

STATUE OF WM. PENN, AT THE SOUTH FRONT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL.



It is not our intention to present a history of the distinguished individual, whose portrait introduces this imperfect sketch; his deeds and virtues have been so frequently described in strains of impassioned eloquence, as to render such an undertaking on our part a work of supererogation. His memory must forever live in the mind of every friend of civil and religious liberty. The founder of a great state whose liberal and enlightened policy has been cited as an exemplar to the whole world, whose sacrifices for the promotion of the good of mankind were only limited by his capacity to render them effective, will acquire no additional fame from any panegyric, however able the hand by which it is drawn.

This country was once a wilderness, shaded by lofty trees, and inhabited by roaming beasts, and the almost equally savage Indian. Ample savannahs displayed their broad expanse to the genial sun, but the golden grain waved not over them; the earth reposed in silence save where the clangor of the fight, or the groan of some victim of savage warfare disturbed the tranquility of the scene. The swelling rivers rolled their full tides to the ocean, but no gallant ship floated thereon, laden with the riches of a foreign clime—neither art nor science had yet condescended to cheer the waste, or illumine the intellectual darkness with even a solitary ray of light.

The song of the joyous reaper was not heard, as he returned from the field of healthful labor; there was none to bless the harvest, or cultivate the earth. The unsophisticated native formed to himself no vision of bliss beyond the plain which resounded with the shouts of triumph, or the feats of skill. To rouse the deer from his covert and pursue the chase, was the pleasure and the toil of the untutored Indian. The sun dispensed heat and light, but curiosity was dead, and the page of knowledge unscanned. The firmament glittered with unnumbered stars, but there was none to admire their beauty, or comprehend the benefit to be derived from an acquaintance with their properties. Philosophy did not instruct, and genius did not labor to improve the understanding and amend the heart. Ignorance and superstition hallowed the objects of sense, before which men bowed themselves in folly.

The scene has now changed—refinement, knowledge and morality have shed their benignant influence over a wide spread continent.—Among those who have contributed to the production of this change William Penn occupies a most prominent position. The moral and religious character of the founder of Philadelphia, was pure, and undefiled by the narrow motives and selfish feeling too frequently displayed in the acts of those, whom a grateful posterity have enrolled among the benefactors of mankind; under the umbrageous shade of a spreading elm he consummated a treaty among the na-

tives, the only one recorded on the page of history, which required no oath to give it sanction, and no effusion of human blood to confirm its authority.

When William Penn arrived on the American shore, the site of this city formed a part of the possessions of the Swedes, whose claims were readily adjusted. Both they and the natives gave him every aid and assistance his necessity required. The grand object proposed to be attained was the establishment of a colony, in which the right to worship the Almighty without the intervention of penal enactments should be a fundamental law.

The commercial spirit of England was aroused to more vigorous action by the exploits of Sir Walter Raleigh, which led to the discovery of the river Delaware—several settlements were made on this stream by the English, Swedes, and Dutch. In 1651 a house for trade was erected by the Dutch settlers, where the town of New Castle now stands, who soon after expelled the Swedes. The victors became masters of the whole western shore, under the denomination of the New Amsterdam Company. A large tract of land, known by the title of the New Netherlands, was, in 1664, ceded to the Duke of York, by his brother, Charles II, and about the latter part of the year, the town of New Castle was taken possession of by Admiral Nichols, who held the post of Governor for twenty-four years.

In 1672, a war occurred between the Dutch and English, when an expedition started by the latter power, failed in the intended purpose, and the people returned to the former government. A treaty was, however, soon after concluded between England and the States General, by which the political character of the colonies was permanently established. On the 4th of March, 1681, the tract of country embraced in the limits of the present State of Pennsylvania, was granted by Charles 2d, to William Penn, in consideration of the military services of his father, Admiral Penn, in the wars with the Dutch.

In 1682, having obtained a grant of the territory comprised in the State of Delaware, he embarked for America, and convened the first assembly at Upland, now Chester. In framing the bill of rights, liberty of conscience was made conspicuous in the very first article. His title was considered as indisputable, but he determined to make it more sure, by actual purchases from the Indians.

In 1683, the original plan of the city of Philadelphia, was proposed by Thomas Helme, the ground plot being divided by nine streets, to run east and west. This scheme was, however, very soon extended, and made to comprehend a more enlarged space. Several streams of water formerly crossed the spot on which the city stands, especially a creek that pursued its course along Dock street, through Hudson's alley to the corner of Fourth and Market streets.—

Could the shade of Penn again return to visit the land which so long was the object of his anxious care, and in whose prosperity he felt so deep an interest, with what astonishment would he view the mighty changes that have since occurred. The scene of his labor would not be recognised, and while he might find much to commend, he would perceive yet more to condemn.

There is nothing connected with the early history of Pennsylvania, that does not indicate the lofty and philanthropic mind of the founder. Every act of his life had for its object the happiness and good of mankind; the new colony was thrown open to emigrants from every clime, and of all sects and parties; no distinctions were introduced in favor of any privileged class, as regarded civil or religious rights. Justice and sound morality, were the fundamental principles on which Penn designed to erect the superstructure of his government—more especially did he labor to direct the attention of the public to a system of laws, which should moderate the sanguinary code of the mother country, and reduce the number of capital offences, or abolish them altogether.

Some years since, one of the descendants of Wm. Penn, transmitted to this city, a bronze statue of this eminent personage, which from some circumstance or other was transferred to the Pennsylvania Hospital. In the beautiful circular area in front of that institution, surrounded with elegant shrubbery and sycamore trees, on a marble pedestal, stands the primitive figure of the illustrious founder.

L June 25-40.

LAST WEEK.
MAELZEL'S EXHIBITION
 OF THE CAROUSEL, AUTOMATA, &c.
 AT NO. 48 SOUTH FIFTH STREET,
 TAKES place every evening; to commence precisely at half past 7 o'clock.
 Admittance 50 cents—Children half price.
 Tickets may be had during the day, at the exhibition hall, or at the door in the evening.
 nov 8-mw13t

L Nov. 8-1850.

July 29-29.

MR. POULSON,
 In order to increase a demand for the beautiful half dimes which have been in circulation for the last few days, the prices of articles must be regulated to suit them, for there cannot be a demand, consequently they will not be brought into general circulation while we have to give coppers with them.
 There are some articles, such as mineral water, ice cream, &c &c. that if they were sold for 5 and 10 instead of 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, would contribute largely to the introduction and circulation of the dime and half dime to the entire exclusion, in a short time, of the others.
 As this is a National concern, every one should feel himself bound to contribute, by accommodating the prices of his articles, as much as practicable, to facilitate the change.
 B. Y.

July 26-59.

THE PAST AND THE PRESENT.—In delving among some old papers, at the Mayor's office, recently, a copy of the annual message of Mayor Robert Wharton, to City Councils, in the year 1821, turned up. The document is printed upon a single page of whitely-brown paper, and it bears about the same proportion to modern documents of the same description, as the "city proper," of 1821, bore to the Philadelphia of 1859. It is not a little curious that although thirty-eight years have elapsed since "Bobby" Wharton offered his mayoral views to City Councils, that the Mayors of the present day call the attention of the city fathers annually to the same evils. As an illustration of what we state the document before us sets out with strongly urging "a thorough revision of the Ordinances, expunging those parts which have become obsolete, or have been supplied, and comprising the different supplements, on the same subject, under one general head." Mayor Wharton dilated upon the inconveniences resulting from the want of system in these matters, just as Mayor Henry urged a codification of existing ordinances in his last message to Councils. The troubles experienced by Mayor Wharton, in this way, have been greatly increased and complicated by the act of Consolidation, which makes different ordinances operative only in certain districts, and Councils have not yet vouchsafed any relief.
 Mayor Wharton was of opinion in 1821, as we learn from his message of that year, that "the Market limits on High street, should be extended to or near Centre Square." Thirty-eight years later, the Mayor and City Councils thought there should be no market limits at all on High street, and that the street should not only lose its ancient markets, but also its original name. In 1821 Mayor Wharton thought that "a fine should be inflicted upon disorderly persons calling the hour in derision of the watchmen." In 1859 the Mayor and City Councils thought that the calling of the hour by policemen would be an imitation by them of disorderly persons, and if a modern "star" should presume to imitate an ancient "Charley," in respect to "making night hideous with his cries," he would stand an excellent chance of losing his brazen badge. Mayor Wharton winds up his annual communication to the City Legislature by recommending the adoption of an ordinance forbidding the boys to play "shinney" in the streets, giving as a special reason for such an enactment, that within a few days a lady had been struck, and "had liked to have been seriously injured," by a hard substance propelled by a "shinney" stick. A message of the present day will probably look as odd in 1897 as that of 1821 looks to the present generation of Philadelphians.