

HISTORY OF WESTERN MARYLAND.

BEING A HISTORY OF

FREDERICK, MONTGOMERY, CARROLL, WASHINGTON, ALLEGANY, AND GARRETT
COUNTIES

FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT DAY;

INCLUDING

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF THEIR

REPRESENTATIVE MEN.

BY

J. THOMAS SCHARF, A.M.,

AUTHOR OF "CHRONICLES OF BALTIMORE," "HISTORY OF BALTIMORE CITY AND COUNTY," "HISTORY OF MARYLAND;" MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ACADEMY OF SCIENCES; MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA; HONORARY MEMBER OF THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY; CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF NEW YORK, WISCONSIN, MINNESOTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND VIRGINIA; OF THE HISTORICAL AND PHILO-SOPHICAL SOCIETY OF OHIO; OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC-GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, ETC., ETC.

IN TWO VOLUMES, ILLUSTRATED.

VOL. II.

PHILADELPHIA:

LOUIS H. EVERTS.

1882.

The first floor includes the council chamber and municipal offices, and the lobby, dressing-rooms, and first-floor box-entrances, etc., of the theatre. The offices of the city government occupy the northern half of the floor. The council chamber, occupying the northwest corner, is a splendid room, fifty by forty feet, and eighteen feet high. In the rear of the council-chamber and next the lobby is an ante-room, twenty by twenty feet. On the northeast corner is the mayor's office, and adjoining it the city clerk's office, each twenty by twenty feet.

The second floor is a counterpart of the first, excepting one additional room over the council chamber.

The third floor is leased entirely by the Masonic fraternity. The main lodge-room is sixty by forty feet, and sixteen feet high. There are also chapter and banqueting-rooms, ante-rooms, and numbers of small rooms for the storing of regalia, paraphernalia, etc. The I. O. O. F. order has three rooms on the third floor.

The crowning feature, in point of size, beauty, and elegance, of the City Hall building is the theatre, which occupies the southern half of the building, above the market-house. After the Baltimore theatres, it has no equal in this State in seating capacity, and few or no superiors of its class in beauty and elegance, while for the convenience and completeness of its appointments of all kinds, and particularly those of the stage and its appurtenances, by the statement of several prominent theatrical managers, it is absolutely unsurpassed in this country. The stage has everything that is required by the leading companies, and is pronounced perfect in its appointments by those who know. It is the work of Mr. W. H. Fowler, stage-carpenter, Baltimore. The scenery is beautiful, and has been warmly commended by connoisseurs who have seen it. The auditorium is sixty-two by sixty-six feet. The seating capacity of the house is eleven hundred persons. The entire building, including the market-house, Masonic Hall, etc., contains four hundred gas burners.

The Academy of Music was opened March 7, 1876, with a performance of "The Big Bonanza," by Frederick B. Warde, under the management of John T. Ford, of Baltimore, which was followed successively by "The Two Orphans" and "Jane Eyre," under the same manager.

The Water-Works.—To the General Assembly of Maryland, early in its session of 1816, a petition was presented by the inhabitants of Cumberland praying for the incorporation of the "Cumberland Water Company," for introducing soft water into the town. The charter was granted, and the company authorized

to raise ten thousand dollars by issuing five hundred shares of stock at twenty dollars each. David Shriver, Michael C. Sprigg, George Thistle, Samuel P. Smith, John Scott, and Peter Lowdermilk were the committee in charge of the subscription-books. After a year or so the company failed in its project, and the matter was dropped until the third year of the civil war, when the local authorities and citizens generally realized the necessity of obtaining an adequate supply.

The inadequate supply of good water for domestic and other purposes had long been a cause of much inconvenience, and oftentimes considerable loss to the inhabitants of Cumberland, and the subject of works to supply the city had been talked about for ten years or more, but no movement was made in the right direction until a few enterprising citizens had the matter brought before the Legislature of Maryland in 1864, and a charter was granted by that body on March 5th of that year for the erection of city water-works.

The charter gave the mayor and councilmen of Cumberland the authority to issue bonds to the amount of sixty thousand dollars, bearing six per cent. interest, for the purpose of realizing a fund for the introduction of water into the city for the use of the inhabitants thereof. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the charter, a board of water commissioners was named in the charter, comprising Messrs. Joseph Shriver, V. A. Buckey, Alpheus Beall, Hopewell Hebb, and J. B. H. Campbell. Surveys were made by Charles P. Manning, and also by William Brace, civil engineers, with a view of supplying the city with water by the reservoir system. It was designed to place a large steam-engine at the river, and to force water up into a large reservoir to be constructed upon the top of the hill immediately in the rear of J. Galloway Lynu's residence on Rose Hill, the height above the river being about one hundred feet. Estimates were made for the entire cost of this system, which was set down at eighty thousand dollars. This being twenty thousand dollars more than the sum named in the charter, the project was permitted to come to a "stand-still." Thus affairs remained for several years, until the question was again brought up in the Maryland Legislature in April, 1870, when a new bill was introduced, and passed on the 7th day of April, repealing certain sections of the act of 1864, and enacting certain others, authorizing the mayor and councilmen to issue bonds to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars, said bonds to bear seven per cent. interest, for the purpose of carrying out the intent of the charter and introducing a supply of water into the city. The following were named in the act to serve as a board of

commissioners: Messrs. Horace Resley, Lewis Smith, James M. Schley, J. B. H. Campbell, Asa Willison, John Humbird, J. Philip Roman, Hopewell Hebb, and George Henderson, Jr. These gentlemen immediately thereafter set about carrying out the provisions of the water act. The reservoir system, as planned by the former board in 1864, was again revived, and that plan was about to be adopted, when the Holly system was brought to the attention of the commissioners. In the mean time surveys were being made by T. L. Patterson, civil engineer, whose estimate for the reservoir system, with all the mains as now adopted, was nearly the same as that made by Mr. Manning, being about eighty thousand dollars. Before operations had been begun on the reservoir plan, parties visited the city to lay before the board of commissioners the Holly system, claiming its superior merits over all others.

In the summer of 1870 a number of citizens, including several of the board, visited Dayton, Ohio, for the purpose of witnessing the operations of the Holly system just completed in that city. The result of their visit was so satisfactory to the committee that, on their return, they reported that the Holly system was far superior to anything of the kind they had ever witnessed, and they urgently recommended its adoption for the city of Cumberland. Negotiations were then had with the company, and a contract was finally entered into for the erection of a set of works in Cumberland.

A question of a suitable site for the works was settled by the purchase of the "old Pigman property" from John B. Widener, in July, 1870, and in August following the first ground was broken in the rear of that property for the erection of the buildings, Asa Willison having in the mean time been elected as superintendent of the work. The engineering for the line of mains, etc., was done by William Brace, and the general work was speedily put into active operation. A contract for the mains was entered into with Messrs. Gaylord & Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio, who agreed to furnish the mains, lay them in place, and guarantee them serviceable, at a pressure of one hundred and fifty pounds to the square inch, for five years from the date of commencement of use, and within a few weeks of the date of contract the pipe began arriving.

The mayor and councilmen had duly issued the bonds for one hundred thousand dollars, and they were placed in the banks of Cumberland for sale, and large amounts were readily disposed of at a discount of about five per cent. on par value, and money was at once realized to carry on the work. In October,

1870, the work of laying the mains was begun and continued for several weeks, when the work was discontinued until the following spring. In the mean time, the Holly Manufacturing Company was erecting its machinery in the building which had been built for that purpose. The management was under the superintendence of Mr. Edward S. Alexander, and by June, 1871, the Holly works were prepared to operate. After some deliberation as to the best mode of crossing Will's Creek with the mains, it was finally decided to lay a wrought-iron main in the bed of the stream to connect with the cast-iron mains at the two shores.

On the 7th of July, 1871, the first water ever thrown by the Holly works of Cumberland issued from the fire-plug on the hill in the rear of the courthouse. On the 10th of August, 1871, the wrought-iron main was laid in the creek and attached to the shore ends.

On Saturday, Sept. 30, 1871, the grand trial was effected. It was under the management of Chief Engineer Wolvington and Mr. Anderson, the assistant, the whole under the charge of Mr. Alexander. The trial was a success in every particular.

On the 1st day of October, 1871, the city of Cumberland was first regularly supplied with water. In 1880, Mayor Read closed a contract with C. G. Helbreath, of the Holly Works Company, for improvements upon the water-works to the amount of eighteen thousand dollars. Joseph Zweng is the chief engineer.

Fire Companies and Fires.—The General Assembly, in January, 1805, passed an act for raising two thousand dollars to purchase a fire-engine for Cumberland, etc., and designated in it William McMahon, George Hoffman, Thomas Thistle, David Hoffman, Sr., and Upton Bruce as the commissioners to hold a lottery in furtherance of the project. The scheme was probably not carried out, for the Legislature in 1814 enacted a new law appointing George Thistle, Samuel Smith, John Scott, Jacob Lantz, John Folek, Peter Lowdermilk, and William Lamar, Sr., to have and conduct a scheme of lottery to raise two thousand dollars to procure a fire-engine.

At a meeting of the citizens, Dec. 10, 1830, at "Newman's Tavern," the "Cumberland Fire Engine Company" was organized and officers elected.

In February following another fire company was organized, and two of its ladders were kept on the turnpike, over the rack at Shriver's shed, and two at Hook's fence, corner of Frederick and Centre Streets. The town purchased in 1837 a forcing-engine, popularly known as the "Goose-neck," and a tax of thirty cents on the hundred dollars was levied for its pay-