

NEW-YORK CITY.

LECTURES.

Sketch of Geo. Rogers Clarke; the Washington of the West.—The Pioneers in the Mississippi Valley.—Dr. Millburn's Fourth Lecture.

This lecture was in continuation of the series of sketches commenced in the previous one, illustrative of the character of the pioneer settlers of the West, and of the perils in which those early settlements were established.

The lecturer dwelt at length upon the character and services of the heroic GEORGE ROGERS CLARKE, who has been justly designated the "Washington of the West," and of whom, strange to say, no biography has yet been written.

CLARKE was by birth a Virginian, and like many other young men of his State, had been a land surveyor, a profession in those times which opened the surest road to fortune. He had served on the staff of Lord DUMFRIES during LOANAN'S War, and at the conclusion, then being about 23 years of age, he turned his way toward Kentucky. Pleased with the country, he adopted it as his residence. He visited the scattered settlements, became acquainted with all the settlers, their wives and children, and grew to be a favorite of all.

The influence of JENKINSON and WYTHE at length procures a grant of the powder; and CLARKE, receiving it at Pittsburgh, starts with it in a canoe down the river. He is pursued by the Indians; but with the loss of some men, he succeeds in depositing the powder in one of the posts, at the present City of Maysville.

The war is now raging hotly. The British officers in the West incite the Indians to attack and overwhelm the infant settlements, preparatory to an attack upon the rear of the revolted colonists. As was stated in the last lecture, in 1777 there were in the Western settlements scarcely 100 men capable of bearing arms.

The town of KASKASKIA has been settled by French (Creoles), who have heard terrific tales of the ferocity of the Americans. They are terrified at the fate of Acadia, and send to CLARKE requesting the privilege of celebrating Divine service on the last time in their little back chapel, before they are finally driven from their pleasant homes.

It is now Autumn. News of the loss of KASKASKIA and Vincennes has reached HAMILTON, the Hair-Dealer, at Detroit. He musters a force of 80 regulars and the recovery of those posts.

CLARKE is now a prominent part. It is a war of extermination on both sides. But through all, CLARKE, by his valor and skill, wins the abundant love and gratitude of the white settlers.

We must pass hastily over the career of another man, who is strikingly typical of another phase of border life. SIMON KENTON, was born of Irish parents in Virginia. He grew up to the age of 16 years, ignorant of even his letters and never having had a shoe upon his feet.

and commander, has joined the savages, and his white blood being washed out, by a solemn vow, he becomes their associate.

With great difficulty, GEORGE ROGERS CLARKE saves the life of SIMON, who is a prisoner in Detroit, when he escapes by the assistance of a kind-hearted woman. He is afterwards the American post, after a journey of sixty-three days through the wilderness.

CLARKE and KENTON are now reunited his true name—died in 1836, at the age of 81 years. His later life affords a sad illustration of the fate of many of the pioneers who, by their toil and suffering and blood, won the dominion of the Western prairies.

The lecture closed with several thrilling anecdotes, showing the spirit and courage of the wives and children of those who, in some instances, a man is shot dead at his own door by a party of three Indians.

CLARKE's account of the battle of Red Bank, in another case, seven savages attacked and killed his husband is shot. The wife drags the body within and secures the stout door. There is no ammunition in the hut.

These are but a sample of the thrilling incidents narrated of the desperate scenes that marked the early history of the settlement and conquest of the West.

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conjectural, rather than present and real. It is in respect to such property more than any other that the opinions, even of discreet men, will be found to take the widest range.

Among the most earnest of those who oppose the plan is the late Hon. Chief Justice of this State, Mr. DENYER, who has purchased the lots in the Corporation of New-York, a portion of the same lots, taken entirely for the improvement.

It may well be, that, in some instances, the Commissioners may have erred in their judgment as to the value of property taken for this great improvement.

It remains for me now to consider the objections which have been urged against the report by those who have property being assessed for it.

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may fairly be suggested, were void, for uncertainty and illegality.

At all events, applying the principles established by the Court of Appeals to the actual facts as they are now shown to exist, we conceive it our duty, without finally deciding the question involved, to recognize in the claims of Mr. Peabody to be treated as one of the colleagues—and we have accordingly directed that a copy of this statement shall be communicated by the Clerk to both contestants to enable them to take such action upon it as they may respectively be advised.

His Honor then read the legally published certificate of the State canvassers, to show the number and designation of the ballots in question, and the official certificate of the County Clerk, both of which we annex.

The entire judicial vote in this district exceeded \$5,000, of which Mr. Cowles had 26,613, with the designation of "long term, eight years;" Mr. Davies, 17,996, with the designation of "short term, to fill a vacancy;" and Mr. Peabody, 5,782, with the designation of "short term, to fill a vacancy."

The regular business of the General Term was then resumed, though nothing of interest transpired.

THE CENTRAL PARK CASE.

The Matter Ended.—Confirmation by Judge Harris of the Commissioners' Report.

SUPREME COURT.—SPECIAL TERM.—Feb. 5. Before Hon. Justice Harris.

Yesterday Mr. Justice HARRIS rendered his decision in the Central Park matter. The room was crowded, and much interest was evinced as to the nature of the decision. We give below the opinion of the Court in full.

In the matter of the application of the Mayor, &c., of the City of New-York, for an opening and laying out of a Public Place between Fifth and One Hundred-and-sixth Streets, and the Fifth and Eighth avenues, in the City of New-York.—By MR. JUSTICE HARRIS. J.—Every citizen holds his property subject to the wants of the Government.

The public interests could not be sufficiently advanced without it. Individuals are not to be permitted to interpose their will or caprice, or even their own self-interest, to thwart useful improvement, or prevent the development of great public advantages.

Whether or not the public exigency requires that money shall be raised by a tax, or property shall be taken for public use, is a question referred to the sovereign will of the State, as expressed by legislative authority. It is enough that the public good demands it.

By the act of the Legislature relating to this subject, passed in July, 1853, it was declared that the tract of land mentioned in the title of this proceeding should be "a public place," in the same manner as if the same had been conveyed to the Commissioners appointed in 1807 for the purpose of laying out streets, &c., in the City of New-York, and the Corporation of New-York were authorized to take the land for public use, and as for a public square.

The act provided for the appointment of five Commissioners and Assessment, and made the existing laws relative to the laying out and taking public squares and places in the City of New-York applicable to the proceeding.

Of the wisdom or expediency of the measure it is not my province on this occasion to speak. It is enough that the public interest and the public convenience require it, and that it is expedient to withdraw this tract of land from the uses to which it is now to be devoted, and that it is expedient to provide a revenue exceeding by many times the amount of the present expenditure.

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THE MURDERED PRINTER.

To the Editor of the New-York Daily Times:

THE TIMES of Monday, Jan. 28, contained an account of the death of Mr. DANIEL McLEAN, while confined in the "Tombs" (well-chosen name) of this City. Your report was that this individual had been arrested for intoxication on Sunday night previous, and was placed in a cell with four others, alike drunk. During the night, while lying upon the same mattress, McLEAN was crowded by his companions, and kicking him with his foot, told him to "lie over," whereupon a conflict ensued between the parties, the result of which was that, when the cell was opened on Monday morning, McLEAN was found to be dead.

Mr. McLEAN was a printer, and a volunteer in the war with Mexico. Having returned, he has been employed for about two years past in this City. His good, kind disposition, gentleness of manner, and social qualities, made him esteemed by his employer and office-companions. He had a warm heart, and would freely give his last shilling to the destitute, or lend his last dollar to a friend.

On Thursday last, his remains were taken from the dead-house, placed in a handsome coffin, and conveyed to Union Cemetery, Buswick, followed by five of his fellow apprentices, who, worked by his side some sixteen years ago, had loved him for his unselfish and amiable qualities of heart, and united in the expression: "He was his own enemy."

At the opening of the General Term of the Supreme Court, on Monday morning, those persons present were somewhat astounded at seeing CHARLES A. PEABODY, Esq., ascend the Bench, and take a seat, with his usual dignity, by the side of the other two presiding Justices.

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