WEST END IMPROVEMENTS

THE RAPID PROGRESS OF THE DISTRICT

The Centre of Fashion—Palaces and Paved Streets—Who are Building and What They are Building—Personal and Private Enterprises—Reminiscences and Prophecies—The Old Siddell Mansion—Where Our Society People Live—Admiral Porter and Gadsby's Row—A Graphic Description.

On last Saturday the REPUBLICAN directed the attention of its readers to the improvements made within the last two or three years west of Fifteenth street and south of Pennsylvania avenue. It is our purpose now to continue the inspection, crossing the Avenue northward at Fourteenth street, which is rendered more interesting in each step of its progress by the new and yet accumulating improvements which rise before us in neatness and beauty, exhibiting their ornamental forms to our admiration. Arriving at

H STREET,

we are ushered at once into the midst of homes unknown to want, where ease makes up the routine of daily life, while gaiety and pleasure constitute the enchanting *role* of the evening hours.

In a word, we are now to glance at the dwelling places of aristocracy, which wealth and position in society unite to render conspicuous.

At the northwest corner of Fourteenth street stand two spacious four-story pressed-brick residences, built within a few years past—one occupied by the family of the late C. H. Ramsey twenty odd years ago, an assistant editor of the Washington *Union*, recently a special attorney for the United States in confiscation claims; the other owned and tenanted by Titian J. Coffey, a retired lawyer, who derives his handsome revenue from interests accruing on stocks and mortgages. Opposite these are the two handsome brownstone residences built by Dr. W. P. Johnson, an extensively known medical practitioner of our city, who resides in one.

Adjoining the home of Mr. Coffey is the substantial residence of the late James C. Kennedy, now for rent by Messrs. Fisch & Fox. A few feet west of this is the brownstone front of M. W. Gail, whose business house is an attractive ornament to Pennsylvania avenue. The sash, doors, &c., of the house are of walnut. The plate glass of the windows is extra large, and arranged two lights to each window—one to the lower and one to the upper sash. These are, probably, the finest French plate-glass windows to be found in any private residence in Washington. Adjoining this is the late residence of James G. Berret, now owned and occupied by Associate Justice Strong.

At the southwest corner of Fifteenth and H streets is Wormley's hotel, built less than two years since, and enlarged and beautified the spring by the owner, Mr. Samuel Ilsley. This fronts about 60 feet on H street and 150 feet on Fifteenth. The neatness of its exterior is the subject of comment, while the elaborate interior finish and convenient arrangement of the house are attractive to the generous patronage of an appreciative public, especially on occasions of peculiar display. This house was built by Mr. Chas. Edmonston, one of our most practical business men. Slightly west of this hotel are two four-story pressed-brick residences, built recently by the late Mr. Kennedy, to whom similar has been made. One of these is now for rent by Mrs. E. Kennedy & Son, furnished, at $3,000 per annum.

At the northwest corner of Vermont avenue and H street are three modern press-brick residences, with brownstone trimmings, Mansard roofs, and general attractive appearance. The unfronting Vermont avenue is the elegant home of Hon. Charles Sumner. Its architectural taste and beautiful location are as much the subject of comment as the intellectual and political distinction of its owner.

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Separated from these by an ornamented flower garden and inviting shade trees is the palatial residence of Mrs. Freeman, widow of the late Major Freeman, of the army. Like the row just described, it faces that elegant reservation known as Lafayette square. It is massive in its architecture, which is of the unornamental Doric style, embraces about a half acre of ground, beautified by flower beds, grass plats and gravel walks, and for position and elegance combined is esteemed by critics as the most valuable private residence in the District. It has been the coveted prize of many speculators, but its market value now places it beyond the gain of other than a millionaire.

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CROSS'S CROSS PURPOSES.

THE DEFENCE OF A CLERGYMAN

The Magistrates' Examination—Statement of James Minor—The Explanation of Mr. Cross—Justice Ferguson's Assurances Regarding a Contract—A Hasty Decision—A Warrant for $3.75.

Rev. Isaac Cross, 217 M street southeast, a superannuated M. E. clergyman, appeared before the committee yesterday to answer the complaint of Mary Minor as it was printed in these columns, in regard to forcible ejectment from the premises rented from Cross. The following agreement was presented as the basis of his action in the matter, the same having first been submitted to Justice Ferguson for inspection and advice in the premises. The reverend gentleman remarked, by way of introduction, that he had fitted up these houses on Virginia avenue southeast for the express purpose of providing comfortable shelter for poor colored people at low rates, and had always endeavored to treat them with the utmost kindness and Christian charity. When the Minors came to him in their distress for a place to live he had offered them two rooms in the upper story for temporary use rent free, but they were not satisfied with those rooms, and insisted upon having rooms lower down. He told them that these rooms were partially engaged at the end of the month, and that he could only rent them to the Minors for one month, and that they agreed to take them on the terms set forth in the following agreement:

This agreement witnesseth that I have hired and taken from Isaac Cross two rooms on Virginia avenue, for one month only, at rent of four dollars and fifty cents; and agree to surrender said rooms to said Cross at end of month; and do authorize said Isaac Cross to take possession of said rooms at the end without recourse to law or any magistrate or other officer of law—from the 9th of June to 9th of July, 1873.

his
JAS. + MINOR.
mark.

Witness: LOUISA D. LARKIN.

Mr. Cross states that Justice Ferguson assured him that this was a contract, and was "good for anything," and that he had so stated to Officer Carter has it, and advised him that he would be fully justified in forcibly dispossessing the Minors and their effects under it. He proceeded to do so three times, but not, as he avers, with any intention of turning the family out doors. He had rented the premises to the other parties, and was obliged to put them in possession.

Mr. Cross further explains that he was shortly visited by Mrs Sarah V. Niles (colored), who was his tenant) to appear before Justice Tait to answer a claim for damages to the amount of $50. He put in an appearance, but as Justice Tait had gone out of the city, he was obliged to wait for Justice Ferguson as to the effect of his agreement previously he did not wish to try it there, and moved to rule the case before the nearest magistrate, which happened to be Tait. This, he decided to do, and the plaintiff withdrew the complaint.

A little later Mr. Cross was cited by Mary Minor to appear before Justice Mills to answer a claim for damages in the amount of $50. On return day he went without witnesses, intending to have the case postponed, as he did not feel able to attend to it. He had for counsel ex-Justice Miller, who was stalled in the court. His desire for a continuance, Justice Martin said he could have it at his own costs. This, his counsel, Milan, advised him not to accept, and supposing his attorney knew best he accordingly declined.

A jury trial was demanded by the plaintiff, and a jury summoned by Constable Maryman. Milan then advised him to make terms with the plaintiff out of the court tribunal. Thinking his principal points would be admitted on the evidence of the agreement he declined to follow this advice, and Milan notified the court that he withdrew from the case as counsel. In the trial which followed, he claimed that the agreement was not read to him, or that he did not understand it as it now reads. When Mr. Cross offered the written agreement as part of his testimony the defendant's counsel objected to its admission, and the court ruled it as irrelevant on the ground that it was an agreement with James Minor, and this suit was brought by Mary Minor for damages to her property.

The jury being so instructed, the defendant deposited of obtaining a fair verdict, and left the court with the impression, that he was the victim of a conspiracy. The jury, suggested by Mr. Cross, was very active in drumming up the witnesses for the plaintiff and securing certain members of the jury. A verdict was found against Mr. Cross for the full amount of the claim for damages, with costs, when the whole effects would not probably have sold for fifteen dollars.

He has since demanded a new trial, as he finds he cannot appeal, the case having been tried by Justice Martin at first thought he could grant a new trial on the ground of excessive damages, but has since arrived at the conclusion that he has not the authority to do so. Mr. Cross does not now seem that he has any redress.

We have thus devoted considerable space to the elucidation of this case for the benefit of landlords and tenants, as the questions presented are not of a trivial character, and we cannot but hope means will be found by which it may be carried before Judge Cartter.

He will then have an opportunity to still further illuminate the subject of the validity of contracts, and perhaps determine whether Justice Ferguson or Justice Martin is the most faithful expounder or promulgator of his views as heretofore pronounced. The matter is one of some importance to the poor, and involves two hundred dollars value (more or less) to the Rev. Mr. Cross.

Mr. Samuel Abrahams brings a serious charge against Constable J. J. Thomas. Abrahams' firm, as jewelers, had some goods in the possession of one Thompson, in Georgetown, also a jeweler. In March, 1872, Thomas, in executing a writ against the goods, chattels, etc., of Thompson, levied upon and took away Abrahams & Brother's goods, having been warned by Thompson that said goods were the property of Abrahams. The latter brought suit to recover from Thomas the goods, or the value thereof, and obtained judgment for $75, Constable Maryman took the writ, but could find neither property or money, and so made his return.

It appears that Thomas sold the goods to satisfy his writ against Thompson, and now neither he nor his bondsmen can be made to pay the judgment in favor of Abrahams. The latter wants the committee of Mr. Long to tell him what bondsmen are for in such cases.

There are many funny things transpiring daily before this committee. One individual, whose name we did not get, said he was a tailor and had a family. He had ordered some crackers of his baker to the value of three dollars. They were delivered, and on examination he found imperfect—burned. He sent them back, having been told by the baker that he would receive them if he sent them.

Soon after the crackers came "boom," "bang," "smash" in at his windows and door, breaking glasses and doing other damage. Next came a warrant from Justice Mills for the pay for them. The tailor put in an offset for a bill of damages against the baker. The justice could not see this, and mulcted the tailor for the bill and costs, which he paid. He asked the committee if this was good law. He was told that Justice Mills to try to know, and that he probably would rule that the sending of the crackers home to him, and his first reception of them, constituted "delivery" in law, and therefore decided that he was reasonable.

Here a bright idea seemed to strike the tailor. A customer had ordered a suit of clothes from him and paid two dollars on it. When he came to try on the coat he said it did not fit, and he should not take it. He would go home and send up that suit with his bill. If the customer did not take it and pay, he would warrant him for the money and get judgment. All right, what is law for one is law for another. We are anxious to know how his stratagem will succeed.

A sub-contractor, who shall also be nameless, said one of his men was absent on pay-night. When he applied for settlement he was told he would get it next pay day.

The next he heard of the matter he was warranted for the amount of $3.75. He let him take judgment, as he was ready and willing to pay it at the proper time, but was much incensed to learn that his money, in his employer's hands, was garnished by constable Charlie Stuart for the sum of ten dollars debt and costs. He demanded to know of Mr. Long if he must submit to that amount of costs. He was referred to the court, whose duty it is to specify items of costs accruing to each party. He said he had been there, and the justice had refused to give him the information.

THE PRIZE FLAG.

Meeting of Hibernian Society No. 1.

A special meeting of Hibernian Society No. 1 was held last night at Carroll hall for the purpose of considering the subject of the orphans' picnic, to be given at the Schnetzer Park on the 11th of August next. The society resolved to take 1,000 additional tickets, making 3,000 thus far taken by this organization. A committee was appointed to confer with similar committees from other societies relative to the arrangements for determining the successful competition.

A meeting of the presidents of the several societies will be held early next week at the parochial residence adjoining St. Patrick's church, to determine the manner of deciding the question as to who is victor.

The Knights of St. Patrick, the Young Catholics' Friend and the members of St. Vincents' de Paul societies are working earnestly but quietly like beavers, to win the prize. In the meantime the picnic tickets are scattered throughout the city as thickly as leaves in Vallambrosa.

Save the Pumps.

To the Editor of the National Republican:

SIR: Application has just been made to the Board of Public Works that the proper officials may be directed to repair the pump at the northeast corner of Twelfth a Q street northwest. This pump is erected over the oldest and best spring in that section of the city, and is the daily water supply for more than two hundred and fifty families.

Now, it is earnestly hoped those of us who look to the above-named pump for our daily and only supply of water that the Board of Public Works will not heed the recent silly report made to the Board of Health by its ancient president, which appeared in your issue of the 23d instant, who recommends (?) the destruction of the pumps and wells, but that they will at once cause the proper repairs to be made to all the pumps, so that we can bring water at night and early in the morning for our thirsty children without going two or three squares distance to get it. TWELFTH STREET.

"THE TEMPLE OF HONOR."

Excursion to Marshall Hall.

On Thursday evening the Columbia and Washington Temples of Honor, of this city, gave an excursion to Marshall Hall, as a complimentary benefit to the Martha Washington Social Temple, No. 1, which holds the same relation to the Temple of Honor as the Sisterhood of Rebecca holds to the Odd Fellows.

The steamer Arrow was chartered for the occasion, and under the gentlemanly and careful management of Captain Frank Hollingshead left her wharf, at the foot of Seventh street, at 6 p. m., with a precious cargo of living freight, numbering over two hundred ladies and gentlemen. Donch's band was on hand with brass and string instruments, and soon the sound of music on the waters was wafted away on the evening breezes and re-echoed by the surrounding hills, then abiate with the glory of the setting sun.

The excursion had proceeded but four miles when the Wawaset hove in sight on her homeward stretch with Brother Harlan's cargo of protégés. The boothlacks' salute was given our party in passing.

One of the musicians, who chanced to be tuning his fife in the interim between tunes, scared up the spirit of Terpsichore, and instantly the forward deck of the steamer was converted into a pavilion, and numerous forms were reeling in the mazes of the dance.

At 8 o'clock sharp Capt. Hollingshead landed the party at the wharf off Marshall hall, whose pavilion, walks and bowers, handsomely illuminated with Chinese lanterns and portable chandeliers, had been visible in the distance half an hour before.

AT MARSHALL HALL.

The excursionists dispersed in small parties to enjoy the pleasant arbors and lattice bowers which adorn the grounds, or were engaged in indulging in refreshments, to which they were served by the polite corps of waiters employed by Messrs. Warren & Brumagin, the lessees of the ground.

Music soon summoned all parties to the large pavilion, 50 by 100 feet, handsomely decorated for the occasion, and the following programme of dancing was enjoyed for three hours: Grand March, Sicilian Circle, Lanciers, Waltz—Blue Danube, Quadrille, Schottische, Lanciers, Galop, Intermission — Lanciers, Waltz—1,001 Nights, Quadrille—Basket, Polka Redowa, Lanciers, Waltz—Wine, Wife and song, Quadrille, Virginia Reel.

A most substantial and tempting supper was then enjoyed by most of the parties present; the tea and coffee being especially excellent, were largely consumed. Thus resuscitated, the dancers returned to their mirth, which was enjoyed for an hour or more, when at 11 o'clock p. m., the whistle of the Arrow sounded all aboard and soon the sweet notes of "Home Again" floated out upon the morning air.

Marshall Hall is so called from the name of the original owner of the estate—Chief Justice Marshall—who, with fifteen additional members of the family, is peacefully sleeping beath its shades, about a hundred yards distant from the place of festivity.

This pleasant summer resort was opened on the 30th of last May with an excursion party, comprising the "Departmental Dozen," and since that time it has been visited by about 40 of four excursion parties per week. To parties of respectability no charge is made for the grounds, which are handsomely laid out and well supplied with convenient and pleasant seats, and there are sixteen patent swings within a lattice-fence inclosure, intended especially for the amusement of children. These are rented for the day, or a small fee charged for each exercise. The place is about fifteen feet above river shore, and commands a fine view of the Potomac and its surroundings in that vicinity.

After an invigorating ride of two hours the parties reached home at about 8 o'clock, a. m., yesterday, and consigned to the further care of Brother Riker's conductors.

The excursion was an enjoyable affair, and was attended with no accident or interruption.

Much credit is due to the following-named gentlemen, who had charge of the affair: T. W. S. Phelps, P. W. C. T.; W. W. Peake, W. V. T.; L. J. Myers, W. C. T.; Hon. D. Holmes, W. W. V. T.; A. B. Dickinson, D. G. W. T.; J. W. Van Vleck, P. G. W. G.

The Fries Divorce.

The case of Eva and Henry Fries, the leader of the Marine band, for divorce, which has attracted much attention in the courts during the fifteen months it has been in progress, was concluded yesterday by a decree divorcing the parties and dividing the estate according to law.

A Sailor Drowned.

A sailor fell overboard from the schooner Abbie Burchell yesterday near the Aqueduct bridge and was drowned. The coroner has been notified.

The Washington Sentinel

appears this morning.

GENERAL CITY NEWS.

At the race yesterday at Piney Branch Mr. A. Burgdorf's horse won.

There will be a meeting of the Washington tar-to-day at 11 o'clock a. m., at the City Hall, to take action in regard to the death of John H. Johnson, esq.

The match game of base ball between the Active and Modoc base ball clubs, of Capitol Hill, resulted in favor of the Actives by a score of 29 to 15.

An insane soldier named Martin Setzer was brought to the Central guard-house from Indiana yesterday evening by a sergeant of the United States service, to be taken to the Government Insane Asylum.

The following was the range of the thermometer at Hemsley's yesterday: 8 a. m., 83; 10 a. m., 85; 12 m., 89; 2 p. m., 92; 4 p. m., 92; 6 p. m., 90; 8 p. m., 89.

The Board of Public Works, at the request of the Board of Health, have decided to remove the canal nuisance between Seventeenth street and Rock creek by filling up the same.

Messrs. Green & Williams, auctioneers, sold yesterday afternoon lot 38, in square 241, containing 2,668 square feet of ground, without the improvements, to F. Stutz, for $1.20 per foot, amounting to $3,201.60.

The honorary degree of D. D. has been conferred upon the Rev. Alpheus Wilson, pastor of the Mount Vernon Place church, in this city, by the faculty of Randolph Macon college, Virginia.

Almost every day since the commencement of work on the Good Hope road some of the men employed there have been sunstruck. Persons exposed to the direct rays of the sun will find it a great protection to place a small piece of wet sponge in the hat.

About half-past three o'clock yesterday morning Officers Mustead and Arnold discovered a fire in the rear of Mersell & Deering's sash and blind factory, on Missouri avenue, between Four-and-a-half and Sixth streets. The fire department responded promptly to an alarm turned in from box 31, but before its arrival the police officers had extinguished the flames.

The following is the programme for the opening concert to be given by the Marine band on the grounds this evening: 1. Deutcher Kaiser March, Lickoff; 2. Overture, Gantes; 3. Potpourri from Sonnambula, Bellini; 4. Introductions and Waltzes, "Autograph," Strauss; 5. Selections from Faust, Gounod; 6. Galop, Godfrey; 7. Final, national airs.

The contract for the erection of the new Baltimore and Potomac passenger depot, at the corner of Sixth and H streets, has been awarded by Messrs. S. and J. Adams, of Baltimore, for about $120,000. Messrs. Emery Brothers, of this city, have the contract under the Messrs. Adams for the stone work, and it is understood that Washington men will do the brick work. The wrought and cast iron work will be done by a Pittsburg firm, and the galvanized iron work by a Philadelphia firm.

THE COURTS.

Special Term—Mr. Justice Humphreys.

This court was yesterday engaged as follows: Darnielle vs. Purcell. Order ratifying trustee's sale, and of reference to auditor.

Hunter vs. Munn et al. Order confirming trustee's sale, and of reference to auditor.

Homes vs. Homes. Order confirming auditor's report.

Fries vs. Fries. Decree of divorce a *vinculo matrimonii*, and for partition of property.

Pickrell vs. Kirk et al. Decree taking bill for confesso. Adjourned.

Police Court—Judge Dawson pro tem.

Minor cases occupied this court yesterday.

Take Care of Your Valuables.

Call and examine the fire and burglar-proof vaults of the Safe Deposit Company, corner New York avenue and Fifteenth street, for safe-keeping of securities, jewels, silver-ware, or other valuables. Rents, from ten to sixty dollars per annum, according to size. No business man can afford to do without them.

Take warning from the Chicago and Boston fires. †

J. H. Squier & Co.,

Bankers, No. 1416 Pennsylvania avenue, pay 6