

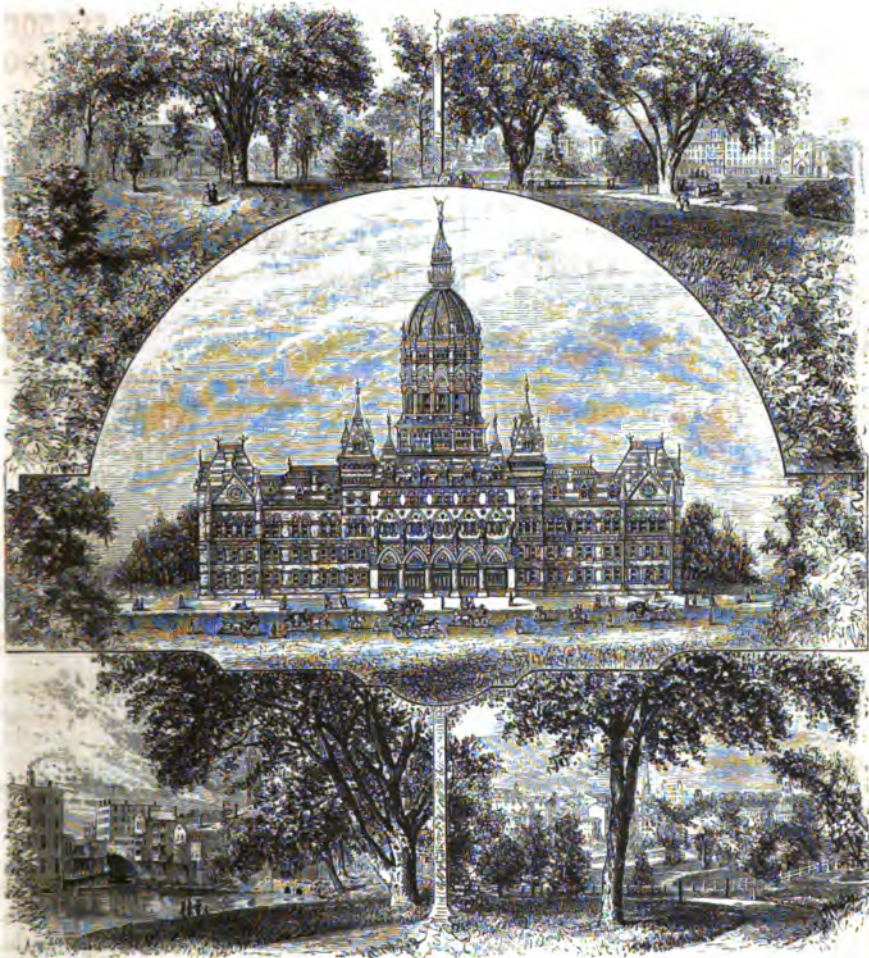
SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY.

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No. 1.

THE CHARTER OAK CITY.



THE NEW CAPITOL.—VIEWS ON BUSHNELL PARK.

THE last census of the United States gave Hartford a population of considerably less than 40,000 inhabitants, ranking it as the thirty-fourth city in size in the country. Midway between two enumerations, as is the present date, it is possible only to guess as to the increase, and to surmise what now is its position numerically in the roll of cities.

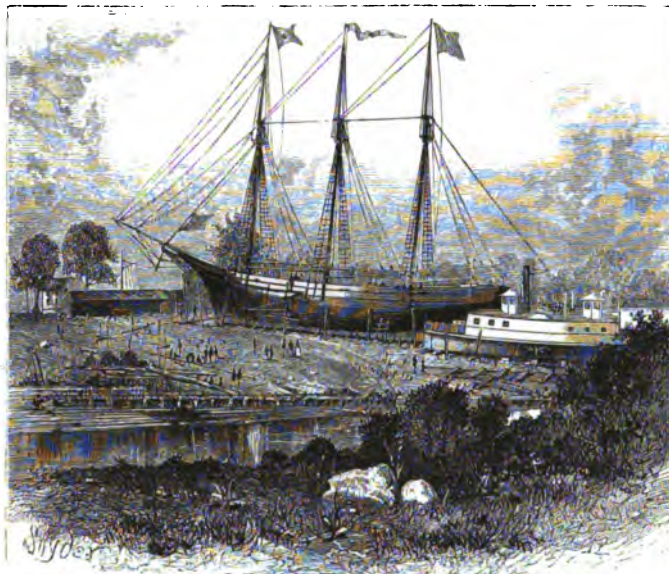
VOL. XIII.—1.

But if the number of its citizens cannot give it a higher place, still in many other respects it is one of the very foremost. The traditions of its history lead back to the first beginnings of New England settlement, and come down to the present time full of patriotic recollections. Its people have always been active in whatever they have under-

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taken, and whether in historical association, in the range and magnitude of its business undertakings, or in the culture and comfort

city. The total amount of the list is very much more than \$200,000,000, and undoubtedly that estimate of the wealth of Hartford is less than facts would justify.



SHIP-YARD AT DUTCH POINT.

that the success of these has brought, Hartford has come to be known, not only very widely through the country, but by the universal use of certain of its products, almost around the world.

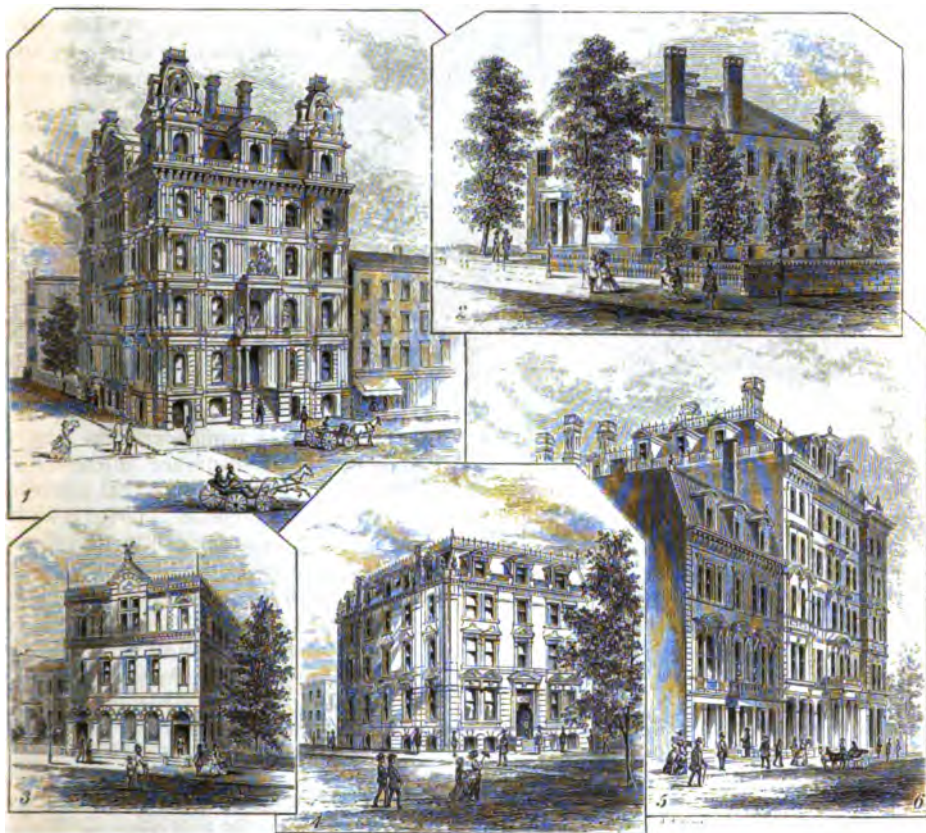
Relatively to the number of its inhabitants, it is the richest city in the United States. Its savings banks have deposits of about \$12,000,000; its banks of discount have capital and surplus of nearly \$12,000,000, and deposits of more than \$9,000,000; the capital of its other joint-stock companies is \$18,000,000; the assets of its insurance companies are more than \$113,000,000, and after the taxable portion of what has been mentioned is taken from the city tax list, the assessed value (not more than one-third the real worth probably) of the rest is more than \$40,000,000. Of course, besides these evidences of wealth, there is a great deal, as in every city, which never finds its way into the tax list, and can only be estimated. Some of the manufacturing companies included in the aggregate are only organized, not operating; but others have surpluses more than doubling their capital, so that the figures given are certainly low enough; and if some of the assets of the insurance companies are not in Hartford, they are still all tributary to it, and pour their income regularly into the

development of its insurance interests. It is as a sort of City of Refuge that it is to-day most generally thought of. There is authority to believe that fire will ultimately destroy the world, and death the body; but, meanwhile, the Hartford insurance companies are ready to take risks on the realization of either certainty, and, thus far, in spite of some hard blows, they seem well in advance of fate. By the last official report, it appears that 212,467 people have their lives insured in Hartford. If each of these represents a family of five, then more than a million people are looking to the city as their refuge in the time which the insurance agent, himself a Hartford product, can so pathetically describe as certain to be, for the uninsured, of acute financial as well as domestic distress. These lives are insured for \$450,000,000 altogether, and the property insured in the fire companies is \$645,646,000 more, so that the total risk which Hartford carries is in round numbers \$1,100,000,000. But the business of insurance has reached such a scientific basis that the probable losses admit of close calculation, and the amount of assets necessary to a certain payment is definitely fixed. The Hartford companies, having \$113,000,000, have large surpluses above the amount required. Yet nearly all of this accumulation

has come within a short time. The life insurance business began about 1850, and but three fire companies antedate the exceptional disaster of the Chicago fire.

No important life company has ever failed in the city. Although death seems so much more certain than fire, it is also so much more methodical that it is easier to calculate upon its ways. Fire companies, on the other hand, have failed. The Chicago fire put

between the writing and the reading of this, some new great fire may have made fresh havoc with them, although the lessons of recent years have taught the managers to scatter their risks, and not to take whole city blocks together as they used. That one affair of Chicago, which marks Hartford's black day, took about ten millions of dollars away from the city, and, eight hundred miles distant from the fire, impoverished men who,



INSURANCE BUILDINGS.

1. Conn. Mutual Life Building, containing also Phoenix Mutual Life Ins. Co. 2. Travelers Ins. Building, with Railway Passenger's Ins. Co.'s Office. 3. Phoenix Fire Ins. Building, containing also Conn. Fire Ins. Co. 4. Hartford Fire Ins. Building, with Offices of State Insurance Commissioner, Atlas Fire and Continental Life. 5. Aetna Ins. Building (Life and Fire Co.'s). 6. Charter Oak Life Co. Building, containing also Office of Hartford Steam Boiler Ins. Co.

out six at once. But the oldest company,—probably the oldest in America,—the Hartford, which was insuring in 1794, is still flourishing. It, the Aetna, and the Phoenix, have paid in full every loss in every fire since they began business, and they are old, while the rest, revived or created since 1871, though young, are thriving under prudent administration. At best, however, they all are engaged in a truly risky business, and,

the day before were rich. A singular freak of fate made the loss seem even a bit worse than if it had come on any other date. In Hartford, insurance stock is taxed at its market value, and the tax lists are sworn to, October 1st each year. The fire came on the ninth of the month, and so the holders of the worthless or fallen stocks had for that year to pay taxes on the highest valuations the stocks had ever known. If the fire had

occurred ten days earlier, the difference in favor of the individual losers would have been very considerable. It was only by securing large amounts of new capital, and

ment took panic-struck New York by surprise, and everybody who had anything to save rushed at once to insure in a company so evidently sound. A round rate was



RESIDENCE OF MRS. COLT.* (PORTE COCHÈRE.)

sacrificing all the accumulations of years, that the three great companies at that time saved themselves. Under the present official supervision of the business, the companies do not run risks after their early fashion; yet, even then their apparent recklessness often ended in complete success. For an instance: the great New York fire in 1835 which broke every New York company, came upon one of the largest in Hartford just as, after a series of poor years, it was about to pay a liberal dividend. The loss was complete; capital, surplus, dividend, all the assets, went to ashes. But instead of despairing, the President, Mr. Nathaniel Terry, a well-known citizen, who died years ago, borrowed the then considerable sum of \$10,000 on his own personal credit, and instantly sent an agent to the city with the money. As soon as he arrived, he paid one loser, a prominent merchant, the whole of his loss, and, with his card of acknowledgment, printed a notice in the newspapers, promising to pay every loss within the sixty days allowed by the contract. This announce-

ment took panic-struck New York by surprise, and everybody who had anything to save rushed at once to insure in a company so evidently sound. A round rate was charged for the privilege, and, before the sixty days had passed, the agent had taken in in New York alone enough money to fulfill his promise to pay all losers, and he did do it. This sort of venture would not now be either attempted or allowed; but it suggests the "enterprise" that in the beginning pushed the Hartford companies toward their present high rank. Their losses paid in 1875, when there was no great fire, were \$4,913,217. One company has paid \$45,000,000, and another \$20,000,000, in losses since organization.

Three of the life companies—the Connecticut Mutual, Ætna, and Charter Oak—and two of the fire companies—the Hartford and the Phoenix—have put up fine buildings in the city. These, and three or four other comparatively new, or yet unfinished, structures, are the most noticeable business blocks in Hartford. A half dozen of them tower over the rest of the city in a way to give the spectator, at first sight, the perplexing doubt as to whether the architecture of the town has had a little too much,

* By kind permission we have here made use of several engravings from the beautiful Colt Memorial Volume.—EDITOR.

or much too little, leaven in it to produce such startling inequalities of elevation. But, after several seeings, the odd effect is lost, and there are found significance, utility, and no little beauty in things as they are. The successive levels reached mark the steady rise of the city in importance; first, low brick or wood buildings; then, more pretentious of brick, or brick and stone; then, stone generally from the Portland quarries near

chosen by accident, is admirable for its beauty and for its business advantages. It lies on the west bank of the Connecticut River, about fifty miles from Long Island sound, and has the Little, or Park River, flowing about and through it. This empties into the Connecticut at Dutch Point, the place where the Dutch, the first settlers, built a fort in 1633. The high ground of the city affords at various places a fine sweep

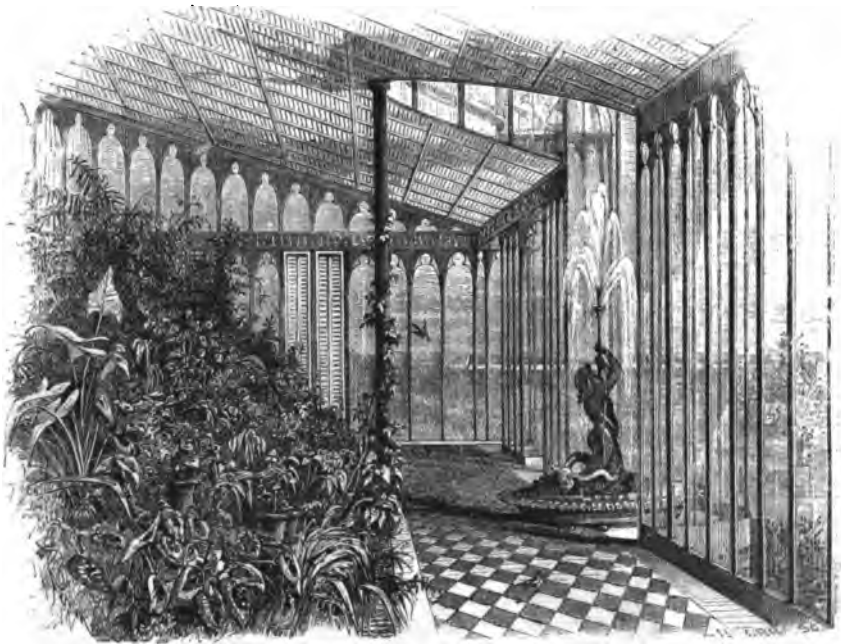


FOUNTAIN AT ARMSMEAR.

by; and now great granite piles, rising six or eight stories high, with, too, a revival of the use of brick in some of the finest works. The upper floors of some of the insurance buildings are occupied as residences on the "flat" plan, and are light and cool by reason of their height, and command beautiful views of the city and the country about.

Hartford's situation, though probably

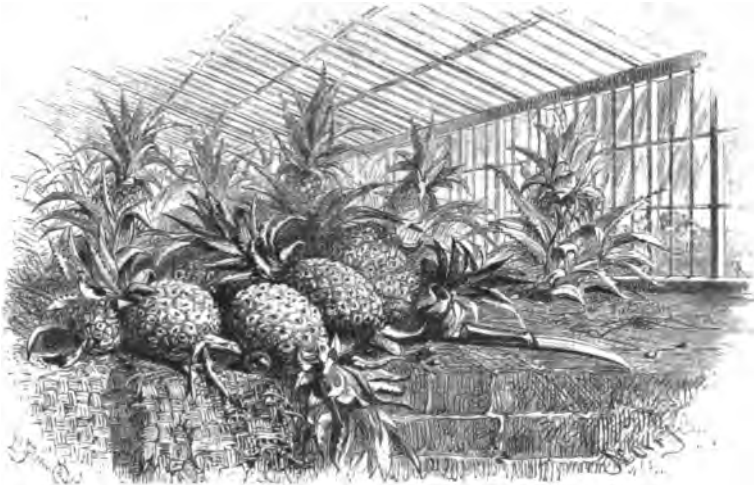
of scenery up and down the Connecticut Valley. Outlying manufacturing villages, grown up beside every tributary stream, are here and there visible; the river comes into sight at intervals among its curves; fields and foliage fill the valley, and parallel mountain ranges bound it on the east and west, about twenty miles apart. These, continuing south to tide-water, mark the course of the river as nature first arranged it,



CONSERVATORY AT ARMSMEAD.

when it flowed into the sound at New Haven, and before the stream was turned off toward Saybrook at Middletown, a little below here, by a recent convulsion, only a few hundred decades ago. The soil of the valley is made fertile by annual freshets, and its tobacco, of which large crops are raised, is the

district around it, Hartford is the base of supplies, and its local business of all sorts is extensive. Five railroads center here, and the river bears an important commerce, so that the city is made a point of general distribution. All about it are manufacturing communities, mainly created by Hartford capital, among which



PINERY AT ARMSMEAD.

most expensive American product of the plant. There is an important trade in that and in other agricultural staples here. For a large

are Collinsville, with its famous axes and other edged tools, and agricultural implements; New Britain, with its hardware; Thompsonville, with its carpet-works; Rockville, with its woolen-mills; Wilimantic, with its immense spool-cotton factories; and South Manchester, the model manufacturing village of America, where the most of

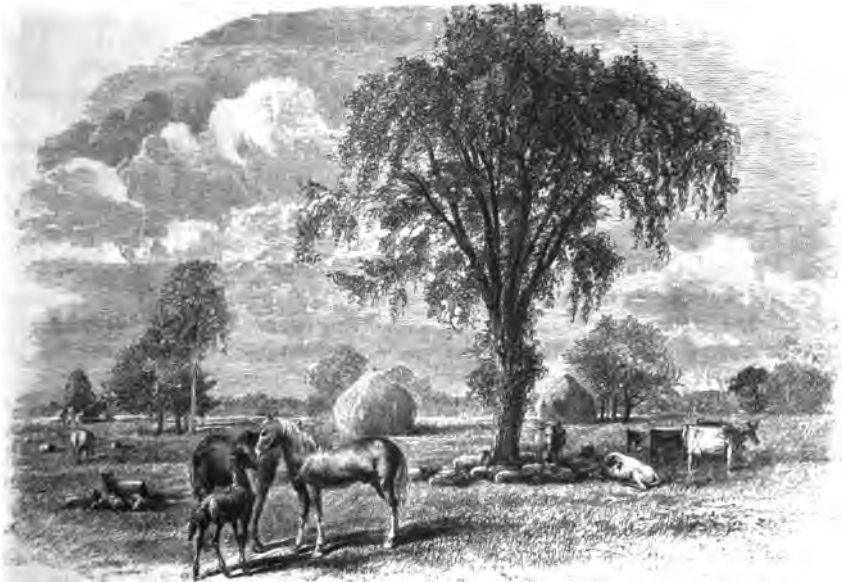
the Cheney Brothers' silk-works are situated. For a long time the city has been noted for its inventive skill. Before the present

century began, Hartford and its vicinity were operating printing-presses, paper-mills, powder-mills, glass-works, tinware factories,—from which the first Yankee peddlers set out,—the first Connecticut clock factories, and woolen-mills. Many of these industries have remained until now. The first printing-press, set up in 1764, printed the "Courant," and that journal, now 112 years old, has ever since been regularly issued, save for one brief delay during the Revolution, when the supply of paper failed. To meet this emergency, the proprietors hastily built a paper-mill of their own, and that was the founding of the since important East Hartford paper-making interests. The Hartford woolen-mill was in operation in 1788, when General Washington visited it, and his admiration of its work was such that he wrote home to say he should use its best fabrics for himself, and its cheaper stuffs for his slaves, thereafter. The next year, when he was made President, he wore a complete Hartford suit, everything about it, even the buttons, being made in the city, as a present for him, and it was in this Hartford dress that the first President of the United States made the first inaugural speech. There is not space here to enumerate all the manufactures now carried on in Hartford. Connecticut's products are more varied than those of any other State in the Union, and nearly all its varieties are represented about or in the



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

city. A single factory,—perhaps the most famous in the country,—that of the Colt's Arms Manufacturing Company, will have to suffice; and it is worth a note how much Hartford, a city where a battle never was distinctly heard, has had to do with war. The East Hartford Powder Works, the Colt arms, and the Sharp's rifles, of especial Kansas notoriety, are to be considered; and



VIEW IN "COLT'S MEADOWS."

also the fact that two secretaries of the navy, and at least five prominent generals, have been, or are of the city. Everybody has heard of—almost everybody, indeed, has heard—the Colt revolver. No modern invention has come into more nearly world-wide use, nor has any other so universally carried with it its inventor's name. It is a safe assertion that no modern name is more familiar around the globe to-day than Colonel Colt's.

In choosing Hartford for his manufactory, he made a wise selection of a site for his

Then the factories, operatives' homes, and other necessary buildings, were put up, which, with their constant increase, have become now almost a city by themselves, and include mills, store-houses, a large public school, the finest church in the city, dwellings, and many other establishments, besides the Colt factories. The first set of these was burned during the war, but new and large fire-proof buildings were erected at once in their place. Now, besides the Colt revolvers, there are made in the factories, steam-engines, printing-presses, and various



STATE-HOUSE SQUARE, DAY BEFORE "THANKSGIVING"

works, and laid out one of the most important parts of the city. The Connecticut River has its spring freshets with all the regularity of nature. Each year it washes out the lower part of the city, and produces trouble all along the line for the residents in the water-wards, who are each year, as regularly as the freshet comes, freshly surprised at its advent. It was a lot of low land, just below Dutch Point, that Colonel Colt selected. He built a solid dike about three hundred acres of land there, and that district has known the spring flood no more.

other machines, and the Gatling guns, large revolving weapons that can be used on land, at sea, or on horseback, and that at the turn of a crank pour out bullets at the rate of four hundred a minute, making them one of the most formidable of recently invented arms. The willow basket-works that utilized the osiers with which the dike is planted and strengthened have lately been burned, and are not rebuilt; but the first purpose of the osier-planting is still met in the hold their roots have upon the dike.

"Armsmear," with the residence which

Colonel Colt built on the high ground that slopes back from the meadows, is a beautiful place, nearly two-thirds of a mile deep by one-third in its street front-

through the grounds are set a number of fine works of statuary. Within the diked district is the Church of the Good Shepherd, built by Mrs. Colt as a memorial of her husband



THE CHARTER OAK.

age on Wethersfield Avenue. The prospect from the house and grounds is magnificent, and the premises are laid out with all the beauty that skilled landscape gardening could add to a naturally graceful situation. The place has its lakes, its deer park, its graperies and groves and gardens; and

and children. It is a remarkable piece of church architecture, the work of Mr. E. T. Potter of New York. Its design is exquisite, and the plans, even to their minutest detail, have been executed with a scrupulous fidelity that makes of it an almost faultless structure, symmetrical in every line, and

rich and appropriate in its ornamentation. Its large memorial window, imported from England, and its singularly graceful baptismal font, are among its first-noticed beauties. It is considered one of the finest churches in the country; many say that it has no equal in America.

On the same hill-side, but a little north of Armsmead, is the site of the Charter Oak, the venerable tree, whose familiar tradition has for years reflected glory on Hartford, often called the Charter Oak City.



GRAVE-STONES IN OLD CEMETERY.

It stood on the Wyllys place, and the illustration, specially copied from a painting, made for the late Isaac W. Stuart before the tree fell, shows the oak and the old and now departed Wyllys mansion, the frame of which was brought over from England and set up



THE REV. DR. HORACE BUSHNELL.

about 1636. The tree was, so goes the story, spared when the clearing for the house was made, because the Indians had so long used it for a landmark that they had a deep veneration for it, and begged for its preservation. However old it then was, it lasted two hundred and twenty years longer, and only fell in 1856. The current version of the story of the Charter Oak is as well known as that of William Tell or Pocahontas. On the last day of October, 1687, Sir Edmund Andros came to demand back the liberal charter that Charles II. had granted, and to set up a new rule. There was a meeting of the general court, a charter was produced at his demand, suddenly the lights went out in a general confusion, and on the resumption of order and candles, the document was gone, Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth having rushed with it off to the oak, and hidden it in the hollow trunk. This act saved the liberty of the colony then, and made Wadsworth and the oak famous now. That is the gist of the story. That there was a meeting with Andros, and that there was a charter and a tree, are admitted still by all; but the more careful historians in this day of reversing "the verdicts of history," are not inclined to go much further in support of the old tradition. Certainly there were two charters, the

original and its duplicate. In May, six months before Andros came, the original was put out of the way. One definite account says it was kept in Guilford, Connecticut; and again there are reasons to think it may have gone into the oak. At best, there is nothing certain about it. Whatever disturbance occurred with Andros was over the duplicate, not the original charter; and until some time after the affair, the oak is not heard of in connection with it. A tradition of the Wadsworth family had it that the charter was hidden in the cellar of the Wadsworth house. Years afterward the Connecticut Assembly refused to give Colonel Wadsworth four pounds as a reward for his services, but voted him twenty shillings, suggesting that our fathers did not prize liberty very highly, or else failed to view this deed just as the school-books now record it. Moreover, Mr. C. J. Hoadly, the Connecticut State Librarian, an authority in antiquarian subjects, has, in a recent note to a work he edited, pointed out what seemed to him proof that Andros's visit did put an end to the colonial government, so that if the charter went into the oak, it still went out of legal existence. To retain it, annual elections had to be held. But after Andros came, one election was omitted, and this, he says, terminated the government. A singular proof is offered as evidence that later administrations knew the illegality of their tenure of office, in the fact that Connecticut had no witchcraft craze, although so near to crazy Massachusetts. People were aroused enough to try several witches, and a few were sentenced to death, but all were reprieved by order from Hartford, showing that the administration did not dare to exercise the death penalty, being conscious of its own imperfect hold upon the government, and so of its personal accountability for such deaths. On the other hand, even if the government was not legal, it was all there was; and it is one of the proudest facts in Connecticut history that the charter was preserved, whether in the oak or not, and that the colony never was governed by officers appointed by the crown, but has always, from the beginning, chosen its own rulers by popular election. The original charter reappeared in 1689, and hangs now in the Capitol in the custody of the Secretary of State. The duplicate disappeared, and was found in Hartford in 1818 by the late Hon. John Boyd in a curious way. He was a student preparing for college, having a fancy for odd papers and an antiquarian taste.

He saw the lady with whom he boarded about to cut up into a bonnet-frame an old piece of parchment. By replacing it with pasteboard, he secured the document, and, on subsequent examination, found he had saved the duplicate charter. It now is held by the Connecticut Historical Society out of the range of all the votaries of fashion

All that marks the place to-day where the Charter Oak stood is a white slab set in the sidewalk. Not even a railing fences in the sacred spot, which is daily trodden under foot. But the name cannot be forgotten; for, from high to low, the title Charter Oak is emblazoned upon sign-boards all over the city. These and the chips of Charter Oak that may be found in the home of every "son and daughter of Connecticut" are its chief and its steadily increasing mementoes. Not the gloomiest iconoclast expects ever to see the supply of wood from the old tree give out.

After the Charter Oak Place, the most historic ground in Hartford is the State-house Square, originally much larger than now, very near the middle of the city, where State street, running back several blocks from the river, meets at right angles Main street, the great north and south thoroughfare. The present State-house, about to be vacated for the new Capitol, stands in the Square, and the new post-office is begun there. The two previous State-houses, the first church (which was half church, half State-house, and, later, was made into a barn), the first tavern, first jail, and first burying-ground, were all in the Square. But these have entirely disappeared, the graveyard being more easily forgotten, because, as is said, an economical generation used the grave-stones for the foundations of new buildings. It may have been from the Square that Wadsworth took the charter, perhaps to the oak. It was on this ground that Washington and Rochambeau first met each other, an event of great importance in the Revolution. It was there that Lafayette was publicly received. Indeed, the story of the events of the spot is almost the history of Hartford. A vestige of the old-time market day is found now at Thanksgiving Day and Christmas, when the Square is filled with farm-wagons, from which poultry is sold in the open street. Hotels, eight banks, and a number of the finest business blocks, stand about the present limits of the Square. Near by, on Main street, is the Center Congregational Church, that of the oldest society in the city; and back of this church is the old



WARD'S STATUE OF ISRAEL PUTNAM.

town cemetery, full of queer grave-stones and graves of the early settlers.

Churches are abundant in Hartford. The first English colony of settlers came with their religious organization all perfected, and the pulpit of the city has been always influential. Stone and Hooker, the first ministers, were both men of note. It was for Stone that Hartford was named from Hertford, England, which had been his home; and Hooker, the master-spirit of the colony, has left a name and memory that will survive as long as Hartford is. From them down to the present time there has been a



BARTLETT'S STATUE OF WELLS, "DISCOVERER OF ANÆSTHESIA."

succession of strong minds in the ministry here. Of late years was Dr. Joel Hawes, who died in 1867 after a settlement of nearly fifty years, over the Center Church. One of his published works, "Lectures to Young Men," reached a circulation of 100,000 copies, and he was known and felt very widely. Dr. Horace Bushnell, who died this year, was one of the foremost thinkers in the American pulpit. He was a pastor in Hartford for twenty-three years, and a resident for twenty more. His power through his pulpit was felt deeply at home, as well as all through the theological world; but it was as a citizen, as much almost as it was as a minister, that he was known and loved here. He was interested in all the projects for the city's welfare that have matured, and was the source of many of them, and of many others that would have been of great benefit had they been undertaken. The Bushnell Park, recently named in his memory, which is one of the finest of its size in the country, was designed by him, and his energy carried through against great opposition the scheme

for its creation. What was one of the worst and most desolate parts of the city has been transformed into a complete garden, a pleasure-ground, and a breathing-spot, that is now of inestimable value, and one of Hartford's chief ornaments. The new Connecticut Capitol, a fine marble structure, is approaching completion on the high ground of the west side, a site selected by Dr. Bushnell, from which Trinity College is being removed. Mr. J. Q. A. Ward's statue of Israel Putnam, erected by the late Hon. Joseph P. Allyn, is on the west park too; and back of it, beyond the river and the railroad are seen, on the left, the High School, on the right, the residence of ex-Lieutenant-Governor Julius Catlin, where Mrs. Sigourney, the poetess, lived for more than twenty years. On the east park, by the fountain, is T. H. Bartlett's statue of Dr. Horace Wells, erected by the city to honor the discoverer of anæsthesia, who was a resident of Hartford, and performed here the experiments by which he made his discovery. A bitter dispute, for which there seems to be no anæsthesia, prevails as to whose the credit of this really is; but, without arguing the point, it may be said that in Hartford there is, and seems possible, only one opinion,—that Dr. Wells was the first to introduce to the human race this grateful gift, for which men owe him most, just when they are most unconscious of all their obligations.

Returning to the subject of the Hartford pulpit, at least eleven Episcopal bishops—Coxe, Doane, Potter, and Wainwright of New



FORMER RESIDENCE OF MRS. SIGOURNEY.

York; Chase of Illinois, Clarke of Rhode Island, Burgess of Maine, Doane of New Jersey, Niles of New Hampshire, and



YUNG WING.

Brownell and Williams of Connecticut—have been residents of the city; while four other Episcopal bishops are graduates of Trinity College, and one Roman Catholic archbishop, Bailey of Baltimore. The Congregational Theological Institute, formerly the East Windsor Hill Seminary, is now in Hartford, and is in excellent condition. The Hartford churches, the buildings themselves, are of all types and of all materials,—wood, brick, and the various sorts of stone. The dark sandstone is perhaps the most frequently chosen. The variety of styles is noticeably agreeable to the eye, and many are very graceful works; several spires, in particular that of the Pearl street Congregational Church, next to the Phoenix Fire Insurance building, being really admirable. Yet, church spires are rather a delicate subject to allude to, for perhaps to signify their faith in the future, an unusual number of the societies have built their churches steepleless, leaving these ornaments to be added in the hereafter; and, meanwhile, the lack of the spires, for which the bases have so long stood waiting in their unfinished rudeness, is the most serious flaw in the appearance of the city.

The Hartford school buildings are said to be the finest in the State. There are nine large public schools, including the public High School, with about nine thousand pupils altogether. The High School, under Professor Joseph Hall, in which is practically merged the old Hopkins Grammar School, established in 1657, has about four hundred

and fifty scholars, and has a reputation with all the leading colleges as one of the best of all the preparatory schools. Some of its scholars now are Japanese. It is a singular feature of Hartford that it has a really considerable Oriental population. A dozen or so of Japanese boys—very bright ones too—have been studying in the city for some time. They dress in simple European style, and are distinguished only by their Japanese stamp of countenance, and by being at the head of the classes they enter in the schools. There is also a Chinese settlement, the most important in the country, and one of the most interesting elements of Hartford life to-day. Under the charge of Mr. Yung Wing, the Imperial Commissioner, who has been lately made LL. D. by Yale College, the Chinese Educational Mission has been established, with head-quarters in the city of Hartford. Chinese boys are brought over, and given by this Mission as liberal and useful educations as can be had; and they are to go back eventually cultivated men, familiar with the world, and able to maintain for China its independence and increase its influence among nations. This educational work, conceived years ago by Mr. Wing, and now at last being put into practice, bids fair to



CHINESE PUPIL RECITING.

be one of the great facts of our time, and factors of the future. The pupils and attachés of the mission retain their Chinese manners, dress, and speech, though they learn English, and it is no longer a matter

of any remark to see the full Chinese costume on the street, with the queer shoes, bright-colored clothes, white sun umbrellas, and the round caps with a long "pig-tail" flowing out from each, and to hear the strange jargon of their almost unutterable language. The work of the mission is being very thoroughly done; it has an ample fund, and a building for its use is now being put up on Collins street. The intelligent and attractive young people are put among careful families in various places, but each has to spend a certain time every year at the central establishment, to revive in Hartford the ways and tastes of China, his home. A single incident of their school customs will show how thoroughly the reverse of our ways are theirs of the reverse side of the globe. In studying, each scholar is required to repeat his lesson constantly to himself out loud, and the teacher detects the shirker by missing his voice in the general Babel; and again, at recitation, the scholar stands in front of the teacher, but with his back turned toward him, and repeats his lesson in that attitude. Mr. Wing's work, and his remarkable personal history, were made the subject of a special article in *SCRIBNER* for May, 1875. Nor is it necessary to write here of Trinity College among Hartford educational institutions, for that was fully described in the number of this magazine for March, 1876.

Besides the actual schools of the city



THE WADSWORTH ATHENÆUM.

there is a powerful educating influence in its libraries. The Watkinson Library of Reference, established by will of Mr. Robert Watkinson, a member of one of the old

Hartford families, who left \$100,000 for the purpose in 1857, has about 27,000 volumes, selected under the excellent judgment of



HARTFORD PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL.

Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull, its librarian, who has made it an exceedingly useful and valuable consulting library, since he took charge of it in 1862. The Connecticut Historical Society has about 15,000 volumes, the most of which are rare works; while, besides its innumerable and very curious relics, it holds in trust all sorts of old correspondences of great historic importance, as well as interest. These libraries are in or added to the Wadsworth Athenæum building. In this is also the Wadsworth Art Gallery, where, besides works by Trumbull, the early historical painter, and Mr. F. E. Church, a native of Hartford, may be seen a full-length portrait of Benjamin West by Sir Joshua Reynolds. In the statuary is a large collection of the pieces by the sculptor Bartholomew, of Hartford, who, though an early death cut him off from the greatest fame, left behind him works full not only of promise but of merit. The Young Men's Institute, in the same building, has a circulating library of about 25,000 volumes; and in the Capitol is the State Library, with a full collection of English, American and Irish law and also other books and manuscripts. On removal to the new Capitol, it is proposed to add to the State Library a copy of every book by a Connecticut author. This list, leaving out the Historical Society, which is private, presents pretty fully the fund of information open to the public. Then there are private libraries known by name at least to all book-collectors. Of these the finest, as it is one of the finest in America, is that

of the late Mr. George Brinley, who spent many years and a deal of money in getting it together. It contains a perfect Mazarine Bible, really the first important work ever printed in the world with movable type. A copy advertised in England this year is priced at \$15,000 gold. It has also two or three copies of each of the two editions of the rare old Eliot Indian Bible, and these copies are respectively the finest in existence. There is, too, a "Bay State Psalm-book," and of works of the early American press, between the psalm-book (1640) and the year 1700 there is a collection absolutely unequalled. These are only a part of the many volumes, and are its rarities, not its especial elegancies, but the superlatives used in description are fully justified by the facts. Few people know the library except by name, because Mr. Brinley guarded it most zealously as long as he lived. Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull also is the owner of a fine collection of books, manuscripts, and literary valuables, among which are at least two Eliot Bibles, and he is the only person living who can read the book.

Publishing began to assume visible proportions in Hartford early in the century, and, after the issuing of a series of school books, became, as it still is, a thriving industry of the place. The influential volumes in establishing the business were Smith's Geography and Arithmetic, by the late Roswell C. Smith, of Hartford; Olney's Geography; Comstock's Philosophy and Chemistry, and Mrs. Lincoln's Botany. School-boys of fifty years ago will remember some of these better than more recent scholars can. The first Connecticut Bible was printed in Hartford in 1809, called the "standing Bible," because the types were brought over from abroad all set up, and were kept standing to print from. Between 1809 and 1861 there were eighty editions of the Bible printed in the city. Of late years the most of the Hartford books have been "sold by subscription," and the book agent may, perhaps, be put beside the insurance agent among the products of the city.

The prominence of the city in literature dates back to the first of this and last of the previous century, to the period of Joel Barlow, John Trumbull, Dr. Cogswell, Theodore Dwight, Dr. Hopkins and Richard Alsop, known as the "Hartford wits." These brilliant men, who earned their title mainly by their contributions to a number of papers that were occasionally printed, may properly be called the founders of the

literature of the place. Trumbull, the author of "McFingal" (who was admitted to Yale College when seven years old, and who, settling as a lawyer in Hartford in 1781,

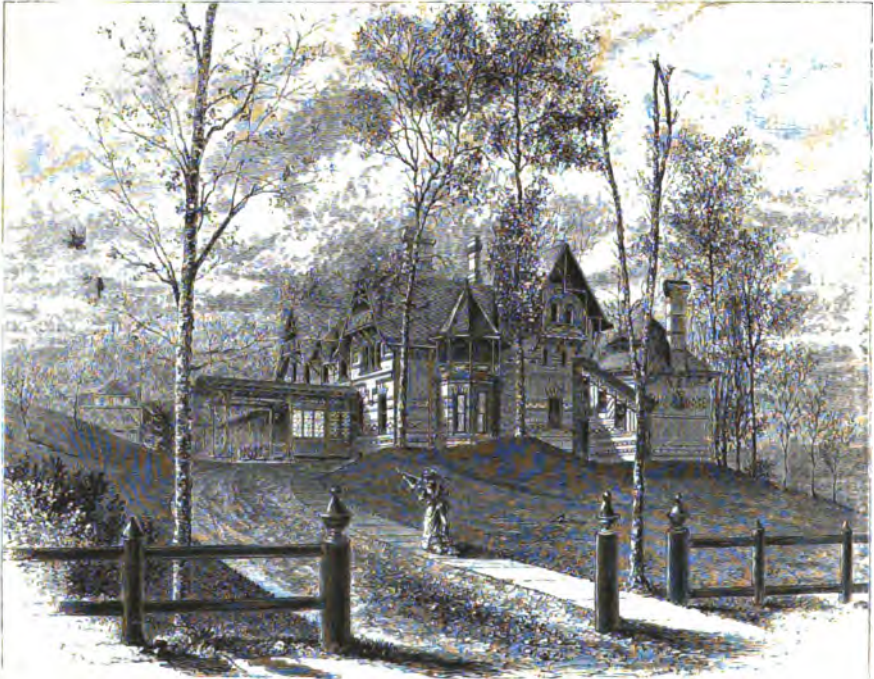


GENERAL JOSEPH R. HAWLEY.

lived to be eighty-one), and Theodore Dwight, were probably the best known of these. Dwight was an editor, and was offered, but declined, the editorship of the New York "Evening Post," before it was given to Mr. Coleman in 1801. He was in Congress in 1806, and shortly afterward established the "Connecticut Mirror," a brilliant Federalist sheet, intended to be more pronounced than the "Courant" that he had edited. Dwight was secretary of the Hartford Convention, and after it left Hartford. Near to these in time was S. G. Goodrich, the familiar "Peter Parley," who was a publisher before he began to write, and brought out Trumbull's poems in 1820 in Hartford, and afterward, moving to Boston, established there the "Token," in which he introduced Hawthorne and others to the public. His work in American literature was something like Knight's in England. He popularized and, either in his own name or as Peter Parley, he was the writer of one hundred and seventy books, of which his compends of information—history, geography, travel—are still remembered and used. His "Recollections," in two volumes, are full of Hartford stories. The poets Percival and J. G. C. Brainard, the latter one of Connecticut's favorites, were his friends and contemporaries. Of Brainard, whose theme was mainly nature, he says that he wrote his "Ode to

Niagara," admitted to be the finest ever written on the subject, in a hurried half hour, at a call for copy in the office of the "Mirror," which he edited, and when he wrote it he had never been within five hundred miles of the Falls! A story of the Hartford pulpit, told in the "Recollections," illustrates the simple customs of the days gone by. Dr. Strong, after his Revolutionary chaplaincy, was a pastor for many years in the city, where he was universally loved and respected. On week days, the Doctor was interested in the sale of rum as member of a firm who distilled and sold the liquor. This may seem strange, yet it is worth remark

released "within limits" as the custom then was, and the legal "limits" had to be especially extended for the benefit of this culprit in order that he might be able to reach the church where he preached. Mr. Goodrich tells of a "literary club" forming in 1818, and there have been such clubs almost always since then. One of the present time, of limited membership, has in its number General Hawley, Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull, Charles Dudley Warner, General W. B. Franklin, Mark Twain, the Hon. H. C. Robinson, the present Republican candidate for Governor of Connecticut, U. S. Judge Nathaniel Shipman, Professor C. E. Stowe,



RESIDENCE OF "MARK TWAIN."

that the liquor business appears to have been better in the time when ministers managed it than now; but that is not all the story. The firm failed, and the sheriff followed up the minister with a writ. The latter retired to his house and shut himself up there to escape, but as writs could not be served on Sundays, he would come out of exile on those days, and, making his way to the sanctuary, would in safety lead his flock in their religious duties, nor did anybody then comment on the affair as peculiar. Another version of the tradition has it that the sheriff did arrest the minister but he was

and several others of the leading members of the various professions. Dr. Bushnell and the late President Jackson of Trinity College, were also members.

George D. Prentice, who, in 1828, took charge of the "New England Review" here, and John G. Whittier, who succeeded him in 1830, and published his first volume of poems while in Hartford; Lewis Gaylord Clark, who edited the "Mirror," and William L. Stone, another of its editors, afterward founder of the "New York Commercial Advertiser," and author of numerous volumes, were at some time busy in literary life in the

city, and, of later date, are to be named Dr. Trumbull, the late Dr. Bushnell, President Barnard, now of Columbia College, Mr. Warner, the late Henry Howard Brownell, the poet, Mr. Clemens ("Mark Twain"), and the Hon. Henry Barnard, at one time United States Commissioner of Education. Noah Webster, compiler of the Dictionary, was born in Hartford. Among women, either now or formerly of the city, who have acquired prominence in letters, are Mrs. Sigourney, whose first volume appeared in 1822; Miss Catharine Beecher, Mrs. Stowe, Mrs. Rose



RESIDENCE OF CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER.

Terry Cooke, "Gail Hamilton" and Miss Louisa Bushnell, each of whom, by the way, has been engaged in teaching in Hartford at some time; the two last named having been connected with the High School. It is said of Mrs. Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," that it has been translated into more languages than any other book but the Bible, and that a special alcove is reserved for it in the British Museum, as a study and for reference in philology. Among the authors mentioned, Barlow, Dwight, Stone, Brainard, Prentice, Whittier, Bushnell, Warner, Clark, and Clemens, all were editors at one time or another, and all but Dr. Bushnell and Mr. Clemens were editors in Hartford. The activity of the city in politics has made its press always noticeably strong. To be sure, some of its most talented and brilliant newspapers have died, but there has almost always been the energy necessary to establish a successor, and failure has not produced discouragement. The "Courant" has kept on its even way among all troubles, and is now owned and edited by General J. R. Hawley, President of the Centennial Commission, Mr. Charles Dudley Warner and Mr. Stephen A. Hubbard, under the firm of Hawley, Goodrich & Co.,—Mr. Goodrich having charge of the business department. The other daily newspapers are the "Times," founded in 1817, and owned and edited now by the Messrs. Burr, and the "Post," established in 1856, and owned by a stock company, in which ex-Postmaster-General Jewell has a

large share. The "Churchman," the very prominent Episcopal weekly journal, is published in Hartford, as are other denominational "weeklies," and several Sunday papers, advertising sheets, insurance journals, and so on.

Political activity is a habit inherited from the old Hartford. The colony of Connecticut formed about Hartford, and the first written constitution in the world was drawn up in Hartford, and adopted for Connecticut in 1639. The word "king" does not occur in it, and the liberality of its whole spirit is historic. Under the famous charter, Hartford, that is Connecticut, acquired New Haven colony in 1662, and, after a long opposition, New Haven yielded and consented to be taken in. Hartford was the capital until 1701, then it and New Haven nearly all the time had each the legislature once a year till 1818; then each had it on alternate years, and now, since 1874, Hartford has been the sole capital of the State, and a long dispute is quieted. In national affairs, the place has been honorably conspicuous. Its recruits have been ready always when needed for service. The capture of Ticonderoga by Ethan Allen was the result of an expedition organized in Hartford. Its Revolutionary record is good. The Hartford Convention of 1814, was certainly an important event. It was held in the Senate Chamber of the present State-house. In the Mexican war, Thomas H. Seymour, afterward Minister to Russia, won his fame, and among high officers of the late war, who are, or were of



"LOVE LANE."

Hartford, are Generals Alfred H. Terry of the regular army, J. R. Hawley of the "Courant;" W. B. Franklin of the Colt Arms Company, and the late R. O. Tyler. In civil life, Hartford has had the second Chief-Justice of the nation, Oliver Ellsworth, a native of Windsor, near by, but often resident in the city; Joel Barlow, Minister to France; Seymour and Jewell, Ministers to Russia; Oliver Wolcott, Secretary of the Treasury under John Adams; J. M. Niles under Van Buren, and Jewell under Grant,



MAIN STREET TO CEDAR HILL CEMETERY.

Postmaster-Generals; Isaac Toucey under Buchanan, and Gideon Welles through both of Lincoln's administrations, Secretaries of the Navy; and Toucey, Attorney-General under Polk. Postmaster-General Niles

founded the Hartford "Times," and Mr. Welles was at one time one of its editors.

This is only an imperfect review, after all, of some of the characteristic features of the city, its wealth, how earned and used, and its literary and political importance. With regard to the first of these, something should be said of the Hartford banks. The history of these institutions yields in itself material for a long work. To-day, the National Banks here have more than a third of all the deposits in Connecticut; more than a quarter of the capital, and surpluses averaging forty-three per cent.; while, through the rest of the State, the average surplus is thirty-two per cent. The wholesale dry goods business of the city, built up by sheer perseverance, began about forty years ago in a small way, but developed to great importance; and, a few years ago, every important town in the West had business relations with Hartford through the dry goods trade; yet, there was not in the city a single cotton or woolen mill. The sales of prints, last year, were more than \$6,000,000, and of all dry goods between \$10,000,000 and \$12,000,000. In connection with business, it should be added, that the city pays about one-third of all the taxes of Connecticut.

Of the general appearance of the city, it is not imprudent even for a resident to say that it is remarkably attractive. Its reputation is already established in that respect, and is aided by the fact that the railroads pass along the edge of the park, affording a full view of this charming spot, of the

imposing Capitol upon it, and of the pretentious buildings on Main street which are seen beyond. The position of the city is picturesque; it seems to rest naturally and easily where it is put; its macadamized streets are many, and are generally clean, and not yet altogether stripped of fine trees, although many

have been "improved" out of existence in the past twenty years. Its residences are home-like and tasteful, and it is noticeable how generally a bit of land is owned with the house. Blocks are few. There has

been a wide spreading out from the center in recent years, and where some of the finest places now are, not long ago there were

fine chestnut-trees, with his "garden" sunning itself back of the house for summer exercise and instruction, and in the winter the

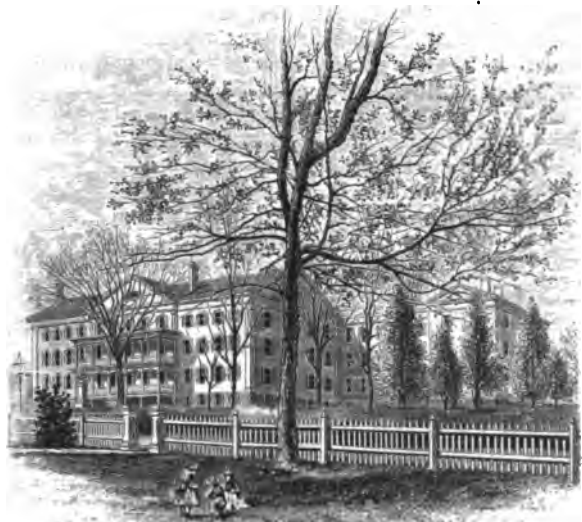
"back-log" burns in a grand open fire-place in the drawing-room, which is lighted by south, east and north windows. These are in the west part of the city. Toward the north, the visitor sees the State Arsenal and several of the older cemeteries, and at the far south, after passing the new Trinity College site and several conspicuous residences, there is reached a compar-



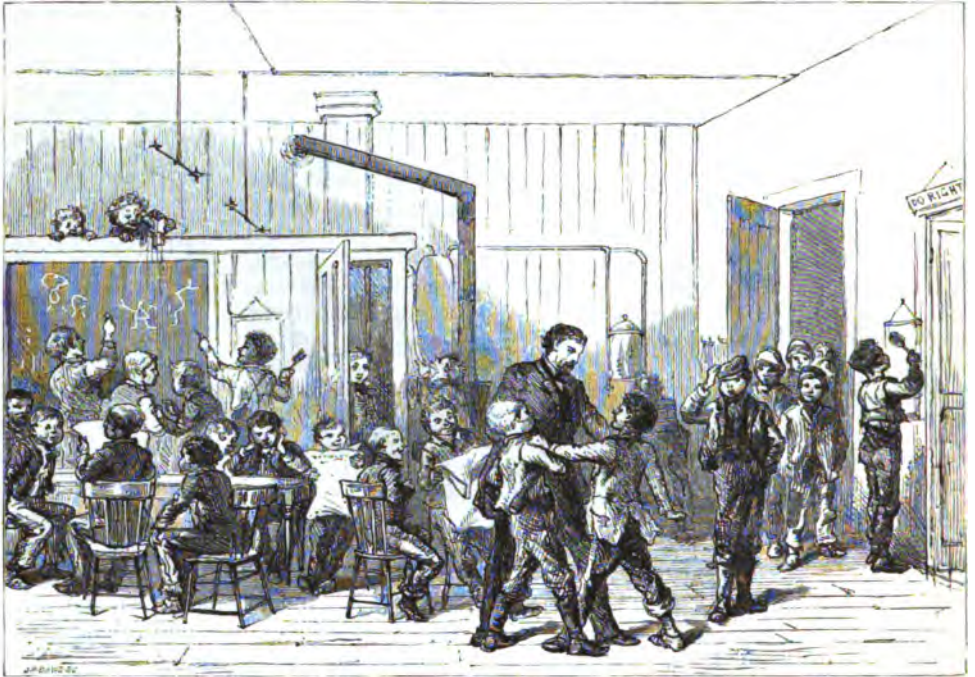
THE RETREAT FOR THE INSANE.

only outlying groves or pastures. "Arms-mear," Mrs. Colt's home, has already been described. Another remarkable place is "Mark Twain's," on Farmington avenue. The house is made entirely of brick, with wood trimmings. Some very unique but excellent effects have been given by setting the bricks at different angles in various colors of mortar, and by using different colored bricks. The house within is not noticeable at all for its peculiarity, as it is outside, but is admirably planned. The fine hall and staircase, and the wood-work of the library, which is antique and a foreign importation, are models of beauty. And yet with all that there is to admire in the house owing to the skill of the architect and the taste of its occupants, it remains a fact that Mr. Clemens does most of his writing in his barn,—a habit which, to avert some wretched punster, ought to be cited as one reason why among humorists of the day, his works are stable while others perish; indeed, his "Innocents Abroad" has still a steady and constant sale, and, especially at the West, is a household word, where it ranks as chief among Old Testament commentaries. All of his books are published in Hartford. Close by his house is Mrs. Stowe's, and not far off is Mr. Warner's, gracefully set among

tively new cemetery at Cedar Hill, well laid out on high ground, from which the prospect includes all the city and a long range up and across the valley. A favorite drive is to Cedar Hill; and Hartford people are, next to base-ball, notoriously fond of horses and driving. The Hartford base-ball grounds and the Charter Oak trotting park are regarded as models among public works of that sort. Another drive, renowned for years for its sentimental associations, which have given it the name of Love



THE AMERICAN ASYLUM FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.



IN THE BOYS' READING-ROOM.

Lane, is just about disappearing, its rich woods going down to make way for buildings. Wethersfield, with its State prison and its onions, is but a few miles south of the city; and the Tower, about eight miles west of the city, on Talcott Mountain, is a place of constant resort all summer long. Its views are unequaled anywhere else in the State. The Farmington and Connecticut Valleys lie under it west and east. North, appear Springfield, Mass., and Mounts Tom and Holyoke; the Catskills show themselves at the west in clear days; and south, the East Rock at New Haven is visible.

There is no fitter or pleasanter conclusion to the statements of the city's wealth than the fact that it is a place of many charities. The Hartford Hospital has a very liberal endowment, and is one of the largest buildings in Hartford. Near it is the Retreat for the Insane, a private asylum, founded in 1824, which has treated six thousand patients, more than three thousand of whom have been discharged recovered. There is, near the railway station, on Asylum avenue, on Asylum Hill (both named from it), the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, established in 1817 by Thomas Gallaudet, assisted by Laurent Clerc, a French deaf-mute gentleman, a

pupil of the Abbé Sicard. This was the first institution of its kind in the country. Until it was opened, the deaf and dumb had been held incapable of relief. Now they are not only taught useful industries, but learn to read with perfect ease, and to communicate ideas by signs, often more rapidly than others can by words, and sometimes they actually acquire speech. A bust of Mr. Clerc which was designed by a graduate of the institution, stands in the Asylum grounds. There are also among the charities, the Orphan Asylum, the various institutions of the Roman Catholic Church, which, besides several large churches,



THE COFFEE-HOUSE OF THE UNION FOR HOME WORK.

has a convent, schools, and asylums in the city; the Women's Home of the Women's Christian Association, the Widows' Homes, several especial funds held in trust for the poor, and the Union for Home Work, the latest of the Hartford charities, the fullest realization of well-wishing in well-doing that has yet been developed. It is an association of ladies, the payment of a small fee being the only qualification demanded of members. The lady managers consult with a board of gentlemen about important matters of finance; but practically it is all woman's work. A visitor employed by the Union is constantly among the sick and needy. There is a coffee-house, on the Holly Tree Inn plan, in Market street, where thoroughly good food is sold without profit, and where, in a soup-kitchen department, meal-tickets, sold to any purchaser for distribution among beggars, are redeemed on presentation. The coffee-house has a meat-market attached, where meats are sold to any purchaser at rates to cover in profit what is consumed in the restaurant, the market being in no sense a charity, but rather a means of sustaining one. Next door to the coffee-house, still a Union department, is the building used for a day nursery, or *crèche*, where young children are given good care and food all day while their mothers are away at work; and in the same building are lodging-rooms, and the reading-room for girls, who are taught sewing and music, and are read to and furnished with books. On certain days some of the ladies open a sewing-school for children, and at the coffee-house work is furnished to those who really need it, and food and clothes are provided at cost, much also being given away. The aim is not to help poor people to stay poor, but to show them how to earn, and to help themselves; it is scarcely necessary to say that professional and profitable beggary is the greatest obstacle the society meets. In connection with the Union, there is also a news-

boys' reading-room, open winter evenings, which is a useful thing, and a very lively place. Books, baths, checkers, and other luxuries are allowed to every boy who wants to come in, the washing being not only allowed, but, if necessary, enforced. This outlines the plan of the Union for Home Work. It is no longer an experiment, but seems to be an established institution, living upon members' fees, the income from occasional entertainments, and voluntary contributions given whenever they are wanted,—for the Union is thoroughly appreciated. Its buildings are utterly plain old houses; there is no show about it; its funds have not gone into a monumental building, and it into debt as a consequence. Its only advertisement is the great work it is quietly doing. Already, kind-hearted people of other cities, who have been looking for some practical scheme to reach just the results the Union reaches, are taking it for their model.

The existence and maintenance of all these charities, the presence of societies of every religious creed, the peaceful blending of as many nationalities as any city in the country contains, are all indications of the liberal spirit which prevails in and characterizes Hartford, whose wealth, culture, business enterprise, and philanthropy are each a reason for its fame among American cities. As to its future, there is room for speculation. Just now, like every city in the country, it suffers serious depression in business, and prophets are not lacking to say that it has reached its growth, and that, having spread out too much, it must steady itself to remain even of its present size and importance under the confessedly heavy taxes that are levied on its citizens; but against these are the known energy of the people, the evidences of how past opportunities have been improved, the traditions of success which attach to the city, and the power of increase that belongs to capital already acquired.



ANDIRONS IN HISTORICAL ROOMS.