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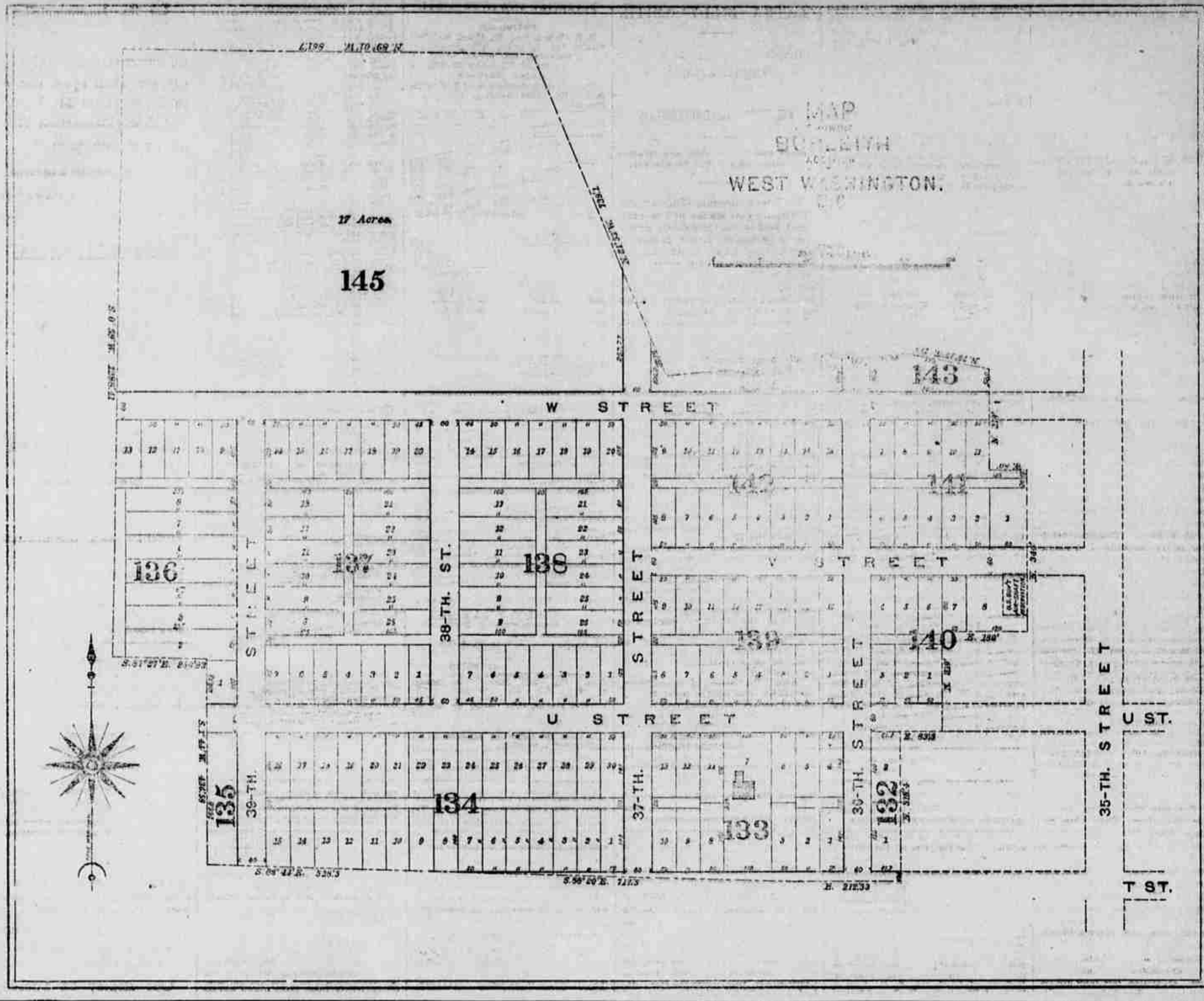

THE VISITORS' GUIDE.

Objects of Interest in and About the National Capital.

THE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

Parks, Squares, Statues, Gardens and Other Points of Attraction.

THE WAY TO REACH THEM.

Washington has already become the most attractive city of the country. As the Capital of the Nation it presents more objects of interest to the visitor than any other on the continent, and a brief directory of its prominent points will be of service to the vast number of persons who annually resort to the political metropolis. For it is estimated that over three hundred thousand strangers pay a visit every year to this city to behold the varied objects of interest which so thickly stud the historic "Ten Miles Square."

The System of Numbering Houses.

Numbers are displayed over the entrances to all houses, and the decimal system, as adopted in Philadelphia, is used—one hundred numbers being allotted to each square or block—commencing at First street west, running west, First street east, running east, A street north, running north, and A street south, running south. The odd numbers are always on the right-hand side going from the Capitol, and the even numbers on the left-hand side. The city is divided into four quarters or sections, northeast and northwest, southeast and southwest, the streets being designated accordingly; those running north and south numerically, and those running east and west by the letters of the alphabet, the dividing lines being North and South Capitol streets, running on a line due north and south from the Capitol and East Capitol street, and a continuation on the same west of the Capitol, running due east and west.

The Capitol.

This great building is the central point of the original District, and is the largest edifice in the country. Its centre marks the Meridian of Washington. The middle portion, immediately under the dome, is the part first built. It was partially destroyed by the British in 1814, but was completely restored by 1827. It incloses the "crypt"—where the remains of Washington were intended to be placed, the Library, the Rotunda, the old Representatives Hall, now the Gallery of Statuary, and the old Senate Chamber, now the Supreme Court-room. The old Supreme Court-room, in the first story, is now occupied by the Law Branch of the Library. The corner-stone of the Capitol extension—the north and south wings—was laid July 4, 1851, Daniel Webster delivering the oration on the occasion from the balcony of the Library. The south wing contains the House of Representatives, and the north wing the Senate Chamber. The rotunda is distinguished for its historic paintings, for the famous bronze doors, with their bas reliefs, and for Brumidi's frescoings. In the Hall of Statuary are the natural pictures of Potomac marble, representing faces of certain American statesmen—a picturesque freak of nature. From the little rotunda, immediately north of the great rotunda, the stairs are to the top of the dome begins its winding way. From the top of the dome, or as far as the visitor can ascend, the view of the surrounding country is magnificent. The Capitol grounds, which formerly were homely and formal in appearance, have been transformed into a beautiful park and are now most exquisitely beautiful. The east base of the Capitol is 82½ feet above ordinary low tide in the Potomac. The total height from east base to the top of the [illegible] dome is 2[illegible] feet; [illegible] of the Goddess of Liberty, 19½ feet, making the total height to the crest of the statue 287½ feet. This crest is 360 feet higher than the west gate of the grounds, and 397 feet above low tide in the Potomac, or 248 feet lower than the apex of the Washington Monument, which is immediately west. The building is 751 feet long by 324 wide, and covers 3½ acres. It is the finest and largest public building in the world, and in many respects the costliest and handsomest. It is moreover the growth of less than a century—a fact which adds to its beauty and interest. The original Capitol, or centre building, is an imitation, though not a slavish one, of the Maison Carree at Nismes. The view from the west portico at night, when the lamps are lit in the public grounds and the lights of the city illuminate the darkness is one of the most beautiful and picturesque in the world and is well worth a journey of a thousand miles to see.

The White House.

From the west balcony of the Capitol, looking down Pennsylvania avenue, the White House is seen rearing its snowy-hued walls above the dense mass of foliage that embowers it, like a gigantic calla lily springing up amid its enfolding green blades. Were it not for the partly intervening Treasury building the view of the White House from the Capitol would be full and complete. The White House is the center of "Up-town," as the Capitol is the center of "Down-town." It is beautifully located, the view from the south windows covering the whole southern front of the city, as the view from the north up Sixteenth street west exhibits the best part of the Northwest section to the gaze. The White House is a copy of the palace of the Duke of Leinster at Dublin, with the addition of a large porch on the north front, which was added during Andrew Jackson's administration. The reservation in which it stands embraces nearly 81 acres. The main entrance is on the north, reached by the Pennsylvania avenue cars. It is two stories high on the north, is built of white free-stone, 170 feet long by 86 wide. It contains on the first floor the famous Green, Red, Blue and East rooms, the State Dining Room and the great conservatories. The Blue Room is the President's official reception room and the drawing-room of the ladies of his family. The East Room, originally designed for a banquet hall and so used as late as 1827, and in the latter part of the century used as a drying-room for clothes by Mrs. President Adams, is the largest and most noted room in the building. It is 22 feet high, 80 feet long and 40 wide. It is open to visitors every day except Sundays. Up-stairs are the Cabinet room, the private offices, the President's office, the library and the family apartments. All these rooms except the latter are open to visitors, by special permission, at suitable hours.

Lafayette Square.

Due north from the White House is Lafayette Square, the first public reservation in Washington that was improved. It contains the equestrian statue of Andrew Jackson, by Clark Mills. Many of its trees are old forest monarchs, hundreds of years old. It is in part a specimen of the old formal landscape gardening so fashionable in England two hundred years ago, a style that was imported into this country. Lafayette Square was, one hundred years ago, part of a graveyard that enclosed the square north, on which St. John's Church is built, and the square east, on which are situated the Attorney-General's office (formerly the Freedman's Bank), the Surgeon-General's office and Riggs Bank (both in the building formerly used as the United States Bank), Commodore Decatur's house, corner Fifteenth and a-half and H streets, and the old Club House, near which Philip Barton Key was killed by Daniel E. Sickles, Member of Congress from New York. The last bodies from this graveyard were not removed until 1819.

St. John's P. E. Church.

St. John's P. E. Church, which has been often called the State Church because more Presidents have worshipped there than at any other, stands at the corner of H and Sixteenth streets. It was built in 1816 and enlarged in 1820. In it have worshipped Presidents Madison, Monroe, John Quincy Adams (though the latter was a Congregationalist) Martin Van Buren, though he belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church, Harrison, Tyler, Polk, Taylor, Filmore (though the latter was a Unitarian), Pierce, Buchanan and Arthur. Presidents Lincoln, Johnson and Grant have also attended Divine services here although not steadily. Its interior reminds one very forcibly of the old, dim English country Episcopal churches.

The Treasury Department.

The Treasury Department is east of the White House and extends the whole length of the front between Pennsylvania and New York avenues. It is 582 feet long by 300 feet wide. The central east portion is built of freestone, rebuilt in 1836-41, while the other parts were commenced in 1855 and built of granite. The Cash Room in this building is a beautiful apartment in the north wing, the entrance to which is from the north porch. The vaults are under the Cash Room and can be seen on a written permit given by the treasurer of the United States, whose office is in the north east angle on the first floor. This permit must be shown the cashier who will detail guides to take the visitor into the great bullion chests of the country. The old State Department used to be on the site occupied by the northeast corner of the Treasury.

War, Navy and State Departments.

This edifice, once named by a Washington journalist the "Tribune Building," occupies the west side of the President's reservation, immediately west of the White House. The State Department occupies the south part, the Navy is located north of the State, while the War Department occupies the entire northern half. It is a new and very handsome structure. The most beautiful room in the whole building is conceded to be the library of the State Department, with south front, from whose windows the eye can sweep uninterruptedly down the Potomac to Mt. Vernon and far over the Virginia hills. The building is in the Italian Renaissance. It is 567 feet long and 343 feet wide. Its greatest height is 128 feet, and the flag, floating over the central portion, flaunts in the breeze higher up than any other flag in the city, not excepting those above the Senate and House of Representatives. The cost of the building was five millions of dollars, about three times as much as the White House, and, we think, as much as the Capitol.

Department of Justice.

Immediately north of the Treasury Building and just across the street is the Department of Justice. This building was originally erected as the Freedman's Bank. The square in which it is erected is a historic one. On the same street, at the east corner, stands Riggs' Bank, which was built for the accommodation of the Washington branch of the old United States Bank. The greater part of it is now occupied by the clerks of the Surgeon-General's Office. Around the corner to the west is the Commissary-General's Office, formerly the old Washington Club House, in front of which Philip Barton Key was shot by Sickles. The tree, under which the dead man's body lay, is still standing, although its bark had been completely removed by relic hunters. At the northwest corner of the square, above the Commissary-General's Office, is the house made famous by the ownership of Commodore Decatur, and where "Dolly" Madison lived and reigned so long a social Queen after her husband's term as President expired.

The Washington Monument.

Immediately south of the White House stands the Washington Monument, the loftiest structure erected by man, and the most imposing obelisk ever constructed. It is 555 feet above its base, which is 42 feet above tide-water. Its corner-stone was laid July 4, 1848, and the cap-stone, forming the apex, was placed in position December 6, 1884. In it are 181 blocks of inserted stones or copper, gifts from various countries and societies. The total cost will be over $1,250,000. It is situated in what will ultimately be a beautiful park.

The Naval Observatory.

To the West of the Washington Monument, on the highest elevation that borders the north bank of the river, between St. Elizabeth's Heights and Georgetown College, stands the Naval Observatory. The hill on which it stands is famous for having been the camping ground of Washington, Braddock, and the latter's army, when on their march to the fatal field, where the English General fell a victim to his self-conceit and vanity. Tradition also points out this hill as the decisive battle ground between the District Indians and the mysterious Susquehannas. This observatory contains the largest refracting telescope in the world, next to the new equatorial just built for the Lick Observatory. By its aid that most interesting, if not greatest, astronomical discovery of the country was made, the moons of Mars. The entrance to the observatory is at E and Twenty-third streets northwest. The Herdic cabs go to Twenty-second and G streets.

The Agricultural Department.

This building is situated east of the Monument. It is enclosed by the most beautiful and glowing flower garden in the country and the grounds contain the most complete Arboretum probably in the United States. Attached to this Department are the Experimental Gardens, whose offices are immediately west of the main building. The Belt Line cars go right past the grounds.

The Smithsonian.

Across Twelfth street, immediately east from the Agricultural Department, are the Smithsonian Institution and the Smithsonian Grounds. The former is a specimen of the most graceful architecture in the city, and the latter form the most beautiful landscape garden in the country. These grounds of themselves are worth a visit to Washington to see. They contain the memorial urn to the artist who designed the park, Andrew J. Downing, and the bronze statue of Professor Henry, the first secretary of the institution. The latter is at the northwest corner of the building; the Downing Urn is in the centre of the grounds, two hundred yards north of the east wing. The Smithsonian is filled with the most varied and interesting objects connected with science. It is reached by the Seventh Street, the Ninth Street and the Belt Line of street cars.

The National Museum.

The National Museum is in the Smithsonian grounds, a few yards east of the Smithsonian building. It contains thousands of the most interesting curiosities, samples of the life, customs and history of all nations. It, as well as the Smithsonian, is open daily to the public from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.

The Botanical Gardens.

Passing eastward from the Museum, over the railroad bridge that spans Sixth street, and through the pretty park lying between Maine and Missouri avenues the visitor comes to the entrance on Third street, just south of Pennsylvania avenue, of the Botanical Gardens. These interesting grounds are open daily from 9 in the morning to 6 in the evening. They were established 50 years ago. The conservatories are filled with the choicest and rarest foreign plants. Around the gardens are extensive collections of trees and shrubs. In the centre of the lawn facing the centre conservatory is the famous Bartholdi Fountain that attracted so much attention at the Philadelphia Centennial.

The Peace Monument.

Just half way across the Avenue from the northeast angle of the Botanical Garden. And at the west foot of the Capitol Grounds is the Peace Monument. This was designed by Admiral Porter in honor of the dead soldiers and sailors of the late war. It is of marble and cost, with pedestral and platform $41,000. It is proposed to remove this monument to one of the squares on the northwest section.

The Garfield Statue.

The Garfield Statue, which was unveiled May 12, 1887, is situated at the intersection of Maryland avenue and First street, and is regarded by its famous sculptor, Mr. J. Q. A. Ward, as one of his most successful achievements.

Retracing our steps we find

The Printing and Engraving Bureau

The great money mill of the Government is located at the corner of Fourteenth and B street southwest, southeast from the Monument and southwest from the Agriculture Bureau. It is reached by the Belt Line Cars, and is opened to visitors every day.

Davy Burns' Cottage.

One of the curiosities of Washington is old Davy Burns' Cottage, on Seventeenth street, near the river. It may be reached by the drive south of the President's House or by the Metropolitan or Avenue line of cars. Next door to it is General Van Ness' once stately mansion, where he brought his bride, Marcia Burns, one of the original heiresses of Washington.

Corcoran Art Gallery.

The Corcoran Art Gallery is at the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Seventeenth street, opposite the War, Navy and State Department. It is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays free; on other days (except Sundays) a small admission fee is charged. This gallery, although not to be compared with the great Old World galleries, is nevertheless a very creditable institution for so new a country as the United States. It contains among other original objects Powers' great statue of the "Greek Slave."

The Louise Home.

The Louise Home is a beautiful building at the corner of Massachusetts avenue and Fifteenth street, near Scott Circle. It has extensive grounds, beautifully embellished, and is a unique establishment. It is a memorial to the wife and daughter of Mr. W. W. Corcoran, and is intended as a home for ladies of education, birth and refinement, who have been reduced to poverty from affluence.

The Columbian University.

Coming down Fifteenth street from the Louise Home, at the corner of Fifteenth and H streets, the visitor sees the Columbian University, which occupies the site of the old Griswald mansion. This university was incorporated as Columbian College in 1821, and is under the special supervision of the Baptist Church. It is an institution famous for the discipline and thoroughness of its instruction.

The Weather Bureau.

The Signal Service, or Weather Bureau, is about one hundred yards west of the State, War and Navy Departments, on G street. It is one of the most interesting places in Washington to visit. The observers in charge, when at leisure, always take pleasure in showing visitors how they "manufacture weather."

The Postoffice Department.

The General Postoffice Department is on the square bounded by E, F, Seventh and Eighth streets. It is a handsome building, although its proximity to its larger and bolder brother, the Patent Office, somewhat obscures its great size and tends to lessen its beauty. Its different bureaus possess great interest to the visitor, but the Dead Letter Office is particularly the one to be observed. The collection of curiosities taken from the mails in transit, as specimens of the uses to which the Nation's postal conveyances are put, is both varied and unique. Everything unmailable, from an Indian tomahawk to a stuffed kangaroo, is to be seen in this collection, and it is still growing.

The Interior Department.

or, as it is popularly termed, the Patent Office, occupies the two squares between Seventh and Ninth and F and G streets. It is built in the Doric style, and is an admirable specimen of the boldest and coldest of the Greek styles. It contrasts finely with the General Postoffice, which is Corinthian, the most ornate of the pure Greek modes of architecture. The curiosities of the Patent Office are the model rooms, where many thousands of ideas have been materialized and exhibit themselves to the gaze in every stage of invention. This building, like most of the Government offices, is open to the visitor from 9 a. m to 2 p. m. The libraries of the Interior Department are well worthy of a visit. The great inauguration ball at Lincoln's second term took place in the Patent Office.

Masonic Temple.

Westward from the Patent Office across Ninth street at its intersection with F street is the handsome Masonic Temple, erected in 1858. This building is one of the most complete in its arrangements of any building consecrated to Masonic uses in the country.

The Bureau of Education.

The Bureau of Education is in a brick building due north of the Patent Office. The visitor with scholarly tastes and instincts will not fail to visit this bureau, which contains a complete collection of objects illustrating the progress and condition of education throughout the world.

Medical Museum.

On Tenth street, between E and F, round the corner westward from Masonic Temple, is the famous Medical Museum. This building was once a prominent Baptist Church. It was converted about the beginning of the war into a theatre, known the country over as Ford's, and it was in a private box there in April, 1865, that John Wilkes Booth killed President Lincoln. The latter was carried to a house, just opposite, where he died. A marble tablet in front of the house, No. 516 Tenth street, commemorates this fact. The theatre was then sequestrated by the Government and turned into the Medical Museum attached to the Surgeon-General's office. It is full of interesting surgical relics of the war, and has the largest medical library in the world. Among the curiosities within its walls is the articulated skeleton of Guiteau, the assassin of President Garfield. Coming down Tenth street from the Medical Museum the visitor will not fail to inspect the massive and beautiful Post Building, in which is situated the office of THE CRITIC. This is the largest newspaper establishment south of Philadelphia and east of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Four of the leading and most influential journals in the country—two morning, one evening (THE CRITIC) and one independent Sunday paper—have their home in this establishment.

The Geological Bureau.

The Geological Survey is located on F street, near the Ebbitt House. The Interior Department building, immense as it is, is entirely too small for the accommodation of its bureaus, two of which, besides the Educational and Geological Bureaus (Agriculture and Pension) are located in other quarters. These two last bureaus are among the largest under the Government.

The Centre Market.]

The Centre Market occupies the squares south of the Avenue, bounded by B street on the south, Seventh street on the east and Ninth street on the west. It is a very handsome market building, excelled in beauty, and probably in size, by none in the world. It is the cleanest and the best, while also the cheapest market in America.

The District Buildings.

The visitor, after leaving the Centre Market, will proceed down the Avenue to Four-and-a half street and northward up that street a few yards, when he will be in front of a dingy block of damp, dark old bricks, wherein the officers of the District are compelled to sacrifice their temper, health and good looks while attending to business. These buildings are so utterly unfitted for the purposes to which they are put, and so thoroughly abominable and insecure that they form, perhaps, the greatest curiosity in Washington. No visitor should fail to inspect them.

The City Hall.

Due north of, and two squares away from, the District Buildings, and closing up Four-and a half street at that point, is the City Hall. This is a large and commodious building, built for use rather than show, and now occupied by the District courts. Just in front and to the south of the City Hall is a column of white stone surmounted by a marble figure of Lincoln.

Judiciary Square.

The City Hall stands on the south front of Judiciary Square, one of the finest parks in the city. The city jail used to stand on the northeast corner of the square which runs from Fifth to Fourth and from D street and and Louisiana avenue to G street—three long full squares.

The Pension Office.

The new Pension Building extends nearly the entire width of Judiciary Square from Fourth to Fifth streets and from G, nearly to F street. It is by far the largest building in the world devoted to the examination and settlement of claims for pensions. It is built of red brick, and cost several hundred thousand dollars. In it was given President Cleveland's Inauguration Ball. It can be reached by the Metropolitan and the Belt Line cars.

The Government Printing Office.

The Government Printing Office is in a north-east direction from the Pension Office, at the corner of H and North Capitol streets. It is by far the largest printing establishment in the world, and is full of interest to visitors. The cost of running it goes up into millions annually, and the money is well spent. It would take columns to merely outline the gigantic establishment which employes in its busiest season over 2,500 people. It is reached by the Columbia line of street cars.

St. Elizabeth's.

Across the Anacostia River, due south from the Navy-Yard, is St. Elizabeth's or the Government's Hospital for the Insane. It lies on the top of a hill having a beautiful view of the surrounding country. There are over one thousand patients in this asylum. It is reached by a pleasant carriage drive.

The District Jail.

On the reservation which lies immediately north of E street southeast and fronts on the Anacostia River is a huge quadrangular pile of red brick known as the District Jail. This building is especially noticeable for being the one wherein the assassin of a President was hanged. Just south of it is the City Asylum. It is reached by cab or carriage, or on foot from the termination of the railway and herdic lines.

Marine Barracks—Navy-Yard.

The Marine Barracks are situated on Eighth street southeast, between G and H. Several squares further south the walls of the Navy-Yard rise before the gaze. This Navy-Yard was in its time the most famous one in the country, the second largest ship of the line in the Navy having been built here, as well as the famous cruisers, the Essex, the Wasp and others. It is to be converted into the great ordnance factory of the country, and the visitor will find hundreds of objects herein to interest him, especially the making of the steel rifled cannon.

Howard University.

Howard University is the first place in this country to provide for the higher education of the colored people generally. It is on Seventh street extended, just above Boundary, and occupies a high and picturesque site, over-looking the whole city. It is built of large cream-colored brick, specially manufactured for the occasion.

The Deaf Mute College.

Returning from Mt. Olivet the visitor will pass near by and in full sight of the Deaf Mute College, which is on the north side of Boundary street, at the north end of Eighth street northeast. It is reached by cab or the H street line of cars. It is the most prominent Deaf Mute College in the world.

The Old Soldiers' Home.

The Old Soldiers' Home lies about a mile beyond Howard University, out Seventh street extended, and is reached by the same conveyances, namely the Ninth and Seventh street car lines. Its main building is of marble, 200 feet front with a very high tower. The view from its tower surpasses any similar view in the neighborhood. A statue of General Scott adorns the grounds. There is also a National Cemetery with several thousand Union dead buried there.

The Arsenal.

The Arsenal is located at the foot of Four-and-a-half street southwest, the grounds extending over what used to be the penitentiary. It is interesting among other reasons for being the enclosure in which Mrs. Surratt and the Assassination prisoners were hanged. The band of the Second Artillery, which is stationed here, give frequent concerts in the summer that are largely attended. Reached by the Metropolitan (Four-and-a-half street branch) and the Seventh street line.

Georgetown University.

Georgetown University is the leading Catholic College in the United States. It is located on the west side of Prospect street, Georgetown, on, perhaps, the most beautiful site on the Potomac. Its buildings and grounds are very handsome. Reached by the Metropolitan street cars.

Cabin John Bridge.

Cabin John Bridge, spanning the chasm of Cabin John Creek, about eight miles from Rock Creek Bridge, is the largest single stone arch bridge in the world. Five miles above Cabin John Bridge are the Great Falls of the Potomac. The scenery is magnificent. Reached by cab.

Bladensburg.

Outside of the original District are several places of great interest to the tourist, notably Bladensburg, in Maryland, on the B. and O. R. R., seven miles from Washington. It is an old town, famous for being a hundred years ago the largest commercial city in Maryland; also for its Spa Springs, and for its associations as a favorite duelling ground in the days when the "Code of honor" was in force.

Arlington.

Across the Potomac, opposite Georgetown, and reached by cab across either the Long or the Aqueduct Bridges, is Arlington, once the home of the Lees, and now the largest national cemetery in the country. Over 15,000 soldiers are buried here. The place is exceedingly beautiful and the view of Washington grand.

Mount Vernon.

Fourteen miles below Washington down the river, reached by boat, is Mount Vernon, the home and grave of Washington. Visitors can reach it by the steamer Corcoran, Captain Blake, every day.

Alexandria.

Seven miles from Washington down the Potomac, reached by boat or by rail, is the old city of Alexandria. It contains among other objects of interest the church where Washington worshipped, the house that Braddock lived in before he went on his fatal campaign, the lodge of Masons to which Washington was attached, the store where the famous General Turner Ashby sold dry goods for many years, and many other objects of interest.

A new indictment has been found against Ridenour, charged with the murder of young Brey, in Frederick County, Virginia.

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PROF. WHITCOMB has Reopened his School of Shorthand at 1413 G st n w; class sessions Tuesday and Friday evenings.

WASHINGTON Academy of Telegraphy has removed from Capitol Hill to 631 F st n w, ROOMS 7, 8 and 9.

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