

THE OLD COSGROVE TAVERN.

THE DESTRUCTION OF A DRINKING PLACE OF THE OLDEN TIME.

How The Old Must Make Way For The New, Where The Elder Cosgrove Hammered On His Anvil And Then Kept Him A Famous Family.

Another landmark of old Lancaster has been razed to the ground, and on the site of it is to be erected a large hotel, restaurant and tobacco exchange. The old building, a two-story structure, was situated on the Pennsylvania railroad passenger station, and north of the stone wall on Chestnut street, extending from Duke to Christian street, is no more. It has been torn down within a few days past, its decaying timbers having been carried away, its foundations have been dug up, and excavations are being made for the erection of a large four-story brick structure, eighty feet long and one hundred feet deep. The western part of the new building, which is to have a depth of forty feet, will be a hotel and restaurant, with large bar room, dining room, sleeping rooms, etc., intended to accommodate the traveling public. The eastern part will be a tobacco exchange, where members of the tobacco trade will have a convenient place of meeting and of exchanging the great Lancaster county staples. Iron balconies will extend along the front of the building from one end to the other, the level of elevators will run from the top to the bottom of the building; electric lights and bells and all other modern improvements will be introduced to make the hotel and the exchange a desirable stopping place for strangers, travelers and tobacco dealers.

A GLANCE AT THE OLD. But we did not start out to say anything about the new building but rather to recall some reminiscences of the old one. Just when it was built we have not been able to ascertain, but it was very early in the present, if not in the last century. John Bees, who is over 70 years old, remembers the house as long as he remembers anything, and it was then occupied by John Cosgrove.

Alderman Patrick Donnelly came to Lancaster in 1825, and lived in a house on the site of the late Charles E. Wentz's mansion, East Orange street, remembers very well that John Cosgrove and his family lived at that time in the frame house on Chestnut street that has just been torn down, and had his blacksmith shop on the corner of Orange and Christian street where the Henry Temple now stands.

Dr. Jacob Long, 104 West King street, who learned the blacksmith trade from Henry G. Long's father, corner of Duke and Orange, also remembers the blacksmith shop and the saw with which he was inspired as he saw the fiery sparks fly from the white hot iron as John Cosgrove's muscular arm hammered it on the ringing anvil. Cosgrove at this time and for nine or ten years later had the contract for shoeing the horses and doing much other work for the stage company. The eastern part of the house here to Philadelphia and other points. He is described as an industrious man and excellent workman, who made money at his trade.

When after much discussion it was determined by the state to build the Philadelphia & Columbia railroad through Lancaster instead of north of it, as originally surveyed, it was ascertained that the new line of the road would go right through John Cosgrove's house, a one-story frame with a pump in the rear of it. Cosgrove protested against this violation of his private rights, but the state took his property, paid the assessed damages, and further mollified him by building a stone basement some twenty feet in the rear and setting his one-story frame house on top of it—thus making his house two stories high. This was in 1825, at the time the grading of the railroad was being done. The big cut east of Duke street was an elephant on the hands of the contractors, and if we are not mistaken two or three years after that time they occupied the site of the old house, there, but were much in need of a tavern where they could get their grog. The big hotel of the city did not want this class of customers, and they were turned away. Even their countryman, the high-toned, genial and witty Michael McStrannan, who was the cold shoulder.

It was suggested to Mr. Cosgrove that his house was eligibly situated to accommodate the class of people, and that there was money in it. Laying down the hammer with which he had for years been working, he accepted the offer, and the lower story of his house as a bar-room, named his tavern the "Washington hotel," was granted a license and was soon doing a successful trade. The Washington hotel was not a very large one, nor had the landlord many beds; but he was never known to refuse a stranger. When the beds were full two or three in a bed (sometimes) he would furnish guests with lodgings on a sofa plank in an upstairs room or the bar room, and the usual charge for lodging was the old time "levy" (12 cents).

His bar may not have been furnished with the best of liquors, neither was the price very high. He used to say to his thirsty customers: "This is none of your outside country stuff, but it's all fresh from the still, and only 3 cents a jigger." KEPT ORDER WITH A SHILLALAH. As a matter of course the men who indulged too freely in the fire-water became noisy and quarrelsome and indulged in many a fight. But the sturdy arm of the old blacksmith was usually all that was needed to restore order; and if that failed, his blackthorn shillalah was always at hand and his faithful bull-dog far off.

During the time the railroad was building, Mr. Cosgrove probably housed more guests and sold more whisky than any other landlord in Lancaster, and for 25 years afterwards he continued to do a flourishing trade. The hotel was a very successful one, and the court felt it to be a duty to license his house as he furnished accommodation to those who were not welcome elsewhere. The tramps of those days were unlike the lazy drudge that have infested the country in later years. They were mostly honest laborers in search of work, not lazy rogues in search of plunder. At the Washington house the weary wanderer found shelter, a wholesome meal, and a warm drink.

Besides his tavern property Mr. Cosgrove became the owner of a large tract of land on Rockland street, on which were valuable deposits of building sand for which he found ready sale. He and his boys hauled the sand into the city, and this was an additional source of revenue. The boys, like a great many others, were not so industrious as their sire, and with the following truthful story will illustrate. On a disagreeable morning the old gentleman said to his eldest son: "Frank, hitch the old mare to the wagon."

"Ob, let Mike do it." "Mike, hitch up the mare." "Why can't John do it?" "John, harness the baste." "What's the matter with Hugh that he can't do it?" "Hugh, go out and put the harness on her." "Not while Frank's looting there, I want it." "The old man began to lose his temper, and said, 'Tip, go out and fasten the old mare to the sand wagon.'" "Tip," whose real name was Cornelius Dugan, and who made the Washington hotel a kind of free boarding house, answered: "Divil a fut will I move 'til I have a bit-tors." "Here, you lazy blackbird, come and take your bit-tors."

In a short time the mare was harnessed and Father Cosgrove was on his way to the sand bank with his cane in his hand and the bull dog under the wagon. COSGROVE'S eccentricities. Mr. Cosgrove had many eccentricities, of which the following will serve as a sample: He would never pay a debt until he was sued for it; not that he objected to paying his debts, but having had to pay some of them twice, he preferred to have the debt collected by an alderman, and then, as he would say with a wink, "the sure's docket will show that it's paid."

On one occasion a Marietta's "squire gave judgment against him for a debt of \$3, which he thought he didn't owe. He had been misled by his lawyer (Hon. Em' C. Reigart) who advised him to pay the bill. "No," said Cosgrove, "we'll certify the case." "None," said Mr. Reigart, "a certiorari will cost you \$10."

HERE'S THE TIP," SAID COSGROVE, PULLING THE amount from his wallet.

The new lot of money, paid the judgment and kept the balance for his fee. Meeting Cosgrove some time afterwards, the latter said how the case was coming.

"Oh," said the lawyer, "you will never be troubled again with that case." "Indeed, I knew the certiorari would fix it," said the disappointed client.

On another occasion Cosgrove got off a good joke on his attorney. Meeting him and looking at him with apparent admiration he said: "I thought you were a lawyer."

"Mr. Reigart, you are the best preserved man of your age that I ever saw."

"Mr. Cosgrove was himself a well-preserved old man. Those who remember him in his later years describe him as a compact build, broad-shouldered, deep-chested, heavy-limbed man, of about medium height and a little stooped. His face showed him to be a man of good nature, and his eyes were bright and almost always wore a smile. He never walked the streets without carrying with him a heavy cane and his constant companion in his walks, and he would whip any other dog in town; and it is said by some of the 'old ones' that the Washington hotel was more than once the scene of some hotly contested 'professional' dog fights, the proprietor having a weakness for this kind of sport.

Mr. Cosgrove was annually licensed from about 1832 to 1859, in which year he died. His wife carried on the business for a short time, but owing to her being a good Christian woman she did not like it and declined to have the tavern license renewed. She continued to live in the old building until about a year or two later, when becoming old and feeble she was removed to the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Malone, where she died in 1861.

For about nine years past James Smith, shoemaker, occupied a part of the building which had been the home of Mrs. Cosgrove. Finally removed from it the other part was occupied by John Craig, colored; and when this tenement was torn down and a new hotel was erected in its place.

OTHER GOOD STORIES. "Like the flowers that bloom in the spring, tip," the following anecdote, which is nothing to do with the case, but the name of "Tip" Dugan recalls it. Tip was once a famous quartermaster, but having been struck on the head by a rock while following a radical, and engaged in drinking the pemmican duff, and addicted to drunkenness. Most of his time was spent in jail, and when he was not there, he was busy at his old trade. One day he was called to the police court by a woman who had accused him of being drunk. He turned upon his tormentors and, on one occasion, striking one of the constables and being taken to jail, he was released by the recorder's court, presided over by the late Capt. John K. Findlay. In pronouncing sentence Judge Findlay said: "Cornelius Dugan, stand up."

Tip was on his feet in an instant. "You have been tried and convicted by a jury of your peers, of the offenses with which you stand indicted. The verdict is a righteous one and the court has carefully considered the matter of your sentence. As you have spent most of your time in jail, the sentence of the court is that you remain out on bail for the space of three months."

"Thank your honor," said Tip, as he hastened from the court room. Cosgrove's fighting dog had a reputation for wonderful sagacity, and the following incident is vouchsafed for on no less authority than the late Dr. John L. Albee. Dr. Albee has been a resident of Lancaster since 1850, and the dog had repeatedly seen him binding up the wounds that the children had received in their plays or their fights, as the case may have been, one day the doctor was not a little astonished to see Cosgrove's dog at his office door, saying as plainly as a dog could say, "you're wanted." On opening the door the doctor was another dog outside that had a broken leg. Cosgrove's dog had brought it there for treatment. The doctor set the broken limb and the dog limped off rejoicing.

It is related of Mr. Cosgrove that he was somewhat sagacious, and the following incident is vouchsafed for on no less authority than the late Dr. John L. Albee. Dr. Albee has been a resident of Lancaster since 1850, and the dog had repeatedly seen him binding up the wounds that the children had received in their plays or their fights, as the case may have been, one day the doctor was not a little astonished to see Cosgrove's dog at his office door, saying as plainly as a dog could say, "you're wanted." On opening the door the doctor was another dog outside that had a broken leg. Cosgrove's dog had brought it there for treatment. The doctor set the broken limb and the dog limped off rejoicing.

It is well known that the inhabitants of many Eastern nations shield themselves against infectious diseases by wearing Aromatic Gums on the pit of the stomach. Their instincts are quick to detect the pernicious odor of an antidote to the living germs which cause disease. For this reason Albee's Porous Plasters, being composed of the finest aromatic gums, are the best safeguard to wear on the pit of the stomach, in cholera, typhoid, or in localities where sewer gas and malarial air, or in those not only prevent infection, but also soothe the bowels, dysentery, cholera and bowel complaint.

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Helped Her Out. "For years have been a severe sufferer from pains in the back. Tried various applications, but nothing gave relief. My doctor had told me I was cured. Cured others equally quick. Mrs. Henning of 11th St., Buffalo, writes this. For sale by H. B. Cochran, druggist, 137 and 139 North Queen street, Lancaster.

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What is It Good For? Let us tell you that Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil is life to the dying, relief to the suffering, and a cure to the afflicted. It is a cure for cholera, dysentery, and all other ailments. For sale by H. B. Cochran, druggist, 137 and 139 North Queen street, Lancaster.

Confidence. In one case personally known to me the success of Barbed-Road Bitters was almost incredible. One lady described them as worth hundreds of dollars. I myself have the greatest confidence in them." F. S. Scratch, druggist, Buffalo, N. Y. For sale by H. B. Cochran, druggist, 137 and 139 North Queen street, Lancaster.

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Mr. Cosgrove had many eccentricities, of which the following will serve as a sample: He would never pay a debt until he was sued for it; not that he objected to paying his debts, but having had to pay some of them twice, he preferred to have the debt collected by an alderman, and then, as he would say with a wink, "the sure's docket will show that it's paid."

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