DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

PROPOSED COMMISSION OF CONTROL AD INTERIM.

JOINT SUB-COMMITTEE TO PREPARE A BILL FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF A PERMANENT GOVERNMENT—THE TAXES TO BE INCREASED ONE DOLLAR ON THE HUNDRED.

A BILL for the government of the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, That all provisions of law providing for an executive, for a Legislative Assembly, for a Board of Public Works and for a Delegate in Congress in the District of Columbia are hereby repealed: *Provided*, That this repeal shall not affect the term of office of the present Delegate in Congress.

Sec. 2. That the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, is hereby authorized to appoint a commission, consisting of three persons, who shall, until otherwise provided by law, exercise all the power and authority now lawfully vested in the Governor or Board of Public Works of said District, except as hereinafter limited, and shall be subject to all the restrictions and limitations now imposed by law on said Governor or board, and shall have power to apply the taxes or other revenues of said District to the payment of the current expenses thereof, to the support of the public schools, the fire department and the police, and to the payment of the debts of said District secured by a pledge of the securities of said District or Board of Public Works as collateral, and also to payment of debts due to laborers; and for that purpose shall take possession and supervision of all the offices, books, papers, records, moneys, credits, securities, assets and accounts belonging or appertaining to the business or interests of the government of the District of Columbia and the Board of Public Works, and exercise the power and authority aforesaid; but said commission, in the exercise of such power or authority, shall make no contract nor incur any obligations other than such contracts and obligations as may be necessary to the faithful administration of the valid laws enacted for the government of said District, to the execution of existing legal obligations and contracts, and the protection or preservation of improvements existing, or commenced and not completed at the time of the passage of this act. All taxes heretofore lawfully assessed and due or to become due shall be collected pursuant to law, except as herein otherwise provided; but said commissioners shall have no power to anticipate taxes by a sale or hypothecation of any such taxes or evidence thereof: *Provided*, That nothing in this clause contained shall affect any lawful contract existing or requiring a deposit of certificates of assessment with the sinking-fund commissioners of said District; and said commissioners are hereby authorized to abolish any office, to consolidate two or more offices, reduce the number of employees, remove from office and make appointments to any office authorized by law, and the compensation of all officers and employees, except teachers in the public schools, shall be reduced twenty per centum per annum. Said commissioners shall each, before entering upon the discharge of their duties, take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and to faithfully discharge the duties imposed upon them by law, and shall each give bond in the penal sum of fifty thousand dollars, to be approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office.

Sec. 3. That the President of the United States shall detail an officer of the engineer corps of the army of the United States, who shall, subject to the general supervision and direction of the said Board of Commissioners, have the control and charge of the work of repair and improvement of all streets, avenues, alleys, sewers, roads and bridges of the District of Columbia; and he is hereby vested with all the power and authority, and shall perform the duties now vested and imposed upon the chief engineer of the Board of Public Works. He shall take possession of and preserve and keep all the instruments pertaining to said office and all maps, plans, surveys, plats, records and papers relating to said District or to any of the avenues, streets, alleys, public spaces, squares, lots and buildings thereon, sewers, or any of them as are now in or belong to the office of said engineer of the Board of Public Works, and shall, in books provided for that purpose, keep and preserve the records now required to be kept and such as may be required by regulations of said board. He may, with the advice and consent of said Board of Commissioners, appoint not more than two assistant engineers from civil life, who shall each receive a salary of one thousand eight hundred dollars per annum and shall be subject to his direction and control. He shall receive no additional compensation for such services. And the duties of appointees to civil office under the act contained to hold a civil office under the laws of the United States. And no salary or compensation shall be paid to the surveyor of the District or any of his subordinates, except the fees for special services as are allowed by law. And the offices of assistant surveyor and additional assistant surveyor of the District of Columbia are hereby abolished.

Sec. 4. That for the support of the government of the District of Columbia and maintaining the credit thereof for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, there shall be levied upon all real estate in said District, except that belonging to the United States and to the District of Columbia, and that used for educational and charitable purposes, the following taxes namely: Upon all such real estate in the city of Washington, three dollars on each one hundred dollars of the present assessed value thereof; upon all such real estate in the city of Georgetown, two dollars and fifty cents on each one hundred dollars of the present assessed value thereof; and upon all such real estate in the District of Columbia outside of the cities of Washington and Georgetown, two dollars on each one hundred dollars of the present assessed value thereof; which said taxes shall become due and payable on the 1st day of November, 1874, and, if not paid, shall be in arrears and delinquent from that date; and shall, except as herein modified, be assessed and collected as now provided by law; and of the sums so collected one fourth thereof shall be applied, first, to reimburse the United States for its advances on account of interest, which shall have been paid by the United States on the funded debt of the District of Columbia and Washington and Georgetown, due and payable June 1, 1874; and the remainder shall be used to pay deficiencies in the various funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874. And all the revenue and taxes not required for the aforesaid purpose shall be distributed for the purpose and in the proportions provided by the act of the Legislative Assembly of the District of Columbia, approved June 20, 1873, entitled "An act imposing taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874," so far as said appointment is not inconsistent with this act: *Provided*, That no evidence of debt issued by the District of Columbia, or any branch thereof, or by the Board of Public Works, shall in any manner be received in payment for said taxes: *And provided further*, That no payment shall be made on account of the militia of said District, or for the purpose of erecting a District jail.

Sec. 5. That a joint select committee shall be appointed, consisting of two Senators, to be appointed by the presiding officer of the Senate, and two members of the House, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, whose duty it shall be to prepare a suitable frame of government for the District of Columbia and appropriate draughts of statutes to be enacted by Congress for carrying the same into effect, and report the same to the two Houses, respectively, on the first day of the next session thereof; and they shall also prepare and submit to Congress a statement of the proper proportion of the expenses of said government, or any branch thereof, including interest on its funded debt, which should be borne by said District and the United States, respectively, together with the reasons upon which their conclusions may be based; and in the discharge of the duty hereby imposed the said committee is authorized to employ such assistance as it may deem advisable, at an expense not to exceed the sum of five thousand dollars; and said sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated for that purpose.

Sec. 6. That it shall be the duty of the First Comptroller of the Treasury and the Second Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States, who are hereby constituted a board of audit, to examine and audit for settlement all the unfunded or floating debt of the District of Columbia and of the Board of Public Works, hereinafter specified: First, all claims for which no evidence of indebtedness has been issued arising out of contracts, written or oral, made by the Board of Public Works; fifthly, claims for which no evidence of indebtedness has been issued arising out of contracts, written or oral, made by or on behalf of the District of Columbia; sixthly, all claims for private property taken by the Board of Public Works from the avenues, streets and alleys of the cities of Washington and Georgetown; and seventhly, all unadjusted claims for damages that may have been presented to the Board of Public Works, pursuant to an act of the Legislative Assembly of the District of Columbia, entitled "An act providing for the payment of damages sustained by reason of public improvements or repairs," approved June 20, 1872, which claims shall severally be examined and audited without regard to any examination heretofore made, and shall make a detailed and tabular statement of all claims presented, the persons or corporations owning the same, and the amount found to be due on account of each; together with a tabular statement of the funded debt of the cities of Washington and Georgetown of every kind and character whatsoever, giving the date of issue, time of maturity and the rate of interest. And it shall further be the duty of said board to ascertain the amount of sewer tax or assessment paid by any person, persons or corporations, under the act of the Legislative Assembly of said District, entitled "An act creating drainage and sewerage sections in the cities of Washington and Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, and providing for the payment of the construction of sewers and drains therein by assessments, and issuing certificates therefor," approved June 26, 1873, and to prepare a tabulated statement thereof. Said board of audit shall also issue to each claimant a certificate, signed by each of said board and countersigned by the comptroller of said District, stating the amount found to be due to each and on what account, and a register thereof shall be kept by said board, to be transmitted to Congress, and also by the comptroller of said District; and said board of audit shall also ascertain and report to Congress, at the next session thereof, the amount, equitably chargeable to the street railroad companies on account of paving along and within the tracks of said companies, pursuant to the charters of said companies or the acts of Congress relating thereto, together with their reasons therefor. It shall further be the duty of said board of audit to examine into and audit all of the accounts of the auditor and of the treasurer of the Board of Public Works, and of the auditor, of the treasurer, of the collector, and of the comptroller of the District of Columbia, from the date of the organization of said board and of said District, and for the purposes hereinbefore specified, shall have the power to subpœna witnesses, administer oaths, and examine witnesses under oath, and shall have full access to all of the records, books, papers, and vouchers of every kind whatsoever of the Board of Public Works and of the District of Columbia. And to the end that said books and accounts may be thoroughly examined, and the indebtedness of said District and of the Board of Public Works, and the state of the books and accounts of each of the officers aforesaid, may be accurately ascertained, shall employ one or more skillful and impartial accountants, non-resident of the District of Columbia, and such other assistance as they may deem necessary, to make examination of said books, vouchers and papers, and discharge their other duties under this act, and shall subpœna such witnesses, and procure inspection of such bank-books and papers as may be necessary; and they are hereby authorized to pay for the services of such accountant or accountants such sums as they may deem proper. And said accountant or accountants shall take an oath to faithfully discharge the duties imposed by this act. Said board of audit shall give notice for the presentation of the claims hereinbefore specified in such a manner as may be deemed necessary, and no claim shall be audited or allowed unless presented within ninety days after the first publication of such notice.

Sec. 7. That the sinking fund commissioners of said District are hereby continued; and it shall be the duty of said sinking-fund commissioners to cause bonds of the District of Columbia to be prepared, engraved or printed at the expense of the District of Columbia, and in form not inconsistent herewith, in sums of fifty and five hundred dollars, bearing date August first, eighteen hundred and seventy-four, payable fifty years after date, bearing interest at the rate of three and sixty-five hundred dollars per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, to be signed by each of said commissioners and countersigned by the comptroller of said District, which bonds shall be exempt from taxation by Federal, State or municipal authority; and the faith of the United States is hereby pledged that the United States will, by proper proportional appropriations as contemplated in this act, and by causing to be levied upon the property within said District such taxes as will provide the revenues necessary to pay the interest on said bonds as the same may become due and payable, and create a sinking fund for the payment of the principal thereof at maturity. Said bonds shall be numbered consecutively and registered in the office of the comptroller of said District, and shall also be registered in the office of the Register of the Treasury of the United States, for which last named registration the Secretary of the Treasury shall make such provision as may be necessary. And said commissioners shall use all necessary means for the prevention of any unauthorized or fraudulent issue of any of such bonds, and shall give additional bond for the faithful discharge of their duties hereinbefore provided for in the penal sum of one hundred thousand dollars each, to be approved by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States. And the said sinking fund commissioners are hereby authorized to exchange said bonds at par for like sums of any class of indebtedness in the preceding section of this act named, including sewer taxes or assessments paid, evidenced by certificates of the auditing board provided for in this act.

Sec. 8. That the authority conferred on the Board of Public Works to issue additional certificates of indebtedness by section four of the act of the Legislative Assembly, passed on the twenty-ninth day of May, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, is hereby annulled. No property shall be advertised for sale or sold for the collection of any assessment authorized by the Legislative Assembly by the act entitled "An act creating drainage and sewerage sections in the cities of Washington and Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, and providing for the payment of the construction of sewers and drains therein by assessments, and issuing certificates therefor," approved June 26, 1873, and to prepare a tabulated statement thereof. Said board of audit shall also issue to each claimant a certificate, signed by each of said board and countersigned by the comptroller of said District, stating the amount found to be due to each and on what account, and a register thereof shall be kept by said board, to be transmitted to Congress, and also by the comptroller of said District; and said board of audit shall also ascertain and report to Congress, at the next session thereof, the amount, equitably chargeable to the street railroad companies on account of paving along and within the tracks of said companies, pursuant to the charters of said companies or the acts of Congress relating thereto, together with their reasons therefor. It shall further be the duty of said board of audit to examine into and audit all of the accounts of the auditor and of the treasurer of the Board of Public Works, and of the auditor, of the treasurer, of the collector, and of the comptroller of the District of Columbia, from the date of the organization of said board and of said District, and for the purposes hereinbefore specified, shall have the power to subpœna witnesses, administer oaths, and examine witnesses under oath, and shall have full access to all of the records, books, papers, and vouchers of every kind whatsoever of the Board of Public Works and of the District of Columbia. And to the end that said books and accounts may be thoroughly examined, and the indebtedness of said District and of the Board of Public Works, and the state of the books and accounts of each of the officers aforesaid, may be accurately ascertained, shall employ one or more skillful and impartial accountants, non-resident of the District of Columbia, and such other assistance as they may deem necessary, to make examination of said books, vouchers and papers, and discharge their other duties under this act, and shall subpœna such witnesses, and procure inspection of such bank-books and papers as may be necessary; and they are hereby authorized to pay for the services of such accountant or accountants such sums as they may deem proper. And said accountant or accountants shall take an oath to faithfully discharge the duties imposed by this act. Said board of audit shall give notice for the presentation of the claims hereinbefore specified

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

THE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES YESTERDAY.

LIST OF THE EXAMINATIONS AND MERITORIOUS PUPILS—A GOOD SHOWING FOR THE CHILDREN AND TEACHERS—MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES LAST NIGHT.

FIRST DISTRICT.

Male Intermediate, No. 1, taught by Mr. A. T. Stuart, in the Franklin building, was examined yesterday, and evinced much progress for the year. A number of the friends and parents of the children were present. Trustees Harris and Hart, ex-trustee Capt. Stuart and Mr. McKee were present and took part in the exercises. Mr. Stuart has been teaching four years, and by his fidelity and fitness for the duty of teaching has entitled himself to the esteem of the Board of Trustees which he so largely enjoys. The following is the roll of honor for the year of the fifty-seven pupils now on the rolls: Medal scholar, Jas. F. McArdle; diploma scholars—F. A. Schmidt, Benj. Murray, H. A. Dillon, C. H. Butler, John Gwynne, Wilbur Thoburn, Geo. Hartwell, C. S. Stallings, Wm. Chaves, G. A. Barry, R. J. Windsor, E. J. Finch, Robert Fenwick, H. C. Barclay, J. L. Cowen and Riley C. Omohundro.

Male Secondary, No. 3, taught by Miss McMahon, in the Franklin building, was examined 21 s a. m. by Trustees Hart and Harris and Capt. Stuart and Mr. McKee. The accomplished teacher was the recipient of many compliments and congratulations from the trustees and friends present as to the admirable manner in which the school had acquitted itself and the great progress of the year. There are 56 pupils on the roll; 152 have been under instruction during the year, of whom 6 have been transferred. The following is the prize list: Medal scholar, Hatch Cook; diploma scholars, Henry Fluckel, Carlyle Fenwick, Henry King, Chas. Rennekee, Henry Stock, Edward Ryan, Edward Smith, Halbert Kerr, Luther Serrett, Chas. Duehay, Jno. Cook, Geo. Haskel, Arthur Clokey, Jos. Lattimer.

Male Secondary, No. 7, taught by Miss Mary McArdle, at the corner of Twenty-second and I streets. This is the first year of the tutorship of this excellent young lady, who is deserving of great credit for the proficiency of the scholars, notwithstanding she assumed its control after the commencement of the school year. She was the recipient yesterday of many congratulations from the patrons of the school, as well as from Trustees O'Driscoll, Hart and Wilson, who were present at the exercises. The following scholars were the names selected from the fifty-nine on the roll as those entitled to the honors of the year: Medal, Clarence Rheens; diplomas, Hattie Williams, Ella Williams, Georgie Allen, Albert Spilman, Henry Kolb, Frank Woodward, Peter McArdle, Richard Chism, James Davis, Frisly Elker, John Lowry, America Pappone and Patrick Noonan.

Female Primary, No. 10, taught by Miss Isabella M. Wilson, a graduate of the Grammar school at Washington, who has by an efficient teacher of the primary department built up a viable reputation for ability and worth, was examined yesterday afternoon. Miss Wilson is a lady who adds to her mental culture an attractive gentleness of manner which has won the love of her pupils and the appreciation and confidence of their parents and the patrons of the public schools. The exercises yesterday were varied with recitations and dialogues by the young children which were most creditably rendered. There are at present on the roll 58 scholars—84 have been under instruction during the year, 16 of whom have been transferred. All now in the school are prepared for transfer to higher grades. The following is the roll of merit of Miss Wilson's school: Medal scholar, Theresa Hinklebein. Diploma scholars, Mary Hilton, Ellen E. Gregory, Augusta Streb, Katie Lines, Margaret Cooke, Katie Pfoluger, Lillie Heilprun, Mary M. Maher, Hattie M. Clements, Katie Pepper, Alice Thompson, Wilberta French, Sophia Artes, Mary Gardner and others found place with the medal scholar in the bill itself. The fact is the residents of this District at the present writing would not be satisfied with anything in the shape of legislation. One thing, however, is certain: the long agonies are over; something definite has been arrived at, and the people know just what to expect for the immediate future, but what the remote future, with its commissioners, will bring forth, time only, and not even the prophets of old can foretell.

In casual conversation during the day with gentlemen representing a diversity of interest, a representative of The NATIONAL REPUBLICAN ascertained that with the general public the bill as a whole was acceptable. The people do not and will not under any circumstances believe that the commissioners will be divided in their testimony in the slightest degree censure the Governor and his associates for their conduct of affairs, and they think that the bill is the natural sequence of the persistent efforts of the few to hamper the new government in the good work of improvement they have inaugurated.

The principal objections to the bill as presented are: First, the tax of $1 on the hundred, which it is proposed to levy. 2. The low rate of interest on the bonds to pay the funded debt. 3. The reduction of the salaries. 4. The fact that no special improvement tax is to be levied, which in effect will make all property-holders who have paid special taxes again pay out their money to benefit the property-holder in remote sections.

After a few days' reflection it will be seen that these features of the bill before its passage, and failing in this all will make a virtue of necessity and wait patiently the report of the new committee with the new plan of government.

The introduction of the bill had a marked effect upon the District securities, which during the day, rose on the average seven per cent., due, simply, to the fact that the investigation had closed, and that the United States Government would consent to assume its share of the responsibility and pledge the faith of the people for the payment of the principal and interest of the bonds.

The general impression is that the bill, with a few modifications, will pass before the close of the week.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

LARGE QUANTITIES OF FOOD CONDEMNED—THE BOARD WANTS FURTHER POWERS.

The Board of Health met at their rooms last evening, Dr. C. C. Cox in the chair.

A synopsis of the operation of the health office for the past week shows the following: Nuisances reported, 373; referred, 102; abated, 206; reported to the Board of Public Works, 23; complaints of citizens, 58; notices issued, 23; sewer notices issued, 21; dead animals removed, 57. Marine products: Inspections—19,500 bunches of fish, 14,200 herring, 2,100 shad, 100 sturgeon, 120,600 clams, 28,600 crabs, 2250 bushels oysters; condemnations—13 sturgeon, 70 bunches fish, 55,500 clams, 1,600 crabs. Unwholesome food condemned—259 pounds beef, 22 do. mutton, 129 do. veal, 83 do. pork, 15 do. bacon, 3 do. sausage, 18½ bushel pear, 13 bunches ripe plant, 1½ bushels beans, 100 dozen cucumbers, 1 squash, 1 barrel kale, 62 heads cabbage, 1,457 boxes strawberries, 10 bushels turnips, 16 bunches asparagus, 2 heads cauliflower. Animals impounded, 22; redeemed, 17; amount realized, $29.75. Privies cleaned, 957.

A communication was received from Philp & Solomon, complaining of the condition of the alley in the rear of their store on Pennsylvania avenue.

The health officer called the attention of the board to the very large quantity condemned during the past week, among the items being 55,500 clams, 1,600 crabs, 259 pounds beef, 28½ bushels peas, 100 dozen cucumbers and 1,457 boxes of strawberries. He stated that his orders have been that the most rigid inspection be made of vegetables, fruits, &c., brought some distance to market by rail or boat, and most likely to quickly become stale and poisonous, with special attention to cucumbers, clams, crabs, &c. The result shown is excellent, and no thoughtful person can fail to appreciate the good done by a service that has rid the citizens of the District of some 12 or 15 tons of stale and unwholesome food in one week and thereby prevented innumerable acute sicknesses and perhaps deaths.

A communication was received from A. K. Browne, attorney for the board, stating that a decision had been rendered in the case of the Bates soap factory versus the board, which was adverse to the board, and that the opinions delivered by the court in the case could be obtained in full for $25. The subject was referred to the ordinance committee.

In the case of the complaint of the nuisance created by the hog-pens of Mr. Clark, near the Baltimore and Ohio depot, the time for abating the same was extended until Monday next.

On motion of Dr. Verdi, the ordinance committee was instructed to report to the board at the earliest practical moment what other legal steps can be taken by the board to secure the abatement of the terrible nuisances created and maintained by Rapp and others, Nash and others in boiling fat, crushing bones and accumulating much animal matter in a state of decomposition, in the midst of the most populous district of the city.

Dr. Verdi moved that the health officer be instructed to examine the various places on the creek where people bathe and report if sewers do not empty into such water, thus rendering it dangerous to the people thus bathing.

Dr. Bliss said if nude persons were bathing in the creek, near Georgetown, it was a violation of the law and the duty of the police to stop it, and he thought all that would be necessary was to call the attention of Major Richards to the fact.

Dr. Verdi then withdrew his motion.

The board then adjourned.

DISTRICT AFFAIRS IN CONGRESS.

The Senate District Committee held a special meeting yesterday. The following business was transacted:

The sub-committee (Messrs. Robertson and Hitchcock) to whom was referred House bill 3029, authorizing the Washington City and Point Lookout railroad company to extend their road into Georgetown via Piney branch and Rock creek, made reports—Mr. Robertson against and Mr. Hitchcock in favor of the proposed extension. The committee authorized Mr. Hitchcock to report the bill to the Senate with several unimportant amendments.

Mr. Dorsey made a report on Senate bill 643, to incorporate the Washington Canal and Water Power Company, and recommended that it be laid on the table; which was agreed to.

A petition from the Little Sisters of the Poor, asking a donation from Congress of $25,000 for the Home for the Aged, was next considered, and the committee unanimously instructed Mr. Johnston to offer a resolution recommending that the aid asked for be granted.

Mr. Johnston called up the bill turning over the jail in the District of Columbia to the custody of the United States marshal. After considerable discussion, the further consideration of the bill was deferred until the next meeting of the committee. The committee will probably hold their last meeting this session on Friday of this week.

IN THE SENATE.

In the Senate yesterday, Mr. Lewis reported House bill 2179, to incorporate the Inland and Seaboard Coasting Company of the District of Columbia, without amendments. This bill has already passed the House.

A CITIZEN ATTACKED AND BEATEN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 8, 1874.

To the Editor of the National Republican:

SIR: I am a peaceable and law-abiding citizen and property-holder in this District. On this evening I was assaulted by three ruffians, struck and felled by a blow from either a slung-shot or other deadly weapon of such kind, and while prostrate kicked in the head. Having extricated myself from the melee I went to the nearest police station to make a charge, and was informed that they could do nothing in the case without a warrant from a magistrate. I went immediately to the office of one of those functionaries and found it closed. I then proceeded home. How is it that the police cannot act in such a case without a warrant, or of what early use are they, those so-called "guardians of the peace?" Please insert in the "people's column" that it may be answered.

Very respectfully, WM. A. ALWRIN,
No. 1201 Fourth street, corner of M, southeast.

THE NEW BILL.

FEELING IN THE CITY YESTERDAY.

The introduction in both Houses of Congress, yesterday, of the bill prepared by the unanimous voice of the Joint Investigating Committee, fell like a bombshell in the community, and created more talk and comment than any other measure introduced for the last five years. While it suited all it did not suit anybody. Many found fault because no report of the committee did not accompany the bill, and others found fault with the bill itself. The fact is the residents of this District at the present writing would not be satisfied with anything in the shape of legislation. One thing, however, is certain: the long agonies are over; something definite has been arrived at, and the people know just what to expect for the immediate future, but what the remote future, with its commissioners, will bring forth, time only, not even the prophets of old can foretell.

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THE ASCENSION CHURCH.

CORNER-STONE OF THE NEW EDIFICE LAID.

FULL ACCOUNT OF THE INTERESTING CEREMONY—SERMON BY REV. DR. PUDDLEY, OF BALTIMORE—WHO WERE PRESENT—A MOST IMPRESSIVE PROCEEDING—THE BUILDING TO BE ERECTED AT ONCE.

In all the beautiful forms of the Episcopal ritual there is none which appeals more to the appreciation than that set apart for laying a corner-stone. The occasion is always one of peculiar interest, and the Church recognizes the promise of future privileges in the uprearing of a temple to God's worship. Yesterday, despite the fierceness of the heated term, a large assemblage witnessed the laying of the corner-stone of the new Ascension church, corner of Massachusetts avenue and Twelfth street.

The day was particularly beautiful in a cloudless sky, and a breeze that brought with it the breath of flowers from every park and garden in the vicinity. Each Episcopal church in Washington was fairly represented, beside many members from other churches outside, and the exercises were participated by the entire multitude. The singing of the hymns by the entire congregation sent upward a broad volume of sound from hundreds of throats, stirring the air with sacred melody, and the clear tones of the minister's words fell most impressively upon the hearers. The church edifice, which has been described in THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN, will be pushed rapidly toward completion, and will furnish another handsome monument of architecture in this section of the city, besides affording additional church accommodations for Episcopalians in this locality.

At about 6 o'clock the clergy began to assemble at the residence of Mr. F. Lounsbe Jackson, No. 1322 Massachusetts avenue, and at 7 o'clock the line was formed and marched to the church. On reaching the church the procession arranged themselves on a stand erected for the purpose, and Dr. Lewin read the sentences set apart in the ritual, from Psalm 51, v. 17, 18 and 19; Isaiah, 28, v. 16 and 17; Psalm 43, v. 3 and 4. Bishop Pinkney next read the offering and prayer. Rev. Dr. Watkins read with the congregation alternately Psalms 84 and 122, and the lesson from Ezra, c. 111, v. 8 to 11. Dr. Elliott announced Psalm 102, which was sung by the ministers and congregation.

Bishop Bishop, with Dr. Elliott and the register, Mr. C. C. Duncanson, proceeded to the stone, the register deposited the box, which is made of block tin, 12x12, into

THE CORNER STONE,

which is located on the southeast corner of Massachusetts avenue and Twelfth street. It is made of white marble, and is about two feet three inches wide, and two feet four inches high. On the front are the words and letters A. D. 1874, with a covering of white marble, with the letters 1874 and 1875 in front. The Bishop then took a trowel, announced the following as the contents: Holy Bible; Book of Common Prayer; list of the subscribers to the church; offerings and treasurer's receipts; list of the clergy; vestry; warden and register of the church; clergy of the District of Columbia, succession of American bishops of the Anglican communion; a specimen of the dollar coin of John M. Duncanson, deceased, consisting of gold and silver coin; daily papers of the District of Columbia; Church papers and the *Spirit of Mission*, journal of the Episcopal church.

After the box was deposited Bishop Pinkney took a mallet and trowel and tried the stone, saying at the same time: "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, I lay this corner-stone as the foundation of an edifice to be erected for a house of prayer, and to be dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, in the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, according to the liturgy, canons and usages of the Protestant Episcopal Church in these United States, Amen." He next offered prayer, on the conclusion of which he introduced Rev. Thomas W. Dudley, of Christ church, Baltimore.

Mr. Dudley then made an elaborate address, in which he extended congratulations on the reaping of the fruits of long and patient toil, on the prospect of planting the cross on a spot so beautiful for situation. In the course of his remarks he referred to the city of Washington in the following terms:

There is a special cause for rejoicing in the assurance here given that in this, the capital of the nation, there shall be henceforth a fitting monument and symbol of the Church of God in this Church. The heart of an American citizen begins to be proud that the tourist may no longer justly sneer at the unsightly ugliness of the nation's capital. He may now point with depth of republican simplicity degenerating into barbarous disregard of dignity, beauty and comfort; the grandest dome in the world no longer the colossal impertinence of republican liberty above muddy avenues almost impassable to pilgrim who would approach the shrine.

The sermon of which we have touched the maiden city, and Cinderella-like, the rags and tatters are gone, and the queen stands forth the fitting representative of a mighty people.

At the conclusion of Dr. Dudley's remarks, Rev. Dr. Elliott, associate rector of Ascension church, in a few remarks, returning thanks for aid extended in the work of building a new church, and spoke of the munificence of Mr. W. W. Corcoran, who had kindly given the lot on which the church is to be erected.

Hymn 25 was sung, after which the benediction was pronounced and the congregation dispersed.

A committee of the parish guild were in attendance, and distributed copies of the form of service used on the occasion.

Sergeant Brentano, of the Sixth precinct, with several officers, were in attendance, and greatly assisted the committee in making the congregation comfortable.

THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

MEETING OF THE WASHINGTON CONVOCATION.

The Washington Convocation, Diocese of Maryland, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, was held in Trinity church, corner of Third and C streets northwest, yesterday morning at 10 o'clock. Bishop Pinkney officiated at the opening religious exercises, assisted by Drs. Buck, Hutton, Addison, Lewis, and Rev. Mr. Williams.

The sermon was preached by Dr. Hutton from these words, found in Psalms: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee."

After the sermon the communion was administered to the clergy, after which the business of the convocation was commenced, Bishop Pinkney presiding.

The roll of the clergy and lay delegates was called, the following answered to their names: Rev. Messrs. Hutton, Buck, Todd, Gordon, Holmead Lewin, Chesley, Kershaw, Williams, Jackson, Addison, McKee, Steele, Peninpi, Smith, Walkins, Elliott, Andrews, Bacon, Philip, Boss, and many lay members, including M. Blair and others.

Rev. Myer Lenning, the dean, read the report of his labors for the past six months.

The report showed that the many visits had been made in the precincts of the convocation, which embraces the counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles and St. Mary's, in Maryland, together with the District of Columbia, and that much progress had been made in building up and strengthening weak churches and establishing new ones. In Prince George's county, at Surratt's, services have been held quite regularly in a school-house, and the prospects were quite encouraging. Also, at Talbot's, in the same county, a beginning has been made, and the same is true of several other points in the convocation. Much has been done, the amount of good accomplished being limited very much by the men and means at their command, which are very, quite small.

The following committee was appointed to take charge of the report and present suggestions for carrying out its recommendations: Rev. Messrs. Niblin, Buck, Andrews, Messrs. Abert and Middleton.

Rev. Dr. Elliott gave notice that the laying of the corner-stone of the new Ascension church would take place that evening at 6 o'clock, and extended an invitation to the members of the convocation.

Mr. Middleton, the treasurer, submitted his report, which was referred to Messrs. Blair, McPherson and Stewart, who reported it as correct, and it was adopted. By the report the total amount received has been $1,217.07; disbursed, $933.90; amount on hand, $271.70.

The following officers were then elected for the ensuing year: Dean, Dr. Lewin; secretary, C. D. Andrews; treasurer, D. W. Middleton, jr.

Rev. Messrs. Watkins, Hutton and Williams were appointed to represent the dean in mission services at such places as he might be unable to attend.

The committee on the dean's report submitted a report that a committee of five clergymen and four laymen be appointed to take the necessary steps towards founding an institution for the education of young ladies. Also, that a committee of three be appointed to confer with the dean with reference to the mission work suggested in his report, and that power be conferred upon the committee to use sufficient funds for the purpose. Adopted.

The committees were appointed, and the convocation adjourned *sine die*.

COUP DE SOLEIL.

It will be recollected that a baker living in Baltimore by the name of Charles Wolff, walked, not long since, from that city to Washington, and on his arrival here his destitute condition was, in a measure, relieved by the humane. Yesterday, about noon, as Wolff was walking in the neighborhood of the Government printing office he was the victim of a severe case of sunstroke. He fell to the pavement as if dead, and wholly insensible was carried into the drug store of Mr. A. J. Schlaffort, where the usual restoratives were applied. About 2 o'clock he was admitted to Providence hospital. The chances of his recovery were then considered very doubtful.

A SCRIMMAGE.

Last evening about half a dozen white boys, two of whom were named Kelley and Stanley, attacked the colored barber of Dr. Wells, dentist, in Tiber row, Second street and Pennsylvania avenue, with brickbats, upon very slight provocation, and inflicted severe injuries about the head and chest. The colored boy fought bravely, but the whites were too many for him. No arrests were made.

THE EQUALIZATION OF BOUNTIES.

WASHINGTON, June 4, 1874.

To the Editor of the National Republican:

SIR: I should like to know what has become of the bill for the equalization of bounties. Has the Republican party got tired of the soldier, or does it think that the throwing a few flowers on the graves of the dead ones a year is all that is required? OLD HICKORY COUNTY.

A MAN DROWNED.

Yesterday evening, about 6 o'clock, a colored man named Andrew Tolliver was drowned while swimming in the river at the foot of Seventeenth street. His body was recovered and removed to the Fourth precinct police station-house. The coroner has been notified.

THE LECTURE ON JOHN KNOX.

to be delivered to-morrow evening at the Metropolitan Presbyterian church,