

OFFICE,

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ARLINGTON AVENUE.

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WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

Tuesday, was the 144th anniversary of the birth of George Washington. The night previous some three inches of snow fell, and there were indications the day would prove a stormy one, but about nine o'clock the sky cleared, and the sun shone bright all day. Some of our citizens were patriotic enough to display the national emblem, but the town flag was not displayed, neither were the bells rung. The stores all closed at noon, and the day seemed more like Sunday than a holiday. Two of our religious societies had made arrangements for festivals on the evening of the day, and it was only around their doors that anything like life was shown.

At the Orthodox church, the festival was arranged especially for the amusement of the children, but all who attended were amply repaid. The southern end of the vestry was partitioned off the width of the platform, forming a small stage with wings, with a slide curtain, and the whole room was decorated with flags and streamers. The refreshments, consisting of cake, oranges, ice cream, etc., set on tables, in the small parlor, were served to the children by the lady teachers of the Sunday School and others, at the close of the entertainment. The entertainment consisted of a series of "symphonies," so called, introducing some half dozen or more boys, who, keeping time to the music of the piano, went through the various mechanical pursuits represented, such as blacksmithing, coopering, wood sawing and chopping, hair cutting, bootblackening, etc. This was followed by a similar one illustrative of the various household duties, by about the same number of little girls. Both were well received and heartily applauded. The other parts of the programme were a dialogue by young ladies, "That Love of a Bonnet," one by the young gent, "The Public Benefactor," and two tableaux—"Evening Prayer," and "School Examination." The exercises were interspersed with music, consisting of singing by the school; solo by Miss Wells; piano duet by Misses Hardy and Munroe. The vestry was crowded, everything passed off smoothly, and the little ones especially will long remember what a happy time they had on the evening of Washington's birthday, 1876.

The Universalist Festival consisted of a supper served at six o'clock, and the performance of a nicely arranged programme after the style of "ye olden time," introducing "A Lyste of Sacred Hymns and Tunes, and likewise Worldlye Pieces to be Sung and Acted," as the printed "Lyste" announced. Those taking part were dressed in costumes of the early part of the present century, and some of them were very fine, one

amount expended the previous year, and the expenditures have been \$5,123.65 less than the appropriations. This speaks well for the management of town affairs the past year, and shows the town is retrenching in accordance with the times. The general town debt is \$150,843.98 (a decrease of \$11,381.70 for the year); water debt, \$188,000,—making a total of \$338,843.98. The water debt has been increased to \$200,043 since the close of the year. One item in the water account deserves special attention. It appears that while the water debt has been steadily increasing, the receipts for water have steadily decreased, so that the past year they were only \$6,019.15, against \$7,542.16 received in 1874. The debt on water accounts is likely to be further increased the present year to at least \$300,000 in settlement of land damages, etc.—in fact, an article in the warrant for the annual meeting, asking authority to issue \$100,000 more bonds,—so that \$18,000 will be needed to pay the interest. Now allowing that the receipts for water the coming year to be \$6,019.12, the same as last year (and with the present depression in business they will hardly be as much), there will be about \$12,000 deficiency to be raised by the town. It would seem that this subject should have serious consideration, and see if some way cannot be devised to rid the town of this part of its burden.

The report of the chief engineer of the fire department is so brief we give it entire. He says:

"I have to report the Fire Department in nearly the same condition as last year, all the apparatus being in fair condition.

There have been fourteen fires and alarms.

Loss as given by owners or agents, \$9,950

Insurance, \$17,210

I shall be pleased to make recommendations and suggestions when so requested.

I would recommend an appropriation for the current expenses for the coming year, of two thousand three hundred dollars."

The School Committee make an excellent recommendation in regard to fixing the walks and play ground around the Russell and High School buildings. It is well known that in wet weather the grounds and walks about the Russell school in particular, are in a shameful condition. The children cannot get to the building without going through mud over their shoes and filling the schoolrooms with the mud and wet. Brick or concrete walks should be put down at once. It would be a saving to the town in the wear to the building, and to every person that sends children there to school. Some measure should also be taken to grass over a play ground, or else concrete it.

The report of the Town Clerk, is neatly and concisely arranged. As we have already published the most of it in a previous issue, it is hardly worth while to repeat.

COMMISSIONER'S AWARD.—The long-expected and anxiously-looked-for award of Messrs. Elias Merwin, Esq., of Boston, James B. Francis, Esq., of Lowell, and Hon. Charles A. Stevens, of Weare, has been made, and it is certainly an interesting document, to the mill owners, especially, and to the taxpayers generally, as well. The following table by no means shows the grand total. The bill of the Commissioners will be a large one, and the cost of the counsel is to be added. Our water bids far to be an expensive luxury.

Samuel A. Fowle,	\$16,000
On machinery,	3,000
Estate of Cyrus Cutter,	9,000
Charles Griffiths and others,	14,000
On machinery,	4,500
John C. Hobbs,	11,000
On machinery,	100
Theodore Schwamb,	7,000
Charles Schwamb,	13,000
Oliver Warner and others,	4,500
With interest from time of taking,	
June 19, 1873.	

TARGET SHOOT.—The Massachusetts Rifle Association had their first prize shoot at the Sky Pond range on Tues-

day Mr. Huy, of the "Apollo," and Missers Fowle, Prescott and Aiken, of the "Boylston" clubs were present by invitation, and gave a concert. All the gentlemen have fine voices, and on this occasion they acquitted themselves splendidly. Interspersed with the music were select readings by Mrs. Dunbar, Miss Bucknam, and J. H. Hardy, Esq. The audience were both surprised and delighted with the programme arranged for their entertainment.

TEMPERANCE LECTURE.—Wednesday evening about eight o'clock, officer Hartwell was notified that a man was lying in the snow by the sidewalk on the Avenue, a short distance from the Town Hall. He immediately went to his relief, and found it to be John Buckley, of East Lexington, who had fallen in a drunken stupor, and must soon have perished with the cold. He was taken to the lockup, and recovering sufficiently, was sent home on the late train from Boston.

POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY.—This most valuable magazine, published by D. Appleton & Co., New York, and conducted by E. L. Youmans, for March, was received this week. An illustrated article on "Lace Making," and another on "Lessons in Electricity," are very interesting. All the articles are scientific and scholarly, but the subjects are treated in such a manner as to please all classes of readers.

RUN-AWAY.—The charcoal merchant, who once a week makes his rounds through Arlington, left his team standing in front of Upham Brother's market, Monday afternoon. The horses became restive, and finally dashed down the Avenue, disappearing around the turn amid a cloud of charcoal dust. They ran about half a mile, but were stopped before any damage had been done.

ATLANTIC MONTHLY.—The March number of this most excellent monthly, came to hand last week, too late for notice. We have had time to peruse it, and find it unusually interesting, especially in the editorial departments.

FRIDAY MORNING PAPERS contain news of the acquittal of Gen. Babcock, charged with complicity in the whiskey frauds, and the action of the advisory counsel in the Beecher case, which is wholly in favor of Plymouth Church.

PITY THEIVING.—Some one stole blankets from several horses hitched in the sheds at the Baptist church, last Sunday night. If the party could be caught, he should be proceeded against for cruelty to animals, as well as for theft.

TOWN WARRANT.—The warrant for the annual Town meeting has been issued this week. It contains twenty articles, many of them of the highest importance. Owing to a press of matter this week, we defer a full statement of them until our next issue.

By reference to our Special Notice columns, it will be seen that a citizen's caucus has been called for Thursday evening, March 2nd, at eight o'clock. We hope it will be a full attendance.

The Methodists have their regular services on Sabbath evening at Menotomy Hall. The Young Men's

club every other Sabbath, who meet in place Feb. 17th, so that gentleman who thinks he "has been gone back on," I think will admit the managers have performed their duty in this respect. There were several who bought tickets who did not attend, but took them for the good of the course.

If the managers have given some first class societies, I think it is to their credit, and I for one, regret the gentleman was deprived (though through no fault of the managers), of the pleasure of attending them. SUBSCRIBER.

We cheerfully give place to the above. The article was, as it purported to be, editorial, and was prepared with a view to show the importance of being a regular subscriber to the Advocate. So far as the statement, "notice of the next one was given in the Advocate," is concerned, is certainly correct. It was given. The editor, having occasion to visit the hall, on the evening of the first sociable, for a special purpose, learned casually that it was the first of a series, and as is our custom, announced the time for holding the second one. [Ed.]

The Universalist and Unitarian societies will have a praise meeting at the First Congregational Church, Sunday evening, at 7 o'clock.

Letter from the Far West.

The following letter from a former well-known resident of Arlington, will be read with much interest, containing as it does much information in regard to the new and wonderful country in which he now finds a home. We are promised a series of letters from him. [Ed.]

VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA, }
Feb. 19, 1876. }

MR. EDITOR.—I saw in an Arlington Advocate received to-day, a letter from your "B" correspondent, dated at San Francisco, which discussed the Chinese question. I think, as the matter now stands, there will be bloody work on this coast before the question is settled. The white population look upon "John" as the prime cause of all their troubles,—cheap labor, and depression in business. In this country (Stoney) no Chinamen are allowed on any work of importance, such as railroads, mines, or anything of a public character. Their labors are confined to cooking, chamber work, and such housework as an ordinary American family would impose on their hired help. In Virginia City there are two factions of Chinese, known as the Sam Sing and Hop Wo companies. They wage incessant war on each other, and it is no infrequent occurrence for two or three on either side to be shot in an evening. The whites are beginning to take a hand in the fun, and their shots are more effective than any the Chinamen can fire. Our town is what is called a mining camp. We have a population of about 17,000, almost entirely of men, who are nearly all miners, working eight hours on a shift, making three shifts to every twenty-four hours. The mine working under ground get \$4 for an eight hour shift; those on the surface receiving \$3.50 for the same number of hours. Some of the mines, the Savage and Hale & Norcross, for instance, are down a distance of 2500 feet. The others range from 50 to 2000 feet. Just at present they have struck a flow of water in the Savage, which has risen to the 1800 foot level. The Savage is connected with the Hale & Norcross, and the Gould & Curry. The Gould & Curry bulk headed their works in time to prevent the water from flowing in, but Hale & Norcross are complete-

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