

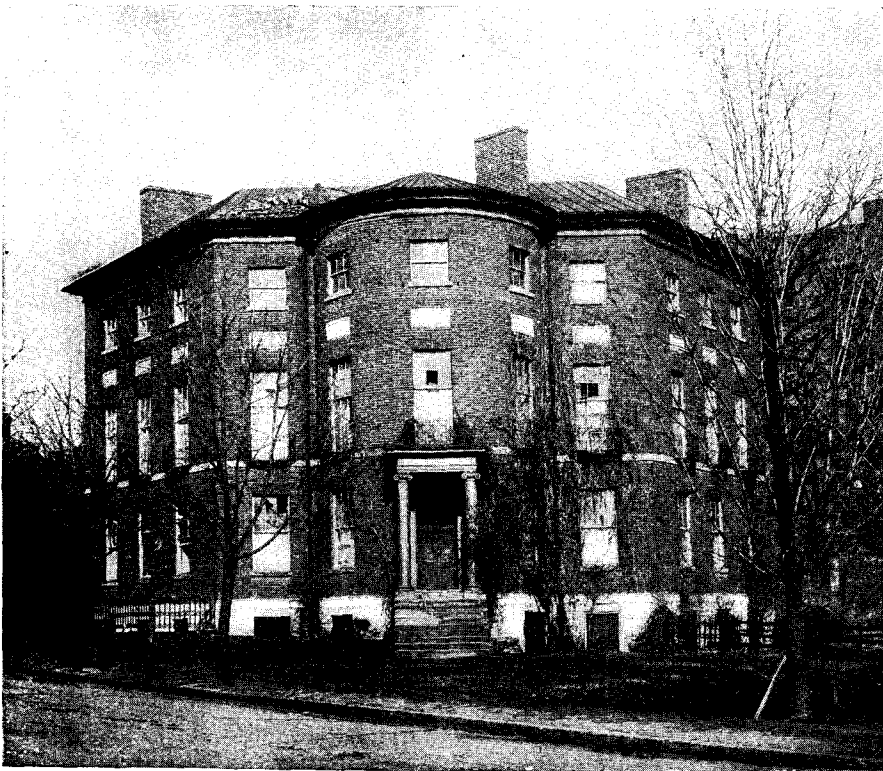
HISTORIC WASHINGTON HOMES.

BY CATHERINE FRANCES CAVANAGH.

THE OLD HOUSES THAT HAVE SEEN GENERATIONS OF FAMOUS MEN COME AND GO, AND
THE ASSOCIATIONS THAT MAKE THEM AN EPILOGUE OF A HUNDRED YEARS
OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

THE century of life which the national capital has just completed is filled with incidents that have helped to make not its annals alone but those of the Union. More famous men and women have dwelt there than in any other American community; and though we have older and larger cities, we have none that can show so many houses possessed of interesting historic associations.

The original proprietors of the tract that Washington now covers were Daniel Carroll of Duddington Manor, Notley Young, Samuel Davidson, and David Burns. All excepting Burns were open to negotiations. When the commissioners could not bring him to terms, Washington made frequent visits from Mount Vernon and argued with "that obstinate Davy Burns," as he called him. At length Burns yielded.



THE OCTAGON HOUSE, NEW YORK AVENUE AND EIGHTEENTH STREET, WHICH WAS THE HOME OF
PRESIDENT MADISON AFTER THE BURNING OF THE WHITE HOUSE IN 1814.

From a photograph by Farnham, Washington.

The deed conveying his land was the first recorded in the new city.

The contract provided for the preservation of the Burns cottage, and it re-

and the entertainments held there were indeed royal. Congress was entertained there annually as long as Mr. Van Ness lived. His only child married

Arthur Middleton of South Carolina. She died two years after her marriage, and, there being no direct heirs, the estate passed into strange hands. Today the house is in a sorry state of dilapidation, and the fine old



THE DECATUR HOUSE, JACKSON PLACE AND H STREET, WHENCE COMMODORE DECATUR WENT TO HIS DEATH ON THE BLADENSBURG DUELING GROUND.

mained standing until a few years ago. In it were entertained Washington, Jefferson, Aaron Burr, Alexander Hamilton, and rollicking Tom Moore, who penned those satirical lines on the young capital which, it seems, cost him the honor of a tablet in the beautiful library that was to rise upon the hill almost a century later.

David Burns' only child, Marcia, married Congressman John P. Van Ness, of New York. On the death of her father, Marcia conveyed all her inheritance to her dashing husband, who spent a good share of the money in building a mansion at the foot of Seventeenth Street. It was designed by Latrobe, the architect of the Capitol. In those days it was considered a palace,



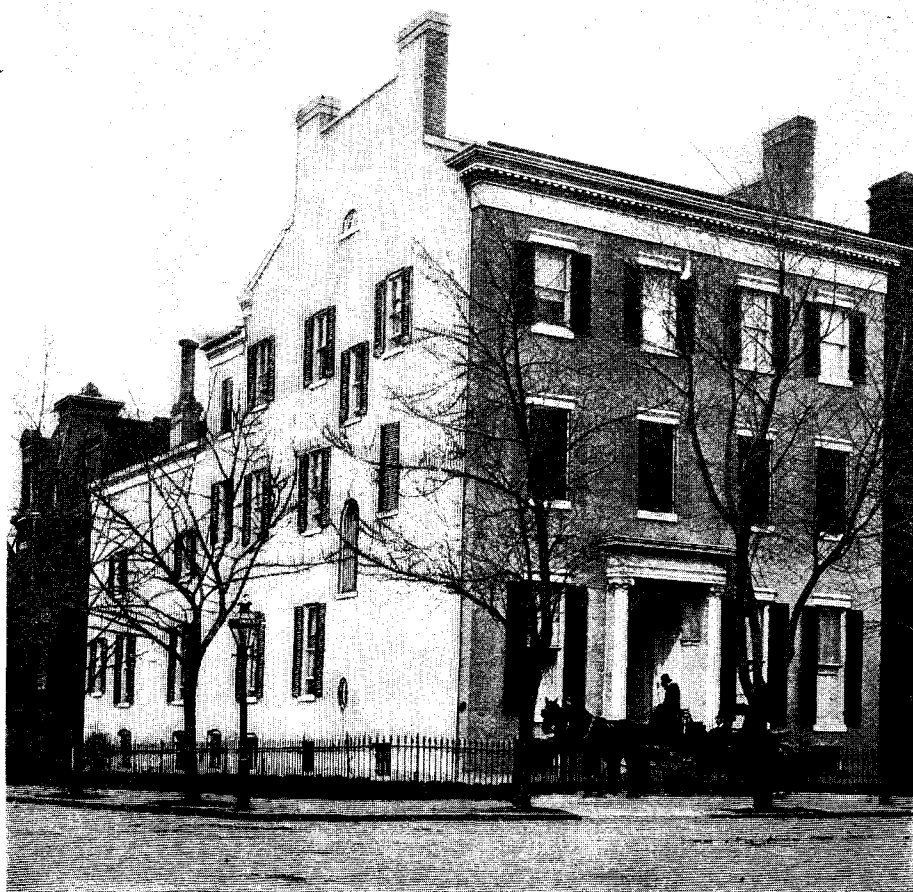
THE SICKLES HOUSE, JACKSON PLACE, OCCUPIED BY THREE SECRETARIES OF THE NAVY, AND LATER BY GENERAL SICKLES, OF NEW YORK.

grounds are invaded by picnickers and ball players.

Our National Library stands on the site of Carroll Row, built by Daniel Carroll. It was known as Nick Queen's Hotel early in the century, and was the quarters of many Congressmen. Dr.



THE BURNS COTTAGE (NOW DEMOLISHED), THE HOMESTEAD OF "OBSTINATE DAVY BURNS," AS GEORGE WASHINGTON CALLED THE OLD SETTLER WHO LONG REFUSED TO SELL HIS LAND TO THE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED TO LAY OUT THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.
From a photograph by Farnham, Washington.



THE HOME OF A FORMER MISTRESS OF THE WHITE HOUSE, MRS. HARRIET LANE JOHNSTON, EIGHTEENTH AND I STREETS.

From a photograph by Farnham, Washington.

Ewell's house was on the corner, and there, after the disastrous battle of Bladensburg, in 1814, he established a temporary hospital, of which he himself was head surgeon.

The Octagon House, on the corner of New York Avenue and Eighteenth Street, a few blocks from the building of the State, War, and Navy Departments, was built in 1801 by Colonel John Taloe, a Virginia gentleman whose estate of Mount Airy was famous throughout the Dominion. For more than a decade the house stood alone as the most princely home in the city, and when the White House was burned by the British, after Bladensburg, it became the temporary residence of the chief magistrate. In the

circular room over the vestibule President Madison signed the Treaty of Ghent, which officially declared our second war with Great Britain at an end. In recent years the old mansion has been deserted and falling to decay, so it was with satisfaction that lovers of the historical learned, a few months ago, that the American Institute of Architects had leased it. The society has now begun the work of restoration.

The plain old house on the corner of Eighteenth and I Streets is the home of Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston, who was mistress of the White House as the niece of President Buchanan. It was she who entertained the Prince of Wales in 1860, and in her beautiful home there hangs a portrait which her

royal guest had painted soon after his return to England, and forwarded to her uncle as a token of esteem. Under the portrait, in a little frame, is the letter that accompanied the gift.

About 1810, when surgeon general of the army, Joseph Lovell built a residence on Pennsylvania Avenue, opposite the White House. From its windows he witnessed the burning of the

Daniel Webster, and Henry Clay were present.

No. 1710 H Street, now the French embassy, was built by Richard Rush, son of Benjamin Rush, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. This gentleman had a brilliant political career and held the offices of minister to England, Attorney General, and minister to France. Other famous occu-



THE PORTER MANSION, H STREET, BUILT BY RICHARD RUSH, AND NOW OCCUPIED BY THE FRENCH EMBASSY.

Presidential mansion in 1814. After Lovell's death it was purchased by Francis Blair, Sr., editor of the *Washington Globe*. It was successively leased to George Bancroft, the historian, when Secretary of the Navy under Polk, and to John Mason, Secretary of the Navy under Tyler and minister to France under Pierce. Thomas Ewing, the celebrated Ohio Senator, who adopted General W. T. Sherman and secured him a cadetship at West Point, made this house his home for many years. In it took place the marriage of Ewing's daughter to his adopted son, at which President Fillmore and his cabinet,

pants of the mansion were Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State under Grant, Sir Frederic Bruce, Lord Lyons and Lord Napier, representing Great Britain, and Admiral Porter of naval fame.

And now we come to Lafayette Square, that aristocratic neighborhood where, it has been said, the scene of the "great American novel" might be laid.

The White House, the first building erected facing the square, was sole mistress of the flats and forests on that memorable August day in 1814 when the British soldiers left a trail of fire behind them as they evacuated the captured capital. The first private dwell-

ing was built by Commodore Decatur on the corner of Jackson Place and H Street. Decatur's wife was a Miss Wheeler, at one time the belle of eastern Virginia. Jerome Bonaparte sought her in marriage before his meeting with Miss Betsy Patterson of Baltimore. Miss Wheeler was warned against the French prince by her friends, who pre-

home, rich in trophies of warfare, sacred with memories of his wedded life, and passed through Lafayette Square to Beal's Tavern, where he ate breakfast with his seconds. The duel took place in the famous green hollow near Bladensburg. The hero of many battles was killed; his adversary was wounded for life.



THE MADISON MANSION, H STREET AND MADISON PLACE, WHICH WAS MCCLELLAN'S HEADQUARTERS IN 1861, AND IS NOW OCCUPIED BY THE COSMOS CLUB.

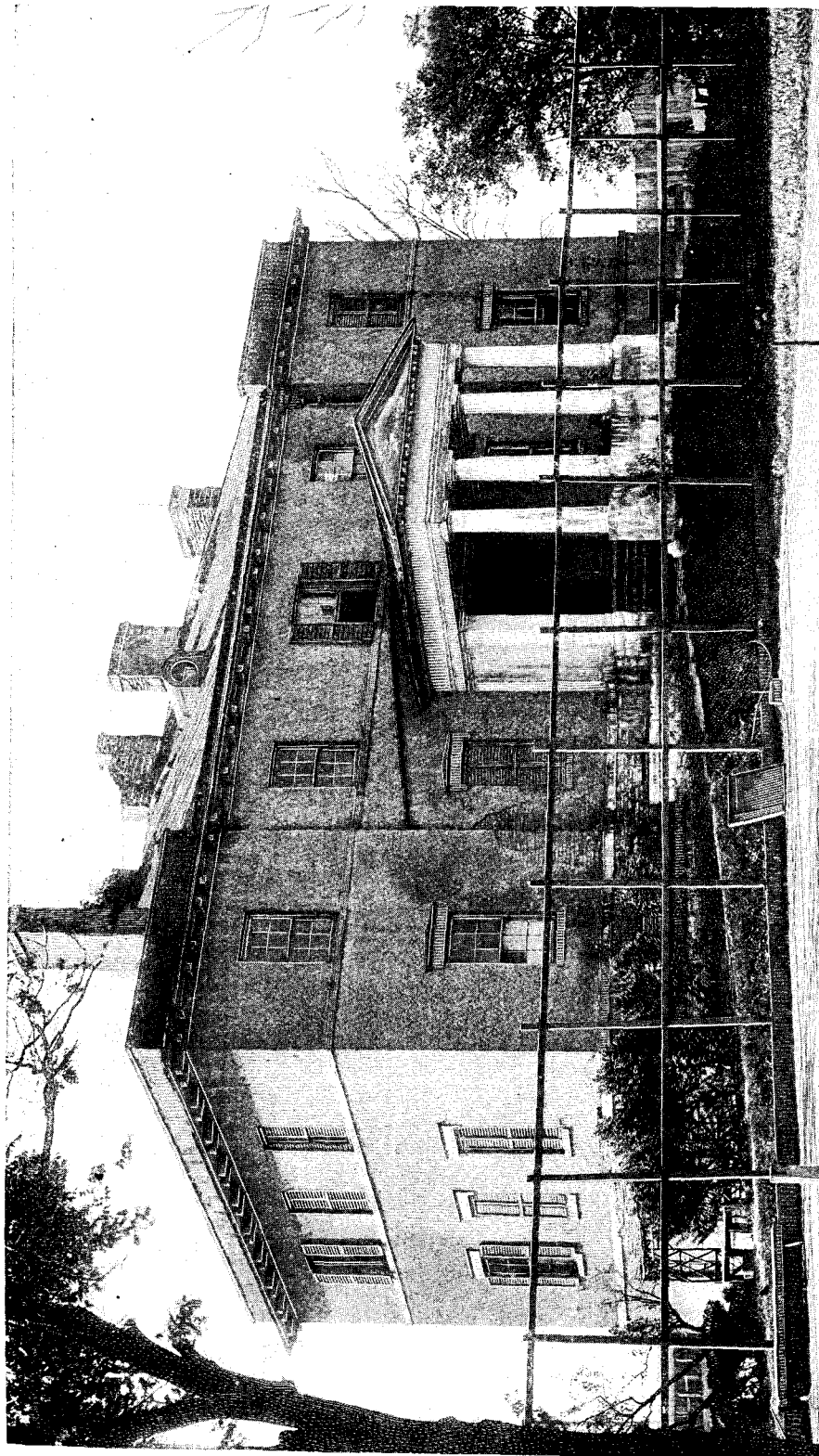
dicted that Napoleon would repudiate any American marriage his brother might make. She wasted neither time nor tears over Jerome, but shortly after his proposal wedded a better man.

At a social gathering at the Decatur mansion the commodore remarked to his friend Admiral David Porter:

"I believe your party comes off next week. I hope I shall not spoil it."

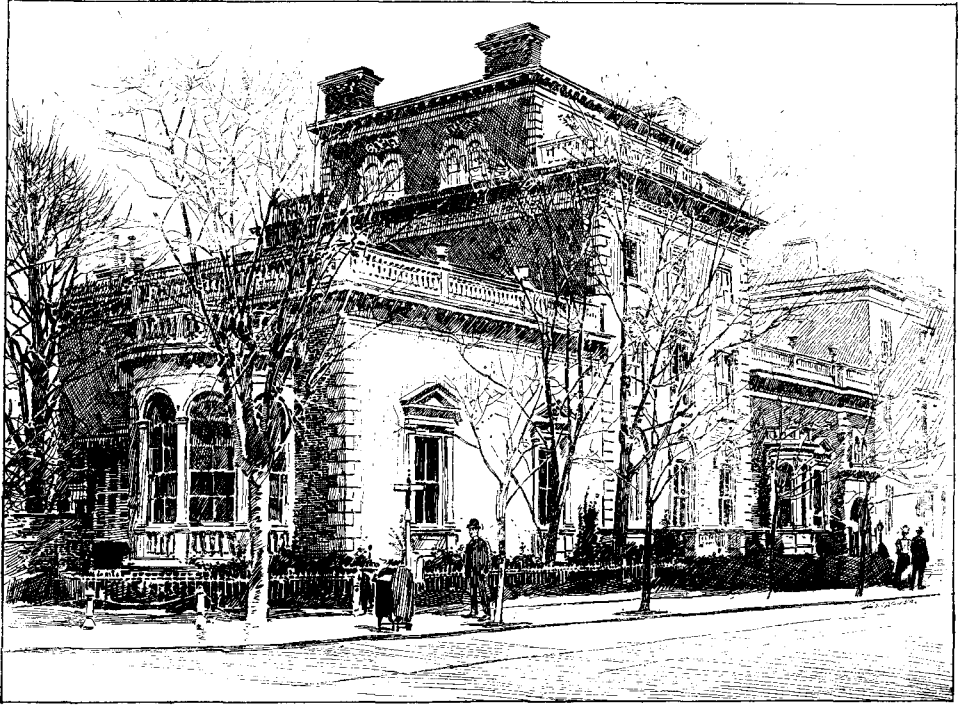
He had in mind "an affair of honor," the outcome of a political quarrel between himself and Commodore Barron, scheduled for the following Wednesday. At dawn of that day, the victor of Tripoli and Algiers stole from his

Mrs. Decatur, when about to retire to Georgetown Convent, leased the house to Baron Tuyll, minister from Russia, whose name is socially historical. When Secretary of State to John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay lived there, and was followed by his successor in office, Martin Van Buren. Other notable tenants were Edward Livingston, a brother of Chancellor Livingston, of New York, and the man who administered the oath of office to Washington; Sir Charles Vaughan, minister from Great Britain; the King brothers, Congressmen from New York; and General Edward Fitzgerald Beale.



THE VAN NESS MANSION, AT THE FOOT OF SEVENTEENTH STREET, BUILT BY CONGRESSMAN JOHN P. VAN NESS, OF NEW YORK, WHO MARRIED MARCIA, THE DAUGHTER OF DAVID BURNS.

From a photograph by Furuham, Washington.



THE CORCORAN MANSION, H STREET AND CONNECTICUT AVENUE, BUILT FOR DANIEL WEBSTER, AND SINCE OCCUPIED BY WILLIAM W. CORCORAN, THE BRITISH AND FRENCH LEGATIONS, AND THE LATE SENATOR BRICE.

No. 14 Jackson Place was built next, by Dr. Ewell, a naval surgeon. It successively passed into the hands of three Secretaries of the Navy—Smith Thompson, Samuel L. Southard, and Levi Woodbury. They were followed by Senator Rives of Virginia, and two naval officers; after whom the house fell to Daniel E. Sickles, then a member of Congress from New York. It is still commonly known as the Sickles house, through the terrible tragedy that marked his tenancy of it. His young and thoughtless wife had centered her unsteady affection on Philip Barton Key, and she carried on a flirtation with him as he sat at the windows of his club on the opposite side of the square. One day their handkerchief signals came to the notice of General Sickles, who walked across the square and shot Key down on the pavement in front of the club.

On the corner of H Street and Madison Place stands the house occupied by Dolly Madison after her husband's

death. Here she held the same queenly sway which characterized her as mistress of the White House, and here she spent her declining years, as the bronze tablet over the door informs the stranger. On her death, the house was bought by Commodore Wilkes, the naval officer who nearly got the Federal government into war with England by his seizure of the Confederate envoys, Mason and Slidell, on a British ship. During the Civil War it was used as General McClellan's headquarters, and much of the early history of the Army of the Potomac was made in it. Next it was used as the offices of the French Claims Commission; and it seemed likely to degenerate into an every day office building, but the Cosmos Club saved it from such a fate. While that appreciative body owns it, we may rest assured that it will be kept as befits its storied walls.

The residence of Vice President Hobart is three doors south of the Madison house. It was built more than sev-



THE "CREAM WHITE HOUSE," BUILT BY BENJAMIN OGLE TALOE, AND NOW OCCUPIED BY VICE PRESIDENT HOBART.

From a photograph by Farnham, Washington.

enty years ago by Benjamin Ogle Taloe, son of the builder of the Octagon House. After him, the property fell to his widow, on whose death, about a dozen years ago, its fine collection of bric-à-brac, paintings, and books went to the Corcoran Art Gallery.

The last call made by General William H. Harrison was at Mr. Taloe's house, where he made a promise that Taloe's brother should be appointed treasurer of the United States. Philip Barton Key was a cousin of Taloe's, and was carried here to die. Some years ago, the building was altered by Senator Cameron, of Pennsylvania, the present owner. He made it so attractive that the Hobarts decided in its favor when they were house hunting. It is now christened the "Cream White

House," on account of its Vice Presidential tenant and its buff coat of paint.

A garden lies south of the house, and close up to this is a new theater, which, in the opinion of those who revere old time grandeur, spoils the classic atmosphere of Lafayette Square. The lot on which the theater stands was won by Henry Clay in a game of chance. It may shock some of his admirers to learn that Clay was a gambler, but it never disturbed his easy going wife, who used to say: "Why should I worry? Henry generally wins!" The lot was but a short time in his possession when he swapped it for a Maltese jackass which Commodore John Rodgers had brought home from a Mediterranean cruise.

On the lot purchased with a jackass,

Rodgers built a house, which was afterwards leased to Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, and later to James K. Paulding, Secretary of the Navy under Van Buren. It had been occupied by the



THE HOUSE IN TENTH STREET IN WHICH ABRAHAM LINCOLN DIED ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 15, 1865.

club to which Philip Barton Key belonged when Secretary Seward bought it and made it his residence. There his assassination was attempted by Payne, Booth's confederate, on the same night when Lincoln was shot. The Swards soon moved out and General Belknap and his wife, not nervous enough to regard it as a place of ill omen, moved in and entertained society "in an amazing manner," as chronicled by social historians. When death broke their reign the old house was leased by the War Department. Its last famous occupant was James G. Blaine.

On the corner of H Street and Connecticut Avenue stands a fine old brownstone mansion, with spacious gardens.

This house was presented to Daniel Webster by his admiring friends, when he was serving as Secretary of State. It was next occupied by Richard Pakenham, minister from Great Britain, and eventually came into possession of William W. Corcoran, the banker philanthropist, to whom Washington owes the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Church of the Ascension, and the Louise Home. During the war Mr. Corcoran's sympathies were with the South. His beautiful home was ordered confiscated, but he promptly leased it to M. de Montholon, minister from France, and scored a point against the government, which was not inclined to invade the property of a friendly nation. But no matter whether Mr. Corcoran's views on the burning issue of 1861 were right or wrong, he proved himself the most generous and public spirited citizen in Washington's history. The latest occupants of this house were the Brices of New York and Ohio.

Next door, at 1607 H Street, is the house occupied by John Slidell, the Confederate envoy to France, while a member of the United States Senate. Other notable occupants were Daniel Lamont, private secretary to President Cleveland, and Secretary of War Alger, who lately vacated it.

On Tenth Street, between E and F Streets, is the building in which Lincoln was shot, and directly across the street is the dwelling to which he was carried. In a small room at the end of the first floor hall he breathed his last, on the morning of April 15, 1865. This house is pointed out to all pilgrims who seek the historic spots of Washington. In 1893 Mr. Oldroyd, who kept the famous Lincoln collection at the old Springfield homestead, leased the dwelling and made it the home of his treasures. The Memorial Association of the District of Columbia has frequently petitioned Congress to purchase both house and collection, but that slow moving body has hitherto taken no action.



"WHERE THE BRONX FLOWS SLOW AND STILL."

EDMUND CLARENCE STEDMAN AT HOME.

BY THEODORE DREISER.

THE VETERAN POET AND CRITIC WHO HAS WON SUCCESS IN WALL STREET AND FAME IN THE WORLD OF LETTERS, AND HIS HOME IN THE ARTISTIC COLONY AT LAWRENCE PARK, IN NEW YORK'S NORTHERN SUBURBS.

NOT all poets have pleasant rural residences. Few of the high priests of song possess a wealth of books and paintings to shield them from an irritating sense of the outer bookless, paintingless world. But Edmund Clarence Stedman is a business man, as well as a poet and a critic, and combines artistic talent and critical judgment with commercial instinct.

Personally Stedman is a fine American type, young and handsome at sixty five years of age: active, bright eyed, witty, and generous. It is true that his full beard is silvery white, but in his vigor of mind and body he gives the lie to years and speaks the strength that scarce another score of them could undo.

But this is no place for expression of original opinions concerning the poet. Whittier, Bayard Taylor, Frank Stockton, Eugene Field, William Dean

Howells, all have expressed their thought of him in prose and verse, and "poems to Stedman" are frequent enough. He seems to have inspired undying regard in those fine ethereal minds that have crossed his path. Whittier's last collection of poems, entitled "At Sundown," shows something of this, as the dedication to Stedman runs:

To E. C. S.

Poet and friend of Poet, if thy glass
Detects no flower in winter's tuft of grass,

Let this slight token of the debt I owe
Outlive for thee December's frozen day,

And, like the arbutus budding under snow,
Take bloom and fragrance from some morn
of May

When he who gives it shall have gone away
Where faith shall see and recerent trust
shall know.

And Frank Stockton sent this quat-