

SOME EARLY HISTORY.

Robert Brent, First Mayor of the City of Washington.

He Was Appointed by President Jefferson, and Many Institutions Founded by Him Are Existing at This Time.

[Special Washington Letter.] The peoples of the old world look upon their ancient places, their ancient towns, cathedrals and courts with a veneration akin to idolatrous adoration.

The people of this new world are living only in the living present, and look upon antiques very much as Tennyson expressed his disrespect for titular and hereditary nobility, when he said: "The gardener, Adam, and his wife, smile at the claims of long descent."

It is now more than 400 years since the discovery of the new continent was



ROBERT BRENT.

heralded to the world. We take no account of the discovery by Eric the Red, for nothing came of it, save a historic and reliable account of the discovery by that bold and piratical buccaneer Norseman. We reckon only from the time that Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci, and their successors, traversed the dangerous billows of the Atlantic to discover El Dorado.

Four hundred years! Think of it! We are not beginners in this wonderful world of the west; and yet we have nothing which savors of antiquity. We have ignored, and many of us have despised, all efforts to chronicle the achievements of our immediate ancestors. Mark Twain received vociferant and long-continued applause when he said: "I am not proud of my family. I am trying to do something which will make my family proud of me."

That epitomizes the popular sentiment. Nevertheless, there are far-sighted people in America to-day who are building monuments for the future; making histories of localities and local events, which will be valuable, and be better appreciated when this continent is older; and, I may say it, more civilized. There will come a time when boys and girls will not only study the outline history of the origin and development of this great republic, but when they will study the development of their counties, townships, states and immediate environments.

We had a quadro-centennial exposition in Chicago a few years ago. That enterprising demonstration was a starter to the whole world, when its magnitude and magnificence were understood. We had a centennial exposition of our national independence in Philadelphia in 1876. We have since had centennial exhibitions for several states and sections. The people of Tennessee are now inviting our entire people to unite in celebrating the centennial of the formation of that commonwealth; and the president of the republic has seen fit to lend his personal influence and presence to commemorate the event.

In spite of clamors from thousands of well-meaning and patriotic citizens, the state of Wisconsin has placed in Statuary hall, in the national capitol, a statue of Father Marquette, the pioneer of the frontier who brought Christianity and civilization to the great lake region.

In the same hall of notables in marble, the state of Illinois has erected a statue to Gen. James Shields, who was a soldier of the republic and a senator from three sovereign states.

We may never be able to explain the manifestations of civilization which excavations have developed in Yucatan, and other portions of the continent on which we live; but the time is already upon us when we must take cognizance of the immediate past, and build monuments for future generations to study and admire.

The Columbian Historical society, of this city, is composed of gentlemen of scholastic acquirements, and all of them possess something of personal pride in the capital city where they have long resided, and which they have seen grow into proportions of metropolitan pretensions. These learned gentlemen look forward to the time when there will be 2,000,000 people, or more, settled within a radius of ten miles from the dome of the capitol. They are making history for the future, and it is well that they are doing so.

At a recent meeting of the society a paper was read which gives a history of the first mayor of Washington. Robert Brent filled that office from 1802 to 1812; a period of 12 years, and at a time when the capital city of this republic was a little bit of a village.

George Washington had seen the fruit

tion of his dream of a stable republic. He had sheathed his sword, delivered his farewell address, and declined a third term of president of the new republic; had gone to his country home at Mount Vernon, and had been gathered unto his fathers. He had seen the city founded. He had built here a city residence, which still stands. He had turned over his high office to his duly-elected successor. The republic was very young, and the city of Washington was yet to be built.

We have the same sort of government to-day, with slight modifications, that Washington provided for the national capital. In January, 1791, President Washington appointed three commissioners for the "territory of Columbia," and those commissioners were the local rulers until congress passed an act approved May 3, 1802, authorizing the president to appoint a mayor for the city.

The Historical society has published the following letter, dated June 3, 1802, to Robert Brent, Esq., of the city of Washington:

"Dear Sir: The Act of Congress incorporating the City of Washington has confided to the President of the United States the appointment of a Mayor of the City. As the agency of that officer will be immediately requisite, I am desirous to avail the City of your services in it, if you will permit me to send you the commission. I will ask the favor of your answer to this proposition.

"Will you do me the favor of dining with me the day after to-morrow (Friday), at half past three? Accept my friendly and respectful salutations.

"TH. JEFFERSON."

To this official note Robert Brent replied as follows:

"Washington, June 3, 1802.—Dear Sir: I have the honor of receiving your favor of this date, asking my acceptance of the appointment of Mayor, under the late act of congress for the incorporation of the city.

Although I feel great diffidence in the talents I possess for executing that duty, in a manner which may afford general satisfaction, yet feeling it a duty to contribute my feeble aid for the public service, I will venture upon its duties.

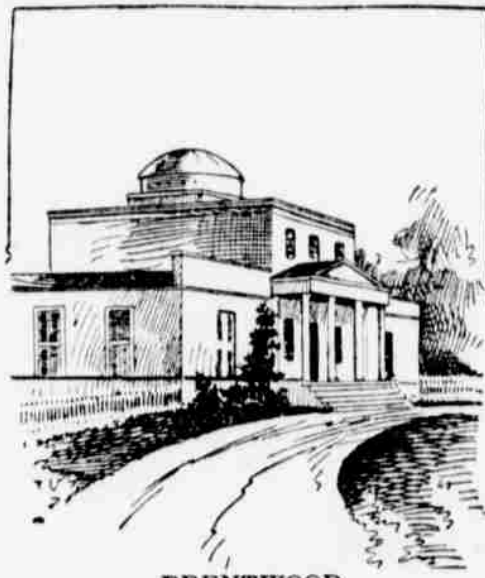
"I beg you, sir, to accept my thanks for the honor which you are about to confer on me, and for the obliging manner in which you have been pleased to communicate it.

"I will, with pleasure, accept your polite invitation to dinner on Friday next. With sentiments of much esteem and respect, I have the honor to be, sir, Your Obedt. Ser.,

"ROBERT BRENT."

There is the formal proffer and acceptance of the first majority of the city of Washington. There is the formality, the deference, the respectful consideration displayed by the president to the private citizen; and there we also see the consideration and esteem of the citizen for the president. It is a matter of record in the Historical society that the dinner lasted from three o'clock until seven o'clock in the evening. Thomas Jefferson was president of a republic of about 6,000,000 people. Robert Brent was appointed mayor of a city of something like 1,500 people. There was as much courtesy and consideration displayed as though Brent were being made minister to Great Britain.

By the act of congress the appointment of a mayor of Washington was



BRENTWOOD.

made annual, and the president continued reappointing Mr. Brent until 1812, when he declined to serve longer because of his incumbency of other positions. He was mayor of Washington for ten years, judge of the orphans' court from 1806 to 1814 and paymaster general of the army from 1808 to 1819.

Manifestly President Jefferson made no mistake in selecting the first mayor of Washington city. He was reappointed by successive presidents until other official duties of importance compelled him to withdraw from the office. He succeeded Gen. Dearborn as paymaster general at a critical period and fulfilled the functions of that office to the satisfaction of three presidents.

During Mayor Brent's administration the city-market was established, where it stands until this day. An ordinance was passed requiring the maintenance of leather fire buckets filled with water in all storehouses and hotels. Appropriations were made for the digging and maintenance of public wells for drinking purposes and for the use of fire-bucket brigades.

Mayor Brent maintained an elegant private residence, and Sir Augustus Foster, the British minister, wrote to his country at that time: "There are only three private residences maintained in this city; they are by Mayor Brent, Mr. Carroll and Mr. Taylor."

The first mayor of Washington suffered a stroke of paralysis in 1819, when he was in his sixty-sixth year. He then resigned the position of paymaster general of the army. Within a few months thereafter he died at his mansion in Washington, September 14, 1819.

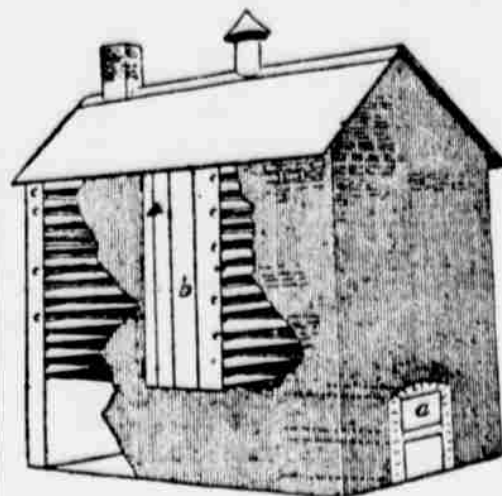
SMITH D. FRY.

FARM AND GARDEN.

SURPLUS OF APPLES.

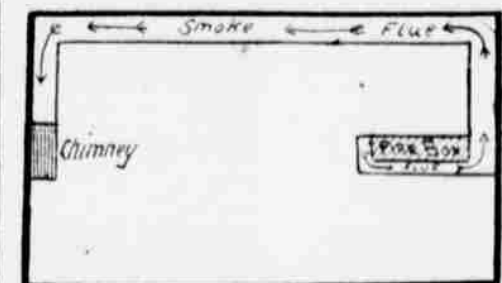
How to Evaporate Fruit to Advantage on the Farm.

Waste of the fruit crop is one of the causes of greatest loss. Many who cannot dispose of the crop in a fresh state allow it to rot or feed it to stock. I have found it profitable to evaporate what apples could not be sold fresh and so constructed an evaporator. The plan was original with me and has worked to perfection. The building is eight feet long, four feet wide and nine feet high to the eaves. The walls are of good hard brick and eight inches wide. The firebox (a) is in the end opening on the outside. In



HOMEMADE EVAPORATOR.

the center of one side is a door two feet wide and extending down six feet from the eaves or to within three feet of the ground. This leaves space three feet wide on each side for trays (c) which are two feet square and made of one by one and one-half inch material, the bottom being covered with fine wire mesh. A framework extends entirely around the room of two by three inch material, nailed six inches apart, to support the drier frames. When a frame is filled, it is easily slid into a place either on the right or left of the door. Close the ventilator in the roof when the sulphur is put into bleach the apples. The firebox



GROUND PLAN.

(a) is ten by ten inches square, three feet long, arched with one four-inch thickness of brick. The firebox walls are four inches thick. Cold air is admitted on both sides of the firebox through flues four inches wide, passing from the rear of the box to the front of it and passing into the frame room just in front of fire or smoke flue. As shown in the ground plan, the smoke passes from the firebox to the left, back to the front, over the firebox, along the end wall, then the side wall, round the end wall to the chimney. In a larger building a larger firebox and larger frames are needed. Any good bricklayer ought to be able to put up this building.—W. O. Ham, in Farm and Home.

HOW PLANTS FEED.

They Draw Sustenance from the Air as Well as the Soil.

Bulletin 48, Utah experiment station: It may be interesting before we pass on the experiment proper to explain in a very general way how a plant obtains its food. The substances which make up the ash of the plant, the water which it contains, and most of the nitrogen of the combustible portion are taken from the soil and the air through the roots; while all the carbon and some of the nitrogen are taken from the air by means of the leaves. When a plant burns, the carbon or charcoal it contains unites with the oxygen of the air to form an invisible gas, usually known as carbonic acid gas. Since the burning of charcoal in one form or another is always going on at the earth's surface, it follows that the air we breathe, the atmosphere about us, must contain considerable quantities of carbonic acid gas. The green coloring matter of leaves, known to scientists as chlorophyll or leafgreen, has the remarkable property, when under proper conditions of temperature and moisture, and in the presence of light, of taking the carbonic acid gas from the air, and of breaking it up in the cells of the leaf into charcoal and oxygen. The greater part of the oxygen thus set free is thrown back into the atmosphere, while the charcoal is caused to unite with water and other substances found in the cells to form the various classes of bodies that make up the combustible parts of plants.

Effect of Food on Milk.

The effect of food is an important factor, but not always appreciated in its influence upon the quality of the milk. A specific breed possesses certain capabilities, the fulfillment of which is dependent in large measure upon the food supplied. That is, while food may not exert a positive and immediate influence in improving the quality of the milk, because of the inherent characteristics of the animal to make a product of a definite composition, still, unless the animal is supplied with sufficient food, she cannot reach her normal milk giving capacity.—American Agriculturist.

IOWA TAKES THE LEAD.

First Western State to Begin Building of Permanent Roads.

Iowa, from the first, has taken a leading part among the advocates of improved roads and highways, and perhaps nothing has more contributed to that position than the paper dealing with the financial phase of the good roads question, read by Judge Thayer, of Clinton, at Council Bluffs, Ia., four years since. That paper was replete with facts and arguments in favor of improved means of intercommunication between towns and cities, and the United States department of agriculture, fully appreciating its value, reprinted it and scattered it broadcast, and it has helped materially in educating public opinion up to a full recognition of the importance of the subject as a great national one. Iowa has now commenced a practical exemplification of its faith in the matter. The supervisors of Scott county have recently bought a large gravel bank and a stone quarry and has several gangs of men at work on different roads, and will soon have solved the question of permanent highways. They are fortunate in having the material necessary for road making so near at hand. Their method is, after grading, to lay a depth of six inches of rock, and two inches of macadam are laid on this, and over the whole two inches of gravel are laid. Culverts of boiler steel are placed in fills, hills are being graded; and, when the good work is finished, the pauper labor of the county will be employed, as far as possible, in keeping the surface of the roads in order. It could be wished all the counties of Iowa and other states needing improved roads were as favorably situated both as regards roadmaking material, and also that other necessary funds—as Scott county seems to be. It gets \$50,000 a year from her saloons, and her road tax raises this to \$75,000 a year, and is all available for road purposes. The cost of the 16-foot road now in formation is between 35 and 40 cents a running foot. The average cost per mile of the improved road—"fine as any pike"—is \$2,000. Here is an object lesson in road making which should be taken to heart by good roads advocates in other localities, especially those which have the natural advantages of a supply of gravel or stone available.—Journal of Agriculture.

THE LOGANBERRY.

Cross Between the Red Raspberry and the Blackberry.

There has rarely been a novelty introduced that has excited so much discussion as the loganberry. It has been highly praised by seedsmen who had plants to sell and has been declared worthless by hundreds who have tried it. From some facts concerning this berry gleaned from bulletin No. 45, of the New Jersey experiment station, it seems that both sides of the story have been founded on truth.

The loganberry was originated by Judge J. H. Logan, of Santa Cruz, Cal., a public-spirited gentleman who has never reaped any benefit from it nor attempted to do so. It seems to be an intermediate form between the red raspberry and the blackberry, having the color and flavor of raspberries and the shape of blackberries. It has been called a red blackberry, but it is probable that it is a cross between a variety of the European raspberry and a wild blackberry native of the Pacific coast.

At the New Jersey station it ripened with the raspberries and was found to be quite inferior when eaten raw, but of good flavor when cooked. The original stock is quite prolific. It is propagated by stolons, but the seeds grow readily. The plants grown from seed produce a fruit that is worthless, and this is the source of a great deal of stock sold by nurseries. It will not endure the hard winters of New England, but is hardy in New Jersey.—Farmer's Voice.

Work in the Garden.

The work of the garden is never ended, as many imagine. There is always plenty to do for those who seek it and are interested in their work. The principal thing to do now is to keep the crops picked clean, and as soon as they are over to clear them away, carefully raking up and carting off all rubbish. At all times there may be found bits of stick, stones, paper, wire, tin cans, etc., to mar the appearance of the grounds; these are frequently carried there in the manure and should always be picked up and not thrown under the currant bushes or into some corners in the garden, as such cannot be hidden from the quick eye of the employer and should be taken clean away.—American Gardening.

The Care of Separators.

All kinds of separators should be taken apart and cleaned out; the lower boxes and spindles and ball bearings should be wiped off clean, and if they have begun to get worn and rough they should be replaced with new ones. Where the separators are run four or five hours every day they should be cleaned out every two weeks or oftener. By doing this the boxes will never heat, and your operators will run more smoothly and do closer skimming. You cannot expect to do close skimming unless the separators run smoothly and at a higher rate of speed, and keeping the bearings clean and well supplied with oil is the main point in running them properly.—Dakota Field and Farm.

WEDDING FROM THE OUTSIDE.

Neighboring Comments on the Bride, Her Family and Her Fate.

Two men drove up to the house, took the framework and canvas of a canopy out of the wagon, and began erecting it across the sidewalk and up the stoop. It was a quiet, respectable, well-ordered neighborhood, where things worth talking about rarely happened. So the canopy set the neighbors talking.

"What can it be?" asked one across the street.

"It can't be that they are going to give a reception," replied her companion.

"Well, I should say not," rejoined the first. "They are entirely too mean to do anything of the kind."

A caterer's wagon drove up and men began carrying boxes into the house.

"Oh, come and look!" cried a neighbor across the street. "Those people are actually going to have something to eat at last."

"You don't mean it!" exclaimed her companion.

"I've watched and watched and watched," continued the neighbor, and I've never seen more than ten cents' worth of food carried into that house at one time before."

"How could they manage to live?" asked the companion.

"I never could find out," replied the neighbor. "They must have been saving all these years. But what can it be that they are going to have?"

A florist's wagon drove up and delivered masses of flowers.

"Do you suppose it's somebody that's dead?" asked a third neighbor.

"Well," replied her companion, "if any of that family was dead, I should think their friends would be glad enough to send them flowers."

A delivery wagon drove up and left a green and gold chair.

"Do you know what?" cried one of a party of neighbors. "It's a wedding!"

"No!" cried the neighbors in chorus.

"Yes," continued the first, "and that's one of the wedding presents."

"What a horrid, cheap-looking thing to send!" commented a neighbor.

"It shows what their friends think of them if they get presents like that."

"But there's nobody in the house to get married."

"Nobody under 40, anyway."

"Oh, I remember seeing a wizened, dried-up, red-haired little thing going into the house."

"But she can't be the bride!"

"I thought she was an old maid sister."

"And maybe it's that little boy who has been calling there that is going to marry her!"

"What a shame!"

More wagons from the caterer's drove up, and smooth-shaven, dignified waiters in short sleeves began bustling about the sidewalk and the house.

"Do you suppose they can get anyone to go to the wedding?" asked a neighbor.

"You can see that nobody around here would go," replied her companion.

"Everybody here is either peeping out of the windows or walking up and down the block to get a look at the house and they wouldn't do that if they had been invited."

"They know better than to invite us," said the first.

"I should say so," replied her companion. "I suppose they will try to make those waiters pass as guests among strangers."

"They are a great deal sweller looking than anyone they know," rejoined the first.

Darkness came, and a band, and a flood of carriages that blocked the street, and a flock of carriage callers whose voices filled the air.

"Two forty-nine! two forty-nine!" cried a leather-lunged youth running down the street.

"The idea!" exclaimed a neighbor. "There are not 15 carriages here, and they are pretending that there are hundreds."

"They have only tickets with high numbers," said her companion. "What a fraud! They ought to be ashamed."

The bride was driven away in a shower of rice, the carriages and waiters gradually disappeared, and the neighbors turned reluctantly from their windows, tired but happy.

"How glad her parents must be to have really got rid of her," they said.

"Yes," replied their companions, "and how surprised she must be to have actually caught a man. I wonder how she did it."—N. Y. Sun.

It Was Not Slang.

"I want you to give it to me straight." The man who used this expression was not in the habit of using slang. Neither did he use slang on this occasion.

He was in a hardware store.

He was buying a rule.

Obviously a crooked one would not answer his purpose.—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

London's Parks.

London has added to its parks until they occupy a fourth of the city's area. They have added to the health and prosperity of the metropolis, and the Londoners could not be persuaded to part with any of them.—N. Y. Sun.

—In Bombay the plague is carrying off over 500 persons a week still. It is now officially declared that the plague exists in Jiddah, the port from which Mecca is reached.