

CENTENNIAL OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL

SITE SELECTED
March 30, 1791.

BURNED BY BRITISH
August 24, 1814.



THE CAPITOL AS IT WOULD LOOK AFTER PROPOSED ALTERATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE. St. Louis Republic.

A HUNDRED years is a long time in the United States for a city to be able to record its existence, and when that city is the capital of the nation there will be scant limit to the imposing ceremonial which will inaugurate its centennial celebration in December next—the celebration which will commemorate the removal of the seat of government from the old capital of the early republic in Philadelphia to the newer site of the permanent government in Washington. Governors from every State and Territory will participate in the rejoicings. Men who are the bulwark of the nation will lend the luster of their presence and the fame of their names to the birthday celebration of the city of the government. From every section of the country will come to Washington men

national government to the day of his death in the seclusion of Mount Vernon the new city became one of the absorbing interests of Washington's life. It was he who selected the site it now occupies. Long before the question of location was settled the father of the nation had fixed the boundaries in the calmness of his immovable judgment. He was familiar with the environment from boyhood. It was close to his home and to the dearest associations of his life and he was determined that the city should arise on the triangular plain formed by the courses of the Potomac and the Eastern Branch and their junction and stretching backward to the sheltering cover of the hills of Maryland and Virginia.

Washington was the prime mover in the selection of the new site, but he had the advice and approval of Madison and Jefferson. A meeting of the three eminent statesmen was held at Mount Vernon in September, 1790, and at its close the two associates rode off into Maryland on their jaunty horses to get the advice of a man prominent in the nation as a signer of the declaration, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a man who owned considerable property in the neighborhood of Georgetown, and for that reason, as Jefferson wrote to Washington, he came into the plan "with a shyness not usual in him." But the venerable Marylander approved, nevertheless, and the site of the future city was secured.

The district laid out for the establishment of the national capital was originally ten miles square, five on each side of the river, and contained 100 square miles. Now that the land was secured to the government Washington's next thought was the appointment of a competent engineer and with

cities as its owner was chief among men.

Work on the Capitol.

After the plans of the new city had been adopted the attention of its projectors was next turned to the erection of the building for which the town was organized and bids were requested for plans of the Capitol. The requests were answered with numerous proposals, only two of which seem to have been seriously considered by President Washington—one by Dr. William Thornton and the other by Stephen L. Hallett, the former an Englishman, the latter a Frenchman. Thornton's plan was at first considered, but while imposing and beautiful it was not architecturally accurate, and the commissioners accepted the design of Hallett. Work was at once started on the new building of Congress and the corner stone was laid by George Washington with imposing ceremonies Sept. 18, 1793.

Now that the Capitol was under way and the work pushing rapidly forward, the commissioners turned their attention to the "President's house," and a design furnished by James Hoban, an Irish architect, who was acting as supervising architect of the Capitol, was soon found to be the most satisfactorily plan offered. Work was at once started on the President's headquarters. Virginia sandstone was used both for its construction and the construction of the Capitol, and both buildings were practically in readiness for the advent of the government officials in 1800, although they were obliged to confine their deliberations to the north wing of the Capitol.

With the close of the year 1800 the personal history of the city of Washington begins. One beautiful Indian

tal a defeated candidate for re-election, and his short stay of four months was embittered by the thought of his early leaving. Society, what there was of it, was formal and ceremonious, a marked difference from the lack of etiquette which ushered in the reign of Jeffersonian simplicity. Thomas Jefferson succeeded President Adams as host of the executive mansion, and the story of his inaugural—the first inaugural which the new capital had witnessed—is scantily prophetic of the pomp and beauty of the pageant of the present 4th of March.

During the eight years of Thomas Jefferson's Presidency the White House was truly the house of the people. He was a widower when he came to the office, so the duties of "receiving lady" had devolved upon the wife of Madison, then Secretary of State—the lovely Dolly of song and story, who was par excellence the "beauty" in the days when Madison was President.

The city grew but slowly during Jefferson's term of office. At its close it contained only 5,000 inhabitants, a result largely due to the continued agitation for the removal of Congress. The inauguration of President Madison was a scene of somewhat more ceremony than the lack of it displayed in 1800. Society began to flutter about the capital. Mrs. Madison started a return to the ceremonious regime of President Adams. She held levees and gave court dinners and balls, and assemblies were everywhere the rule of the hour.

In the midst of the sounds of gayety the clash of arms soon intermingled its alarm, and before the President could realize its approach war with England had been declared, the struggle known to history as the "war of 1812." Two years later Washington itself suffered the shock of an invasion. The city was in a state of almost incredible unreadiness, and when the British general and his soldiers marched up the streets of the newly built town they met with little opposition worthy of anything like the name. One after another the public buildings fell victims to the fireman's torch. The uncompleted Capitol fell first, the White House soon shared the same fate.

The British occupancy of the capital lasted only a single day, but the damage effected was incalculable. A wooden building was hastily erected for Congress, which afterward became known to fame as the "Old Capitol Prison." Madison rented the Octagon, a celebrated dwelling standing on New York avenue and Eighteenth street, in which he signed the treaty of peace with England which terminated the war. The wings of the Capitol were rebuilt in 1817. The following year the central portion was started and the original building was completed in 1827. This early erection still forms the central division of the present imposing Capitol. The corner stone of the extensions was laid in 1851, and the whole was finished in 1867, the dome being added and completed in 1868.

The modern city of Washington dates its activity, its life and its beauty from the presidency of Gen. Grant. Up to 1871 the capital was dirty, unkempt and provincial, but from that time on Congress repented of its niggardly provision for the care of the city and money was provided for much-needed improvements. The surface of the town was leveled and drained, trees were planted in profusion along the avenues and streets, parks were laid out and beautified, homes and official buildings were made attractive and comely and the present era of Washington's prosperity began.

If recent plans contemplating additions to the Capitol are carried out thirty-nine rooms will be added to the accommodations for House and Senate. The change involved in the plans, however, will be in the nature of a completion rather than a mere alteration of the structure as it now stands, inas-

much as the Capitol to-day, beautiful as it is, is not a finished edifice from an architectural view point. It is, as a whole, one of the most superb buildings in the world, but it is not perfect, and one of its faults is that the dome is set over close to one edge of it, instead of being placed in the middle to give a proper balance. It is proposed to do away with this lack of symmetry by throwing out a great portico, with "aprons," in the middle of the east front, to match and correspond with the porticoes of the two great wings. This arrangement, while satisfying the artistic requirement, would furnish a large amount of additional and much needed space for committee rooms and similar purposes. According to the plans, it alone would provide thirty-nine extra rooms.

Just how great the expense of the suggested alterations will be can hardly be estimated with accuracy, though it is likely to run up to a couple of millions of dollars, or even more. The Capitol has cost a lot of money from start to finish, and every change made in its architecture has involved an expenditure much larger than was originally contemplated. For example, when the two wings were ordered to be built the sum of \$2,675,000 was appropriated, and it was supposed that this would be sufficient, but in the end the bill ran up to \$8,000,000. For the construction of the new dome \$100,000 was provided, but it cost that much to remove the old one, and \$1,150,000 in addition was required to complete the job. As it stands to-day, with the grounds surrounding it, the huge edifice represents a cash outlay of nearly \$20,000,000—an investment that would have startled its original projectors.

Probably Uncle Sam will be lucky if he gets off with a disbursement of \$3,000,000 for the new porticoes and "aprons." According to the statement of the architect the items of expenditure to date are as follows:

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| Cost of old Capitol..... | \$2,750,000 |
| Enlargement of site..... | 685,000 |
| Rebuilding after British invasion..... | 700,000 |
| New dome..... | 1,250,000 |
| Senate and House rooms..... | 8,000,000 |
| Works of art..... | 1,400,000 |
| Furnishings..... | 2,750,000 |
| New terrace and approaches..... | 1,200,000 |
| Improvements of grounds..... | 500,000 |
| Total..... | \$19,235,000 |

He Missed the Motive.

This is a story which Representative Eddy of Minnesota tells on himself. Mr. Eddy not only enjoys the situation when the laugh is turned against him, but has a sense of humor which leads him to start the laugh sometimes himself.

"In making the campaign in my district one year," said Mr. Eddy, "I took along as an attraction a veteran of the war of 1812 and of the civil war who was a famous hand at beating the drum. He was a drummer from away back and could arouse a whole township. Drum music is an incendiary kind of thing, anyhow, and the old captain's drumming was particularly stirring.

"Well, one night, after the captain's drum had given the usual overture, I commenced my speech to the populace which had been lured to the scene by his drum. I noticed at the foot of the rostrum, the same being a big dry goods box, a bright-eyed little fellow about 12 years old, who sat through the speech, following me with great attention. It pleased me very much. Any fool can interest an audience of adults, but it takes a genius to hold a child.

"So, after the speaking, I went down and spoke to the little fellow, and after shaking hands with him asked him how he liked my speech.

"Oh, it will do," he said; 'but if I was you I would keep the captain a drummer' all the time.'"—Washington Star.

Youthful Classification.

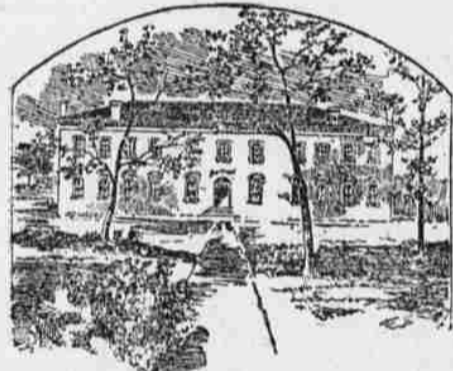
In this household the true and only Vermont maple sirup has never lost its sweetness, and several times a week from the head of the table paterfamilias pours out judiciously measured quantities of it on the plates of his children. To give pliancy to the ceremony, he always explains that this time he is going to give Bob an ostrich and Mazie an antelope, with something else from the nursery books for Teddy. One day the latter small philosopher was seen to regard the various plates for a considerable space of time in silence. "What is it, Edward?" his mother asked.

"Nuffin," replied the hopeful. "I was just flinkin' that me an' Bob an' Mazie allus seems to get birds an' snakes an' fings wiv skinny legs, but pop he generally gets a elephant or a hipperpotamus."—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Angora's Silky Fur.

A recent writer on the Angora goat calls attention to the fact that the climate of Angora possesses some remarkable peculiarity causing the development of a silky coat on animals of various kinds. Not only the famous goats which produce mohair, are thus furnished, but a similar tendency is exhibited among such animals as cats and greyhounds living in the same country.

Some men think they are good citizens because there is no snow on their walks in July.



PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, 1800.

who rejoice in its beauty and progress and whose hearts and hopes and joys and fears are bound closely together in single unanimity of purpose, resolute belief in the certainty of the course sailed by the ship of state, the ship named Union, "strong and great."

The story of the city of Washington from its conception in the mind of the republic's first President down through the change and progress of 100 years, is a fascinating record of the great men and great deeds of the country at large. Washington began corporate and national existence at the date of the establishment of the government in the unfinished wings of the primitive Capitol building, but long before the dawn of the new century the town had existence in the brains of its projectors. It had been preparing for some years for the advent of the lawmakers and the arrival of the eagerly welcomed packet which finally sailed into harbor on the Potomac after its eventful voyage from Philadelphia. It had even begun to count its historic associations by the illustrious presence of the man, who gave it his name, for, although Washington died at Mount Vernon barely a year before the official occupation of the city he had traveled to the shores of the Potomac to lay the corner stone of its Capitol when first president of the new republic which had its temporary residence in Philadelphia.

Location of the Site.

In the meantime Congress was in session at Philadelphia. A bill was introduced in the Senate "to determine the permanent seat of Congress and of the government of the United States." The discussion at once became lively and severe. The South wanted the site on the Potomac and had determined never to abandon the struggle. The North was equally stubborn in its resistance and ridiculed the idea of establishing a seat of government in the wilderness. The debate was long and arduous, but on March 30, 1791, the long-discussed act became a law, a law providing "that a site on the River Potomac, between the mouth of the eastern branch and the Conogochegue be accepted for the permanent seat of government"—a law which rewarded the persistence of the South and crowned with happy triumph the untiring and invincible efforts of the triumvirate of great men—Washington, Jefferson and Madison.

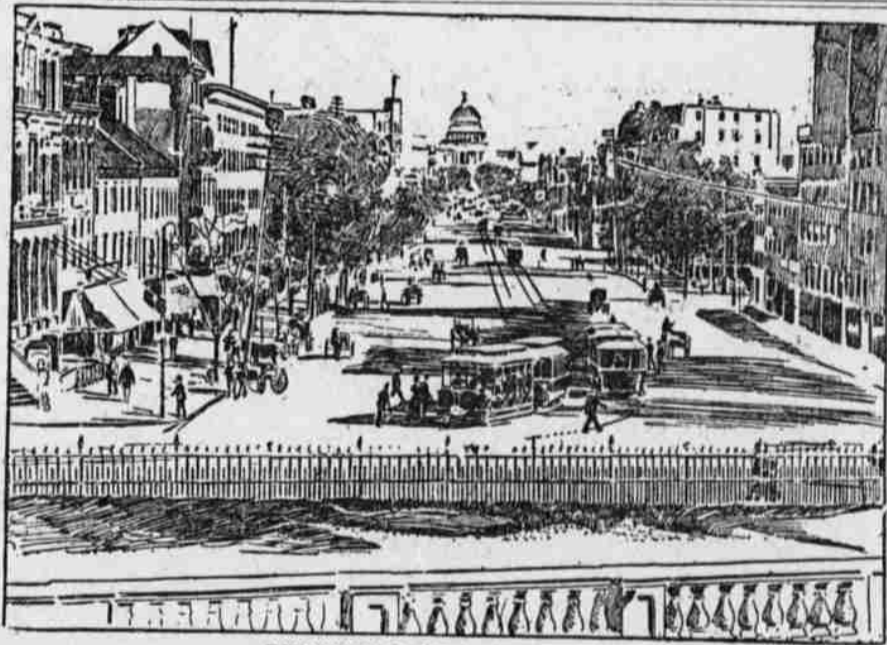
From the date of the passage of the bill which selected the site of the Potomac as the permanent seat of the na-

his broad, intelligent knowledge of men and situations he quickly discovered the official for the position in Maj. Pierre Charles L'Enfant. L'Enfant was a native of France who had served with the patriot army during the revolution and, having been educated in the highest military schools of his country, he was able to assist materially in the erection of forts and batteries. After the war he had remodeled the City Hall in New York for the occupancy of the first Congress and later he performed similar necessary services on the Federal house in Philadelphia. To him Washington now turned for the planning of the national capital and L'Enfant hailed the trust as the opportunity of his lifetime.

While plans were fomenting in the brain of the French engineer the new capital was without a name. Accordingly at a meeting of the commissioners, at which Jefferson and Madison were present, the territory was formally christened the District of Columbia, after the great navigator who had discovered the continent, while the town was hailed as Washington, chief among

summer day in October of that year the little "packet sloop" sailed up to moorings in the Potomac bearing the official furniture and records of the Congress hitherto deliberating in the case of Philadelphia. The very next day in their hired coaches of state the eminent men of the nation arrived to begin the duties of government. They were soon quartered in the little cluster of brick offices built around the white house for the departments, and when in November the President and his wife arrived and the sixth Congress started its proceedings in the single finished wing of the new Capitol the Government circle was complete. But the head of the new capital was the second, not the first, chief magistrate of the nation—Washington had died the December previously—and it was his trusted compatriot, John Adams, who began the first official rule in the first permanent capital of the United States.

The personal side of the city of Washington had little to recommend it in those early years of official occupancy. President Adams had entered the cap-



PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.