The National Republican.

VOL. XXV—NO. 9. WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 8, 1884. TWO CENTS.

THE CAPSTONE SET.

THE LAST STONE PLACED UPON THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

A Drizzling Rain Does Not Interfere With the Completion of the Simple But Impressive Ceremonies—The Ascent to the Platform Made Difficult by a Fierce Wind—Brief Sketch of the Work as It Progressed.

The shaft which commemorate s the services and the virtues of the commander of the revolution which made this a separate country and the first president of these United States was completed externally Saturday, at 2 p. m.

During the years that elapsed from 1852 until 1879 the unfinished shaft (which resembled more the whitewashed chimney of a huge factory) was this nation's disgrace. It was the sorrow of Amerians and the sneer of foreign visitors. Finally, on Independence day of the centennial year, Senator Sherman presented a resolution declaring it to be the sense of congress that the monument should be completed. The resolution and the necessary appropriation to begin the work anew was passed by both houses unanimously, and since then the work has progressed steadily.

In 1876 the monument had reached the height of 152 feet above the foundation, and about $260,000 had been expended on its construction. All of the money before that date had been obtained by the voluntary subscriptions of the public, but since that time nearly $900,000 has been expended under appropriations of congress. The cornerstone, which was cut from the same ledge of marble (near Cockeyville, Md.), from which the marble of the shaft has been taken, was laid with grand ceremonies July 4, 1848, weighed a little more than twelve tons, and was laid at the northeast corner of the foundation.

RESUMPTION OF WORK.

Very soon after the appropriation of 1876 became available Col. (then lieutenant colonel) Thomas Lincoln Casey, corps of engineers, U. S. A., was designated by President Grant, through Secretary of War McCrary, as the engineer officer to conduct the work, and Capt. George W. Davis, 14th U. S. infantry, was ordered here from Texas, and placed on special duty as an acting engineer officer, as assistant for the monument construction.

The first work done was in 1877, when shafts were sunk at different points about the monolith and borings made to find the character of the strata below the foundation. It had already been ascertained that the original foundation extended only five feet below the surrounding earth surface, while fourteen feet reached above to the floor of the shaft. The examinations showed that below the old foundation was a series of layers of yellow and blue clay on a rock strata, sloping away to the original bed of the adjoining Potomac, and that these beds of clay were filled in at places with huge boulders of the ice-period. The clay taken out was tested for compressibility, but the examinations and tests showed that, to sustain the huge structure of over 81,000 tons, the foundation should rest upon the bedrock, still fifteen feet below. These examinations and the studies of the subject made by Capt. Davis continued until 1878, when finally the plan of

BUILDING A NEW FOUNDATION

beneath the old one was decided upon, to the astonishment of engineers all over the civilized world. How such a thing could be done was the wonder until Col. Casey and Capt. Davis practically demonstrated it by accomplishing the fact.

The old foundation was so ridiculously shallow and narrow in base that the addition of the weight necessary to carry out the design of height would have sunk the structure into the ground, much like thrusting a cane into moist earth, or, more to the point, have toppled it over toward the adjacent Potomac flats. A new and wide foundation was built under the old one and resting on the bedrock beneath. The magnitude of this before unheard-of feat of engineering skill was so great that home and foreign civil engineers visited the work to see for themselves that it was actually being done. The completed work of the subfoundation is one of the greatest feats of engineering skill known in the world, and Col. Casey and Capt. Davis are entitled to official recognition for their work without waiting for the slow process of army promotion.

Meantime, while the foundation examination was progressed, means had been found to reach and examine the top which was left unfinished before congress took action. The three upper courses of stone, each one two feet high, were found to be so damaged by the action of frost, and perhaps lightning, that they were removed before the work on top was resumed at the exact height of 150 feet.

September 11, 1878, an inspector of the proposed work and Mr. P. H. McLaughlin reported at the monument grounds, and were followed next day by a small gang of carpenters, of which Mr. McLaughlin was then the foreman, who began the erection of the necessary buildings. The first superintendent, who reported at the same month, was Mr. Navarre, a son of the famous old Indian fighter, in the days of Mad Anthony Wayne's campaign in the west and the war of 1812, and on his resignation in 1879 Mr. McLaughlin was promoted from master carpenter to succeed him.

THE FIRST NEW STONE LAID.

Aug. 7, 1880, the five stones above 150 feet from the foundation was laid, and to this date Mr. McLaughlin has superintended the whole of the work.

Saturday morning was as drear a day as could well be imagined, and many thought the work of setting the aluminum tipstone and aluminum tip would be postponed on that account. The rain that fell in sheeting torrents until long past noon drenched the brave superintendent and his men, but the work of preparation went steadily on, and all was ready at the appointed hour.

Soon after 1 p. m. Col. Casey arrived at the monument grounds, and at once ascended to the top of the shaft, and was followed later by his invited guests. These comprised the following named persons: Brig. Gen. William McKee Dunn, U. S. A.; Hon. Horatio King (ex-postmaster general), Dr. J. M. Toner, and Dr. Daniel B. Clarke, of the Monument society; Mr. F. L. Harvey, secretary of the society and of the joint commission of the monument dedication; ex-Mayor Matthew G. Emery, Mr. G. Freebus, the draughtsman of the new portion of the monument; J. B. Dutton and G. M. Thomas, clerks of Col. Casey's office; John Cronin, of Col. Casey's messenger force; J. L. Smithmeyer; Mr. Hinckeldyn, of the German legation; Gen. Horatio King, jr., of Gov. Cleveland's staff, and representatives of the Associated Press, the United Press, and the local newspapers. Col. Casey's official party comprised besides himself Capt. Davis, the assistant engineer in charge, and Col. Bernard R. Green, his assistant in the state, war, and navy building construction.

When the guests arrived at

THE 500-FOOT LEVEL,

where the pyramidal roof begins, the wind was blowing from the southeast that sensating men designate as "a living gale," and but few availed themselves of the opportunity of going further. Gen. Dunn ventured outside on the platform on the east side below which the netting is hung, and promptly lost his Derby hat, which gyrated in various directions as it was carried to leeward of the shaft or was caught by the wind and finally settled gracefully in Babcock lake, when it was rescued by a workman and awaited the general on his arrival below. When the hat left so also did Gen. Dunn for the interior of the monument, where he was soon bewigged with all the silk handkerchiefs in the party. He says he intends having the hat framed as a memento.

There were two means of going higher than 500 feet above the monument floor. One was by spliced ladders extending almost perpendicularly from the base of the pyramidal cap to the platform at 533 feet, and thence by a shorter ladder to the smaller platform from which the cap and apex was set, and another, by a winding series of ladders leading up inside the cone to the trap left in the last course below the capstone. No one except the journalists present dared the outer ladder, and most of those availed themselves of additional security by having a strong rope about the waist and hauled by sturdy workmen above, so that if the strong wind should blow them from the ladder there would be no fall. The reporter of THE REPUBLICAN shinned up the ladder without help, but didn't at all like it, and when all was over hesitated some time before returning the same way.

Promptly at 2 p. m. the ceremony of

SETTING THE FINIALS

began. At this time the narrow platform was occupied by Col. Casey, Capt. Davis, Col. Green, Mr. McLaughlin, Dennis O'Leary (his master mason), James Hogan (master rigger), Edward Wayson (the elevator conductor), Lewis O'Brien (the colored man who has prepared all the cement for the cap), and one other. At the hour named Col. Casey passed the word below to the men at the hoisting apparatus, and the stone was swung into place, and after all those present on the platform had placed a portion of the cement, Col. Casey giving the last touch, it was slowly lowered into its resting place, and the aluminum tip was placed on the top. Before the apex was set various coins, ranging from a $10 gold piece of Col. Casey to a nickel contributed by a newspaper man, were placed in the cement on which the metal rests. As the bright tip was secured Col. Casey turned to the hundreds that loosened the American flag from the top of the scaffolding, and at the same moment Col. Green leaned over the frail railing and waved his hat to signal those below. The signal was seen by the watching thousands, and even before the beautiful flag of the country had flung out its folds, a puff of smoke from an iron throat in the white lot began the congratulation that in a second more was voiced from hundreds of steam whistles and thousands of throats. The slender flagstaff that hoists its truck fifteen feet above the tip of the scaffold above the apex was too slight to bear the strain Saturday of the garrison flag provided, and it was flown instead from the northwest corner joist. Yesterday Mr. McLaughlin hoisted it to the truck, where it fluttered bravely all the bright summer-like day.

After all was over, and the guests gathered at the elevator top below, Col. Casey, Capt. Davis, and Mr. McLaughlin were heartily congratulated, and after the elevator had taken below the last of the visitors, those engaged on the work took part in a generous lunch provided by Col. Casey.

As the guns and whistles announced the completion of the outer work, an informal meeting of the Monument society was held at the elevator top, when Gen. Dunn offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That we are thankful to have the opportunity of this occasion, and at this elevation, to congratulate the American people on the completion of this enduring monument of our nation's gratitude to the father of his country."

The terrible storm deterred more than a few hundred from being present at the monument, but had the day been as fair as yesterday or the day preceding the ceremony it is more than probable that fully 10,000 would have been there. The detail of policemen and the vigilant watchmen of the monument were kept busy answering inquiries at the entrance and keeping back unauthorized applicants for permission to go to the top, but despite their vigilance one enterprising young American, who gave his name as Henry Phillips, not only took passage on the elevator, but went up the outer ladders and to the uppermost platform before he was headed and sent below.

When the elevator began its long and dark descent with its first load of passengers after the ceremonies were over about thirty people were on board, including Gen. Dunn and his handkerchief-swathed head, and just after starting down Mr. Fred G. Calvert, in a good barytone voice, struck up the "Star Spangled Banner." The example was infectious, and all joined until the shaft rung with the stirring strains. The effort was applauded by those still above, which further inspired the passengers to sing "America" and, at Gen. Dunn's suggestion, "Old Hundred."

Arrived at the bottom, the visitors came forth glad that they were safely back again to the earth's surface, and glad that, after these many years, the greatest monument on earth is completed as to its external structure.

Yesterday the monument grounds were thronged all day, and it is estimated that fully 5,000 people were there.

CAPTURED BY TRAIN ROBBERS.

Bandits Board a Train Near Little Rock and Secure $6,000.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Dec. 7.—At 10:30 o'clock last night the passenger train on the Little Rock, Mississippi River and Texas railroad, coming this way, when three miles below Little Rock, was stopped by five masked robbers, who switched the train off, took complete possession, and went through all the passengers. Conductor Rice and Express Messenger Honeycutt were in the baggage car. The robbers opened fire as they went toward the engine, and both men were covered with revolvers. About seventy-five people were in the cars, and great excitement followed. The women fainted in some cases, in other capacities he was distinguished for untiring energy and brilliant intellect.

Mr. Harris leaves a devoted wife in this city and aged parents in Wrightsville to mourn his loss, while he leaves a legacy of his death will be said intelligence to hundreds who have realized and appreciated his noble traits of character. In his last days Mr. Harris was a zealous and earnest Christian, and shortly before his death was admitted to the Methodist episcopal church, of which his parents are members.

The remains will be taken from this city to Wrightsville on an early train to-day, after brief services at his late residence.

A large number of the prominent citizens of the city met at the rooms of the United Press last night to take proper action on the death of Mr. Harris. Capt. E. W. Brady, editor of the *Hatchet*, was selected to act as chairman and F. P. Morgan as secretary. Mr. W. E. Ringwalt, of the *Critic*, briefly but feelingly eulogized Mr. Harris's social and associate, and a committee of five, consisting of Messrs. H. P. Godwin, Henry de Witte, A. J. Clarke, W. E. Ringwalt, and W. W. Burhans, were appointed to draft resolutions to be presented to the club. Mr. Harris. The committee reported as follows:

"The newspaper men of this city feel a loss which they have sustained in the death of Oscar N. Harris, and to record this tribute to his worth as a journalist and as a member of the community. He was distinguished by brightness of intellect and an indefatigable energy which made him eminent among his associates. As a journalist he was always prompt to espouse and honest and fearless in advocating the cause of right. Throughout a varied and successful journalistic career of a few years he wove combined the highest qualities of heart and brain and won the love and respect of all who knew him. In this hour of sorrow and bereavement his late associates desire to add to their tribute of regard an assurance of sympathy with the dolence with the widow and parents who survive a true husband and a noble son."

Among those present at the meeting were M. D. Helm, W. E. Ringwalt, Fletcher Hodges, A. T. Cowell, and F. P. Morgan of the *Critic*; Capt. E. W. Brady, of the *Hatchet*; Harry P. Godwin and F. P. Ferris, of the *Star*; Henry de Witte, Washington REPUBLICAN; H. L. West, Washington *Post*; W. W. Burhans and P. V. De Graw, the United Press; D. R. McKee and A. J. Clark, Associated Press; Frank Truesdell, Baltimore *American*; E. W. Lightner, Pittsburg *Dispatch*; W. B. Stevens, St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*; John Alden, Brooklyn *Times*; Jas. S. Allison, Louisville *Courier-Journal*; P. S. Heath, Indianapolis *News*; J. E. Shepherd, Indianapolis *Times*; F. A. Depuy, New York *Times*; H. V. Boynton, Cincinnati *Commercial-Gazette*; Felix Crayeraft, Pittsburg *Chronicle-Telegraph*; Edwin Fleming, St. Louis *Republican*; John M. Carson, Philadelphia *Leiger*; C. A. Hamilton, Buffalo *Express*; H. A. Preston, New York *Herald*; E. B. Wight, Chicago *Tribune*; C. T. Murray, Philadelphia *Times*; F. C. Crawford, Detroit *News*; Chas. F. Towle, Boston *Traveller*.

CENTENARY OF METHODISM.

Another Great Religious Conference to Meet in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 7.—Immediately following the plenary council of the Catholic church of the United States a celebration of the centenary of Methodism will be held by the assembling of a general conference, which meets on Tuesday next at Mount Vernon church, and will continue in session until the 16th. The conference will consist of about 600 members, representing the Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal South, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Colored Methodist Episcopal, Independent Methodists, Canada Methodists, and primitive Methodist churches. These branches represent almost 4,000,000 of members, or a Methodist community of about 20,000,000. The Methodist Protestant church and other non-Episcopal churches will not be represented officially. They will, however, send fraternal delegates. It is expected that the bishops of the various branches of the church will be present. Baltimore was considered a fitting place for the centennial meeting, the first Methodist conference in the United States having been held in this city in December, 1784. It is anticipated that 10,000 visitors will be present and, arrangements have been made with the various railroads for reduced rates of fare. Persons desiring to attend the conference on addressing Mr. J. Frank Supplee, chairman of the transportation committee, in Baltimore, will receive an order or certificate entitling them to the reduced rates. The fare between Washington and Baltimore will be $1.65 for the round trip.

Violent Storm at San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 7.—A terrific norther commenced blowing at midnight last night, and has continued all day. The storm has been the most violent ever experienced here. Passengers on the ferry boats have been made seasick, street signs blown down, and windows blown in. Several vessels broke from their moorings and were washed ashore and many others were seriously damaged. The American ship Edward O'Brien got into such a dangerous position that her captain paid a steamtug $5,000 to tow her to a safe anchorage. Two sections of the seawall were crushed in and the breakwater at the foot of Green street was completely washed away. It is impossible to estimate the damage. No casualties have been reported from outside.

Horrible Murder in a Penitentiary.

CHICAGO, Dec. 7.—A dispatch from Joliet, Ill., to the *Daily News* says: "Last night one of the penitentiary guards was attracted to cell 301 by cries of "murder," and found Convict John Kelly, a burglar, stabbing his cell-mate, William Gaines. The murderous convict refused to desist, inflicting stabs after stab with brutal ferocity until the turnkey arrived, unlocked the cell door, and overpowered him. Gaines's body was gashed in more than twenty places. One wound extended across the abdomen, from which the bowels protruded. He cannot live. The blade of the knife was broken in three pieces. No cause is assigned for the act. Gaines belongs to a good family in Brooklyn.

Soft-Glove Science for the Cultured.

BOSTON, Dec. 7.—Sullivan and Alf Greenfield are to meet each other in a four-round match with soft gloves at the Institute fair building Dec. 22. It is understood that a license has already been secured.

OSCAR K. HARRIS.

Death of a Well-Known Journalist—Brief Sketch of His Career—Resolutions of Respect.

Mr. Oscar Kauffelt Harris died yesterday morning at his late residence, No. 713 Second street northwest, after a long illness of pulmonary consumption. Mr. Harris has long been known in this city on account of his newspaper connections, which began in 1862, when he became a reporter on the *Star*, then under the management of Mr. W. D. Wallach. In 1864 he worked for a time on THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN. Later in that year he became the local editor of the *National Intelligencer*, which had been purchased from Messrs. Gales & Seaton by Messrs. Snow & Coyle. It was during his connection with the *Intelligencer* that he reported the executions of the conspirators, Payne, Atzerodt, and others. He subsequently reported the trials of Mary Harris, for killing A. J. Burroughs, and of John H. Surratt, for alleged connection with the conspiracy to assassinate President Lincoln. About 1868 he, with Owen Thorn, F. A. McCartney, W. J. Bennett (all deceased), and R. K. Elliott, esq., started the *Evening Express*, an afternoon paper, which had a brief but brilliant existence. In the meantime Mr. Harris commenced, in connection with F. A. Richardson, esq., to make manifold reports of the proceedings of congress for the Baltimore and Washington papers and for the several rivals that sprung up against the New York Associated Press under different names. About 1874 the New York Associated Press insisted upon furnishing the congressional news to all the papers in the association. Mr. Harris continued, however, to report the proceedings of the house of representatives for press associations until the close of the winter of 1881, so that his experience in the house of representatives lasted for fifteen years, during which period he reported the exciting scene attending the impeachment of Andrew Johnson and the various measures affecting the reconstruction acts. Mr. Harris corresponded for several years with the Baltimore *Sun*, his letters for a long time being signed "O. K." He was also associated with Maj. Ben: Perley Poore in the correspondence of the Boston *Journal*, his dispatches being signed "Videx." In 1868 he became the editor of THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN. In 1871 the *Patriot* was started by a stock company as a democratic paper, and Mr. Harris became the secretary and managing editor. In 1875 there was a big printers' strike in this city, and the printers started a paper called the *Tribune*, which Mr. Harris edited. Subsequently he devoted his time to reporting proceedings of congress until the *Evening Critic* passed into the hands of the present management, in June, 1881, when he became its managing editor, which position he continued to occupy until Oct. 16 last, when he was compelled to succumbon account of ill-health, and has since been confined to his bed.

Mr. Harris was 48 years of age, having been born at Wrightsville, York county, Pa., Nov. 16, 1836. There is a beautiful cemetery on a hill back of the town, where he will sleep among his relatives and kindred, his family having been prominent residents of that vicinity for 150 years.

Mr. Harris has been prominent and active in many important local and national movements through his long and varied newspaper career. During a brief period he filled the position of school trustee, and in this as in other capacities he was distinguished for untiring energy and brilliant intellect.

Mr. Harris leaves a devoted wife in this city and aged parents in Wrightsville to mourn his loss, while he leaves a legacy of his death will be said intelligence to hundreds who have realized and appreciated his noble traits of character in his last days Mr. Harris was a zealous and earnest Christian, and shortly before his death was admitted to the Methodist episcopal church, of which his parents are members.

The remains will be taken from this city to Wrightsville on an early train to-day, after brief services at his late residence.

A large number of the prominent citizens of the city met at the rooms of the United Press last night to take proper action on the death of Mr. Harris. Capt. E. W. Brady, editor of the *Hatchet*, was selected to act as chairman and F. P. Morgan as secretary. Mr. W. E. Ringwalt, of the *Critic*, briefly but feelingly eulogized Mr. Harris's social and associate, and a committee of five, consisting of Messrs. H. P. Godwin, Henry de Witte, A. J. Clarke, W. E. Ringwalt, and W. W. Burhans, were appointed to draft resolutions to be presented to the club. Mr. Harris. The committee reported as follows:

"The newspaper men of this city feel a loss which they have sustained in the death of Oscar N. Harris, and to record this tribute to his worth as a journalist and as a member of the community. He was distinguished by brightness of intellect and an indefatigable energy which made him eminent among his associates. As a journalist he was always prompt to espouse and honest and fearless in advocating the cause of right. Throughout a varied and successful journalistic career of a few years he wove combined the highest qualities of heart and brain and won the love and respect of all who knew him. In this hour of sorrow and bereavement his late associates desire to add to their tribute of regard an assurance of sympathy with the dolence with the widow and parents who survive a true husband and a noble son."

Among those present at the meeting were M. D. Helm, W. E. Ringwalt, Fletcher Hodges, A. T. Cowell, and F. P. Morgan of the *Critic*; Capt. E. W. Brady, of the *Hatchet*; Harry P. Godwin and F. P. Ferris, of the *Star*; Henry de Witte, Washington REPUBLICAN; H. L. West, Washington *Post*; W. W. Burhans and P. V. De Graw, the United Press; D. R. McKee and A. J. Clark, Associated Press; Frank Truesdell, Baltimore *American*; E. W. Lightner, Pittsburg *Dispatch*; W. B. Stevens, St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*; John Alden, Brooklyn *Times*; Jas. S. Allison, Louisville *Courier-Journal*; P. S. Heath, Indianapolis *News*; J. E. Shepherd, Indianapolis *Times*; F. A. Depuy, New York *Times*; H. V. Boynton, Cincinnati *Commercial-Gazette*; Felix Crayeraft, Pittsburg *Chronicle-Telegraph*; Edwin Fleming, St. Louis *Republican*; John M. Carson, Philadelphia *Leiger*; C. A. Hamilton, Buffalo *Express*; H. A. Preston, New York *Herald*; E. B. Wight, Chicago *Tribune*; C. T. Murray, Philadelphia *Times*; F. C. Crawford, Detroit *News*; Chas. F. Towle, Boston *Traveller*.

THE KISS OF PEACE.

IMPRESSIVE CLOSING CEREMONIES OF THE PLENARY COUNCIL.

Jeweled Mitres and Splendid Vestments Glittering in the Sunshine—Bishop Spalding's Eloquent Parting Sermon—Signing the Decrees and Exchanging the Final Salute.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 7.—The closing session of the plenary council of the Catholic church, at the cathedral to-day, was marked by all the pomp and ceremony which the church throws around the acts of its priests and prelates. As on the opening day, there was a street procession from the archiepiscopal residence to the cathedral, which was witnessed by a large crowd of spectators. The sky was clear, and the bright sunshine pouring down on golden miter, jeweled crosses, and rich parti-colored vestments, made up a very imposing spectacle; the pale, ascetic face of some aged archbishop, or the snowy and patriarchal beard of a venerable abbot, contrasting strongly with the fresh, youthful faces of the numerous altar boys who acted as train-bearers. The procession was headed by the seminarians of St. Sulpice chanting psalms, and then followed in regular order regular and secular clergy, theologians, superiors of religious orders, rectors of theological seminaries, monsignori, mitered abbots, bishops, archbishops, and an archiepiscopal cross-bearer between two acolytes and preceding Archbishop Gibbons, the apostolic delegate, accompanied by his deacons of honor. At the cathedral pontifical mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Michael Corrigan, coadjutor archbishop of his eminence the cardinal of New York. On account of the sickness of Rev. P. W. Riordan, coadjutor archbishop of San Francisco, Bishop Spalding, of Peoria, preached the sermon. It was a very eloquent address, and was devoted chiefly to a review of the work of the council. Even to the casual observer, he said, the Catholic church must present marks which stamp her with the impress of God's hand. During the past four weeks there have been gathered together men of many tongues and lands, with varied lines of thought, sentiment, and manner; and when they met in the council all differences were merged in the unity of the faith, and all that was looked to was the enactment of just and wise laws. The council met at the call of the vicar of Christ. The prelates profess the faith that was once delivered to the saints and that has been handed down from pope to pope. The marks of holiness are not absent in these men; they are seen in their unswerving devotion to principle, their love for humanity, and their self-sacrifice. Whatever could they have than a desire to uplift man to a purer, a higher and freer life? The questions which were discussed by the council had a direct bearing on the social, moral, religious, and intellectual welfare of the people, and of the country at large. It was the church in this country that woman was raised up, that childhood was cared for, and the poor aided; and here in this country, where womanhood is honored, where childhood is watched over, and where the poor are aided, the prelates of the council have sought to remove all obstacles which might prevent the spread of the truth and have come in a spirit of universal charity and world-wide benevolence to frame decrees which shall inspire greater reverence for the law as it is in Christ Jesus. They have been consecrated, chosen, ordained, and set apart to the work, and have bound the members of the church in the bonds of a sweet and loving charity; the priest as well as the people they believe should be raised up to the highest ideal, and have sought to direct the steps of the priesthood that in it may be seen the sweetness, the meekness, and the gentleness of Christ. They have been busy advocating more advanced studies, and have laid the foundations of what will yet be a great American Catholic college, thus inspiring all with a love for intellectual progress. They have treated of education in general, of a system which will combine in it the rights of religion and of government. They have dealt also with questions affecting the family, which is the basis of the church. They went to Rome, to hold up before the eternal verities of marriage, which, they say, is a perpetual union, lasting as long as life lasts, and with no cause for divorce but death. They have pleaded for the cause of sobriety and temperance. They stand on the side of good laws and customs, and wish to make the world so that man may be truly free and grow in moral purity and intellectual worth. They have tried to make the Catholic press and Catholic literature so that men may be led to take greater interest in matters affecting them as Catholics and American citizens. They have laid down laws for the guidance of scholars in their relation with the church, and have sought to know what is for good and what for harm in the church. Their deliberations have been conducted with dignity and the full thought has been spoken without restriction. It is not possible to realize what has been done for the church in this country during the last hundred years, but a thousand years from now, men can look back on the triumphs which have been achieved through all eclipse and shadows, and doubts and storms, and uncertainties and inimical tradition, and unfavorable public opinion. They have laid low all disorder, rebellion, and schism, they have gathered together many forces and many tongues, and while banishing their defects have preserved their virtues and throughout all the church has shown that her forces likes those of nature are indestructible, and bring life from death, and beauty and harmony from chaos.

After the sermon the vestments of the prelates and priests were changed from white to those of a red color, this color being symbolical of the tongues of fire which descended on the apostles on Pentecost Sunday. The vestment of the apostolic delegate and his attendants were in crimson. Hymns and psalms were then sung and prayers intoned. At the conclusion of these the apostolic delegate took his seat at the altar steps with Bishop Kain, of Wheeling, at his right, and Bishop Janssens, of Natchez, at his left, and the last session of the council was opened. Monsignor Corcoran read the chapters of the decrees passed during last week, and they were formally approved. When this was ended the pens and ink with which the bishops and officers were to sign their names in testimony of the genuineness of the decrees were placed on the altar. The apostolic delegate was the first to sign his name.

After all the prelates were again seated Archbishop Kenrick went up to the apostolic delegate, and they exchanged the kiss of peace. The archbishop then stood to one side and Archbishop Alemany similarly saluted the apostolic delegate, and after exchanging the kiss with Archbishop Kenrick took his place at his side. Then each prelate saluted the apostolic delegate, and passing along the line saluted each of the prelates as he passed. The kiss of peace is given simply by the two prelates placing their heads close together and whispering the Latin words "Pax tecum" to each other.

When the prelates had all been seated at the end of this ceremony, Archbishop Kenrick, of St. Louis, advanced to the front of the altar and, in a broken voice, said that he, the fallen to my lot to be the oldest bishop in this council, the arrangements and preparations for which it is needless to say caused great anxiety, care, and labor for the apostolic delegate who presided over its deliberations. Therefore I return him thanks on behalf of its members."

The feeble old man was obliged to stop frequently in the delivery of his short address through the infirmities of age, and at its close went with uncertain steps back to his seat among the archbishops. The Te Deum was sung by the choir. The closing prayer recited, the papal benediction pronounced by the most reverend apostolic delegate, and the third plenary council ended.

THE PLAGUE IN VIRGINIA.

The Victims So Numerous as to Make Proper Burial Difficult.

LOUISVILLE, KY., Dec. 7.—A *Courier-Journal* correspondent now visiting the plague-stricken districts of Eastern Kentucky and Virginia, telegraphs that a horrible state of affairs exist in Wise and Lee counties, Virginia. A number of instances are cited in which whole families perished. The disease has caused more deaths in Letcher county, Kentucky, and Wise county, Virginia, than in any other counties. In the latter county the deaths have been so numerous that it has been difficult to provide for the proper burial of the victims.

PETERSBURG, VA., Dec. 7.—Information has been received here through A. H. Hilton, a merchant of Wise county, in Southwest Virginia, who is now in this city, that the plague, which has caused such mortality in that section of the state, is now on the decrease. He says that between 250 and 300 persons, from 3 to 80 years of age, have died of the disease. The plague is attributed to the drought and its effect upon the drinking water.

France Threatened With Reprisals.

LONDON, Dec. 7.—The French ministers at Vienna, Rome, and Constantinople send warnings to their home governments that the contemplated increase of duty on grain and flour will expose France to reprisals in other countries. The Hungarian government has requested the foreign department at Vienna to remonstrate with France and to threaten the imposition of new duties on French products. Signor Curti, the Italian economist, writes to the Paris newspapers that in case France levies increased duties on foreign products foreign markets will be closed against her.

TO SUSPEND SILVER COINAGE.

Mr. Buckner to Offer a Bill to Stop Making the Standard Dollar.

Representative Buckner, of Missouri, chairman of the committee on banking and currency, will introduce to-day a bill to suspend the coinage of the silver dollar. The provisions of the bill are as follows:

SEC. 1. That so much of the act entitled "an act to authorize the coinage of the standard silver dollar and to restore its legal tender character," passed Feb. 28, 1878, as authorizes and directs the secretary of the treasury to purchase from time to time silver bullion at the market price thereof, not less than two million dollars worth per month and not more than four million dollars' worth per month, and cause the same to be coined monthly, as fast as so purchased, into standard silver dollars, and which appropriates out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, a sum sufficient to carry out the said provision as to the coinage of the standard silver dollar, be and the same is hereby suspended for the term of three years from the 4th day of March, 1885.

SEC. 2. That immediately after the taking effect of this act the President shall open correspondence with the governments of Great Britain, Germany, and the members of the Latin union, so called, and with such other European and American governments as he may deem advisable, and urge upon them the desire of the government and people of the United States for the establishment of a common ratio between gold and silver, and, by international agreement, securing fixity of relative money value between these metals; and whenever any three of the European governments, including that of Great Britain, shall concur in the importance and propriety of such international agreement, the President is directed to invite a conference, at such time and place as may be agreed upon, of delegates from the said several governments of Europe and America.

SEC. 3. The President is authorized to direct any three of the American ministers accredited to the courts of Europe, to represent the United States in such conference, or he may, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, appoint not more than three special commissioners to attend said conference, who shall be paid the same compensation as provided in the act aforesaid of Feb. 28, 1878, and the amount necessary to pay said compensation, and the reasonable expenses of such commission is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated."

POPULAR SCIENCE.

A Brief Talk With Prof. Richard Proctor, the Eminent English Astronomer.

"How do I get audiences to listen to astronomical lectures?", said Prof. Richard Proctor repeating a REPUBLICAN reporter's question last night. "Why, it's the simplest thing in the world. I don't talk technically to them. Instead of saying that the average equatorial paralax of the sun is so many degrees and minutes and seconds, I say that the sun is so many miles away from the earth. That may not be the scientific way of putting it, but it is the fact according to the deductions of science. People say to me that I am degrading science by popularizing its terms, but I beg to differ with that view. So far as the scientific standing is concerned, I think that the fact of my maintaining a four years' controversy with the astronomers royal of England, in which I held my own all the time and came out victor in the end is sufficient justification. The matter in dispute? It was a question about the transit of Venus, where were the best points of observation, &c. My conclusions have been accepted since as verities."

"Shall you lecture here during your visit?"

"Mrs. Proctor, will you bring me a bonnet," said the professor, addressing a lady engaged in conversation in another part of the room, whom he introduced as the best result of his visits to America. "Am I to lecture here?"

"Yes, you are to give two lectures—on January 19 I think the first is fixed for."

"I am glad of that," continued Mr. Proctor, "for I have a very pleasant recollection of my audience here in 1874, when I delivered a lecture here."

"What do you think of the city as compared with what it was then and with others?"

"It is vastly improved. Many things then so backward have improved since my visit, and it is now one of the most beautiful, if it does not, indeed, surpass any that I have seen. It is wonderfully refreshing to walk along your wide, clear streets and avenues."

"That was a most beautiful sunset this evening," remarked Mr. Proctor, "the buildings facing west were illumined as if by an aurora, and, indeed, there was a counterfeit aurora in the sky opposite."

"Anything now in the matter of the causes of these red sunsets?" asked the reporter of Mr. Proctor.

"Nothing, except that it will hardly do now to attribute them to the effect of the volcanic eruptions. In fact, that theory was disproved when it became known that they had appeared in the south at least two years before the eruptions in question took place."

REFORMS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The Irish Press Jubilant Over the Success of the Franchise Bill.

LONDON, Dec. 7.—In the house of commons to-day the speaker announced that the royal assent had been given to the franchise bill.

The liberal electoral agents and the liberal associations of Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, and Manchester are sending protests to Mr. Gladstone, the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, president of the board of trade, and Rt. Hon. Sir Charleys Dilke, president of the local government board, against the division of the burroughs into sections under the new redistribution bill. The managers of the London association of workingmen's clubs likewise protest against sectional representation. They say it will destroy the caucus organization of the pary and split the popular vote.

Mr. Chamberlain has written a letter to the liberals of Glasgow, in which he advises them to make the municipal contests political, and so prepare the way for the parliamentary contest. He argues that the conservatives are likely to stand still in municipal politics.

The conservative papers are devoting much attention to the revolt of the radicals against the single-seat principle. They contend that the government must either maintain this principle under its pledge of agreement with Lord Salisbury or must resign.

The Parnellites calculate that they will be able to return eighty-five members to the house as soon as the redistribution bill goes into effect. The nationalist press hails the coming electoral revolution with expressions of jubilant gratification. *United Ireland* declares that the redistribution bill will produce the most momentous change in the British constitution since the reform bill was proposed to parliament, and says it will lead to the final triumph of the national cause.

The Congo Question.

BERLIN, Dec. 7.—United States Minister Kason is preparing an elaborate project, dealing in a wide and comprehensive manner with the question of the neutrality of the Congo basin, which he will submit to the Congo conference early this week. The main proposal of the scheme tends to assure the countries comprised in the project that a declaration is necessary as a security against dangers arising from international disputes.

Sir Edward Malet, the English delegate to the Congo conference, has intimated to the agents of the African international association in this city that England's recognition of the status of the association depends upon the open purchase by the association of their rights in the Congo territories. Sir Edward Malet also refuses to submit the French claims of priority in the purchase. France has stipulated that free trade in the Congo country shall be limited to twenty years.

LONDON, Dec. 7.—Mr. Henry M. Stanley, at the formation of a branch of the Scottish geographical society at Dundee, last night, said Portugal had no warrant for the claim put forward to certain rights in the Congo country. He assured his audience that the Congo association was not instituted from selfish motives.

Protesting Against the Spanish Treaty.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—The cigar-makers of this vicinity held their usual Sunday meeting to protest against the adoption of the Spanish treaty to-day. A Mrs. L. J. Velasquez, who said she belonged to no woman's rights party, but was simply a protectionist laboring in the interests of the workingmen, made an address. She said she had been sent by a number of United States senators to make a tour of the country and agitate the Spanish treaty question. Mrs. Velasquez was positive that forty-one senators and 146 congressmen would vote against the treaty. Senator Hill told her yesterday, she said, that he would speak against it.

Prof. Riley's Gold Medal.

Prof. Riley, United States entomologist, has just received from George Cadell, esq., secretary of the international forestry exhibition at Edinburgh, the first gold medal awarded to him, it being the only gold medal awarded by the exhibition managers to an American. The medal is large and handsome, with a relief of the city of Edinburgh, including the castle and Arthur's seat on the one side, with the words, "International Forestry Exhibition, Edinburgh, 1884." The reverse side has a marginal relief with the words, "Be aye sirickin in a tree, it'll be growin' when ye're sleepin," then a relief wreath on a polished face with the words, "Awarded to Professor Riley, Washington, for Collection of Insects Injurious to Forest Trees."

TO SUSPEND SILVER COINAGE.

Mr. Buckner to Offer a Bill to Stop Making the Standard Dollar.

Representative Buckner, of Missouri, chairman of the committee on banking and currency, will introduce to-day a bill to suspend the coinage of the silver dollar. The provisions of the bill are as follows:

SEC. 1. That so much of the act entitled "an act to authorize the coinage of the standard silver dollar and to restore its legal tender character," passed Feb. 28, 1878, as authorizes and directs the secretary of the treasury to purchase from time to time silver bullion at the market price thereof, not less than two million dollars worth per month and not more than four million dollars' worth per month, and cause the same to be coined monthly, as fast as so purchased, into standard silver dollars, and which appropriates out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, a sum sufficient to carry out the said provision as to the coinage of the standard silver dollar, be and the same is hereby suspended for the term of three years from the 4th day of March, 1885.

SEC. 2. That immediately after the taking effect of this act the President shall open correspondence with the governments of Great Britain, Germany, and the members of the Latin union, so called, and with such other European and American governments as he may deem advisable, and urge upon them the desire of the government and people of the United States for the establishment of a common ratio between gold and silver, and, by international agreement, securing fixity of relative money value between these metals; and whenever any three of the European governments, including that of Great Britain, shall concur in the importance and propriety of such international agreement, the President is directed to invite a conference, at such time and place as may be agreed upon, of delegates from the said several governments of Europe and America.

SEC. 3. The President is authorized to direct any three of the American ministers accredited to the courts of Europe, to repres