DEDICATION OF A TEMPLE.

NEW ASCENSION CHURCH CONSECRATED.

SERMON BY REV. DR. ELLIOTT.

BEAUTIFUL AND IMPRESSIVE DISCOURSE.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW EDIFICE.

The Services Yesterday—Musical Programme—Full Text of the Pastor's Introductory Sermon—The Cost and Details of the Building—A Worthy Temple Occupied.

The new and imposing Church of the Ascension, at the corner of Twelfth street and Massachusetts avenue, was yesterday for the first time opened to the public, and divine service was celebrated in the church in the morning. The large church was crowded to its utmost capacity by the assembly gathered to witness the opening services. There were present of the clergy the rector, Bishop Pinkney; the assistant rector, Rev. John H. Elliott; Rev. Robert Wilson, D. D., of Easton, Md., and Rev. Alexander Shiras, of the District of Columbia. The sermon was preached by the Rev. John H. Elliott, the Bishop's eloquent assistant, and is given in full below. The music was of a superior character. The choir is composed of male voices, as follows: J. Remington Fairlamb, director; tenors, first, Wm. C. Hill; second, J. R. Fairlamb and Bernard Johnston; first bass, Lennox Simpson and James Johnston; second bass, Wm. M. Shuster, jr., and W. Keen; organist, George W. Walter. The following was the programme: Anthem, "Tell it out that the Lord is King," J. R. Fairlamb; Venite, Wm. H. Walton; Psalter Glorias: Te Deum, H. Millard; Benedictus; Jubilate, Wm. H. Walton; Benedictus; Hymn, "Old Hundred." During Holy Communion: Introit; Kyrie Eleison; Gloria Tibi, Plain; Anthem, (Post-sermon or Offertory:) Sanctus, Mank; Hymn. 279; Gloria in Excelsis, Old chant.

THE ASCENSION CHURCH.

It was in the year 1844 that the Ascension church was organized, and the edifice on it street, between Ninth and Tenth streets, which has been used up to this time by the congregation for devotional purposes, was erected. The original members of the church have passed away one by one, and only a few are now living who participated in the opening ceremonies in the old church. Rev. Mr. Gillis was the first pastor, and filled the pulpit very acceptably. He was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Stanley, under whose rectorship the strength of the congregation was greatly decreased, as the Doctor was fond of displaying certain spiritualistic views, which did not please the orthodox element of the church.

Whatever was lost under Dr. Stanley was fully regained by his successor, Dr. Pinkney, who was called October 11, 1856. Dr. Pinkney has since assumed the title of first bishop elect of the diocese of Maryland. It is unnecessary to speak of his ability as a divine. By his excellent qualities he has gained the love and respect of his parishioners, and the Ascension church, since it has been under his care, has prospered wonderfully.

In October, 1870, Dr. Hutton assumed the assistantship of the church, but he was succeeded in that place two years ago by Dr. John H. Elliott, LL.D. Through the untiring efforts of Dr. Pinkney and Dr. Elliott, seconded by the vestry, work on the new and handsome edifice, which was yesterday opened to the world, was projected and completed.

THE VESTRY

is composed of Messrs. W. W. Corcoran, H. S. Davis, N. W. Burchell, W. M. Shuster, R. L. Jackson, Thomas L. Hume, J. L. Stevens and R. W. Burgess. These gentlemen have all contributed most liberally to the building funds, besides giving much of their time and thought to the enterprise. To Mr. Corcoran, with the liberal hand with which he is wont to bestow his benefactions, purchased and presented to the church the site upon which it stands, and then subscribed to the building fund one-half the contract price. In the early part of 1874 Mr. Corcoran bought the lot at the corner of Twelfth street and Massachusetts avenue, at a cost of over $30,000. The plans of Messrs. Fifield & Cottrell, architects, of Baltimore, were adopted, and a contract for the building made with Mr. W. H. Allen, of the same city. The corner-stone was laid June 24, 1874, and the building has steadily progressed, under the superintendence of the foreman, Mr. P. H. McLaughlin, aided by an efficient corps of workmen, until it assumed its present magnificent proportions.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH.

The dimensions of the church are eighty-six feet four inches front on Massachusetts avenue, with a depth on Twelfth street of one hundred and thirty feet six inches; the height to the spring of the curbing is thirty-one feet, and the entire height seventy-four feet. The architecture is mixed Gothic.

The walls are of Maryland marble in the rough, trimmed with light gray Ohio stone. The tints of the two stones harmonize with beautiful effect. A tower of the same material as the church arises at the southeast corner to the height of sixty-five feet, which is surmounted by a spire of galvanized iron ninety-seven feet in height. The tower and the turret at the southwest corner are octagonal in form. The main entrance is a double gothic doorway on the avenue front. The pointed arch is of pink Missalon stone, supported by three columns of gray stone, finely carved and graced with corbels. Over the entrance is a finely-chiselled cross, subscribed with monogram, I. H. S. Above is a mullioned window with quatrefoil and trefoil ornaments, and glazed with stained glass. The entrance is approached by a flight of five granite steps. On the side of the edifice are six twin mullioned windows, and the same number of small gothic windows in the roof. On the Twelfth-street side is a porch of masonry, for the accommodation of those using an entrance to the basement. Over and back of this portion is a pinnacle supported by columns and containing a rose window. There is a similar porch under the turret on the west side, which will be used as an entrance for the use of ladies. In the rear of the edifice is a turret of masonry and a window similar in some respects to that over the main entrance, but of more elaborate design. The roof is of slate and tile, the ridge with a railing. Carved corbels, graceful scroll-work and many beautiful little designs add a pleasing effect to the whole.

THE INTERIOR.

To whatever degree may be impressed with the imposing external appearance of the church, he cannot help uttering an exclamation of surprise and pleasure upon viewing the interior. A arch of pink and gray stone, springing to the height of forty-eight feet, spans the chancel, and within is an arch of raised plaster work, finished in imitation of the outer one. The elegantly proportioned window in the rear of the chancel, fourteen feet in width and twenty feet in height—shedds a softened light, mingled with a myriad of colors, from the stained glass over the chancel. The railing of the chancel is of the choicest kind of walnut, carved in antique gothic. Arches of stone spring up on either side of the chancel and inclose the following inscriptions on the wall on the west side: "Write this for a memorial, for we parted from them and carried up into heaven," and on the east side, "Preaching peace by Jesus Christ: his blood cleanseth us from all sin."

At the east of the chancel are the vestry and robing rooms, each eighteen feet square. The walls at the sides are plastered, but the roof is of open woodwork, unique arches of Florida pine, stained black, supported by ten heavy iron columns, ornamented with fine scroll work. The columns and their adornments are painted a dark brown, but the ends are tipped with gold. The panelled ceilings and the timbers of the roof are frescoed with arabesque work on blue ground, bordered with gray and brown, and the sides of the edifice are frescoed in panels. The seating capacity of the building is filled with a capacious organ loft, of hard wood and gothic in style, in harmony with its surroundings. The auditorium contains one hundred and sixty-one pews, all nine feet in length, of hard wood finished with walnut, and upholstered with crimson rep.

A Wilton carpet of crimson and brown, containing a small figure, is stretched over the floor of the chancel, and the body of the church is carpeted with an ingrain corresponding in color and figure.

The auditorium will seat about one thousand people. The gas jets, which are lighted by electricity, are situated principally at the head of the columns. The basement is divided into apartments, for the accommodation of the Sunday school, library and furnaces. The contract price of the building was $122,400, which, with the cost of the site and furniture will amount to $150,000. The stone work was done by Robert Scott, of Wilmington, Del.; plastering by Slounsz & Hirkness, of this city; frescoing by Emart & Quarterly, of Baltimore; painting by Bryan & Co., of this city; siding by Clark & Montgomery, of this city; plumbing by Shepherd & Brothers, of this city, and gas-fitting by Hubbell & Dunnett; iron work by Martenet & Robbins, of Baltimore.

DR. ELLIOTT'S SERMON.

Dr. Elliott preached yesterday morning from the text: Hebrews, xii:22-24: "Ye are come unto Mount Sion and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable company of angels, to the General Assembly and Church of the first born, which are written in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of the New Testament, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

That, he said, is a most interesting scene in ancient history when the army of ten thousand Greeks, ascending a lofty mountain range and getting in glad confusion on its summit, beheld in the gleam of distant water the haven they were seeking. For weeks and months they had been toiling, struggling, watching, battling with this one purpose that they might escape from the heart of an insulted empire to the Euxine Sea, whose shores were friendly, whose surface was dotted with the ships of their native Greece. Nature and man seemed leagued for their destruction.

[The army of a colossal empire and the irregular soldiery of barbarous tribes confronted them wherever there was a plain to traverse, a river to ford, a mountain defile to ascend. Now they were enveloped in a storm of snow flakes, and now in a cloud of cavalry, with no chart of those unknown regions, with no compass but the sun and to guide but treachery; what wonder, if at times hope deferred made all hearts sick, what wonder, if as each day brought strange news, mountains, soldiers, weapons, hunger, thirst, cold, they were ready to take counsel of despair. But still onward they pressed, onward with a heroism which has made them immortal, onward to the haven which was their hope by day and

THEIR DREAM BY NIGHT.

And now what shout is this that comes rolling down the mountain side, and is rapturously caught up from rank to rank? What joy is this that so transports those hardy veterans marching in the forefront—the army's vanguard? They have gained the summit; they behold their haven. Yonder roll the billows of the friendly Euxine; yonder sail the ships of their native Greece. The enthusiasm rush wildly upon this broad summit. Discipline is gone. Comrade clasps comrade in his embrace, and from a thousand voices there arises the cry, "The sea! the sea!" Some such emotion must stir your heart today. This is your goal reached, your fair dream realized. For years it has been your dream. For years you have been beckoned on by a beautiful vision of some noble pile, where arch and capital and spire and cross-crowned gable rose and clustered in enchanting confusion.

But between you and this open portal a wilderness stretched where barriers rose higher than mountain tops, and yawned wider than swollen rivers—a wilderness with no pathway to invite your willing feet. What wonder that at times you could only sigh over labors and prayers that seemed to be in vain. What wonder if you sometimes feared that the beauteous vision was only a mocking mirage, that had gathered from the desert you were traversing. But through all these barriers you have cleared your pathway. You stand to-day in your own church, beautiful and gorgeous as a dream; but it is not a dream. In this temple-crowned eminence you have achieved, and now behold the fulfillment of your hopes. I know that some emotion has stirred your bosom like that which hailed the welcome sea. I behold it in these kindling faces. I heard it in your anthems, what time the hallowed arches hung responsive to your solemn song. Were I to follow the traditions of the occasion I would recount the sacrifices which have ensobled your progress; I would eulogize the founders and builders of this church. But while these walls stand what need of laudatory words. If you ask for your eulogy, look around you; the church itself speaks—speaks not in words fleeting as the wind, but

IN PERPETUAL MARBLE.

It rises on this eminence, and at once before the city and all time it unfolds its massive argument, etched in beautiful expression and piercing the dullest ear. It will speak right on, and tell distant generations of the men, women and children who here brought their gifts to God. It has been said there are but two strong conquerors of the forgetfulness of men—poetry and architecture—and the day is coming when we shall confess we have learned more of Greece out of the crumbled fragments of her sculpture than ever from her sweet singers and soldier historians.

The scroll which bears your names is in the custody of yonder corner-stone. But though the temple's ponderous weight stands sentinel over it, not more securely is it guarded than does the temple itself guard and perpetuate your memory. It speaks not for to-day, but for all time. Oh, who can tell what strange audiences will address as the billowy centuries roll on! Through what changes and convulsions it will calmly utter its commanding voice! Poetry and architecture are the only strong conquerors of the forgetfulness of men; and architecture, when mellowed by age, becomes poetry, and its eloquence song. May I not repeat the words: Such a costly pile as you have built is a noble epic poem, singing of heroic deeds across the ages to distant realms and peoples. It celebrates, not the shock of contending hosts over trembling plains, but the victory of devotion and self-sacrifice and every generous virtue over greed and avarice and the earth-born crew.

It sings not of some plain shector, ignobly dragged at the chariot wheels of Achilles, but of selfish passions trampled and torn, and dragged in the dust, while self-denial urges on the chariot, or invincible zeal shakes loosely the slack reins. Now, in clustering arch and foliated capital, it bursts forth in lyric strains. Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously, and now in storied window it chants its plaintive requiem over some chosen warrior—the beauty of Israel fallen in the midst of battle. Thus, men, women and children of Ascension parish, your temple sings and speaks of you. You need no words of eulogy from me.

And how much more appropriate that in this first entrance into God's house we should speak, not of man, but of God. We should ask what God's temple says of God of himself. God, our Savior, built this temple to tell of him. His language was, "Not unto us, but unto thy name." Oh, I know that some earth-born motives have blended with God in the work, but beyond and then all, gilding them as the sun gilds the evening clouds, there has stood

THE VISION OF A CRUCIFIX

and ascended Saviour and offering your self-denying gift, as the martyr Stephen offered his spirit, you have prayed: "Lord Jesus, receive it." And oh! may he receive our gift. They crowned him with thorns and nailed him to the cross, and nailed him, in derision, one Jesus. We would crown him Lord of all, and glorify him by this temple, built to his name. We have builded this house for his habitation, and the shrine has taken shape from the glorious being who condescends to be enshrined within it.

His mighty and merciful hand have guided you as you chose the enduring materials, and the majestic proportions and the costly fabrics for his sanctuary. Every Christian Church should be a revelation to the world of what man knows of God and take what man knows of God and of God's attitude to himself and place it incarnate before the world. Its language should be, "Whom ye worship him declare I unto you." It should be an apostle, messenger, herald in plastic stone, commissioned to preach to men. Let us, then, inquire what should a perfect Christian Church tell man of God, and then see how successfully this church fulfills this office. What should a church built under the reign of Christ proclaim of God, our Saviour?

It is astonishing with what vagueness this question has been answered in the thoughts of man and in the temples which they have reared all along the Christian centuries. How often has it been asserted that the marble and the wood and the costly stones are to be piled in the same form and robed in the same color, whether the sanctuary be built to the God of Love revealed to the Christian or to the unknown God of Heathenism. How often on such an occasion as this has the temple which enshrined God, as revealed in the Old Testament, thought its sanctuary was cursed with monsters evil and its altars reeked with the blood of sacrifices. How often has it been eloquently described as the very patterns of the church which preaches a new and better covenant. It is true there are certain attributes of deity which must shape every temple, which would portray him. His eternity and unchangeableness and mighty and boundless wealth must speak in the enduring material, the clustering fabric, the sublime proportions. But

THE VOCAL FANE

should declare, too, what is God's attitude to man, whether these strong attributes are arrayed against him or for him; whether they must frown upon him in wrathful forehead and lour, or robe themselves in emblems of grace and peace. See how the text solves this question, how it proclaims with clarion voice the white-robed ministry of the Gospel; how it parts it from the rugged law delivered at Sinai and crystallized in Solomon's temple. Ye are not come to Mount Sinai; ye are come to Mount Zion. A yawning chasm divides two mountain peaks, which are still more divided by the terrors and imitations which breathe the one and the other. The one rises in a lonely wilderness, and burns with fire, and jet darkness envelopes it, and is made more visible by the lurid flames which roll and burst at the mandate of a rushing tempest. Above the roaring of the flames, above the shrieking of the tempest, the voice of a trumpet waxes louder and louder, and as the people already shake with terror, the ground beneath them heaves.

What wonder that the Mediator himself is appalled, and the heir who had braved so many red and angry kings and peoples exclaimed, "I exceedingly fear and quake!" To this mount, says the apostle, "ye Christians are not come; ye are come to another mount. The fire, the blackness, the tempest, the savage wildness of the desert, are gone, and a city sparkles on its summit. The mount is the Mount Zion, and the city the heavenly Jerusalem, and the light which shines in it borrows its lustre from Heaven. An innumerable multitude inhabit this city, which, lifted heavenward, see the tenants of Heaven and earth mingle and commune in its streets. Angels are there and spirits of just men made perfect, and the Church of the first-born, whose names are written in Heaven, but who still walk the earth the sons and daughters of God; and there, too, the "Judge of all." But behold! between these frail man stands Jesus, the Mediator of the new covenant; and is there silence there? We do not expect to hear the wail of the tempest, but the blast of the trumpet.

But have these angels no voices and the redeemed no harps to sound the Redeemer's praises? Yes, and is the Church, both militant and triumphant, on which you are marching. The apostle would speak a cheering word to the downcast sons of men; and the voice which floats above the tempest is the voice of the Church militant, the hosannas of its blissful citizens; it a voice that speaketh peace. It comes from the blood of sprinkling, the precious blood of Christ, which speaketh better things than the vengeance cry of Abel's blood. And peace through the blood of Jesus Christ; peace on earth, good-will towards men; a Church built under the

REIGN OF CHRIST.

should proclaim from turret to foundation stone. Its very stones should cry out, peace. Its walls should gleam with joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing should never veil the temple built under the new and better covenant. Between it and the temple of the Old Testament a chasm yawns as wide as that which, in the apostle's vision, parted the mount of terror from the mount of peace. If inspiration symbolized the early revelation by fire and storm wrapped Sinai, what wonder if its temple expressed God's frown upon sin. What wonder that one evil barred out from the mercy seat, but high priests, and another all but priests, and another barrier all but the men of Israel, while another all but the children of Israel. What wonder that the blood of lambs and bullocks and goats was every day reddening the courts of the sanctuary.

But Christ has rent the vail of the temple, and the Mediator touches every penitent with his pierced and loving hand. He has driven away the bleating sacrifices from the courts of his sanctuary as he drove the money-changers, for Christ is the one sacrifice, who forever has made peace for the sons of men. The controlling service of the Jewish temple was to propitiate the Deity; of the Christian Church to proclaim God propitiated. The first represented man seeking God; the second God seeking man. The first sought peace; the second dispenses peace already attained. Peace it must proclaim through its pulpit—peace through its divinely-appointed sacraments. You come to the font and the holy table to propitiate Christ, but to receive the pardon, the divine life, which have been already purchased and are ready to be given to the penitent believer. To proclaim the glad tidings of peace is the very mission of this church. To this it owes its being. It stands here as the herald of Christ—as a white-robed messenger from Heaven to earth—to proclaim peace through Christ from the cause of the law; peace to the troubled conscience; peace to the soul tossed with tempest and not comforted; peace to the surging, restless, struggling world that through coming years and centuries will chafe and fret in the Capital's turbid life. Standing here as a witness of God's love to man; to proclaim that God is reconciled to man, and to pray man to be reconciled to God; beckoning to us as an

ENVOY OF AMNESTY

and eternal peace, what a monstrous contradiction, if we had draped it in sack-cloth and robed it in mourning; if it had frowned upon the city, in some black, sombre exterior, and shaken over it the rod of a terrible and exasperated Deity; if no whisper of the glad salvation it preaches had floated from its walls. It is true that we have sought to give expression here to those attributes which must preside in every sanctuary of the Most High, and which gird with strength the salvation we proclaim. In the enduring marble quarried from the stone-house, where in the hoary ages past it was laid up by the eternal God. We have a memorial of him who is the "same yesterday, to-day and forever." Remembering his majesty, we have given what we could of sublimity to this, his habitation. In clustering together "the wealth of wood and weight of stone, the strength of iron, the light of gold," we would give some faint glimmering of his exuberant wealth. You walk beneath these vaulting arches as through the arched aisles of his own forests, and between their spreading boughs you behold the blue of heaven, and the gleam as of golden stars. These painted arches, there is no response in them. They are all aspiration; they point to God, and beckon you upwards, where Christ dwells, where joy is full and pleasure is eternal. But all this is not the gospel. Beyond and above it all this church must tell the story of the cross and of Christ's redeeming love, and of the reconciled father's love, and of eternal life for the lost and dying. It must wave the olive branch of peace on earth—sing with joy and gladness of the palm branches which the redeemed shall wave in Heaven. And therefore, we have disrobed it of the sombre and the gloomy, and decked it in the cheerful garments of praise and thanksgiving. Proclaim peace like the herald of peace in the vesture of peace, that it may speak at once the glad tidings of salvation. Proclaim these truths, ye white and lustrous walls! Ring them out ye chimes, which sit and frown yonder lower shall warble in the city's listening ear! Ye waves of light, which burst from crystal fountains and ripple through the sanctuary, with your seven-fold hues proclaim peace like the bow of peace which spans the temple of the skies. Proclaim these truths, blest symbol of our redemption! Mount up to the temple's loftiest pinnacle; reign benignly there over city and forest and field and flood. Proclaim the Son of righteousness while yonder sun, now veiled, both climbs the east, and when high noon he rains, and when he falls, there in the midst of centre his beams will first salute on yonder Capitol the

SYMBOL OF THE NATION'S LIBERTY.

Perhaps it should be so. Next he will bend his rosy steps to this pile which you have built, and salute with warm and glad embrace the symbol of that liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free. And now, before I close, let me ask, as on this occasion you will expect me to ask, who but will help in this good work—who that has given to build this costly church but will give again? Who that has not yet given but will to-day lay his gift upon the altar? Oh, think not that you are the favored one, who shall worship in a temple which has cost you nothing—who shall gaze, without sacrifice, upon its beauty and be adumbled by its presence! It is the builder who is blest.

There is something which God prizes above the sanctuary, which is even more than the sanctuary—it is the sacrifice. More precious to him than the gift is the giving, more precious than the temple in which you adore him is the act of adoration, which built the temple.

And, oh, if anywhere, then, in this city is such sacrifice demanded—in this Capital city, where the nation has

GRANDLY BUILT TO CESAR,

you should build to God. Citizens of Washington, are you willing that the stranger who visits the Capital of this great Republic, as he turns from the palaces of Cæsar to the house of God, should turn from magnificence to meanness? Citizens of the great Republic, lo! but a century is passing, and already the Republic is a giant among the "giant forms of empire!" Citizens of the great Republic, will you suffer the God who has so blessed you to be disinvested in your Capital? Will you not teach the thousands of your countrymen who flock to this city that a State severed from the Church is not a State that neglects the Church and the Church's God.

Oh, the interests of your children, of the great Republic, of humanity, plead with you. Help us in our earnest effort to build here one more church in some degree worthy of our Capital city. From this conspicuous centre blessed influences will radiate, and the bread you now cast upon the waters will in coming days and generations, return to bless you and your posterity.

LOCAL MISCELLANY.

Weather probabilities, estimated at 1 a. m.—For the lower lakes, Middle and Eastern States, falling barometer, northeast winds, cloudy and rain or show, followed over the Middle States and lower lakes by northwest winds, cooler, cloudy or clearing weather.

Thermometric readings taken December 5, 1875, at the Signal Office: 7 a. m., 40°; 7:35 a. m., 40°; 10 a. m., 39°; 2 p. m., 39°; 4:35 p. m., 38°; 9 p. m., 37°; 11 p. m., 37°. Maximum, 40°; minimum, 37°.

Oxygenized air for Catarrh, at 619 F street.

Highest price paid for left-off clothing, boots, shoes, &c., at Hersog's, 417 D street northwest.

Six per cent. paid on deposits, payable on demand. Special rates on time deposits. J. H. Squire & Co., bankers.

H. D. Cooke, jr., & Co., F street, near the Treasury, do a general banking business and buy and sell District securities &c.

Tax-payers can now save large discounts in paying improvement taxes through Dickson & Patterson. Offices, 605 Fifteenth and 208 Four-and-a-half streets.

Buy your goods for cash where you can buy cheapest. If you do not intend to pay for what you buy, do not buy of those who advertise in the NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.

During the twenty-four hours ending at 8 o'clock yesterday morning there were sixty-six arrests made by the police in the District, and fifty-six lodgers were accommodated in the various stations.

About 10 o'clock Saturday morning, a colored man named Charles Parker, while at work at Terra Cotta City, had one of his legs broken at the ankle by the caving in of a bank of earth upon him. Dr. Stone attended the wound.

A DOG, named Christopher Yansen, was found dead in his bed yesterday morning, at the house of James Stokes, at Fort Totten. Coroner Patterson, after viewing the body, gave a certificate of death resulting from apoplexy.

Dickson & Patterson are paying improvement tax bills at an immense discount. Call on them. Offices, 605 Fifteenth and 208 Four-and-a-half streets.

About noon Saturday, a dead white infant was found in a lumber pile at the corner of Sixth and F streets northwest. Officer Davis had it conveyed to police headquarters, where the coroner viewed it and gave a certificate of burial, deciding that death resulted from exposure.

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Maria Castle and Mary Johnson were both arrested at different times on Saturday evening for shoplifting at Mr. A. K. Chandler's store, 822 Seventh street northwest, the former to the extent of a toothbrush, and the latter of a roll of ribbon.

About 10 o'clock on the evening of the 3d instant a colored man named Henry Thomas, while walking on G street, near Twenty-third northwest, slipped and fell to the pavement and sustained a fracture of the thigh. He was taken to his house in a neighboring alley, where Dr. Murphy rendered surgical aid.

Officer Mitchell Saturday morning detected a colored man trying to force an entrance into the front basement door of house No. 2016 G street northwest. When the officer approached he instarted down Twentieth street toward the river, and when the officer in pursuit fired at him the thief turned, and firing two shots at him made good his escape.

The alarm of fire from box 54, Saturday evening, was caused by the burning of the floor in the house of a colored man named Eli Howard, on L street, between Fourth and Fifth streets southeast. The damage was trifling. Howard originated the fire by breaking the stove through malicious mischief. He was arrested and locked up in the Eighth precinct station.

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A disgraceful affair occurred on Saturday evening, on G street, between Thirteenth and Fifteen-and-a-half streets northwest. Theodore Kanthe, a man who travels on his knees on account of a curvature in his legs, became engaged in a quarrel with two negroes, one of whom, Wm. Chapman, She asserted her independence and slashed Kanthe's neck with a pen knife, inflicting quite a serious wound. Annie was arrested by Sergeant Hendrick.

About three o'clock last Friday afternoon, during an altercation between a white man named Wm. Lynch and a colored man named Wm. Jackson, Green, in the neighborhood of Fifth and Q streets northwest, Lynch fractured Green's skull with a brick. The wounded man was conveyed to Byron & Ker's livery stable, on Pennsylvania avenue, where the wound was dressed by Dr. Winters. He was afterwards taken to his home, near Howard University.

Tax Payers

Can now save large discounts in paying improvement taxes through Dickson & Patterson. Offices, 605 Fifteenth and 208 Four-and-a-half streets.

Book Sale This Evening.

Commencing this (Monday) evening, at 7 o'clock, Thomas Dowling, auctioneer, will sell at his rooms, southwest corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Eleventh street, a very large and valuable collection of books, being the private libraries of the late James Hall, of Iowa, and others, and comprising many rare and standard works on history, biography, poetry, the arts and sciences, Egyptian language and literature, &c., &c. This will be a good opportunity to secure many valuable books at your own price.

Twenty-five Per Cent. Saved

By buying four boots and shoes at L. Heilbrun's, 402 Seventh street, second door above D street northwest. :Men's stout boots, $2; gent's very fine boots, $3; ladies' button boots, $1.50; children's button boots, $1; children's calf shoes, 50cts.; felt and rubber shoes. Sign of 'Old Woman in Shoe in Window."

The Washington Market House.

The improvement in this structure, under the supervision of Mr. Adolf Cluss, the well-known architect, assisted by Mr. James McNabb, sr., is rapidly being pushed toward completion. The improvements proposed will add greatly to the appearance of Pennsylvania avenue.

Auction Sales To-day.

By George W. Stickney:

At 4 o'clock, a two-story frame house on Tenth street, between T and U streets northwest.

At 4:30 o'clock, a two-story frame house on Vermont avenue, between S and T streets northwest.

By Young & Middleton:

At 4 o'clock, a large brick dwelling on west side of Eleventh street northwest.

By E. J. Sweet:

At 4 o'clock, valuable building lots in the northwest section of Thirteenth street.

By Thos. Dowling:

At 7 o'clock, very large and valuable collection of books.

Dickson & Patterson

Are paying improvement tax bills at an immense discount. Call on them. Offices, 605 Fifteenth and 208 Four-and-a-half streets.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Pocket-book lost.
Solitaire diamond ring lost.
Attractions at the Comique.
McCullough at the National.
Notice to Royal Arch Masons.
Theodore Thomas at Lincoln hall.
Furnished front room on Sixth street.
Three communicating rooms on E street.
Handsomely furnished rooms on H street.
Furnished parlor and bed-room on O street.
Full line of dry goods at Brodhead's On.'s.
Sale of county real estate by J. T. Wormley.
Sermon for deaf mutes at St. Mark's church.
Fancy notions and worsted-work at Chr. Rupp's.
Complimentary concert to Miss Sallie Westhorpe.
Rooms on Fifteenth street handsomely furnished.
Furnished parlor and chambers on Thirteenth street.
Mlle Theresa Titiens at the Congregational church.
Rooms, with or without board, on New York avenue.
Magnificent residence for sale by Gaichel & Wilson.
Bankrupt sale of men's furnishings by Dunnason Bro.
Sale of a valuable collection of books by Thos. Dowling.
Handsomely furnished suites of rooms on Thirteenth street.

A public museum has been opened in Smyrna in the building of the Evangelical (Greek) school, in which there is a large collection of lamps, vases, &c., from Ephesus.

DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

(Continued from First Page.)

Registered over-due 6 per cent. water stock	$5,777 90
	177,927 00
Less funding loan bonds sold, the proceeds of which were applied to the redemption of foregoing bonds	135,000 00
Making total reduction of debt	$442,927 90
In addition, the Commissioners have appropriated to the commissioners of the sinking fund, for the redemption of five-year Emery bonds past due, being all of such issue of bonds outstanding	12,800 00
Making the entire amount appropriated for the reduction of the funded debt during the past year	455,027 90
Amount of funded debt December 1, 1874, not including 3.65 bonds	9,893,940 43
Amount of funded debt December 1, 1875, not including 3.65 bonds nor money in hands of the commissioners of the sinking fund for the redemption of the outstanding five-year Emery bonds	9,441,112 43
The annual interest payable on the public debt outstanding December 1, 1875, is as follows:	
Funded debt as estimated by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund	$618,205 88
Three sixty-five bonds, including certificates issued by Board of Audit, not converted	470,810 07
Total interest on debt	$1,089,170 95
The total funded debt and temporary loans of the late District government and Board of Public Works, paid since July 1, 1874, is	1,564,843 56
From appropriations by Congress	$375,209 25
From taxes and other District incomes	1,189,634 31
	$1,564,843 56
In addition to the assets of the District of Columbia, as stated, we call attention to the other following named sums, as heretofore stated, viz: Special assessments made and to be made in excess of outstanding eight per cent. certificates	1,689,844 70
Taxes in arrears on property sold on the 1st Monday in June, bid in by the District government, about	900,000 00
Claims against contractors and their sureties for repairs to pavements for the recovery of which suits are pending and to be brought	666,123 12
Making the total sums due and to become due	$3,255,967 82
The value of the real property in the District, including that owned by the United States, but not the public buildings, is, according to the assessments made by the uncertainted of assessments and taxes, as follows:	
The taxable real property in the District is:	
Washington city	$78,818,024
Georgetown city	3,049,317
Washington county	8,784,433
Total taxable real property	$90,452,684
Owned by the United States Government exclusive of public buildings	16,691,906
Owned by the District government in Washington city	$1,092,980
In Georgetown	140,591
In Washington county	31,809
Total owned by the District government	1,266,424
Owned by churches, charitable institutions, &c., exempt from taxation under the act of Congress approved March 4, 1870:	
In Washington city	$3,660,622
In Georgetown	170,556
In Washington county	251,500
Total	4,016,678
Showing the appraised value of all the real property in the District taxable and exempt from taxation to be	115,427,692
Of which there is exempt from taxation	$21,975,008

In our last report we stated that uncollected special assessments would exceed all demands against the same, after paying the entire redemption of all the special improvement 8 per cent. certificates, commonly called greenbacks, (then amounting to $1,582,400,) for the payment of which said special assessments are pledged by law, by the sum of $1,614,054.57. This statement was made pursuant to the report, accompanying our own, of the deputy comptroller, who was charged with the duty of making the assessments. We were not then correctly informed of the special assessments then uncollected in excess of the amount required to pay said $1,582,400 of special improvement certificates, which in excess at that time, instead of being $1,614,054.57, is now computed by him at $790,863.08. In his accompanying report the deputy comptroller explains the mistake which led to his mistake, to which we invite the attention of Congress. His statement of the then condition of the special assessment is as follows:

Total expenditures	$15,487,247 24
Less paid by the United States	2,454,571 19
Total	$13,032,676 05
One third assessable to private property	$4,344,225 36
Assessments by the Board of Public Works	1,222,658 57
Pledged for $2,000,000 8 per cent. certificates	$3,111,566 79
Less for Auditor's certificates received in payment of assessments	408,472 41
Less cash deposited to credit of Commissioners of the Sinking Fund	16,320 63
Less accrued interest on 8 per cents	9,478 83
Less interest paid by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund and estimated amount for January, 1876	191,270 29
Less 8 per cent. certificates	2,000,000 00
	$3,215,709 81

leaving as the amount by which the assessments actually made up to November 1, 1875, for special improvements, are in excess of the charge against assessments for work done by that time, will (if collected) exceed the $2,000,000 eight per cent. certificates and accrued interest thereon up to January 1, 1876, the payment of which certificates and interest, the assessments are by law set apart, the sum of $705,863.08.

But with reference to the amount estimated as chargeable to private property for special improvements upon the completion of all work, the accompanying report of the engineer furnishes an estimate which covers work not included in the foregoing report of the deputy comptroller, for the payment of the latter extends only to November 1, 1875, the expenditure up to that time being based upon information then furnished to him by the board of audit.

The engineer has before him data concerning special improvements and the property benefited thereby and assessable therefor, which of necessity he was unable to give the deputy comptroller, not yet called on to do the latter. The engineer is thereby enabled to go more into detail than the deputy comptroller in estimating from the gross expenditure for special improvements the proportion thereof chargeable to private property adjoining and benefited thereby.

The following is the estimate made by the engineer:

The total expenditure on account of special improvements under the Board of Public Works, and under the District Commissioners upon streets not yet assessed, may be approximately stated, as follows:	
Total expenditures up to November 1, 1875, obtained from the records of the board of audit, as per statement received from the bills in their hands at that time, both audited and unaudited	$2,446,222 19
Measurements made since that time, being incomplete and not yet audited, and representing additional work	1,205,453 31
Estimated cost of completion of all work in progress, including work already finished, but of which the measurements have not yet been made up	539,775 29
There is required from the assessment of each street and avenue one half the cost of improvement of its intersection with other streets and avenues, as the amount of the assessment of the latter. Up to this date this amount is	286,722 33
These four items give a total expenditure on account of special improvements not yet assessed of	11,428,190 08
There has been appropriated by Congress, to the United States, in part payment for the work of special improvements, $4,000,000 and of this there is applicable in part payment of the amount not yet assessed	$1,511,527 51
The great main sewers, the sea-walls of the James creek canal, and the K-street market can hardly be considered as special improvements of the adjacent property, and should not be assessed as such. Their cost is	3,221,541 45
The repairs of contract work which should not be assessed as a special improvement amount to	866,123 12
The claims for old materials are recognized as a credit or drawback upon the assessment. The aggregate of these claims upon each street is added to the statement of expenditures upon that street, and when after deducting half intersections of other streets and the amounts chargeable to the General Government, one third of the remaining expenditure is taken for the special assessment. The loss of the tax by the credit for the full value of the old material is two thirds of this full value. The aggregate of the claims for old material upon assessed streets, in the hands of the board of audit, is reported as $10,000.01. Add to this the value of the old material held by the commissioners, making a total of	140,000 00
Two thirds of this is	93,333 33
The sum of these four items gives a total deduction of	4,693,239 40
Leaving a balance of	6,734,950 68
Add five per cent. for engineering and superintendence	336,747 53
Total	6,571,697 57

Of this amount one third is collectable by special tax upon the adjacent property, viz. | 2,190,565 85

The act of the District Legislature approved May 20, 1875, pledged the special tax thereinafter referred to for the payment of the $2,000,000 8 per cent. improvement certificates, and the deputy comptroller makes the following statement respecting the special assessments received applicable to the redemption of these certificates:

From the late Board of Public Works	$1,176,982 07
From the Commissioners of the District of Columbia	733,026 61
Total	1,910,008 68
Less additional drawbacks and corrections, certificates of the auditor of the Board of Public Works received in payment and canceled, (these certificates are no longer receivable in payment of the tax,) and accrued interest due at time of redemption of each certificate, and allowed	126,090 43
Amount available	$1,773,918 25
Interest due on 8 per cent. improvement certificates, as reported by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund: