots in the heart of the city.

J. W. Starr has several houses for sale on easy terms.

Widows of commissioned officers who served in the late war are requested to call at the northeast corner of New York avenue and Fifteenth street.

A sable fur collar has been lost.

B. H. Warner has $20,000 to loan on real estate.

W. G. Metzerott & Co. have pianos for sale at great bargains.

An entire square of ground is offered for sale.

H. Egan has for sale the imperial granum.

One or two fine second-story rooms are for rent.

The Late John B. Elrans.

Mr. John B. Elrans, formerly a well-known hardware dealer in this city, died on Saturday last in Denver city, Colorado, whither he had gone to make his permanent home. He was at one time a prominent business man here, and his death will be regretted by numerous friends, who were attached to him by strong ties of friendship, engendered by business relations, in which he proved himself an honest man and true friend.

Car Patent.

The patent case of Sayles vs. The Washington and Georgetown Railway Company, to recover damages for the infringement of the patents for railroad car journal inclosures, has been adjusted by the defendant paying damages for using the infringer in the past, and receiving a license for use in the future.

Large Consignment of Clothing.

We have just received from Randoff's Clothing Emporium, New York, (which is closing up its affairs,)

Five Hundred Children's Suits,

Five Hundred and Five Hundred Children's Suits, suitable for children three to seven years of age, which we shall offer at

Five Dollars a Suit,

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They are worth fifty per cent. more. Many of the suits have been sold at $12. We have positive instructions to close them out at once.

A. SAKS & CO., 316 Seventh street.

In Our Custom Department

we have opened for the coming season the most complete stock ever offered. It commences at the new designs in foreign fabrics. Mr. Rinnsky, long and favorably known as a cutter, is with us in that capacity.

EISEMAN & BRO.,
Tailors and Clothiers,
506 Seventh street, May Building.

Five Dollars.

$5, $5, $5, $5, $5, $5.
All-wool Suits for Children.
$5 $5 $5 $5 $5 $5 $5 $5 $5 $5.
Ninety made and trimmed, at
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BUILDING THE CITY.

PAST AND FUTURE OF WASHINGTON.

Interesting Historical Reminiscences—The Foundation of the Capital—The Site of the City Eighty Years Ago—New Houses on Vermont Avenue—A One Hundred Thousand Dollar Church on Capitol Hill—Real Estate News and Notes.

"Oath," in writing an interesting letter to the Chicago *Tribune* on Washington, says:

The American capital is the only seat of government of a first-class power which was a thought and performance of the Government itself. It used to be called, in the Mediocrian era, "the only virgin capital in the world."

St. Petersburg was the thought of an Emperor, but the capital of Russia long afterward remained at Moscow, and Peter the Great said that he designed St. Petersburg to be only "a window looking out into Europe."

Washington city was designed to be not merely a window, but a whole inhabitancy in too simple for the deliberations of Congress, and they were to exercise excessive legislation over it. So the constitutional convention ordained; and, in less than seven weeks after the thirteenth State ratified the Constitution, the place of the capital was designated by Congress to be the Potomac river. In six months more, the precise territory on the Potomac was defined, under the personal eye of Washington.

THE MOTIVE OF BUILDING

an entirely new city for the federal seat was not arbitrary, like Peter the Great's will with St. Petersburg, nor fanciful, like that of the founder of Versailles. It was, like many of our institutions, an act of reflection suggested by such harsh experience as once drove the Papal head from Rome to Avignon, and, in our day, has withdrawn the French Government from Paris to Versailles. Four years before the Constitution was made Congress, while sitting at Philadelphia—the largest city in the States—had been grossly insulted by some of the unpaid troops of the Revolutionary war, and the Pennsylvania authorities showed it no protection. Congress, with commendable dignity, withdrew to Princeton, and there, in the collegiate halls, Elbridge Gerry, of Massachusetts, (whose remains now lie in the Congressional cemetery, of Washington,) moved that the buildings for the use of Congress be erected either on the Delaware or the Potomac.

THE STATE OF MARYLAND

was an early applicant for the permanent seat of the Government, and, after the result at Philadelphia, hastened to offer Congress its capitol edifice and other accommodations at Annapolis. Congress accepted the invitation, and therefore it was at Annapolis that Washington surrendered his commission, in the presence of that body. The career of Congress at Annapolis—which was the nearest to a perfect, city, or perfect miniature city—left a good impression upon the members for years afterwards, and was probably not without its influence in making Maryland sell the future Federal District. The growing town of Annapolis, which was the first place in America, after the revolution, to exhibit the Western spirit of "driving things," appeared in the lobby and the private as an anxious competitor for the seat of the capital. The consideration of that day bore fruits in the first and only admirable patriotic monument raised to Washington, while Washington city was yet seeking to survive its ashes. With the jealousy of a neighbor, he sulky port of Baltimore, President of Georgetown opposed Baltimore, and directed attention to itself as deserving the Federal bestowal, and counted, not without reason, upon the influence of the Vice President of the United States in its behalf.

MANY OTHER PLACES

strove for the exaggerated honor and profit of the capital, and it is tedious to ball a dozen towns in one country—as Harrisburg, Pa.; Trenton, Wrightsville, Pa.; Germantown, Williamsport, Md.; Kingston, N. Y., and others—that the seat of Government was at one time nearly decided on. Congress wavered, gazed steadily on the rest—New York and some indefinite spot on the Potomac. The Eastern Congressmen used to the life of towns, and little in love with what they considered the barbarie plantations of the South, desired to assemble among urbane comforts, in a place already well established. Provincialism, prejudice and avarice all played their part in the contest; and, on that day (see paper money), it was right to say many that the currency must follow the capital. Hence, according to Jefferson, whose accounts on this head do not read very clearly, the financial problems of the time

WERE THE OFFSPRING

of the selection of the capital. Hamilton deferred to the south the Federal city, and had his Treasury policy adopted in exchange for it. When Jefferson and Hamilton came to write about each other, we are reminded of the adage that, when the wine is in the wit is out; but it is agreeable to reflect that they were both accurant with Washington on this point, and Jefferson gave great influence over the young capital's fortunes.

Congress made a reasonable decision on the subject. The comforts of a home were to be secured at Philadelphia for ten years, to quiet Philadelphia, and meantime a new place was to be planned on the Potomac river, and public edifices erected upon it. The actual selection and plan were to be left to a commission selected by the President, and thus the Federal city is an executive act, deliberated between Washington and private citizens.

Mortifying, indeed, was the early work of making the capital city for the three commissioners, whose ranks were renewed as one grew dependent and another enraged.

It was on July 16, 1790, that President Washington approved the bill of six sections which directed the acceptance of

TEN MILES SQUARE

"for the permanent seat of the Government," "between the mouths of the Eastern Branch and Conococheague." The bill had become a law by a close vote in both Houses, and the capital might have been placed, under the terms of it, at the Great Falls, or near the future battle-site of Ball's Bluff, or under the presence of the Sugar-Loaf mountain, in the vale of the river Antietam. It is possible that Washington himself, who held discretionary control over the commissioners, was not firmly of the opinion that the future city should stand on tide-water, for he had previously written letters in praise of the thrifty German country beyond the Monocacy, in Maryland. But the matter of transportation and passage was greatly dependent in those days upon navigable water-courses, and it is probable that, when the law passed, the spot of the city was already appointed.

ABOUT FIVE YEARS BEFORE

selecting the site for the Federal capital, Washington made a canoe upon the Monocacy river, and, descending to the Potomac, made the exploration of the whole river, from the mountains to tide-water, in order to test the feasibility of lock and slack-water navigation. It is known, from his letters to Arthur Young, the Earl of Buchan, and others, that he was aware that the value of his estates on tide-water was declining, and he thought that he might be regretted by numerous friends, who were attached to him by strong ties of friendship, engendered by business relations, in which he proved himself an honest man and true friend.

Car Patent.

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proprietor of the estate, Carrollsburg. At any rate, there were enough people on the site to give the commissioners a great deal of trouble with their bickering and rejection; and it is likely that the idea had gon abroad in advance of the official choice, that there was to be the mighty capital, and therefore lands and lots had been matters of considerable speculation.

Few will be but pleased the ferry at Georgetown and behold the site from the opposite hills of Virginia, could fail to have marked the breadth of the picture, and the strong colors in the ground and the environing wall of wooded heights, which reared back against the distant sky, as if to inclose a noble arena of landscape, fit for the supreme delineations of

A CONTINENTAL NATION.

Dropping down from those heights by stately gradations, over several miles, to a terrace of hills in the middle ground, the foreground then divided, parallel with the eye, into a basin and a plateau. The plateau on the right showed one prominent but not precipitous hill, with an agreeable slope, at the back of which the Potomac reached a deep, supporting arm, while around the base meandered a creek that changed course when half was screened, and then flowed to the left, parallel with the Potomac, and between two equal grassy knolls, straight through the plain or basin—defining to the inspired eye, as plainly as revelation, the avenues, grades and commanding positions of a city.

As such Washington must have builded it up in his own formative mind, for many a time

HE HAD PASSED IT IN REVIEW.

He did not require to take note of the shiftless slave farms for which the ground had been already broken. Where yonder orchard grew, he saw the Executive Mansion, with its grounds extending down to the brink of the creek that carmulgem Scotch planter who was to be among the last to say words of impudence to the father of the city. Where the pleasant hill swelled up to the clear skies in the night, Washington saw the spiritual outlines of the fair white Capitol soon to be embodied there. Flowing down into the plain, and extending back over the hill of the Capitol, he realized the lower and the upper city, on which a circle of villas in the higher background should some day look down; and all the undulating space between the blue heights of the Anacostia and the heights of Georgetown, from the river back to the table-land, should, by another century, encompass the population, worship with bells, and march with music to honor the founder of this virgin capital.

Having named the three civil commissioners to whom Congress—more than Congresses of a later period—committed the business of capital-making, Washington set out from Philadelphia,

TO CONFER WITH THEM ON THE SPOT.

It is characteristic of Maryland roads in those days, in March, that the President drove down the Eastern Shore of Maryland, instead of crossing the Susquehanna, and was ferried over from Rockhall to Annapolis. At the latter place he rested all Saturday, receiving hospitality, and on Sunday continued his journey by Queen Anne to Bladensburg, on the Eastern Branch. Next morning he took breakfast at Suter's tavern, a one-story frame in Georgetown, having occupied one week in fatiguing and perilous travel from Philadelphia.

From the heights of Georgetown Washington could look over the half-uncultivated tract, where the commissioners had plotted a part of their surveys for the Federal city, and Pennsylvania avenue was then a path wide enough for an older swamp from Georgetown to Carrollsburg.

On Tuesday, a misty and disagreeable day, Washington rode out at seven o'clock, with David Stuart, Daniel Carroll and Thomas Johnson, the three commissioners, with Mr. Peter Charles Elliott and Major L'Enfant, who were surveying the grounds and projecting the streets of the city. "I derived no great satisfaction," says Washington of the result of the day's ride, "as anything short of the exactness of the calculation of that day bore fruits in the first and only admirable patriotic monument raised to Washington, while Washington city was yet seeking to survive its ashes. With the jealousy of a neighbor, he sulky port of Baltimore opposed Baltimore, and directed attention to itself as deserving the Federal bestowal, and counted, not without reason, upon the influence of the Vice President of the United States in its behalf.

MANY OTHER PLACES

strove for the exaggerated honor and profit of the capital, and it is tedious to ball a dozen towns in one country—as Harrisburg, Pa.; Trenton, Wrightsville, Pa.; Germantown, Williamsport, Md.; Kingston, N. Y., and others—that the seat of Government was at one time nearly decided on. Congress wavered, gazed steadily on the rest—New York and some indefinite spot on the Potomac. The Eastern Congressmen used to the life of towns, and little in love with what they considered the barbarie plantations of the South, desired to assemble among urbane comforts, in a place already well established. Provincialism, prejudice and avarice all played their part in the contest; and, on that day (see paper money), it was right to say many that the currency must follow the capital. Hence, according to Jefferson, whose accounts on this head do not read very clearly, the financial problems of the time

WERE THE OFFSPRING

by the selection of the capital. Hamilton deferred to the south the Federal city, and had his Treasury policy adopted in exchange for it. When Jefferson and Hamilton came to write about each other, we are reminded of the adage that, when the wine is in the wit is out; but it is agreeable to reflect that they were both accurant with Washington on this point, and Jefferson gave great influence over the young capital's fortunes.

Congress made a reasonable decision on the subject. The comforts of a home were to be secured at Philadelphia for ten years, to quiet Philadelphia, and meantime a new place was to be planned on the Potomac river, and public edifices erected upon it. The actual selection and plan were to be left to a commission selected by the President, and thus the Federal city is an executive act, deliberated between Washington and private citizens.

Mortifying, indeed, was the early work of making the capital city for the three commissioners, whose ranks were renewed as one grew dependent and another enraged.

It was on July 16, 1790, that President Washington approved the bill of six sections which directed the acceptance of

TEN MILES SQUARE

"for the permanent seat of the Government," "between the mouths of the Eastern Branch and Conococheague." The bill had become a law by a close vote in both Houses, and the capital might have been placed, under the terms of it, at the Great Falls, or near the future battle-site of Ball's Bluff, or under the presence of the Sugar-Loaf mountain, in the vale of the river Antietam. It is possible that Washington himself, who held discretionary control over the commissioners, was not firmly of the opinion that the future city should stand on tide-water, for he had previously written letters in praise of the thrifty German country beyond the Monocacy, in Maryland. But the matter of transportation and passage was greatly dependent in those days upon navigable water-courses, and it is probable that, when the law passed, the spot of the city was already appointed.

ABOUT FIVE YEARS BEFORE

selecting the site for the Federal capital, Washington made a canoe upon the Monocacy river, and, descending to the Potomac, made the exploration of the whole river, from the mountains to tide-water, in order to test the feasibility of lock and slack-water navigation. It is known, from his letters to Arthur Young, the Earl of Buchan, and others, that he was aware that the value of his estates on tide-water was declining, and he thought that he might be regretted by numerous friends, who were attached to him by strong ties of friendship, engendered by business relations, in which he proved himself an honest man and true friend.

The bill was passed while Congress sat in New York; six months later (Friday, January 24, 1791, Washington, at Philadelphia,

MADE PROCLAMATION

that, "after duly examining and weighing the advantages and disadvantages of the various situations within the limits," he had thrown the Federal territory across the Potomac from Alexandria.

The site of the new District was not entirely the wilderness it has been represented. The Potomac had been explored up to this point, and as far as the Little Falls above, by

HENRY FLEET,

16) years before. Fleet was the first civilized being who ever looked upon the site of Washington, and his manuscript story of ascending the river was never published until 1871. When Leonard Calvert arrived in the Potomac, in 1634, he was met by a native who had spoken with the trader, who had been many years in the country.

"The place," said Fleet, evidently alluding to the contracted Potomac just above Georgetown, "is, without all question, the most beautiful and pleasant place in the country, and most convenient for habitation; the air temperate in summer and not piqued in winter. It abounded with all manner of fish. The Indians in one night commonly with their Bucks (Columbian deer) take more than they can eat. In the place where the river is not over twelve fathom broad. And for deer, buffaloes, bears, turkeys, the woods do swarm with them, and the soil is exceedingly fertile, yielding, also, this place the country is rocky and mountainous, like Cornwall. * * * We had not rowed above three miles but we might hear the falls to roar."

The early settlers of Maryland and Virginia kept to the navigable streams, and the earliest pioneers of the terrace country of Maryland were Scotch and Scotch-Irish, some Germans, and a few Catholics.

THE TOWNS OF ANNAPOLIS AND BELHAVEN

(or Alexandria) were rather old places when the surveys were made for Washington city, and the former had been laid out fully forty years. The army of Gen. Braddock had landed at Alexandria, and a portion of his army marched up from Rock creek, as the infant Georgetown was then called, for Fredericktown and the Ohio. As early as 1763, the father of Gen. James Wilkinson purchased a tract of "five hundred acres of land on the Tyber and Potomac, which probably comprehended the President's House;" but the purchaser's wife objected to a removal to such an isolated spot, and the property was transferred to one Thomas Johns. In 1775, the young Wilkinson "shouldered a firelock at Georgetown, in a company commanded by a Rhode Island Quaker, Thomas Richardson," in which year the future Gen. Lingan was a subaltern, and this fall company drilled for the Revolutionary struggle "on a small spot of table-land hanging over Rock creek, below the upper bridge." As Washington city was reared upon an up-country, and was always punctual at parade, we may infer that Georgetown was the most considerable place in all this quarter of Maryland.

As early as 1778, William Wirt, whose parents resided at Bladensburg, went to "a classical academy at Georgetown," and he and others long bore remembrance of the passage of the French and American armies from north to south over the ferry at that place, of encampments at Kalorama Hill, and wagons loaded with specie crossing Rock creek. Gen. Washington also designated Georgetown as one of the three great places of deposit for military stores; and so important was Alexandria that Charles Lee, in his plan of treason, had proposed to cut the Northern States from the South by occupying it with a permanent detachment of British troops, who should keep open the ferries between Alexandria and Annapolis, and, by menacing the rich farms of the German settlers in the up-country, compel them to starve out the Patriot armies.

The port town of Bladensburg was now just upon the decline, and the period had come when the interior parts of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia were showing forth their promise. Maryland had contained considerably more population than New York during the Revolutionary War, and we may conceive Georgetown and Alexandria to have been amongst the best grade of secondary towns at that period. They stood, as now, in full sight of each other; and the ridge lands and lower terraces between them, where the Federal city was to rise, presented a few good farms tilled by slaves, and was already marked for a

COUPLE OF RIVAL SETTLEMENTS

before the commissioners adopted it.

One of these prospective settlements was located near the present National Observatory, and took the name of Hamburg, afterwards Funkstown; the other was projected near the present Navy Yard, and was named after the proprietor of the estate, Carrollsburg. At any rate, there were enough people on the site to give the commissioners a great deal of trouble with their bickering and rejection; and it is likely that the idea had gon abroad in advance of the official choice, that there was to be the mighty capital, and therefore lands and lots had been matters of considerable speculation.

Few will be but pleased the ferry at Georgetown and behold the site from the opposite hills of Virginia, could fail to have marked the breadth of the picture, and the strong colors in the ground and the environing wall of wooded heights, which reared back against the distant sky, as if to inclose a noble arena of landscape, fit for the supreme delineations of

A CONTINENTAL NATION.

Dropping down from those heights by stately gradations, over several miles, to a terrace of hills in the middle ground, the foreground then divided, parallel with the eye, into a basin and a plateau. The plateau on the right showed one prominent but not precipitous hill, with an agreeable slope, at the back of which the Potomac reached a deep, supporting arm, while around the base meandered a creek that changed course when half was screened, and then flowed to the left, parallel with the Potomac, and between two equal grassy knolls, straight through the plain or basin—defining to the inspired eye, as plainly as revelation, the avenues, grades and commanding positions of a city.

As such Washington must have builded it up in his own formative mind, for many a time

HE HAD PASSED IT IN REVIEW.

He did not require to take note of the shiftless slave farms for which the ground had been already broken. Where yonder orchard grew, he saw the Executive Mansion, with its grounds extending down to the brink of the creek that carmulgem Scotch planter who was to be among the last to say words of impudence to the father of the city. Where the pleasant hill swelled up to the clear skies in the night, Washington saw the spiritual outlines of the fair white Capitol soon to be embodied there. Flowing down into the plain, and extending back over the hill of the Capitol, he realized the lower and the upper city, on which a circle of villas in the higher background should some day look down; and all the undulating space between the blue heights of the Anacostia and the heights of Georgetown, from the river back to the table-land, should, by another century, encompass the population, worship with bells, and march with music to honor the founder of this virgin capital.

Having named the three civil commissioners to whom Congress—more than Congresses of a later period—committed the business of capital-making, Washington set out from Philadelphia,

TO CONFER WITH THEM ON THE SPOT.

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