REBUILDING A CITY.

A Description of the Remodeled Johnstown as It Looks To-Day.

AN INCREASE OF 90 STORES.

One Million Dollars Expended for New Buildings and

THE WORK HAS ONLY COMMENCED.

Interesting Facts and Figures as to the Progress Made in

REDEEMING THE FLOOD-SWEPT VALLEY

Johnstown is still a marvel. One year ago every store and counting room was either gutted or completely wrecked. In the devastated district not a dollar's worth of goods was left unharmed. Several thousand houses were swept away, and between 3,000 and 4,000 customers disappeared forever.

Yet, the mercantile appraisement this month shows that there is more business in Johnstown to-day than before the flood. This appraisement takes in the flood-swept district throughout the Conemaugh Valley. From a summary of the appraiser's list it is found that South Fork village last year had 8 business houses and this year 12; Mineral Point, 2 last year and 2 this; East Conemaugh, 9 last year and 7 this; Franklin borough, 7 last year and 5 this.

POOR WOODVALE.

Woodvale, 4 last year and none this; First ward of Conemaugh borough (present Ninth ward), 3 last year and 11 this; Second ward of Conemaugh borough, 5 last year and none this; First ward of Johnstown, 16 last year and 18 this; Second ward of Johnstown, 15 last year and 42 this, principally in the temporary buildings on the Public Square; Third ward of Johnstown, 58 last year and 59 this; Fourth ward of Johnstown, 33 last year and 49 this; Fifth ward of Johnstown, 8 last year and 14 this; Sixth ward of Johnstown, 6 last year and 8 this; Seventh ward of Johnstown, 5 last year and 12 this (Moxham being now included); Stony Creek township, adjoining the city, 3 last year and 11 this; Grubbtown (present Eighth ward), 2 last year and 4 this; Prospect (present Twelfth ward), none last year and 1 this; First ward of Millville (present Thirteenth ward), 3 last year and 8 this; Second ward of Millville (present Fourteenth ward) 4 last year and 7 this; First ward of Cambria (present Fifteenth ward), 7 last year and 9 this; Second ward of Cambria (present Sixteenth ward), 3 last year and 5 this; Morrellville, 9 last year and 17 this; Coopersdale, 3 last year and 2 this.

A REMARKABLE SHOWING.

The figures in the foregoing foot up 213 stores or business houses for 1889, and 303 in 1890. Of course, there was a demand for more stores; new homes were being rebuilt, and had to be refitted and refurnished throughout. Everything went with the flood—china, bed clothes, glassware, furniture, carpets, cooking utensils, etc. All

The Hannan Block.

these had to be purchased anew by hundreds of families. Business became brisk, and is still booming. When trade eventually drops back to its normal volume, it will then be seen how much of this increase in mercantile houses can be maintained. Some of these stores have been started on a small scale and may not survive. But on the whole the prospects are indeed bright for a substantial and permanent increase in the volume of business in the Conemaugh Valley.

A great many of the stores are in the hands of newcomers. Last week the Johnstown *Tribune* said:

NEW FACES EVERYWHERE.

One year ago Johnstown was apparently as firm as a rock, and its business houses were as well established as any in the land. But the waters came and all was changed. Many merchants, along with their stores, were swept away, and in their places are persons who perhaps a few short months ago were total strangers, and who, but for the flood, would never have thought of casting their lot among us; while most of those who are left are not in their old places, and only within the bounds of a single square—from Franklin to Clinton—do we see the familiar landmarks of other days."

New faces everywhere! So many old ones missed! Such was the burden of many interviews which were had with several old Johnstown residents.

THE WORK OF REBUILDING.

To-day the hammer and saw are busier in the valley of the Conemaugh than at any time since the flood. Lumber is being hauled into the various freight yards by the trainload, and every street and alley is odorous with fresh pine and hemlock boards. The rebuilding period began within a month after the disaster, but it was never busier than at present. The reason is that the first half of the year had to be devoted to cleaning up the debris, and in the latter half of the year the relief money had been distributed pretty thoroughly among the people by the State Commission, and they had it to work upon.

Up to this time close upon $1,000,000 has been spent in rebuilding the populous towns of the valley, and yet the work is not one-fourth completed. Really, it has only been begun, as will be seen by reading the details of construction along each street of Johnstown, as given below. Contractors estimate that 3,000 houses were swept away in the deluge. Probably not more than 1,000 new houses have been built in the first year now ended. A good many frame shanties were erected just after the flood which were only intended to be temporary and which will be torn down. It would not be right therefore to include them in the better class of structures.

VALUE OF THE WORK.

Six firms of contracting builders have had the principal portion of reconstruction in their hands. They are Hoover, Hughes & Co., W. J. Rose & Co., B. F. Horner, Lloyd & Son, Koontz Bros., and J. J. Strayer. Beside these there are several smaller carpenters and builders who put up a house or two for neighbors or friends.

Hoover, Hughes & Co. accomplished the following amount of building in the year that has passed since the wholesale destruction:

1 block	$ 22,000
1 block	15,000
1 dwelling	5,000
3 dwellings, $4,000	12,000
1 dwelling	3,000
2 buildings at $2,500	5,000
2 buildings at $2,000	4,000
2 buildings at $1,500	3,000
1 building	1,200
2 buildings, $1,000	2,000
50 temporary storerooms	22,500
8 storerooms, $500	4,000
16 houses, $500	8,000
455 average, $400	182,000
307 average, $300	92,100
Bridges in aggregate	10,000
Total	$380,000

IN COURSE OF ERECTION AND UNDER CONTRACT.

Library building	$ 65,000
Cambria store	35,000
1 business block	10,000
1 business block	8,000
1 building	5,000
1 building	4,000
1 building	3,000
1 building	2,250
1 building	2,000
8 buildings, $1,500	4,500
2 buildings	2,000
1 building	650
1 building	350
Total	$141,750

AMONG OTHER BUILDERS.

B. F. Horner furnishes THE DISPATCH with this estimate of the work done by him:

1 block for Hon. John Hannan and L. M. Woolf	$ 50,000
1 block for Jacob Focker	4,000
Rebuilding Dr. Lowhman's residence	4,000
Several houses repaired at from $2,000 to $3,000 each	10,000
Total	$ 68,000

VAST AMOUNT OF REPAIRING.

The work of other builders, and the vast amount of repairing done to the houses that remained standing, will swell the totals of all to a good-sized aggregate for the operations of the first year in Johnstown. This repairing is something that cannot very well be particularized or estimated in cost, for the reason there is no general record kept. A man who, though a bookkeeper, may himself be something of a carpenter or mechanic, buys nails, lumber and tools, and himself probably puts from $100 to $500 worth of work on his own house.

The churches are another example of this. Every church which was left standing was absolutely gutted of its furniture and ruined inside by the water. All have been refitted since the flood, and this refitting probably cost $100,000 in the aggregate. It was generally done by popular subscription among congregations of the same denomination in Western Pennsylvania.

DETAILS OF RECONSTRUCTION.

But to describe some of the details of Johnstown's new growth would be interesting. Begin at Main street and go westward. On the right hand side of this thoroughfare, between Jackson and Adams street, there are several new brick buildings, much better than those that stood there before. Diagonally opposite them two frame shanties mark the site of John Geis' large brick mansion, which was swept away in the flood. James Quinn's brick residence was also a fine structure prior to the flood. The lot is still vacant. Where Mrs. V. Luther's brick dwelling once stood there are now two frame stores one story high. Jacob Swank's extensive brick block, which was carried away, has only been replaced by a frame structure. It covers the same large territory, but is only one story high. Near this John Henderson has also put up a large two-story frame building for his furniture and undertaking business. His building, which was swept away, was brick.

ALONG MAIN STREET.

A rather substantial three-story frame store building, owned by Fisher & Co., stands on the spot where Strum & Fisher once owned a two-story brick. At the corner of Clinton and Main streets is a two-story brick building. Before the flood it was also a brick, owned by Jacob Wild. Jacob Fend has never rebuilt his large three-story brick block, which was all washed away. Two or three little frame stores occupy a portion of the lot now. Louther & Green's block has been repaired. Ellis' building, which used to be a big ramshackle, was washed away, and a substantial brick, three or four stories high, is now being built there. The Merchants' Hotel was torn down. The lot is still vacant. Another vacant lot beside it shows where the brick building of George Umverzagt stood. A tiny frame storeroom has been built on Mr. Luckhart's lot, next to it.

AN HISTORIC CORNER.

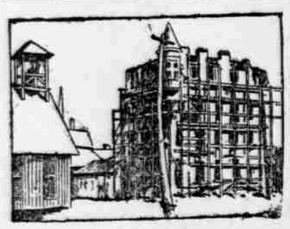
Scott Dibert's boot and shoe house, corner of Main and Franklin streets, is one of the handsomest buildings in town. It is a four-story brick built since the flood. At the time of the disaster the lot was already cleared for the foundation. The Gallaghers are building a three-story brick just beyond the corner. Nathan's Standard Store, which was formerly a two-story building, is now one of the small frame structures. On the next square of Main street the buildings on the left hand side going down still plainly show the high water marks. The savings bank and Alma Hall have never been repainted. The Y. M. C. A. occupies a one-story ornamented front frame building.

THREE EMPTY CELLARS,

beside the Presbyterian Church have never been touched. Along the park front temporary storerooms put up by the State are still occupied. Nearly 40 of them were built right after the flood on the condition that they might remain 18 months. An effort is being made by some of the citizens to have them taken away long before that time expires. Tenants have the use of them free of rent, and other merchants contend that time for their usefulness is past. The popular tendency is to resurrect the park. Dr. Lowhman's handsome residence on Main, below Franklin, has been entirely repaired at a cost of $4,000. But three empty cellars next to it show that no person was left to make repairs.

A MOURNFUL BLANK.

From this point to the foot of Main street that thoroughfare is still a blank. Long stretches of ruined foundations on either side of the street are grown up with grass. The cellars are still filled with debris, just as the water left them. In the distance of a quarter of a mile not more than a dozen residences are now standing. Mr. Fend, turning his residence into the Windsor Hotel, has utilized the adjoining two dwellings as adjuncts to his hostelry. Frank Hay has repainted his house with a deep red to cover up the scars of the disaster. The walls of the Cambria Clubhouse have been repaired, but the structure has not been repainted, and it is without its little iron fence that used to ornament the place. Mr. McMillan's house still stands half in ruins.



John Codes' New Building.

Colonel Linton's beautiful residence remains close to the Point a ghastly remembrance of what the conflict must have been. The ruins have apparently never been touched, and underneath the fallen wall on one side is still to be seen the wrecked piano, while curtains and tapestry still flutter in the wind in the rear of the house.

ALONG BEDFORD STREET.

Bedford street is an example of how the business houses have increased in number in Johnstown. At the upper end of the thoroughfare Mrs. Harle has erected a double brick three-story building which is occupied on the ground floor by H. Heffles' drug store, and J. H. Beckley's drygoods store. Just adjoining, John Griffith has erected a two-story double brick for residences. It will be remembered that Bedford street was swept clean by the flood, and now it is dotted pretty closely all over by new buildings. Few of them are of substantial material, however. G. W. Showe's bakery is a two-story frame, while opposite stands a double brick house with ornamental front which belongs to Mr. Von Newland. The residence of Mr. Joseph Zimmerman, once large in size, has only been replaced by a little bit of a brick law office. Many members of the family were lost in the flood.

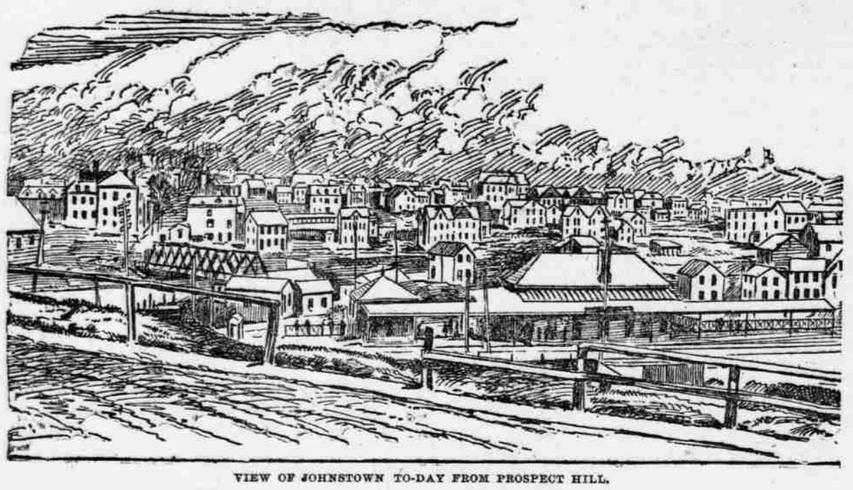
AN INCIDENT RECALLED.

Just opposite, William H. Levergood sells hardware in a cheap two-story frame. Formerly the site was occupied by the old Levergood mansion, a substantial two-story brick. Not a brick of it could be found after the water subsided. Mr. Levergood's mother was found the next day, dead, sitting in her own armchair, in the cemetery at Kernville, nearly a mile away from where the flood picked her up. It had carried her all that distance and deposited her, chair and all, among the tombstones. There was a very peaceful look upon her face, and her features had been spared unsightly bruises. Mrs. Buck, a woman in the house with Mrs. Levergood at the time, was afterward found alive on the branches of a tree in the neighborhood.

N. J. Swank, a painter, has erected a small frame shop across the street. Then comes Susgarder & Greer, with a two-story frame furniture store. The next new block is frame also, and is occupied as three stores. Formerly it was a tenement house.

WHERE 27 GIRLS PERISHED.

Mrs. Pershing formerly lived near here in a frame residence. On the site of that dwelling is now a two-story frame with three storerooms in it. A two-story frame has been built on the site of the Hamilton residence, where Jacob Hamilton and his three daughters lost their lives. At Levergood street nothing has yet been built upon the spot where stood the three-story brick house of John Clark. In it perished Mrs. Clark and her three children. Several



VIEW OF JOHNSTOWN TO-DAY FROM PROSPECT HILL.

houses on Levergood street were twisted around and moved six and ten feet. On Bedford street just beyond Levergood street originally stood the Hager block. It was a three-story brick business building, and it was entirely demolished. The upper apartments at the time were occupied principally by sewing women. Twenty-seven of these women were drowned in the building and only one person in the entire structure escaped. He was a boy named Howe. On the site of this building now stands two shanties, one used by George Kiper as a drygoods store, and the other by George Shapine as a novelty store.

STORES WHERE DWELLINGS STOOD.

On Rose Wesley's lot there is a new planing mill. Before it was occupied by her dwelling. Mrs. Davis' dwelling, which was wrecked, has been rebuilt as a frame. Wm. H. Levergood is erecting a brick store further up street, into which he will remove his hardware store. A large vacant lot marks the spot where the residence of C. Ludwig went down to ruin. Everybody inside of it was drowned. George Shrader has built two storerooms on the place where his dwelling stood last year. The brick residence of the lamented Jacob Swank has never been rebuilt, but on its site a man named Hartzell now runs a small store.

And thus, all along Bedford street, where there used to be residences there are places of business now. No doubt the cheap character of many of the houses will be made better in a year or two.

CHURCHES NOT YET REBUILT.

On Jackson street the large plot of ground covered by the ruins of the Catholic Church is still bare. That was the church which burned during the flood. Ever since then the services have been held in a small frame shed erected in the rear of the ruins. The fence that surrounded the parsonage is still standing. To the left of the rear end of the church property is a substantial brick residence erected by Andrew Foster. At the corner of Jackson and Locust streets, where the frame residence of Theodore Zimmerman, the attorney, was washed away, and in which he was drowned, nothing has yet been built. Nor has the German Lutheran Church yet been rebuilt. It was entirely swept away. The key of the building was the only thing that survived.

ENCOURAGEMENT IN SPITE OF LOSS.

This key figured in a pathetic little story. The pastor of the church, Rev. J. P. Lichtenburg, his wife, and their family of four, all perished. The oldest member of the church, Mrs. Ludwig, aged 90, lost all her children—four—in the waters, and to her the sexton of the old church gave this key as a keepsake. But the grief of her misfortunes was too much for her, and in six weeks she died, clasping the key in her hands.

Nearly half the membership of this church fell a prey to the watery monster, but in spite of the terribly reduced numbers, there is now being erected on the lot adjoining a nice brick schoolhouse, three stories high. It belongs to the congregation.

MELANCHOLY LANDMARKS.

On every one of the four corners of Jackson and Locust streets there is yet a vacant lot, the ruined cellars still jammed full of bricks and rubbish. Around on Locust street the new two-story brick dwelling of Mr. Umversagt, Sr., will have a triple room in it. Dr. Zimmerman has erected a brick residence since the flood, but where Charles Ruth's house stood there is nothing standing but a shanty. A new house is about to be built there, however. But on the other side, from Jackson street down, Locust is entirely bare, not a single building yet having been put up where the convent formerly stood, or where private residences were thickly built up.

On Clinton street the new frame Burgroff buildings are rebuilt about as well as they were before the flood. They occupy 100 feet front, and contain several stores.

WHERE THE HULBERT HOUSE STOOD.

The Kast property, which was swept clean by the torrents, is replaced by smaller frame buildings, used principally as storerooms. A wide gap still lies bare and ugly as a reminder of the spot where the finest hotel in Johnstown stood. No steps whatever have yet been taken to rebuild the Hulbert House, where 50 persons were drowned, or even to clean off the lot on which it stood. Across the street a three-story brick is occupied by the "Palace Cigar Store" and a shanty. Formerly McAteer's Hotel stood there. Geis, Foeter & Quinn, before the South Fork dam broke, kept the finest drygoods store in Johnstown, a little farther down street, but to-day the lot where it stood is vacant.

In the opposite direction, on Clinton street, may be seen the old Exchange Hotel building. It is a low, white three-story brick building, and is said to have been the first hotel in the city. It was celebrated in Portage railroad days. Yet to-day, with all its age, it still stands, while such large and new structures as the Hulbert House were destroyed by the flood. Many curious things happened on that awful Friday.

IMPROVEMENTS OFFSET.

In the next square of Clinton street, F. Kreuger is at present erecting two tall brick business houses. The lot was occupied by a frame dwelling before. As if to offset this improvement, the lot just across the alley lies dirty and vacant. Before the flood it was covered by a stately three-story brick store building. Mr. and Mrs. C. Kimple, who owned it, were both stifled to death in the rising waters, and the heirs are now in litigation over the property, trying to decide which one of the couple died first. That point is necessary to determine whom the property now belongs to. Some yards farther north, Louis Wehn has put up a three-story brick, which is finer than anything that was there formerly. Then again, where S. Lenhart's fine three-story brick building stood before the flood, now a single story frame occupies the lot. And so it goes all over Johnstown. It is hard to tell whether the buildings in the aggregate are better or worse than they were a year ago.

THE NEW GAUTIER STEEL WORKS.

At the head of Clinton street James Bros. have erected better frames than they used to have there. James Shumaker's house has never been replaced, and the lot is yet vacant. In the "Arcade" on Clinton street are four stores now. They are all under one roof, and the big frame structure is two stories in height.

From the head of Clinton street to the banks of the Conemaugh river, and from the corner up toward Woodvale for the distance of half a mile, the site of scores of dwellings and stores, has been fenced in. This property has all been secured for the new Gautier Steel Works. Through it before the flood ran two streets. They will never be resurrected. On this immense tract of land the Gautier will be made 20 times larger than it was. Several manufacturing buildings were erected since the flood, which have been in steady operation. But the contract for the enlarged plant calls for a structure 1,600 feet long by 400 wide. This addition will cost $35,000.

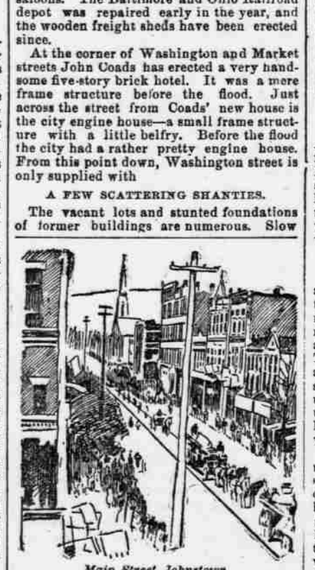
UPPER WASHINGTON STREET.

On Washington street, from Clinton clear down to the Point, the buildings are all new. Everything there was flood-swept. From Clinton to Market the buildings are on only one side of the street. They are nearly all rebuilt of frame—some 30 of them. A good many of these are restaurants and saloons. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad depot was repaired early in the year, and the wooden freight sheds have been erected since.

At the corner of Washington and Market streets John Coads has erected a very handsome five-story brick hotel. It was a mere frame structure before the flood. Just across the street from Coads' new house is the city engine house—a small frame structure with a little belfry. Before the flood the city had a rather pretty engine house. From this point down, Washington street is only supplied with

A FEW SCATTERING SHANTIES.

The vacant lots and stunted foundations of former buildings are numerous. Slow



Main Street, Johnstown.

progress is being made at rebuilding the ruined half of Wood, Morrell & Co.'s immense store, but when it is completed it will be larger than it was before. The public library is hardly commenced yet.

Franklin street, from Washington to Main, was swept clean by the flood, with the exception of the stone church (M. E.) and the few buildings it protected. David Creed's brick store building at the corner of Washington was never rebuilt, and the lot is still vacant. Little shanties now occupy the site of John Brady's brand-new brick store building of three stories, which went to pieces in the flood, at the corner of Franklin and Locust streets. Almost opposite them are some more shanties occupying the spot where stood Fitzharris' three-story brick hotel.

MORE SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

But Franklin street south of Main street shows substantial improvements. There is the $50,000 Hannan business block just being completed. It is probably the finest business building in the city. Another handsome brick structure on this section of Franklin street is the building recently sold to Waters & Walters. These are well set-off by Scott Dibert's big brick store at the corner of Franklin and Main streets.

Market street, which was so terribly used up in the flood, is now rebuilt with probably 50 two and three-story dwelling houses. Most of them are frame, though a very substantial brick is sandwiched among them here and there. On Locust street, below Market, there is practically nothing rebuilt. Here stands

THE LITTLE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

It is a small, single-story frame, painted, surmounted by a cross, and the bell is suspended in a tower on the adjoining lot. Before the flood the Episcopalians had a pretty brick house of worship, but what need was there for rebuilding a large church again when nearly one-half of the congregation perished, and the rector, Rev. Dr. Diller, was lost with his whole family? The rest of Locust street is still an open area.

In fact, the little Episcopal Church stands in about the center of what is known as the Point, and it is nearly all unbuilt upon yet, because it is nearest the junction of the two rivers, and people want to know what will be done about filling in and raising that portion of the town before they rebuild their wrecked houses. Thus it is that here in the section of Johnstown, easiest seen from the passing trains of the Pennsylvania Railroad, there is so

MUCH OPEN TERRITORY YET.

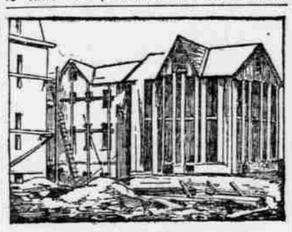
The ruins are really becoming green with the grass, while here and there corn has actually sprouted up from between long rows of bricks and debris from seed that was washed there a year ago. This vacant area is bounded by the stone railroad bridge and Market street, and by Lincoln street and the Conemaugh river. You can count on your fingers the buildings that are standing in this wide space, but you cannot so easily calculate from yawning cellars, fence posts and other fading landmarks how many dwellings formerly stood along the streets here. Through this section of the worst flooded district run Main, Locust and Washington streets, while crossing the oasis in the other direction are Walnut,

The New Episcopal Church.

Union and John streets. Back along Stony creek some extensive building has been carried on, and now that oblong district is pretty solidly built up with frame dwellings almost down to the awful fire district around the stone railroad bridge.

IN KERNVILLE.

In Kernville probably 200 new dwelling houses have been erected since the flood. Some odd things are noticed here. Next door to B. F. Horner's residence stands a large two-story frame, which looks like a new house. It is simply painted. It floated there the night of the flood, having come up from the lower end of the town. The house that had stood there had been wrecked, and here stood a new house next morning on the foundations of the old. So Emil Young, the owner of the foundations, hunted up the owner of the house, bought it from him, and to-day is living comfortably in it. The case of John Shorps, of Kernville, is similar to this. He purchased the house which



A Typical Corner of New Johnstown.

floated into his yard that Friday afternoon. It came from the extreme end of Kernville, and the reporter was shown still a third house that floated to its present comfortable moorings from away over in Johnstown and was subsequently purchased by the Kernville gentleman who now occupies it.

UNDER THE CONSOLIDATION.

Since the flood the various boroughs lying around Johnstown were consolidated with the city, and they are now all under one municipal government. The mayor of the new and enlarged city was inaugurated by a big parade and demonstration last April. The result of this consolidation is already apparent. A wide and magnificently paved street has been built from Johnstown proper up through the site of Woodvale, and down the river through Cambria City. It is lighted by electricity, and soon will be traversed by electric cars.

Poor Woodvale borough has never been rebuilt, although some poor families are still living on its site in those portable Chicago houses and "Oklahomas." Conemaugh borough has been pretty thoroughly resurrected by the carpenter, and Cambria City has an addition of probably 100 new houses to take the place of the old. In Morrellville, however, may still be seen some of the early temporary shanties erected by the Flood Commission. People still live in them for the want of something better.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Moxham has actually been created since the flood. It existed only in name before, but now the people show a desire to get to

Rebuilding Wood, Morrell & Co.'s Store.

the suburbs. Buildings enough have been put up there for 1,000 population. Osbourne, Hornerstown, and the hillsides—all are dotted with scores of new frame houses for homes.

Such is a picture of the busy, very busy Johnstown of to-day. Much has been done. Much remains to do.

ONE SAD COINCIDENCE.

A Picnic This Year Which Was Postponed by the Flood.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Johnstown will give an excursion to Ohio Pyle Falls, over the Baltimore and Ohio road, in June. This recalls the fact that the association had made all the arrangements for an outing last year, but the flood entirely obliterated every vestige of the excursion.

The association made a date with Division Passenger Agent E. D. Smith, of this city, and the latter attended to all the printing for the excursion. The bills, posters, tickets, etc., were shipped from this city to Johnstown on the day before the flood. This was the last seen of the stuff, although diligent search was made for it afterward. The incident was recalled yesterday by Percy F. Smith, who did the printing, and who shipped a duplicate of last year's order yesterday.

RID yourself of the discomfort and danger attending a cold, by using Dr. D. Jayne's Expectorant, an old established curative for coughs, sore throat and pulmonary affections.

STORY —OF THE— CONEMAUGH.

All the night, and all the morning,
Clouds their aqueous burdens poured,
All the night and all the morning
Through the mountain gorges roared,
Like to tiger scenting blood,
Raged and roared the tawny flood,
Swift, impetuous; and resistless,
Like a feather, downward bore
Huge primeval boulders massive,
Forest from the hillsides tore.
Grand old giants of the forest,
Sturdy pine, and sturdier oak,
Like to weeds and grasses tossing,
Into fragments rift and broke.

Higher, higher, rose the waters,
Faster, thicker, fell the rain,
O'er its bounds the river swelling,
Flooded all the narrow plain.
Still the children laughed and shouted,
Still the writer held his pen,
Laughed and joked the busy master,
Laughed and joked his journeymen.
Denser, lower, hung the rain clouds,
Down the hillsides torrent poured,
While the tawny Conemaugh
Like a hungry lion roared.
Still the brawny workmen labored,
Still on lovers maidens smiled,
Still the merchant sold and bartered,
Still the mother rocked her child;
And the City of the Gorges,
City of the Conemaugh,
With the water lapping thresholds,
Flowing through the builded streets,
Naught of coming danger saw,
Felt no fear, or gloom of awe;
Heard no sound of hast'ning feet
To the hills for safety fleeing;
Saw no men with quick'ning paces,
From their homes with pallid faces
Gath'ring wife, and babe, and treasure;
None the danger fearing, seeing,
All pursued their work or pleasure.
Still her needle plied the seamstress,
And the housewife wrought with care;
Still the maiden, singing, lingered,
Binding up her braided hair.

Higher crept the yellow waters,
Higher rose the river still,
Creeping up the steps and porches,
Creeping o'er the warehouse sill.
Still the banker told his silver,
Still the priest his masses said
For the soul whose earthly body
At the altar shrouded lay.

Listen! was that thunder muttering,
Rumbling round the distant hills?
Is that but the storm king's growling
That the heart a moment thrills?
Is that but a storm cloud sweeping
'Tween the gorges crowded down,
Sweeping dense before the blast,
Rushing downward on the town?
Never, save when equinoctials
Hurl the ocean surges high,
And the wall of waters, towering,
Topples thundering from the sky,
Crushing some brave ship to fragments,
Rolled a cloud so fraught with danger,
Rose to heaven so wild a cry.
Oath, and prayer, and shriek, and wail,
Shrilling louder than the gale,
With the torrent's voices blending.
Wail and shriek and prayer ascending,
Pierced the heart, and filled the air;
'Mid the terror, dumb amazement,
Frenzied strugglers, wild despair,
In the cries for father, mother,
Calls, and shrieks for wife, and child;
Shouts and calls for sister, brother,
As the foaming torrent, wild,
Sheer through walls resistless crashing,
Stone or brick or oaken wood,
Like to shot and shrapnel dashing
Hurtling through the battle's smoke,
Hurled the mountain pine, and oak,
Rude artillery of the flood;
Crushing, churches, homes, and people,
In that elementary strife;
Crushing hearts with human life.

O! the blessed heart of woman,
In that hour's supreme dismay,
Sacrifice heroic making;
Brave devotion men display;
Self-negations, faith sublime,
Threads of gold, around the darkness
Of despair, by love entwined;
Gleaming ever through the lapse of time.
O, the woe and desolation!
That in robe and shroud of awe
Clothe the City of the Gorges,
Wrapped the queen of Conemaugh,
Where threes of birth, and pangs of death,
Cry of first drawn, last gasped breath,
Minor, major chords of being,
Dawn and night of human life,
'Twain born problem of existence,
Intermingled in that strife.

Darkness o'er the water drooping,
Scenes of death, and horror, veiling,
As the night winds moaning, wailing,
Sobbing dirges for the morrow
Kept accord with human sorrow;
Cry of parent, wail of child,
Moan of sufferers, bruised, and torn,
Sobs of breaking hearts beside the
Corpses from the water borne;
From 'neath logs, and pond'rous irons,
From 'neath bricks, and stones, and mud,
Borne from crushed and dying hundreds,
Where the stone bridge stemmed the flood;
Where the flames will roar, and hiss,
Fierce-devoured dead and quick,
O the horrors of that death pile!
Frenzy of survivors, while
Red tongued fires eager lick
Dead and living, crushed and crowded,
In one broad cremation pyre;
Where the fragments of their houses
Built and fed their funeral fire.
Houses reared from years of savings,
Fruit of many toilsome days,
For the dear ones, Christ have mercy!
Burnt to ashes in their blaze.

Who shall tell the frenzied seeking,
Hours of agony intense,
Passed in waiting, fearing, hoping,
In the anguished heart's suspense.
Voices calling from the hillside,
Voices calling from the shore,
Calling, calling, calling lost ones,
Who will never answer more.
Torches flaring 'long the river,
Torches blazing through the night,
While the mountain ashes quiver,
Quaking at the fearful sight.
Men the shore and torrent searching,
Frantic pacing to and fro;
Tearful women sobbing, dreading
What the torches' gleam may show;
Tender faces, torn and bruised,
Mangled in the weeds, and ooze,
With their tresses fouled and tangled;
Eyes that went with love to shine
Torn from sockets, filled with refuse;
Gray hairs, black with mud and slime.
O, the stony, tearless sorrow!
O, the heart-breaks of the morrow!

Mournful City of the Gorges,
Horror-famous Conemaugh,
In an hour's rapid fleeting
Sadder sight the world ne'er saw;
Slender maidens dead, and clothless,
Save the tresses of their hair,
Lying in the harsh embraces
Of the cruel ruins there;
Lifeless babe and lifeless mother,
'Mid the weeds and bushes lying,
In their last embraces drowned;
Wife and husband, sister, brother,
Man and woman, age and youth,
'Mid the the ruins dead and dying,
By the wreckage held and bound;
Where the red flames dance and flicker
On the faces all distorted;
Ah! the lives forever saddened!
Hopes and plans forever thwarted!

O, the grand and glorious nature!
Scarce the hurried message telling
Half the horror, half the death,
Scarce the lightning, swiftly passing,
Gave the direful story breath.
Scarce along the wires, sobbing,
Spread the story far and wide,
Than the voice of pity swelling,
Came, and came from every side.
No one hating, no one waiting
For his neighbors' lead, or law,
Fast as rose the waters round thee,
Stricken city of the Conemaugh,
Swooning in thy tears and grief,
Came the succor, came relief.

Up from California's gate,
Where Mt. Shasta pierces air,
New England hills, and Tampa's sands,
Hudson, and the Delaware,
Rose and swelled the nation's voice,
Like another torrent's roar,
Flowed the people's offerings as the
Waters of the Conemaugh;
From the hearth of cot and mansion,
Hill, and plain, and vale and wood,
Coast to coast, across the nation;
God bless and spread such brotherhood,
For the seed our Savior planted
Eighteen hundred years ago,
Blossomed into precious fruitage
When distress, and death, and woe,
Riding on the mountain torrents,
In that terrequeous war,
Smote the city of the Gorges,
Smote the queen of Conemaugh.

O, the noble, generous nation!
Waiting not for supplication,
Hurrying feet of thronging people
Crowding 'change, and church, and hall,
Sixty million people giving,
Cheerful giving, one and all;
Thou! who lovest the cheerful giver,
Prosper, Lord, the land forever;
Children's pennies, widows' mite,
Workmen's offerings free as air;
From the left hand and the right,
Princely gifts of millionaire;
Clothes, and food, and gold, and silver,
Grander sight the world ne'er saw,
Poured, and poured as flood that wrecked thee,
Smitten queen of Conemaugh;
Came like rift of sunshine breaking
O'er some dark tempestuous sea;
Promise in the future of the
Broader brotherhood to be.
Heal, O Lord, the broken hearted;
Wipe the tears of those who weep;
And this grand and generous nation
Of Our Father, bless and keep.

GEORGE HENRY THURSTON.

PITTSBURG, June 15, 1889.

The above was written by Mr. Thurston shortly after the awful calamity. The author did not desire its publication, but finally consented to its appearance in this issue of THE DISPATCH.

DISPOSITION OF MILLIONS.

HOW THE STATE COMMISSION HANDLED THE MONEY GIVEN TO JOHNSTOWN.

A Very Small Balance Now on Hand—Provision Made for Orphans—A Permanent Hospital to be Built—The Commission Will Publish an Exhaustive Report.

It took many months to remove that embargo of debris from the streets of Johnstown. It took many thousands of dollars, too. Beside all this the people were bordering on starvation the first few days after the flood. They had to be fed first, and then they had to be clothed. After that, places of shelter had to be hurriedly built. Then it was discovered that many of the survivors had no money to rebuild their homes with. The task before the State Relief Commission, appointed by Governor Beaver, was a prodigious one. But it successfully fulfilled every duty. The commission made a final report on January 15, 1890. It was as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Amount received by Governor directly	$1,225,572 83
Amount received from the Philadelphia committee	600,000 00
Amount received from the Pittsburg committee	560,000 00
Amount received from the New York committee	516,199 85
Total cash receipts by Commission	$2,902,072 68

EXPENDITURES.

Expended in Johnstown	$2,452,830 34
Expended in other parts of State	250,000 00
Distributed as specially directed by donors	2,271 85
Office expenses, Harrisburg	1,398 42
General expenses	1,318 70
Annuities to orphans	115,000 00
Appropriated for Williamsport hospital	5,000 00
Appropriated for Johnstown hospital	40,000 00
Balance now on hand	70,631 40

ABOUT THREE MILLIONS.

The above balance of $70,631 is being gradually reduced by drafts upon it for new claims.

The above does not include the money sent to the Local Finance Committee, which amounted to between $100,000 and $150,000. Nor does it include the money expended by the Pittsburg Relief Committee before the Flood Commission was organized, which amounted to $250,000. On the whole, therefore, there has been about $3,000,000 left in Conemaugh Valley since the flood.

Secretary Kremer's report showed that there had been left by the flood 116 widows, to whom have been paid $179,471, and to whom, for their children, will be paid $95,250 in annual payments ranging as the number and ages of their children. Secretary Kremer said: "The total number known to have been lost is 2,228; there have been recovered 1,675 bodies, and of that number 1,021 have been identified and 644 are unidentified.

A FUTURE BOOK.

The Commission is now arranging for the publication of a large book of more than 1,000 pages. It will give full details as to the work of the body, and will make the most minute statement of financial operations possible. It will trace back every dollar of the contributions as near its source as can be done, and then it will give the circumstances under which this dollar was spent. A narrative of the disaster will be written, giving some important matter hitherto unpublished about the extent of the phenomenal rainfall which caused the flood.

NEWSPAPER MEN AT JOHNSTOWN.

The Hustlers Who Reported the Flood Will Hold a Reunion on Saturday.

The Pittsburg newspaper men suffered many hardships in reporting the flood. It will always be memorable in their lives. Therefore they propose to go to Johnstown on Saturday to attend the memorial services in the different churches. A special train will leave the Union station at 8 o'clock with about 100 active newspaper workers of the city and the lady members of their families. The party will arrive in Johnstown at 10:15, and will immediately repair to the places where the services will be held at 10:30.

Luncheon will be served on board the train by Caterer Albert Menjou, of the Hotel Duquesne, from 12 to 1:30. After luncheon the party will visit the cemeteries—Grandview being the main point of interest. At 3 o'clock the train will be run to South Fork, and those who wish to visit the broken dam will be given an opportunity to do so. The train will leave South Fork about 5 o'clock, and run slowly back to Johnstown. A splendid opportunity will be given the party on board the train to view the wonderful improvements made by the Pennsylvania Railroad along the line, particularly at Conemaugh. For the purpose of allowing everybody on the train to get the best view obtainable of the track of the flood and the changes made within the past year, observation cars will be put on the train, through the kindness of Superintendent Robert Pitcairn and District Passenger Agent Thomas E. Watt.

Appropriate souvenirs of the occasion will be presented to each member of the party. It is the intention of the men who were at Johnstown reporting the flood, to form a permanent organization and assist at the memorial services each year. There were about 50 hustlers, including one lady—Miss Cora Reese—from this city, and the idea of gathering together on the solemn anniversary is a unique one.

On Saturday evening a memorial banquet will be given in Delmonico's, New York, by the newspaper men of the metropolis who reported the flood incidents. A special invitation has been extended to the newspaper men of Pittsburg and Philadelphia, and several of them will attend the dinner.

JOHNSTOWN MEMORIAL SERVICES.

They Will be Held at Different Places on Saturday.

Flood memorial services will be held on Saturday and Sunday in all the churches in Johnstown. At 9 o'clock A. M. mass will be said at St. John's Catholic Church for the repose of the souls of those members whose life went out with the floods of May 31, 1889. Rev. Father James P. Tehaney, the pastor, will conduct the services.

In the evening the Mystic Chain of the Conemaugh Valley will hold divine services in honor of their departed brethren at the Lutheran Church, Rev. Mr. Conner, of the Christian Church, offic