

*Plattsburgh,  
Past and Present.*

*Troy, NY  
1891*



# Plattsburgh--Past and Present.

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**History of a Prosperous Village on Lake Champlain—Plattsburgh and its Industries—The Earliest Settlement—Relics of the Pre-Historic Period—Important Battles on Land and Water—The Present Situation—Educational Advantages—The Village Government and Societies—Rail and Water Transportation Facilities—History of the Corporation—Here and There with the Residents—A Visit to the Military Barracks—A Bright Outlook.**

In point of natural advantages and beauty of surroundings Plattsburgh is the gem of the Lake Champlain region. In historic interest it stands without a rival. Within the bounds of what are now its corporate limits occurred many of the most exciting events of the ante-revolutionary period. And during the memorable struggle for American independence the shores of Lake Champlain echoed the boom of cannon fired by the contending forces on land and water; and again in the second war with Great Britain Plattsburgh was the battle-ground of the North, and near the village was fought the great naval conflict which resulted in a glorious victory for Commodore Macdonough and his gallant Yankee fleet.

## THEN AND NOW.

The purpose of this article is to invite the attention of the readers of the *Times* to a general outline of Plattsburgh's history, ancient and modern, and with pen and camera to present as faithful a picture of this delightful village as space will permit. Effort will be made to chronicle important local events somewhat in chronological order. In this connection it may be stated that a greater part of the data on which the following account is based was secured by a *Times* correspondent from personal interviews with residents of Plattsburgh. Other sources of information include Judge Palmer's "History of Lake Champlain."

## Lake Champlain.

Brief reference to the beautiful lake on the west bank of which and at the mouth of the Saranac river Plattsburgh is situated will be a profitable preface. Traditions of fierce Indian battles on the banks of the lake before the coming of the pale faces have been handed

down. There is no doubt that prior to the discovery of Lake Champlain by the French governor whose name it bears the Algonquins, Hurons and Iroquois contended for the favorite hunting-grounds along its shores. The first authenticated visit of a white man in any official capacity to the lake was made by Samuel Champlain, governor of Canada, in 1609. He started from Montreal on an expedition against the hostile Indians south of the St. Lawrence, and ascending the Richelieu river he entered the lake July 4. He fought a battle with a large force of Iroquois at a promontory believed to have been Cumberland Head, three miles from the site of Plattsburgh. At that point an Indian village was located, and recent discoveries have gone a long way toward corroborating the tradition that Champlain's battle was fought at Cumberland Head.

## GENERAL FEATURES.

Lake Champlain has a coast line on each side of 125 miles, its length from north to south being ninety miles. Its head is at Whitehall, and it discharges its waters into the St. Lawrence through the Richelieu river. From Whitehall, after passing South Bay, for miles the lake in places is scarcely wide enough for large boats to pass; then it widens and has a maximum width of thirteen miles. The lake has an area of about 500 square miles. The scenery is magnificent, and many points of historic interest are seen by the traveler along its banks.

## On the Saranac.

About the year 1767 Count Charles de Fredenburg, who had been a captain in the British army, settled at the mouth of Saranac river and erected a dwelling. To De Fredenburg and others was given a grant of 30,000 acres of land on both sides of the Saranac and including Cumberland Head and Plattsburgh old patent. Three miles up the river he built a saw-mill. The dwelling erected by De Fredenburg was on the site of what is now Hartwell's foundry. During the war of the revolution De Fredenburg disappeared, and after

peace had been declared his heirs made an unsuccessful attempt to perfect title to his grant, which having been acquired by a mandamus from the king, was forfeited.

#### THE PATENT OF PLATTSBURGH.

But the importance of the Cumberland Head district as a place of settlement was so well known that there was an active competition in efforts to secure the patent. In 1784 Judge Zephaniah Platt of Poughkeepsie associated with himself a number of capitalists and they succeeded in securing "war bounty" or "class rights" grants aggregating 30,000 acres, and by pushing their claims to preference they were enabled to locate their township on the De Fredenburg tract, and they obtained title to the same by a patent dated October 26, 1784.

#### THE TOWNSHIP SETTLED.

The land was surveyed by Captain Nathaniel Platt and Captain Simon R. Reeves, and the proprietors immediately offered inducements to settlers, the first ten families to take up their residence at Plattsburgh to receive their lots free. Preparations were at once made for building a grist-mill, a saw-mill and a forge on the banks of the Saranac. To provision the settlement the owners of the patent at a meeting in Poughkeepsie in December, 1784, appropriated \$65 "for flour and bread and \$160 for pork and New England rum, a pint of rum to a pound of pork being a workman's requisite in those roistering days." The stores and dwellings were at first erected at Cumberland Head, but the superior advantages for location on the Saranac river did not escape the attention of Mr. Platt and his colonists, and the change to the site of Plattsburgh soon followed, although business continued to be carried on at the Head. Mr. Platt was the agent and manager of the owners of the patent. Prizes were given to the first couple married at Plattsburgh, and also to the father of the first male child born in the settlement. Platt Newcomb secured the latter prize—fifty acres of land.

#### THE MILLS ERECTED.

In June, 1785, the saw-mill, grist-mill and forge were built. A dam had been erected across the river near the bend. Those who built the dam and mills were granted fifty acres of land for mill privi-

leges and 100 acres on the north side of the Saranac at its mouth. The mill property was owned by various parties at different times, and finally came into the possession of the bank of Plattsburgh and was sold in small tracts.

#### Distinguished Citizens.

The names of the early settlers in Plattsburgh include many who were prominent in state and national affairs. Zephaniah Platt—the father of the town—was in the provincial congress, on the committee of safety, a commissary for General Clinton's troops, a judge in the court of common pleas in Dutchess county, and later a state senator. He removed permanently from Poughkeepsie to Plattsburgh in 1801 and resided at the latter place till he died six years later. Under his supervision the state road through Clinton and Essex counties was built. In this enterprise he was associated with Platt Rogers.

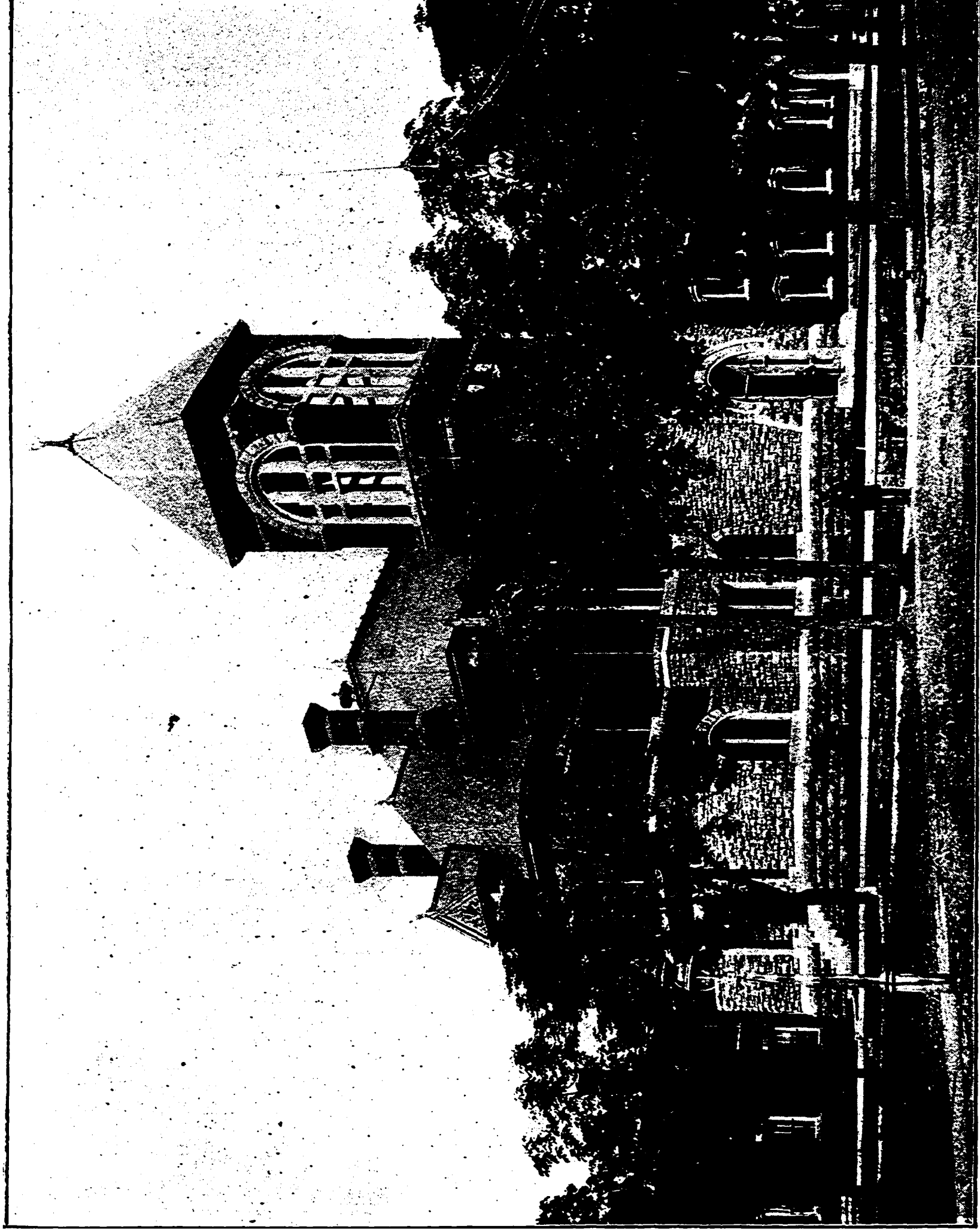
Thomas Treadwell, a native of Long Island, was also one of the original proprietors of Plattsburgh. He held high position in the councils of the state and was a senator for the northern district after he removed to Plattsburgh. He was surrogate of Clinton county in 1807 and held the office until the year before his death in 1832.

In 1786 Peter Saily, a native of Lorraine, France, settled with his family at Plattsburgh, and was enterprising in advancing the interests of the town, holding offices of trust, including that of congressman for the district, being elected in 1804. For eighteen years preceding his death, in 1826, he was collector of customs for the Champlain district.

Melancton Smith, a Dutchess county man and a member of the provincial congress, was also one of the proprietors of Plattsburgh. He was a sheriff and militia officer and afterward a judge.

Charles and Nathaniel Platt, brothers of Zephaniah, were at different times associated with him in the Plattsburgh settlement. Charles was the first supervisor of the town and was for several years town clerk. He was also the first judge of the Clinton common pleas and subsequently county clerk.

In 1785 Melancton L. Woolsey removed to Plattsburgh from Long Island. He had been an officer in the



COURT HOUSE AND COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE.



army and on Governor Clinton's staff. For several years he was clerk of the county and collector of customs for the Champlain district.

Benjamin Mooers, a brigadier general of revolutionary fame, was also prominent in the settlement of northern New York, beginning at Beekmantown and subsequently removing to Cumberland Head and Plattsburgh, where he died in 1838. He was a major general of militia during the war of 1812 and assisted the government in defending the northern frontier. He was also the first sheriff of Clinton county, member of assembly several terms, state senator and county treasurer, holding the latter office for forty-eight years.

Other names appearing in documents relating to the early days of Plattsburgh include Jabez Pettit, Peter Newcombe, Peter Tappan, Zaccheus Newcombe, Jonathan Lawrence, Israel Smith, John Addoms, Jonas Allen, Joseph Ketchum and Judge Levi Platt—son of Zephaniah Platt—Jacob Ferris, Jonathan Sexton, Thomas Allen, John B. Hartwick, Derrick Webb, Moses Soper and Charles McCreedy.

#### **The Town Organized.**

April 4, 1785, Plattsburgh was organized as a town by an act of the legislature. The first town-meeting was held in June of that year, and Charles Platt was elected supervisor. Zaccheus Newcombe, Nathaniel Platt and Platt Rogers were elected highway commissioners. The town and its organization embraced the Plattsburgh old patent, Frizwell's patent and Cumberland Head patent. Two years later the town was enlarged, but several tracts were subsequently taken off, and the town now includes the Cumberland Head patent, Frizwell's patent, a part of Platt's Little Location, a part of the Nova Scotia Refuge tract, a part of the Gore south of Duerville, a part of Plattsburgh old patent, Crab island and a part of Valcour island.

#### **THE FIRST COURT.**

October 28, 1788, the third year after the organization of the town, the first court of common pleas and general sessions for Clinton county was held at Plattsburgh, Judge Charles Platt presiding. The associate judges were Peter Saily, Theodorus Platt, William

McAuley, Pliny Moore and Robert Cochran. Benjamin Mooers was sheriff. Other officers included Melancton L. Woolsey, clerk; John Frontfreyde, coroner, and Robert Paul, Jonathan Stephenson, Lewis Lizotte and Jonathan Lynde, constables. August 17, 1796, Judge Benson opened the first circuit court and court of oyer and terminer for the northern part of the state at the court-house in Plattsburgh.

#### **THE VILLAGE OF PLATTSBURGH.**

March 3, 1815, Plattsburgh became an incorporated village. It is the oldest village in Clinton county and the county seat. William Bailey, Jonathan Griffin, John Palmer, Reuben H. Walworth, Levi Platt and Samuel Moore were the first trustees. The first meeting of the board was held May 3, 1815, and Levi Platt was elected president and Gilead Sperry clerk.

#### **Plattsburgh in War.**

In all the wars of the early days of the country Plattsburgh was considered an important military point, and before its settlement by the whites the site was the scene of conflicts between the rival Indian tribes along the lake. During the campaign of 1776 a fierce naval battle was fought on the waters of Lake Champlain opposite Plattsburgh. The Americans were commanded by Benedict Arnold and the British by Captain Thomas Pringle. The severest fight was October 11, after which Arnold withdrew with his vessels, being greatly outnumbered by the British fleet. The Americans made a desperate resistance as they sailed up the lake, and had they been equipped with vessels in any way equal to those of the enemy they would have compelled the British to retreat from the lake.

#### **THE WAR OF 1812.**

During the second war with Great Britain Plattsburgh was the headquarters of the generals commanding on the northern frontier and the rendezvous for the American troops called out for the defense of the border. Expeditions were fitted out at this point during the campaign of 1813, and Major General Hampton was for a time in command at Cumberland Head. General Izar succeeded General Hampton in command at Plattsburgh. An exciting incident of the campaign of

1813, and before any large body of American troops had been concentrated at Plattsburgh, was the raid of Colonel Murray of the British forces. July 30 Colonel Murray, with 1,400 men, infantry, sailors and marines, sailed up the lake to Plattsburgh and destroyed a large amount of property. At that time there were no regular troops on the west side of the lake, and General Hampton was at Burlington, Vt., on the opposite side. The British not only destroyed public stores, but they plundered private buildings. On their way back to their camp the British halted at Cumberland Head and pillaged the houses of Judge Treadwell and Jeremiah Stowe. Twenty men left behind by the British in their hasty departure from Plattsburgh were captured by the American militia and sent to Burlington as prisoners.

#### **The Battle of Plattsburgh.**

Space will not permit a detailed account of hostilities in and around Plattsburgh during the war of 1812, but an outline of the battle of Plattsburgh is presented. August 29, 1814, General Izard, in compliance with orders, had left the neighborhood of Plattsburgh, and September 7 he reached Schenectady *en route* to the West. After the departure of General Izard with the greater part of the army General Alexander Macomb succeeded to the command at Plattsburgh. He had been a lieutenant colonel of engineers and adjutant general of the army. General Macomb was confident that the British would make an advance on Plattsburgh, and he at once began preparations to resist an attack and defend this important post.

#### **A SMALL FORCE.**

General Macomb's command, including 250 infantry who were on board the fleet doing duty as marines, numbered 3,400 men, of whom 1,400 were invalids or non-combatants. The garrison was composed of portions of the sixth, twenty-ninth, thirtieth, thirty-first, thirty-third and thirty-fourth regiments, one company of the fifteenth regiment and a detachment of the thirteenth infantry, with Captain Leonard's company of light artillery. There were also two companies of veteran artillery commanded by Captain Alexander Brooks.

#### **THE BRITISH INVADERS.**

Upon the above small force Sir George Provost, governor general of Canada, with 14,000 British troops, advanced. Lieutenant General De Rottenburgh was General Provost's trusted lieutenant. The night of September 4, 1814, the main body of the British army encamped eight miles from Plattsburgh, near Sampson's. Several British gunboats had moved up the lake to Isle La Motte, and a battery was erected on the east side of the island to cover the landing of supplies for the troops.

#### **THE THREE FORTS.**

The visitor to Plattsburgh to-day is shown the earthworks which in part constituted the defenses of the place in that memorable battle. They were erected on an elevated plain between the Saranac river and the lake. Fort Moreau was opposite the bend in the river, three-quarters of a mile south of the lower bridge. About fifty rods to the west of Fort Moreau stood Fort Brown, a redoubt directly opposite the bend, and near the bank of the lake east of Fort Moreau was another redoubt called Fort Scott. A block-house and battery had been erected on the point at the mouth of the river, and there was another block-house on the south side of the ravine, midway between Lake Champlain and Saranac river.

#### **DEFENDERS OF THE FORTS.**

Colonel Melancton Smith, son of Judge Smith, was entrusted with the defense of Fort Moreau, the most important fortification. He had command of the sixth and twenty-ninth regiments. Fort Brown was garrisoned by detachments of the thirtieth and thirty-first, with Lieutenant Colonel Storrs in command, and Major Vinson defended Fort Scott, with the thirty-third and thirty-fourth regiments. Lieutenant Fowler, with a detachment of artillery, had station at the block-house on the point, and Captain Smith with his company of rifles were in the block-house near the ravine. The light artillerymen were directed to take position where they could cause the enemy the most annoyance.

#### **MOVING INTO BATTLE.**

Captain Sproul, with 200 men of the thirteenth regiment and two field-pieces, was sent by General Macomb to Dead





D'YOUVILLE CONVENT.



Creek bridge, and Lieutenant Colonel Appling, with riflemen and a troop of New York cavalry, held the advance to watch the British. In the meantime General Macomb had requested General Mooers to call out the New York militia, and had also requested Governor Chittenden of Vermont to send troops to aid in checking the advance of the invaders. Bright and early the morning of September 5 the British moved toward Plattsburgh in two columns, one composed of Major General Powers's brigade, light infantry and troops under Major General Robinson, while the other column was headed by Major General Brisbane's brigade. The right column crossed over to the Beekmantown road and the other moved forward by the way of Dead Creek bridge.

#### THE FIGHT OPENED.

Near the residence of Ira Howe in Beekmantown Major John E. Wool (subsequently major general and whose monument stands in Oakwood cemetery, Troy), with a detachment of 250 men, had taken a position the night before and as the British advanced Major Wool opened on them with a brisk fire of musketry. Lieutenant West of the British advance and about twenty of the enemy were wounded at the first discharge. Major Wool fell back, gradually, delaying the advance of the enemy as much as possible, and at Culver's Hill he made another stand. In the fight at this point Lieutenant-Colonel Willington of the British army and Ensign Chapman were killed. Several Americans were also killed. Wool fell back to Halsey's Corners to prevent being cut off by a flanking party, and was there joined by Captain Leonard of the light artillery with two guns. These were placed in battery at an angle in the road masked by Wool's infantry and a small detachment of militia. As the British advanced the guns were fired directly into their ranks, cutting a bloody lane through the head of the column. The guns were fired three times, but the British pressed on, the bugles sounding the charge. Captain Leonard was forced to hastily withdraw toward the village. Among the wounded at this point was Lieutenant Kingsbury of the British army. He was carried into Isaac C. Platt's farmhouse, where he died.

His body was buried in the garden at the farm-house, but in 1844 it was removed to the village cemetery. During this fight the forces under Major Wool were joined by a body of militia under command of General Benjamin Mooers. Early in the morning militia under Colonel David B. McNeil assisted Major Wool in attacking the advance of the British.

#### AIKEN'S VOLUNTEERS.

An account of the battle of Plattsburgh without mention of Aiken's volunteers would be incomplete. The company was composed of boys and young men who were not old enough for military duty—according to the regulations. Most of them were at school when the news that the British were advancing was received. The boys assembled and elected Martin I. Aiken captain and Azariah C. Flagg lieutenant. They marched out to West Chazy September 4, and during the advance of the British the boys annoyed the red-coats from behind stumps and fences and trees. After the Americans were driven across the Saranac river the boys took possession of the old stone grist-mill, from which they aided in driving back the British light troops who made several attempts to cross the bridge near the mill. This company did effective service during the siege and was discharged September 12. In May, 1826, congress authorized the president to cause to be delivered to each member of the company a rifle, in accordance with the promise made them by General Macomb at the close of the battle, for their patriotic services as a volunteer corps during the siege of Plattsburgh. The names of the members of the company in addition to Captain Aiken and Lieutenant Flagg were as follows: Ira A. Wood, Gustavus A. Bird, James Trowbridge, Hazen Mooers, Henry K. Averill, St. John B. L. Skinner, Frederick P. Allen, Hiram Walworth, Ethan Everett, Amos Soper, James Patten, Bartemus Brooks, Smith Bateman, Melancton W. Travis, Flavius Williams.

#### CROSSING THE RIVER.

As Major Wool fell back toward the lower bridge he was joined by Lieutenant Colonel Appling, who had fallen back from Dead Creek, as ordered by General Macomb, annoying the British

all the way. The field pieces were taken across the bridge and covered the retreat of Wool, Appling and Sproul until they reached the cover of the works on the south bank of the Saranac. The planks of the bridge were taken up and used to make breast-works for the Americans. Several attempts were made by the British to cross the river during the first day's fight, but they were repulsed. About forty-five Americans and more than 250 British were killed or wounded during the day. The British commander established his headquarters at Allen's farmhouse, about one and one-quarter miles from Fort Brown and on the hill on the opposite side of the Saranac.

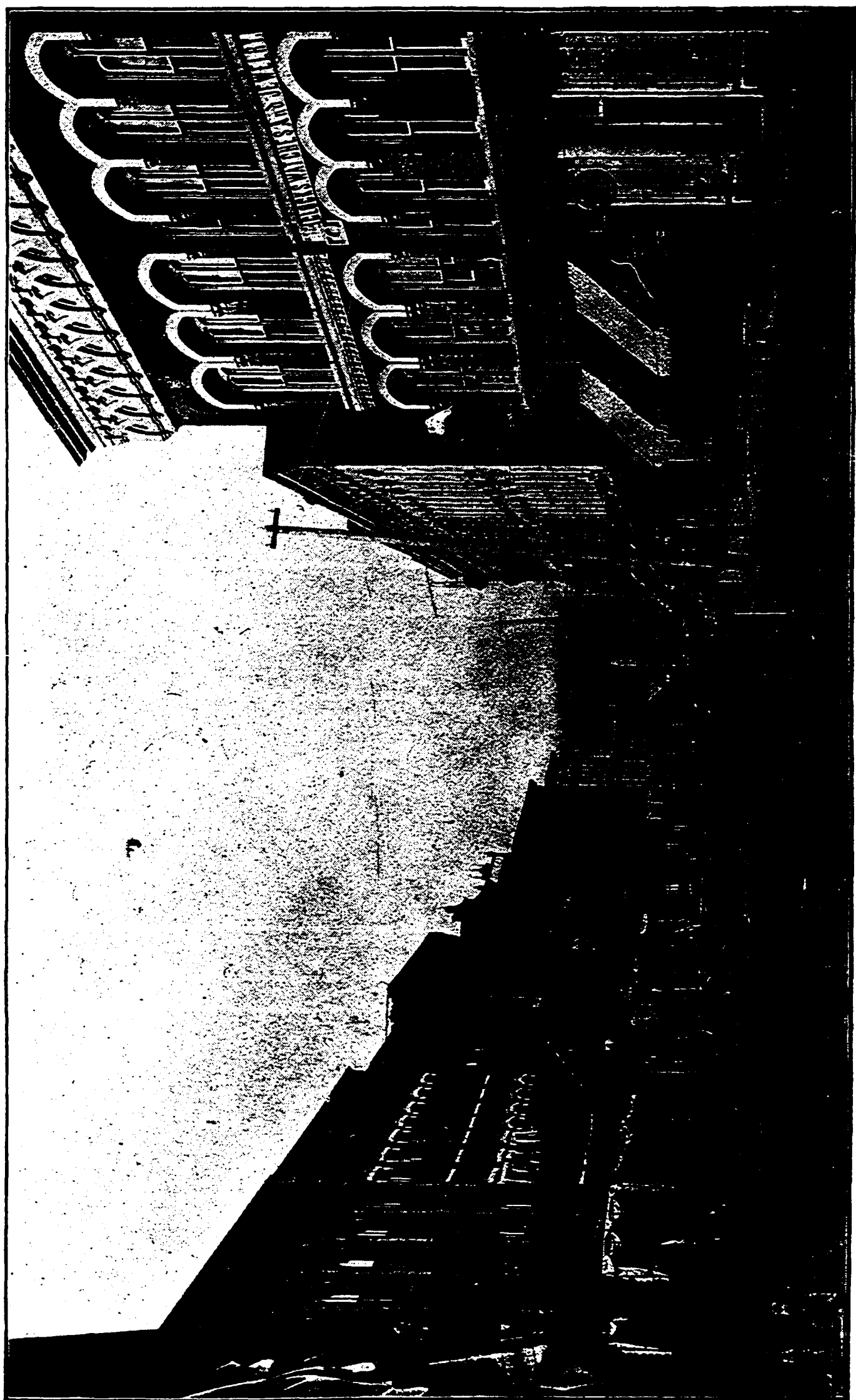
#### DURING THE SIEGE.

The contending forces faced each other from opposite banks of the Saranac, and the siege was kept up for five days—until September 11. Provost brought up battering trains and supplies and erected batteries opposite the American works. The patriots continued to strengthen their fortifications. The pickets and militia had frequent skirmishes and the batteries exchanged shot and shell, a number of buildings in the village on the north bank of the river and which had afforded shelter for the British being destroyed by the guns of the Americans. The night of September 9 Captain McGlassin of the fifteenth infantry, with a party of fifty men, crossed the river and surprised a working party of British who were erecting a rocket battery opposite Fort Brown. One British officer and six men were killed and several wounded. The 300 red-coats fled, and Captain McGlassin, after spiking the guns and destroying the works, retired to the fort on the other side without losing a man. Captain Vaughn's company of Colonel Miller's regiment on September 7 repulsed a British column commanded by Captain Noadie, and which attempted to cross the river at a ford five miles west of the village.

#### THE LAST DAY OF THE SIEGE.

September 11, 1814, will ever be a memorable day in the history of the American people. It was Sunday, but the shores of Lake Champlain and hills around Plattsburgh echoed the sounds of cannon and smaller arms on land

and water. While Commodore Macdonough was fighting the British fleet in the lake the British land forces again met with a bloody repulse in their attempt to drive General Macomb out of his Plattsburgh fortifications. When Sir George Provost saw the British fleet at Cumberland Head in the morning he ordered two brigades to cross the Saranac and assault the American works. The batteries opened, and the advance began the moment the fight on the lake commenced. Three points were selected for crossing, but only at the ford near Pike's cantonment did they succeed in getting over the river. Here several companies crossed and followed the militia to Salmon river, where the Americans were reinforced by Vermont volunteers and Lieutenant Sumpter with artillery. They rallied and prepared to resist the further advance of the enemy. At this moment Chancellor Walworth, adjutant general of General Mooers's division, rode up and announced that the British fleet had surrendered. The Americans made short work of the British and killed nearly all who did not surrender. The survivors fled back across the Saranac. The British batteries continued to fire on the American works till sun-down, but there was no further attempt to cross the river. The American artillerymen in Fort Brown, commanded by Captain Brooks, returned the fire. After dark the British retreated from Plattsburgh. Fully 13,000 British veterans marched away at night from the front of the American army, which did not exceed 1,500 regulars fit for duty and 2,500 Vermont volunteers under Major General Strong (600 of whom had just arrived) and General Wright's brigade of Clinton and Essex militia, 700 strong, commanded by Major General Mooers. The volunteers and militia followed the retreating British army to Chazy and captured a few prisoners. General Macomb reported the loss among his regulars at 123, killed, wounded and missing. Lieutenant George W. Runk was the only commissioned officer killed. The loss was small among the volunteers and militia. The loss of the British was much greater. The next day orders were issued disbanding the militia, and thousands of patriots who



SCENE ON MARGARET STREET.



were *en route* to Plattsburgh were sent home. The Vermont troops also returned home September 12. Sir George Provost left behind in his camps vast quantities of provisions and military stores.

#### **Macdonough's Victory.**

The most desperate naval battle of the war was the one fought on Lake Champlain at Plattsburgh. The American vessels were commanded by Commodore Thomas Macdonough and consisted of the brig *Eagle*, Captain Henley; the *Saratoga*, Macdonough's flagship; the schooner *Ticonderoga*, Lieutenant Cassin, and the sloop *Preble*, Lieutenant Budd. There were also ten gunboats, eighty-six guns in all, with 882 men. The British fleet was commanded by Captain George Downie and consisted of the frigate *Confiance*, the brig *Linnet*, the sloop *Chub* and the sloop *Finch*. There were also thirteen gunboats. The British had ninety-five guns and more than 1,000 men. The battle continued for two hours and a half. The brig *Eagle* opened fire on the British and was followed by the *Saratoga*, the first gun from which was sighted by Macdonough at the *Confiance*, on the deck of which several men were killed. In clearing the deck of the *Saratoga* a rooster which had been turned loose by the demolishing of a coop by a cannonball flew into the rigging, clapped his wings and crowed. The battle became general in a short time, and the broadsides were discharged with terrible effect. After making a desperate defense—Captain Downie being killed and nearly half of the men being killed or disabled—the *Confiance* was so badly punished by the *Saratoga* that the British flag was struck and the vessel surrendered. Short work was then made of the *Linnet*, which surrendered fifteen minutes later. The *Finch* had been driven shoreward and drifted upon the shoal near Crab island and surrendered. The *Chub* had also struck its colors somewhat earlier in the engagement. When the larger vessels surrendered the gunboats lowered their colors, but as the American gunboats went to the assistance of the British vessels said to be sinking, some of the British gunboats escaped. The victory of the Americans was complete.

The British lost one-fifth of the whole number engaged. So severe was the contest that at the close there was not a mast in either fleet fit for use. The Americans lost in killed and wounded 110. The American officers killed were Lieutenant Gamble of the *Saratoga*, Lieutenant John Stansbury of the *Ticonderoga* and Sailing Master Rogers Carter. Midshipman James M. Baldwin was mortally wounded. The British killed were Captain Downie, Captain Alexander Anderson, Midshipman William Gunn, Lieutenant William Paul and Boatswain Charles Jackson. The battle of Plattsburgh ended all hostile operations on the Champlain frontier.

#### **A MEMORABLE FUNERAL.**

September 13, in the morning, took place the funerals of the American and British officers killed in the naval battle, the surviving officers and men of both sides participating. At the shore of the lake a large procession of military and citizens of Plattsburgh was formed and the remains were escorted to the village cemetery, where they were buried near the centre of the grave-yard. Their remains rest beneath the shade of two pines, and other distinguished officers and civilians are buried in the same cemetery. The remains of the sailors and marines who fell in the battle were buried in one common grave, side by side, on Crab island.

#### **The Plattsburgh of To-day.**

And what of the Plattsburgh of to-day? It continues to hold its place at the head of the list of villages in Clinton county, and for eligibility of site, grandeur of scenic surroundings, facilities for railroad and water transportation, importance of educational and benevolent institutions, and desirability of location as a place of residence, it cannot be excelled in northern New York. It has broad, well-kept streets, flag and plank sidewalks, an excellent sewer system, splendid water privileges and a delightful climate. As a natural result of these advantages its citizens are enthusiastically patriotic, proud of the history of their forefathers; strong in faith for the future of their home village, thrifty, enterprising, hospitable, entertaining and charitable. The village has a population of about 8,000,

with a contributory population of 60,000 or more.

#### **The Plattsburgh Normal School.**

The new state normal school located at Plattsburgh is a model institution. While many of the normal schools of the state are located in counties adjoining each other, the Plattsburgh school stands by itself, being 100 miles east from Potsdam and 168 miles north from Albany. The spacious building stands in the centre of a tract of fifteen acres facing the village to the east. It is bounded on the north by Cornelia street, east by Beekman street, south by Brinkerhoff street and west by Draper avenue. The grounds are laid out in walks and drives, and a miniature lake fed from a fountain that throws water forty feet into the air forms a pleasing contrast to the green lawns.

#### **THE SCHOOL-BUILDING.**

The building is three stories with a spacious basement, of brick with stone trimmings. It is 160 feet north and south by 134 feet east and west. Light enters all the school-rooms so as to come over the shoulders of the pupils. In the basement is a gymnasium 43x65 feet furnished with apparatus for athletic instruction and physical culture. Apartments of the janitor and closets and storerooms are also located in the basement. On the first floor are the assembly-halls, class-rooms of the model department, reception-rooms, offices of the principal, faculty rooms, society rooms, etc., with broad corridors extending through the centre of the building each way. The second floor is occupied by the normal hall, main assembly-rooms, library, text-book rooms and recitation-rooms for several departments, including methods, classics, history, literature, modern languages, etc. The chemical library, physical lecture-room and recitation-rooms for the departments of physics, elocution, music and drawing are on the third floor. Broad stairways, easy of ascent, connect the different floors. The heating is perfect, steam, both by direct and indirect radiation. The building is thoroughly ventilated by mechanical means, the fan being run by a water motor in the attic. The air is pumped out of every class-room once in every

fifteen or twenty minutes and pure air is introduced through flues from the outside, heated by indirect radiation and carried to every room in the building. There is an excellent library connected with the school and a good supply of chemical and physical apparatus for successful teaching.

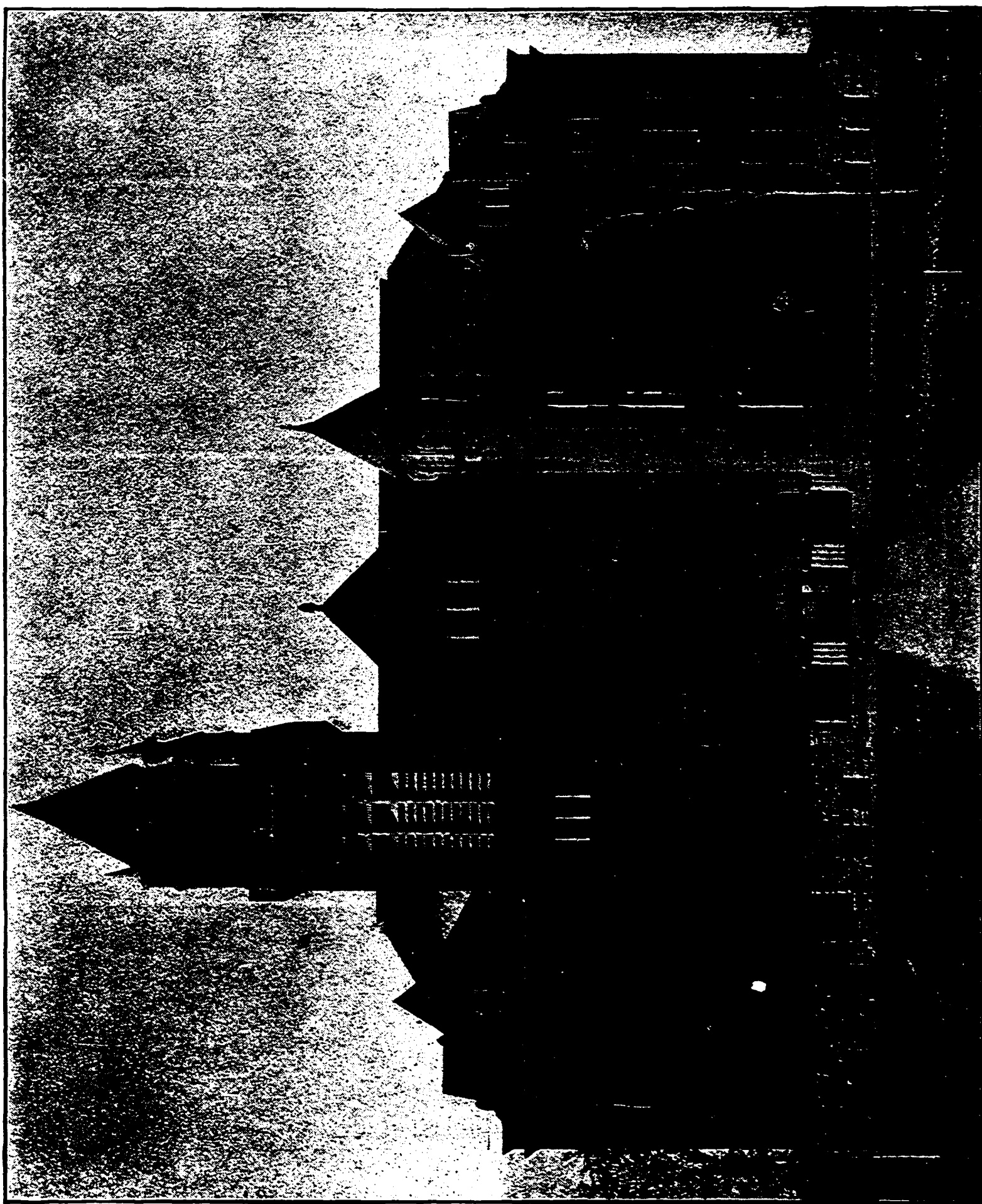
#### **TRAINED FOR TEACHERS.**

The scholars receive tuition and the use of text-books free, and the amount paid for railroad fare in reaching the school is returned to the pupil who completes a full term of twenty weeks. The design of the school is to prepare teachers to do successful work in the public schools of northern New York. To secure admission the applicant must be sixteen years old and present a recommendation from the school commissioner of the district in which the applicant resides. The appointments are made by the superintendent of public instruction, and each county in the district is entitled to twice as many pupils as it has representatives in the assembly. Every student before graduating is required to do eighty weeks of actual teaching, one hour in the day, under the direction and constant supervision of a member of the faculty. It is the distinctive feature of this school to make the practical teaching approximate to the work of a teacher in the public schools of the state, and this is brought about by requiring the student-teacher to assume full responsibility for the management and discipline of the class assigned to the teacher. The children who are the "models," or who form the classes taught by the normal-school pupils, are received on payment of tuition. They come from families in the village. There are at present 137 of these scholars at the school daily. They are taught the studies of the primary, intermediate and grammar departments of the public schools. All the classes move and march to the music of a piano played by some one of the scholars selected daily. The discipline of the school is excellent.

#### **HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL.**

The state normal and training school at Plattsburgh was established by chapter 517, laws of 1889, signed by the governor June 15, 1889. July 11 the board of education of Plattsburgh and





THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL AT PLATTSBURGH.



General Stephen Moffitt, a committee appointed by the board of supervisors of Clinton county to select a site for the school, tendered the state commissioners the land now occupied by the school, and it was accepted. The board of local managers was organized July 29, and Hon. Smith M. Weed was chosen president, E. C. Baker secretary and Hon. S. A. Kellogg treasurer. The building was completed and the school formally opened September 3, 1890. The same evening the citizens of Plattsburgh tendered a reception to the faculty of the normal school and the teachers of the village schools. The cost of the building with fixtures approximated \$90,000. The grounds were donated by citizens of Clinton county.

#### BOARD OF MANAGERS.

The local board of managers consists of the following, all of Plattsburgh, except otherwise indicated: President, Hon. Alfred Guibord; secretary, Everett C. Baker; treasurer, Hon. George S. Weed; Hon. Alexander Bertrand, Hon. Henry G. Burleigh (Whitehall), Charles F. Hudson, Hon. S. Alonzo Kellogg, Hon. Rowland C. Kellogg (Elizabethtown), Hon. Stephen Moffitt, Hon. William P. Mooers, Hon. John B. Riley, Lucien L. Shedden, Hon. William C. Stevens (Malone). □

#### THE FACULTY.

The principal of the school is Fox Holden, one of the best-known educators of the state, and at the time he was chosen for the important position he now holds he was superintendent of the Plattsburgh union graded school. He is ably assisted by an excellent corps, the full list of the faculty being as follows: Fox Holden, A. M., LL.B., principal, history and philosophy of education; Myron T. Scudder, A. M., Greek and Latin; George H. Hudson, natural science; George K. Hawkins, mathematics; Thankful M. Knight, methods; Mary W. Lyon, history and English; Alice L. O'Brien, elocution and physical culture; Helen M. Palmer, French and German; Sara J. Stewart, principal model school and critic; Eliza Kellas, critic; Elizabeth B. Garrity, critic; Kate S. Woodruff, form study and drawing; Elizabeth C. Macnee, vocal music.

#### COMPLETE AND THOROUGH.

The methods of teaching at the school are the best. Principal Holden and his assistants have conducted the school during the first year of its existence with marked success. They had to begin at the beginning—new building, new faculty, new scholars—but their efforts have been rewarded by the good results accomplished. Everything about the premises is in excellent order, and the future of the school is bright with promise. The landscape gardening of the grounds was planned by Mr. Edgerton of Albany. The grounds and buildings are admirably looked after by Everett C. Baker, chairman of the committee for that purpose.

#### The Plattsburgh High School.

Plattsburgh is to be congratulated on its public-school department, as well as on the possession of its normal school. The Plattsburgh high school is in the front rank. It is located in a fine four-story brick structure with sandstone trimmings and stands on the corner of Brinkerhoff and Oak streets, the site of the old Plattsburgh academy, which was erected in 1811 and was destroyed by fire November 10, 1871. During the war of 1812 the academy was occupied as barracks by American soldiers. Many of the prominent citizens of northern New York received their education in the old academy. The high-school building was erected fifteen years ago and cost \$45,000.

#### □ □ CELLAR TO ATTIC.

In the basement of the school-building are the furnaces by which steam-heat is supplied, and rooms for coal, etc. The first floor contains the superintendent's office and the office of the board of education and the school-rooms of the fifth-grade scholars. On the second floor is the grammar school, and the high-school department is on the third floor, which also contains the grades upward from the seventh. On the fourth floor is Academy hall, the largest and best in the village. The building is well heated and ventilated throughout, and being isolated it is admirably lighted from windows on all sides. On the second floor there are rooms for the business school, which was added last winter; a full business

course is now taught. The school has an excellent library, and \$700 worth of books were recently added, half of which came from the proceeds of a course of lectures last winter. The school has the largest library and is the best-equipped high school in northern New York.

#### INCREASED ATTENDANCE.

As a rule the establishment of a normal school in a village has a tendency to draw pupils from the high school and public schools and to diminish the attendance at the latter. This has not been the case in Plattsburgh, for the attendance during the last school year, the first of the normal school, was the largest in the history of the village school system. This fall the average attendance is larger than it was last year. Following are the figures: Children of school age, 2,497; pupils registered, 1,566; average attendance, 1,150. This year's average attendance is 100 above that of last year. The school census taken in July, 1891, gives the total population of Plattsburgh at 7,570.

#### THE CORPS OF INSTRUCTORS.

G. J. McAndrew, M. A., Ph. D., is the superintendent of Plattsburgh schools. He is a graduate of Yale, also a post-graduate, a member of the American association for the advancement of science, and also of the American academy of political and social science. He has been principal of the high school at Pawtucket, R. I., and assistant at the New Haven, Conn., high school. He is a thorough disciplinarian, and his efforts to bring the Plattsburgh schools to a high standard have been eminently successful. Miss Helen D. Woodward, a graduate of Vassar college, is principal of the high-school department. She is a lady of excellent judgment and an efficient instructor and manager. She has the happy faculty of winning the friendship, admiration and respect of all her pupils, and she occasionally delivers lectures to the Minervians, a society composed of young ladies in the high-school department. The other teachers in the high-school building are as follows, and below is also given a list of the other village schools, the location being shown by their names, with a complete list of teachers:

*High school*—Miss Ida M. Hollis, assist-

ant; Miss Emma L. Berry, assistant; Miss Eleanor S. Miller, assistant; Miss Grace W. Barker, assistant; G. S. Forest, assistant; J. H. Ferrington, jr., assistant. Grammar school: Alvin W. Shepard, principal; assistants, Miss Belle C. Strickland, Miss Minnie E. Cosgrove, Miss Jennie C. Stiles. Intermediate school: Miss M. Kate Sperry, principal; assistants, Miss Carrie M. Sperry, Miss Ellen A. Hewett, Miss Mary F. Burns.

*Oak street school*—William H. Phillips, principal; assistants, Miss Alice Riley, Miss Constance A. Entwistle, Miss Mary Anderson, Miss Carrie P. Crosby.

*Broad street school*—Miss Anna A. Dodge, principal; Miss Sarah A. Barnard, assistant.

*Hamilton street school*—Miss Lillian H. Stiles, principal; Miss Kate E. Colligan, assistant.

*Elizabeth street school*—Miss Ruth E. Newcomb, principal; assistants, Miss Mary O'Brien, Miss Maggie Thomas, Miss Julia C. Murphy.

*Wall street school*—Miss Emma J. Robinson, principal.

*Cornelia street school*—Madame Sarah Greene, principal; assistants, Madame E. Burroughs, Madame M. L. Thompson, Madame E. Lapierre, Madame A. Oliver, Madame F. Leblanc, Madame R. McRinnon.

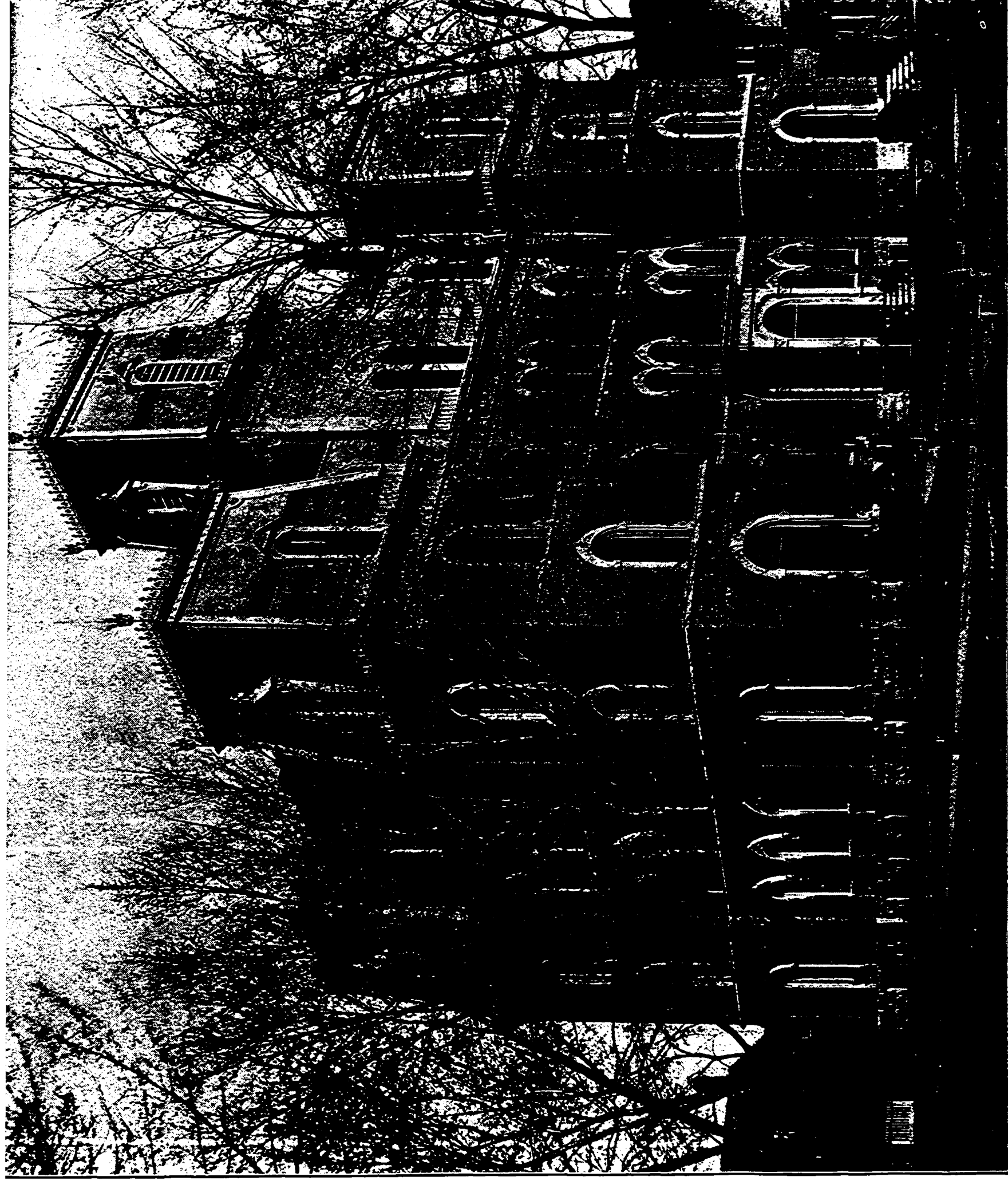
*Music and drawing*—Miss Elizabeth C. Macnee, music; Miss Kate S. Woodruff, drawing.

#### THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The Plattsburgh board of education is a self-perpetuating body—that is, five members elect their own successors and five members are elected by the people. The old academy board was merged with the board of education, and it was agreed that the members of that board should elect their own successors. The term is five years, and the old board and the people each elect one member of the board each year. Hon. William P. Mooers is president, Everett C. Baker secretary and James Shaw, jr., treasurer. Mr. Mooers is a member of the old academy succession and Mr. Baker is one of the people's representatives. The other members of the board are Henry E. Barnard, A. L. Inman, Hon. Andrew Williams, Andrew McKeefe, elected by the people, and W. W. Hartwell, George H. Beckwith, John H. Myers, Hon. Smith M. Weed, of the old academy board. Both the president and secretary have held their present positions for a long term of years, Mr. Baker having been secretary for twenty-four consecutive years, and the efficiency of the public-school system is due in great measure to their devotion to the interests of the department.

#### HIGH-SCHOOL NOTES.

A bright and sparkling periodical entitled the *High School Student* is published monthly by the students. The editor-in-chief is Luella W. Hathaway.



THE PLATTSBURGH HIGH SCHOOL.





HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS OF NORTHERN NEW YORK.





William L. Henry and William F. Brown are the business managers. Patrick J. Tierney is secretary and Amy J. Thomas exchange editor. The associate editors are Robert E. Healey, Jessie C. Barber, E. Bessie Barker, Theodore W. Cady, John Corbin, George P. Everest, Elisha P. Goodsell, Nullie D. Gunn, H. Imogen Hathaway, James A. Hagerty, Mary Holt, Laforest G. Robinson, Mary E. Walworth and Helen D. Woodward.

The High-school cadets are well disciplined and efficient. They are drilled now and then by Captain Schindel and other officers of the regular garrison. The cadet officers are as follows: Captain Hilliard, First Lieutenant Signor, Second Lieutenant Brown, First Sergeant Everest, Sergeant Wood, Corporal Robinson, Corporal Barnard, Secretary and Treasurer Tierney.

#### **D'Youville Convent.**

At the corner of Cornelia and North Catharine streets is located D'Youville convent, a young ladies' boarding-school and academy, conducted by the Grey nuns. The building, erected in 1860, when the convent was established, is 60x48 feet, two stories and a basement. It has been raised this year and a mansard roof added. A fine addition, three stories high and 72x32 feet, on the east of the original building has just been completed. North of the convent is a school-house 75x48 feet, two stories high, which is leased to the board of education, the sisters being employed as teachers. It is called the Cornelia street school, and has eight teachers. There are about 130 young ladies at the academy and 375 pupils in the Cornelia street school.

#### **ADMIRABLE MANAGEMENT.**

The conduct of the convent is entirely in the hands of the Grey nuns, and Sister McMillan is at the head of the establishment. She is a lady of great executive ability, fine address, and during her three years at Plattsburgh she has made hosts of friends. The school is pleasantly located and has spacious play-grounds. The buildings are heated by steam and are well ventilated. In this well-regulated institution the young ladies receive a thorough education in English and French. Particular attention is given to music,

painting and domestic economy. The picture of the convent presented in this article shows the new building on the east, and the original building also to the left. The scholastic year comprises two terms of five months each, beginning about the first Monday of September and closing about the last Thursday in June.

#### **The Home for the Friendless.**

On Broad street, at the junction of Oak street, is located the Home for the Friendless of Northern New York. The home is a two-story brick building, and is well equipped for the purposes for which it was established. The property cost about \$12,000. There are now about forty inmates, and a school is conducted in a wooden building in the home lot. The course of instruction is similar to that taught in the public schools, and Miss Nettie Barber is in charge of the school.

#### **OBJECTS OF THE HOME.**

Section 2 of the act (May 20, 1874) of incorporation of the institution reads:

Margaret F. Platt, Catharine Frederika Bulkley, Deborah T. S. Bixby, Margaret E. Edwards, Hannah S. Lansing, Sarah S. Williams, Joanne W. Clark, Mary M. Foote, Margaret S. Palmer, Welthy H. Orvis, Frances D. L. Hall, Charlotte M. Norton, Margaret P. Myers, and all such persons as are now members of the association called "The Home for the Friendless in Northern New York," and all who shall become members of the corporation hereby created, shall be and they are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of the Ladies' Association for establishing a Home for the Friendless in Northern New York, whose object and business shall be to establish and maintain a house of industry and home for the relief of friendless, destitute or unprotected females, and for friendless or unprotected children.

The by-laws also provide that friendless and destitute females over three years of age, and boys over three and under ten years, either orphans or abandoned by their parents, may be received and provided for, until permanent homes in Christian families can be secured for them, by adoption or otherwise. All inmates of the institution of sufficient age are expected to appropriate a suitable portion of their time to manual labor while they remain, and to be under the control of the matron. The institution is managed by a president and a board of fifteen managers. It is non-sectarian and is maintained by voluntary contributions, receiving no money from the state.

**THE MANAGERS.**

The resident board of managers at Plattsburgh is as follows: President, Mrs. Moss Kent Platt; vice presidents, Mrs. F. B. Hall, Mrs. P. S. Palmer, Mrs. N. Richards; secretary, Mrs. M. P. Myers; treasurer, Mrs. Henry Orvis; board of managers, Mrs. James Bailey, Mrs. G. Edward Barber, Mrs. George F. Bixby, Mrs. William H. Chappel, Mrs. F. F. Hathaway, Mrs. C. E. M. Edwards, Mrs. Joseph Gamble, Mrs. F. B. Hall, Mrs. C. McDougall, Mrs. M. P. Myers, Mrs. Henry Orvis, Mrs. P. S. Palmer, Mrs. A. L. Inman, Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. M. Sowles, Mrs. A. Williams, Mrs. M. Hall; advisory committee, John H. Myers, chairman, Hon. S. P. Bowen, Henry Orvis, C. E. M. Edwards, Hon. P. S. Palmer, M. Sowles, Hon. Winslow C. Watson, Hon. A. Williams; auditing committee, John H. Myers, Henry Orvis; honorary members, A. M. Moore, Hon. S. M. Weed. The board of managers has also members in the towns of northern New York. The institution is admirably conducted and has been a power for good at Plattsburgh.

**The Samuel F. Vilas Home.**

A home for aged and infirm women in the counties of Clinton, Essex and Franklin has been established at Plattsburgh. It was endowed by Mrs. Harriet Hunt Vilas in memory of her husband, the late Samuel F. Vilas. The home was incorporated April 4, 1888. The persons named in the articles of incorporation were Harriet Hunt Vilas, Henry Orvis, Samuel H. Vilas, Andrew Williams, Campbell McLean, Smith M. Weed, John H. Myers, George H. Beckwith, Ebenezer S. Winslow, William W. Hartwell, Alvin L. Inman, Merritt Sowles, C. E. Milton Edwards, Michael P. Myers, Henry A. Newton and Charles O. Barber. The objects of the home were the reception, boarding, relief and care of poor and destitute women.

**AT THE HOME.**

The home is located at the corner of Cornelia and Beekman streets, not far from the centre of the village. It is a substantial brick building, two stories with basement and high roof, making it practically a three-story building. It is appropriately furnished, and the interior has an air of comfort throughout.

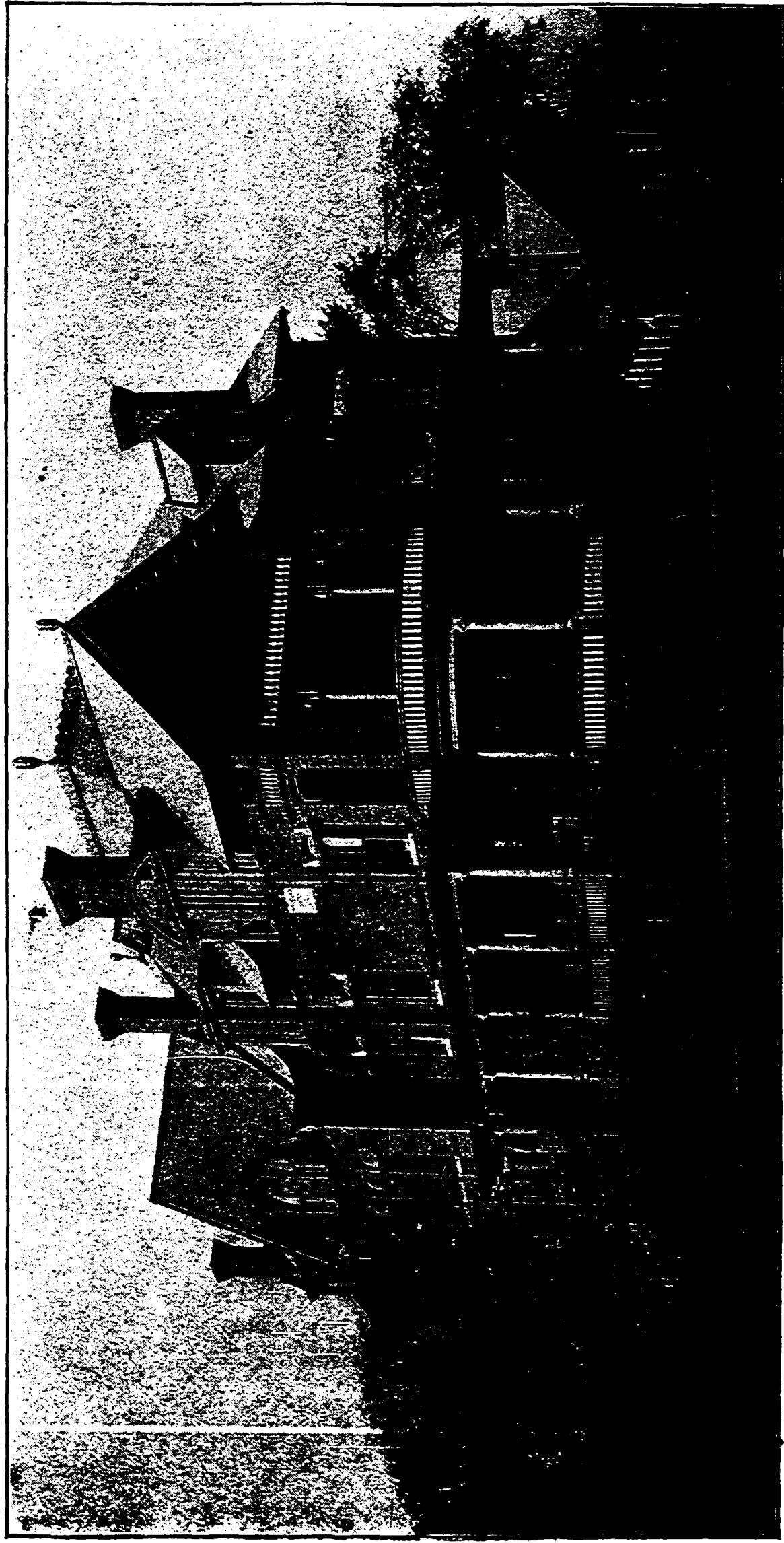
The home was formally opened March 13, 1890. The management of the home is conducted by a board of sixteen trustees as follows: Mrs. Harriet Hunt Vilas, George Henry Beckwith, Henry Orvis, Samuel H. Vilas, Andrew Williams, Smith M. Weed, John H. Myers, Ebenezer S. Winslow, William W. Hartwell, Alvin L. Inman, Merritt Sowles, C. E. Milton Edwards, Michael P. Myers, Henry A. Newton, Charles O. Barber, Campbell McLean. The officers are Mrs. Harriet Hunt Vilas president, George Henry Beckwith and Alvin L. Inman vice presidents, Henry Orvis treasurer and Campbell McLean secretary. The home is a worthy institution and a credit to the village as well as to the noble-hearted lady whose generosity caused it to be erected and endowed. There are at present about fourteen aged women at the home, and they are made comfortable and happy.

**Custom-House and Postoffice.**

The custom-house and postoffice are in a three-story Philadelphia pressed-brick building, 45x66 feet, a fine picture of which is presented in this issue. It was built in 1857-'58, and it fronts on Margaret and Brinkerhoff streets. On the first floor is the postoffice, which is under the able supervision of Postmaster A. W. Lansing, with D. F. Barker as assistant. There is a free-delivery system with four carriers in the village.

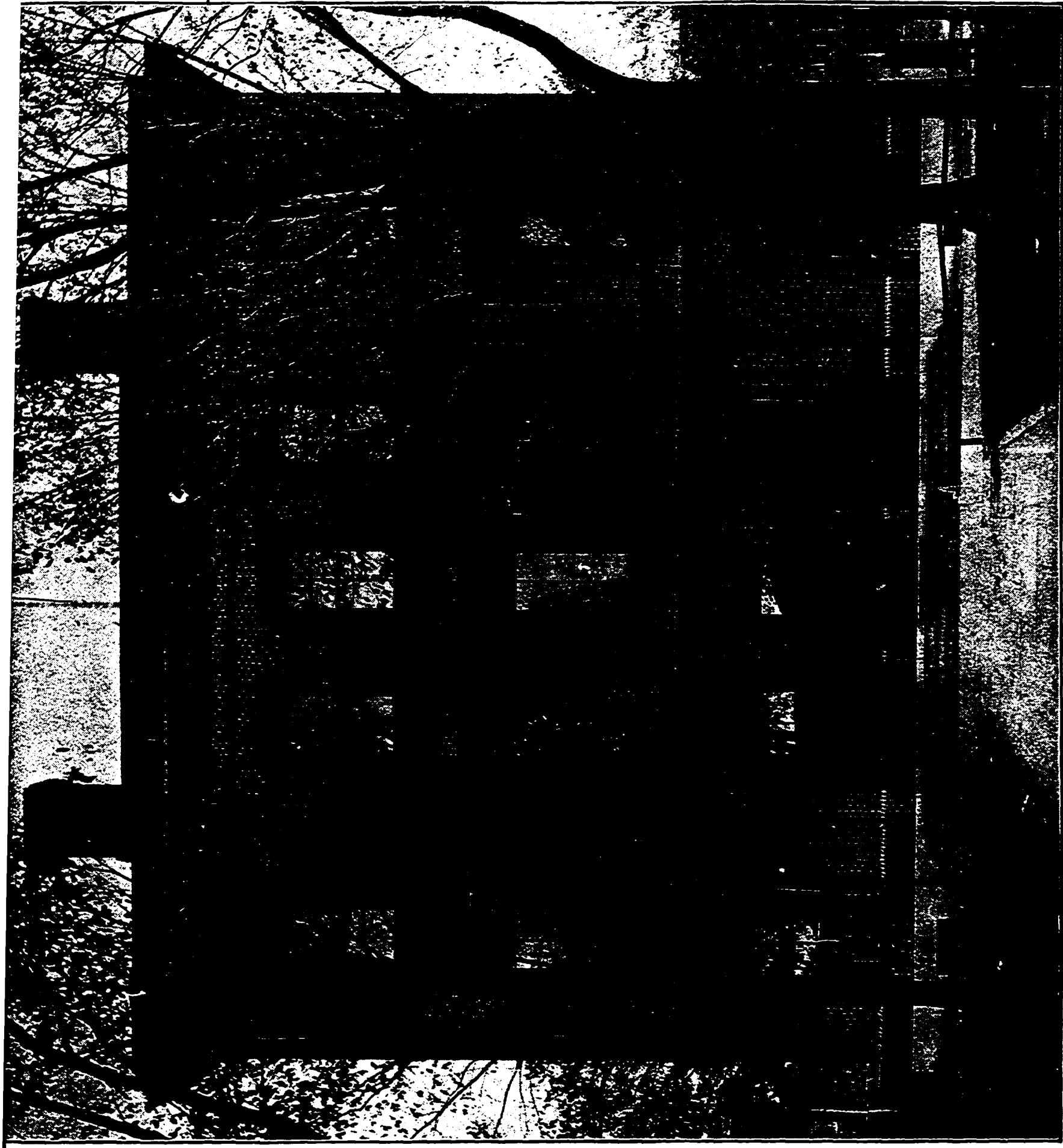
**THE CUSTOM-HOUSE OFFICERS.**

On the second floor is the custom-house offices. At the head of the department as collector is that well-known and patriotic veteran, General Stephen Moffitt. He has done excellent service for his district, state and county in the halls of legislation and on the battlefield. The staff of the general includes John Martin, special deputy; Thomas F. Mannix, deputy collector. Special Agents O. P. Ames and E. C. Van Kirk also have offices in the building. The district of Champlain is an important district, and September 30, 1891, there were enrolled 607 vessels, mostly canal-boats, with a net tonnage of 55,425. During the year ended June 30, 1891, 944 vessels were entered from foreign ports and 1,048 cleared for foreign ports and 631 for domestic ports. The value



THE SAMUEL F. VILAS HOME FOR AGED AND INFIRM WOMEN.





THE CUSTOM HOUSE.



of exports for the year was \$2,385,647, on which a duty of \$385,586 was collected. The office fees were \$6,202.90. The total collections were \$394,867.90, and the expenses of the district were \$32,000, including salaries. The third floor was intended for a United States court-house, but as yet it has not been used for that purpose. John Martin, special deputy in Collector Moffitt's office, has been twenty-seven years in the office at Plattsburgh. He is the veteran of the custom-house force, and has an abundant store of reminiscences.

#### **The County Buildings.**

Plattsburgh being the county seat of Clinton county contains the county buildings, which are a credit to northern New York. The new court-house, erected in 1888-'89 on the site of the old structure used for that purpose, is a fine building of two stories. It stands back from the street on terraced ground with lawns on two sides. It is at the corner of Court and Margaret streets. The first story is of stone and the second of brick, making a pleasing contrast. On the first floor are the offices of Hon. S. Alonzo Kellogg, justice of the supreme court; J. B. White, sheriff; the grand jury room and a room for witnesses. On the second floor are the court-room and waiting-rooms. The building cost \$60,000. A volume of interesting history could be written of Plattsburgh's court-houses, beginning with the first court in the Block House at the point in 1789, and the enlarged "gaol and place of worship" of 1796. Space will not permit further mention at this time.

#### **THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE.**

North of the new court-house is a two-and-a-half-story brick building known as the county clerk's office and the surrogate's office. The building is shown in the same picture with the court-house. On the first floor is the office of County Clerk John B. Brennan, whose deputy is J. Napoleon Landry. Across the hall is the office of Surrogate David F. Dobie, who has as clerk C. H. McNeil. On the second floor is the supervisors' room. This building was erected about ten years ago at a cost of about \$12,000.

#### **OTHER OFFICIALS.**

Other county officials who reside at Plattsburgh are County Judge Lucien

L. Shedden, District Attorney Samuel L. Wheeler, County Treasurer Andrew Williams. January 1, 1892, James Tierney will succeed County Clerk Brennan and Edward Hall will succeed Hon. Alfred Guibord as member of assembly for Clinton county.

#### **Plattsburgh Churches.**

There are several fine church buildings in Plattsburgh. The Presbyterian church on Custom-House square is a massive stone edifice. Rev. Joseph Gamble is the pastor. The Methodist church on Oak street is a stately brick building. Rev. E. P. Stevens is pastor. He succeeded Rev. George A. Barrett, who is presiding elder of the Plattsburgh, and also resides in the village at the district parsonage on Oak street. The Peristrome Presbyterian church on Brinkerhoff street, Rev. Francis B. Hall, pastor; the First Baptist church, at the corner of Oak and Court streets, Rev. N. Richards, pastor; Trinity church, Court-House square, Rev. Hobart Cooke, rector; St. John's Catholic church, corner of Broad and Oak streets, Very Rev. T. E. Walsh, V. G., pastor; St. Peter's Catholic church (French), Rev. J. A. Fournier, pastor, and Beth Israel Jewish synagogue, Rev. Jacob Hochfelder, rabbi, complete the list. All have creditable church edifices.

#### **Thriving Industries.**

Among the chief manufacturing industries of the village is the sewing-machine establishment of the Williams manufacturing company, a fine picture of which is published in to-day's *Times*. The three-story brick building is 400 feet long and forty-eight feet wide. It is located on the Saranac river, which furnishes the motive power. In this factory everything pertaining to the sewing-machine is manufactured, beginning with the raw ore which is first made into pig-iron. The factory of the company was formerly located at Rouse's Point, but eleven years ago it was removed to Plattsburgh. The works have a capacity for 100 sewing-machines a day. The "Help-mate" is the name of the machine turned out at this factory. The works are so arranged that steam and water-power can be used. The company was incorporated in 1872 with \$1,000,000 capi-

tal. The officers are: President, Andrew Allan; managing director, C. W. Davis; secretary and treasurer, J. D. Crawford; superintendent, C. E. Tutton. The company also has a factory in Montreal.

#### A PROVISION COMPANY.

The Davis provision company's feed and flour-mill has a capacity for fifty tons a day. It is operated by an incorporated company, of which Henry Davis is president, Andrew Fowler vice president and Robert Stobo secretary and treasurer. The company's main office is at Albany. Its Plattsburgh headquarters are on Bridge street, near the river.

#### HARTWELL'S WORKS.

W. W. Hartwell's flour-mill has a capacity for 150 barrels a day. A new roller-mill was recently constructed on Bridge street. In addition to the flour-mill Mr. Hartwell operates an iron foundry on the same street, and with G. W. Hartwell he is associated in the lumber business. A machine-shop is conducted with the foundry.

#### LIGHT, HEAT AND POWER.

The Plattsburgh light, heat and power company is an important industry. The works are in a two-story brick building on the Saranac river near the sewing-machine works, on the east side. The building is 160x80 feet. The plant furnishes power for arc and incandescent lights, fifty of the former and 2,300 of the latter being already in use. Water power is utilized with steam as auxiliary. The company lights the village streets, public and private buildings with electric lights and also with gas, as the same company runs the gas works of the village. The plant is successfully operated. A. L. Inman is president, J. H. Myers treasurer and George M. Cole secretary and manager. There are two engines in the works each of 100-horse-power. Hon. S. A. Kellogg and H. W. Pierson are among the directors of the company.

#### A CLOCK FACTORY.

Edward P. Baird & Co. conduct at No. 18 Bridge street a factory for the manufacture of advertising clocks and novelties.

#### CHATEAUGAY ORE.

The headquarters of the Chateaugay ore and iron company are at Plattsburgh, and the company operates a char-

coal blast furnace at Plattsburgh, also a forge and a foundry. It also operates forges at Russia, Clayburgh and Belmont, Franklin county; also a furnace at Standish, and operates mines at Lyon Mountain, from which 350,000 tons of ore are taken annually. The company employs about 3,000 men, with a pay-roll aggregating \$60,000 a month. The officers are: Hon. Smith M. Weed, president; H. L. Olmstead, treasurer; M. F. Parkhurst, cashier, and A. L. Inman, general manager.

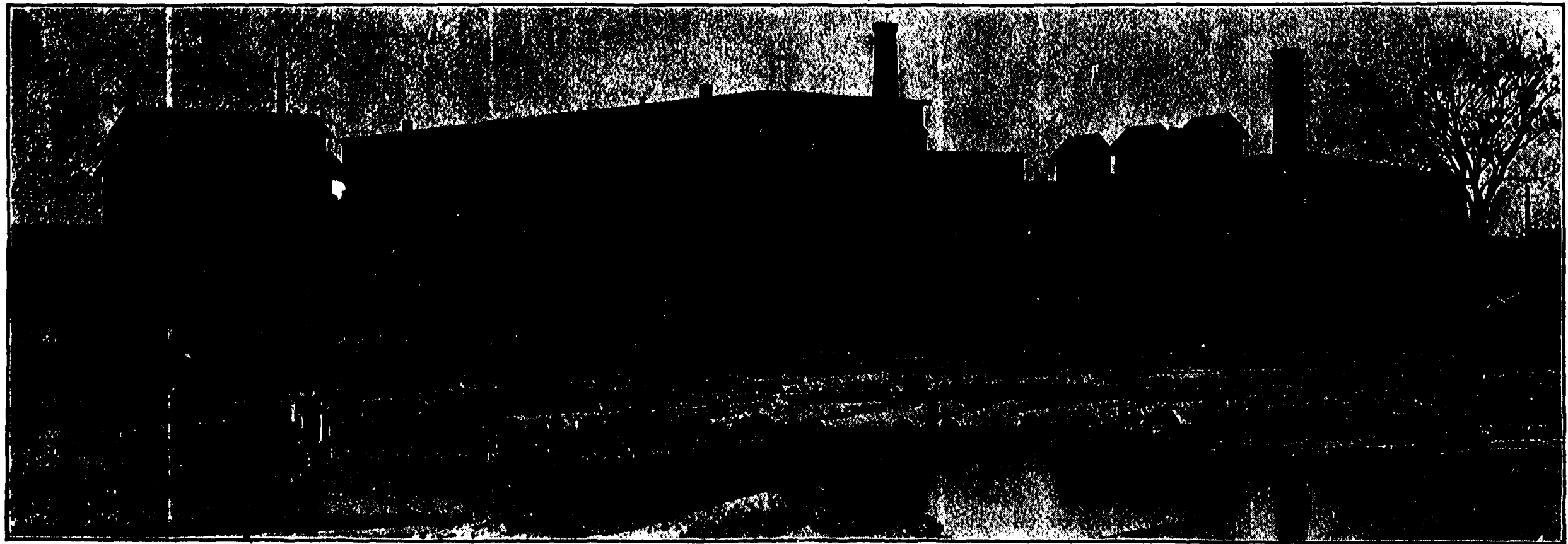
#### PLATTSBURGH CREAMERY COMPANY.

In a large two-story wooden building on the railroad north of the village is located the Plattsburgh creamery and cold-storage company, operated by A. D. Boomhower. The main building, with additions, covers an area of 5,000 feet. The creamery is fitted with the most improved apparatus, and fine butter is made from sweet milk in a machine which separates the butter from the milk in a remarkably short space of time. The machine turns out about 100 pounds of butter an hour. The capacity of the factory is about 30,000 pounds of milk a day, and the facilities are being enlarged. This factory was erected last May, and is already one of the important industries of Plattsburgh. The proprietor has factories at several other places in northern New York.

#### THE LUMBER TRADE.

The lumber trade is one of the great industries of Plattsburgh, and the Baker Brothers are foremost in handling the output of the forests in the Plattsburgh district. This enterprising firm consists of E. C. Baker, Ned Baker and A. W. Baker. They purchase the entire output of the Saranac river district. The lumber is cut in the mountains and floated down to the lake, 1,000 men being employed in cutting and logging down the river. The firm has handled 22,000,000 feet this year. Mills are operated along the river and the lumber is dressed and sawed into boards and planks. Other lumbermen, most of whom sell their product to Baker Brothers, include Wales Parsons, who cuts 4,000,000 feet; Patrick Hanlan, 4,000,000; W. W. & G. W. Hartwell, 3,000,000; Benton Turner cuts 12,000,000. He also operates at Plattsburgh a kindling-wood establishment with sixty employes.





THE WILLIAMS SEWING MACHINE WORKS.



**Wholesale Merchants.**

Among the enterprising wholesale merchants of Plattsburgh are A. M. Warren, bookseller, stationer, news-dealer and fancy goods; J. W. Tuttle & Co., same line, also job printers; C. H. Foote & Co., Nichols & Co., grocers; Sowles & Edwards, paints, hardware, etc.; M. P. Myers & Co., hardware, agricultural implements, etc.; E. G. Moore & Co., boots and shoes; Bromley & Demeritt, confectionery; R. O. Barber & Sons, dry goods; Vaughn & Parsons, carriages, sleighs and agricultural implements; McKeefe & Co., dressed meat. There is a large list of enterprising retail dealers. The cigar manufacturers and wholesale dealers include J. Mendelsohn, Levy Brothers, Henry Scheier, J. A. Schiff, F. J. Columbe, James McCadden and Isaac Merkel (jobbers.)

The Plattsburgh furniture company at Nos. 18 and 20 Bridge street; the Plattsburgh brewing company, Charles H. Stackpole manager, and the Guindon brewing company, are also active business concerns.

**National Banks.**

Plattsburgh has four thriving national banks. The Vilas national bank on Margaret street has for its officers: President, Samuel H. Vilas; vice president, Henry Orvis; cashier, H. A. Newton; teller, William Howcroft. The directors are Henry Orvis, S. H. Vilas, Hiram Clark, H. A. Newton and Mrs. H. H. Vilas.

The officers of the Iron national bank in Custom-House square are: President, John H. Myers; vice president, A. L. Inman; cashier, James Shaw, jr.; directors, J. H. Myers, R. O. Barber, A. L. Inman, Alex. Betrand, James Cavanagh, Stephen Moffitt, M. P. Myers.

The First national bank is conducted on Bridge street by M. Sowles president, W. P. Mooers vice president, C. A. Baker cashier and W. E. Corey teller. The directors are M. Sowles, E. C. Baker, W. P. Mooers, A. M. Platt, C. E. M. Edwards, E. G. Moore and C. A. Baker.

The Merchants' national bank on Brinkerhoff street has for its officers: President, Alfred Guibord, and John M. Wever, cashier. The directors are Alfred Guibord, David F. Bobie, Loren B.

Wever, W. W. Hartwell, S. Alonzo Kellogg, John M. Wever, Fred. E. Purdy, Thomas B. Nichols, Hiram W. Stetson.

**The Village Water-Works.**

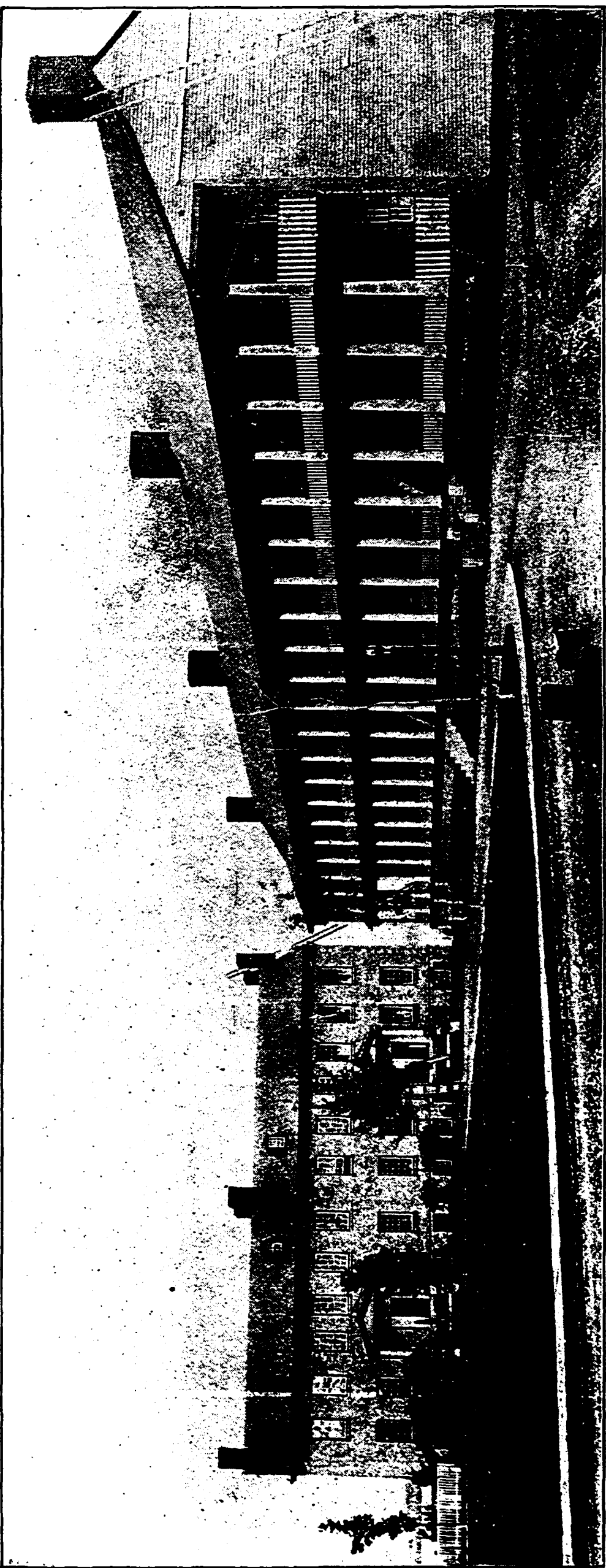
For pure water in abundant supply Plattsburgh is justly noted. The water-works were built in 1870 at a cost of \$180,000. The source of supply is two brooks, West brook and Mead brook, six miles from the village. The distributing reservoir is a mile and a half from Plattsburgh. It is 346 feet above tide-water. About \$20,000 has been expended on the system in addition to the original cost. There are about twenty-two miles of pipe. The water has a head of 210 feet and can throw a stream over the highest building in the village. The receipts from water-rents aggregate \$19,000 a year. The works are conducted by a commission of which W. P. Mooers is president and A. L. Inman and Ned Baker are members. The superintendent is Andrew Williams.

**The Fire Department.**

Plattsburgh has a model fire department. J. B. Hagerty is chief engineer, James Gallant first assistant and M. Bewsee second. There are three companies. Of the Horicon engine and hose company L. Rouette is foreman, Charles Hurlburt first assistant, Louis Lovett secretary and George Raby treasurer. A. W. Baker is foreman of Relief hose company, W. J. Brennan assistant, E. F. Botsford secretary and W. L. Wever treasurer. Of the Citizens' hose and hook and ladder company the officers are M. Lee Rockwell foreman, H. P. Conway, Julius Mendelsohn and C. E. Bentley and D. H. Brennan assistants. The officers are: Secretary, Byron P. Drowne; treasurer, William Howcroft; surgeon, J. H. La Roque, M. D.; quartermaster, A. P. Gauthier; property clerk, W. A. Drowne. W. H. Lapham is foreman of Lafayette hose company and Albert Travis is secretary. There is a fire-alarm system with eleven boxes.

**As a Musical Centre.**

What has since become the "Champlain valley school of music" was started in Plattsburgh in September, 1879, by George H. Hudson, teacher of



THE PLATTSBURGH BARRACKS.

adjutants' office. The only delay to the beginning of the work is caused by a technical flaw in the title to the ground donated by citizens and which will be only temporary. The post will be on the reservation north of the present barracks. The work will be supervised by Captain Pond. The building of such a large garrison at Plattsburgh will be of great benefit to the village, and a full regiment of twelve companies will thereafter be stationed at the new post.

#### **The Lake Side Club.**

A popular social club which includes prominent residents of Plattsburgh is the Lake Side club, which occupies comfortable quarters on Oak street. The officers are: President, M. F. Parkhurst; vice president, John Martin; secretary, William Howcroft; treasurer, C. M. Bromley; board of managers, Hon. George S. Weed, M. L. French, Hon. J. M. Wever, A. McHattie, General S. Moffitt, Dr. G. D. Dunham; house committee, C. M. Bromley, A. McHattie, General S. Moffitt.

#### **Plattsburgh Hotels.**

In the village are several hotels which are well conducted and complete in all appointments with modern conveniences and arranged for the comfort of guests.

The Fouquet house on Bridge street is directly opposite the depot. Paul Smith is the proprietor, but the hotel is managed by Phelps Smith and James Haney.

The Witherill house on Custom-House square is conducted by William T. Howell. J. K. Farnam, well-known to Trojans as proprietor of the Troy house a few years ago, is manager.

George S. Corbin is proprietor of the Cumberland house at the corner of Margaret and Court streets, facing Trinity park, and Henry Dodds is manager.

#### **Board of Trade.**

The Plattsburgh board of trade is an organization that has been of great benefit to the village in promoting enterprises for the general welfare. It has rooms in Weed & Mooers's block on Clinton street. The directors meet the first Monday of each month, and the public is invited to attend the meetings to discuss measures for the good of the

community. The officers are: President, E. C. Baker; vice presidents, A. L. Inman, C. E. M. Edwards; secretary, Thomas F. Mannix; corresponding secretary, A. Williams; treasurer, Charles H. Moore.

#### **Village Officers.**

The village officers include the following: President, Everett C. Baker; clerk, William H. Ferrell; treasurer, C. D. Moore; trustees, John M. Wever, William Reed, Albert M. Warren, M. Lee Rockwell, S. D. Curtis, F. W. Utting; recorder, Frank F. Hathaway; assessors, W. T. Burleigh, J. H. Davis, Thomas Fassett; superintendent of streets, Peter Senecal; board of health, H. Walworth, president; T. F. Mannix, secretary; Peter Senecal, O. A. Holcomb, M. D., health officer.

#### **The Police Department.**

John Farrell is chief of police, and he is assisted in protecting the rights and property of the village by four patrolmen: M. J. Wool, Edward Butler, A. Brunell and Eli Senecal.

#### **Town Officers.**

Officers of the town of Plattsburgh include: Supervisor, James Tierney; clerk, Henry Cardany; commissioner of highways, Peter Phillips; justices of the peace, C. McLean, John Crowley, Wales Parsons, H. P. Gilliland; town collector, D. H. Brennan; excise commissioners, J. D. Fitzpatrick, Jacob Klock, J. O. Smith; town assessors, E. C. Baker, Amos Meader, John M. Thompson; overseer of the poor, Francis McCadden, jr.; railroad commissioners (Whitehall and Plattsburgh), C. E. M. Edwards, William P. Mooers, (New York and Canada) W. W. Hartwell, A. Guibord, T. B. Nichols.

#### **Among the Societies.**

Plattsburgh has many flourishing social and secret organizations, including the following:

Knights Templar, De Soto commandery, No. 49.—Commander, H. E. Barnard; generalissimo, F. F. Hathaway; captain general, W. H. Chappell; prelate, Rev. W. R. Woodbridge; recorder, N. H. Jones; senior warden, R. R. Grant; junior warden, Charles Parton; treasurer, W. B. Mooers; warder, W. S. Guibord; guards, L. W. Hayes, S. D. Curtis, George S. Corbin; senti-

nel, H. P. Gilliland; trustees, W. P. Mooers, D. F. Dobie, John Ross.

Plattsburgh chapter, No. 39, R. A. M.—High priest, Joseph H. Smith; king, Charles H. Moore; scribe, J. G. Garno; secretary, N. H. Jones; captain of host, W. H. Chappell; P. S., H. H. Sherman; R. A. C., William B. Mooers; M. of 3d V., Robert Meyer; M. of 2d V., Charles Thomas; M. of 1st V., Charles Parton.

Northern Star lodge of Perfection, A. A. S. R.—T. P. G. M., J. C. Smith; H. T. D. G., W. A. Drowne; V. S. G., H. D. Graves; J. G. M., H. L. Johnnonoth; G. O., H. R. Grant; G. treasurer, W. L. Germain; G. secretary, K. of S. and A., S. B. Miller; G. M. of C., C. E. Tutton; G. captain guard, George S. Corbin; G. H., E. C. Low; G. tyler, J. G. Garno.

Clinton lodge, No. 155, F. and A. M.—Master, Robert Meyer; senior warden, George W. Cane; junior warden, Charles Thomas; treasurer, A. M. Platt; secretary, B. P. Drowne; S. D., J. D. Wilkinson; J. D., Joseph Merkel; S. M. C., Walter Smith; J. M. C., N. H. Jones; tyler, W. R. Cowan; trustees, W. B. Mooers, J. D. Wilkinson.

Odd Fellows, Macdonough lodge, No. 549.—W. B. Mooers, N. G.; William Cook, V. G.; Walter Lyon, R. S.; J. Henry Percy, P. M.; J. Mendelsohn, treasurer; Thomas Kiley, W.; Albert E. Ormby, C.; J. H. Percy, R. S. N. G.; H. K. Averill, L. S. N. G.

Grand Army of the Republic, Walter H. Benedict post, No. 366.—Commander, George F. Nichols; senior vice commander, D. S. Bennings; junior vice commander, Joseph A. Barker; adjutant, O. H. Ramsdell; quartermaster, Moses Bourdon; quartermaster sergeant, Maguire Willett; sergeant major, Jonas Maurice; surgeon, Dr. Frank Madden; chaplain, Henry H. Danforth; officer of the day, John V. Howes; officer of the guard, Joseph Gonya.

Ancient Order of United Workmen, Lake Champlain lodge, No. 318.—Master workman, Moses Bourdon; foreman, William M. Smith; overseer, Mitchell Bulley; recorder, E. J. Lance; financier, James H. Davis; receiver, W. H. Chappell; guide, John V. Howes; inside watchman, C. C. Martin; past master workman, W. R. Cowan.

St. John Baptist association.—President, Dr. J. H. La Rocque; first vice president, Oliver Fagnant; second vice president, D. T. Lapointe; secretary, J. L. Tremblay; assistant secretary, Richard Defoy; corresponding secretary, Michael Dandurand; treasurer, Hilaise F. Galaise; assistant treasurer, Louis Petit; collecting treasurer, Peter Senecal; marshals, Joseph Gallant, Edward Braconier.

Knights of Honor, Adirondack lodge, No. 1,633.—Dictator, W. G. Wilcox; vice dictator, E. T. Delaney; assistant dictator, T. T. Ferguson; reporter, Eli Gallaise; financial reporter, E. H. Wood; treasurer, M. S. Clow; chaplain, W. B. Mooers; guide, Albert Ladue; guardian, D. Lapointe; sentinel, J. Lavally; past dictator, Elias Spear; medical examiner, Dr. J. H. La Rocque; trustees, J. B. Hagerty, W. H. Smith, J. Mendelsohn.

Women's Christian temperance union.—President, Mrs. Andrew Williams; vice president, Mrs. P. D. Moore; secretary, Mrs. Francis B. Hall; treasurer, Miss Florence McFadden.

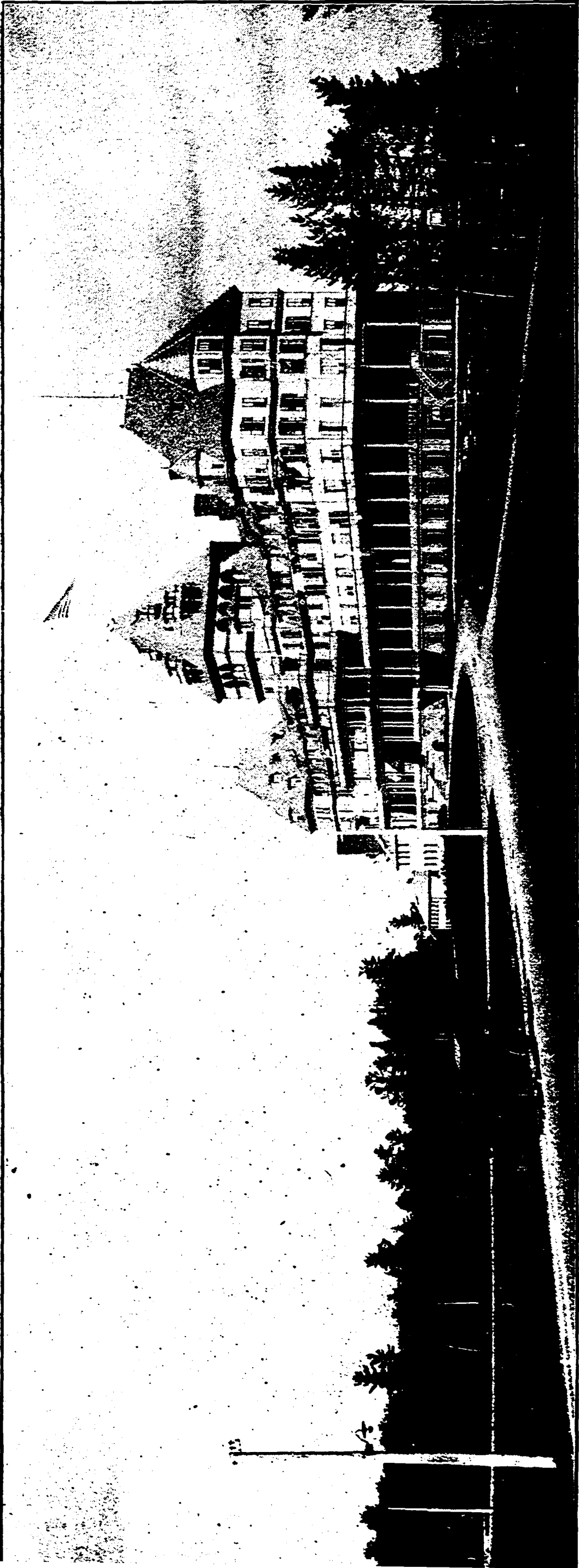
I. O. B. B., Joell lodge, No. 118.—President, E. Spear; vice president, William M. Levy; treasurer, D. Miller; financial secretary, George W. Cane; secretary, J. A. Schiff; guardian, M. Levy; monitor, J. Mendelsohn.

#### **Railroad Young Men's Christian Association.**

The railroad young men's Christian association rooms are located in the railroad station building. The rooms are completely fitted and supplied with books and periodicals. The officers are: President, Henry Orvis; vice president, S. D. Curtis; treasurer, Hon. Andrew Williams; assistant treasurer, F. E. Vail; recording secretary, W. H. Chappell; general secretary, E. C. Babcock.

#### **Railroads and Steamboats.**

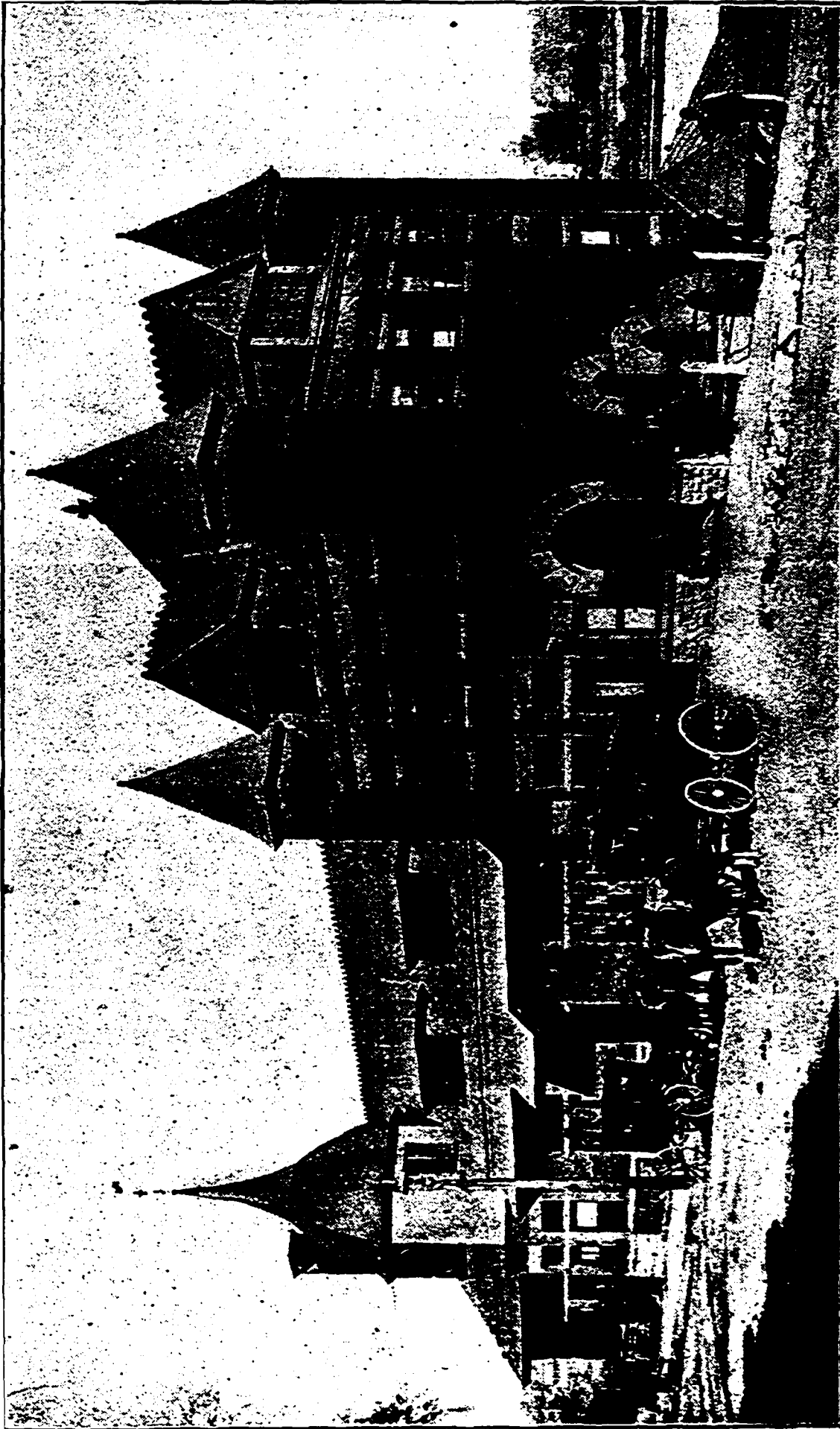
Plattsburgh is on the Delaware and Hudson canal company's railroad, 162 miles from Troy. The depot building is a model of utility and taste and is comfortably arranged, facing Cumberland bay. It was built five years ago at a cost of \$22,000. The main line of the Delaware and Hudson continues north twenty-four miles to Rouse's Point. The Mooers branch of the Delaware and Hudson runs to Mooers Junction,



HOTEL CHAMPLAIN, BLUFF POINT.







THE RAILROAD STATION.



twenty miles, and connects to the west with the Ogdensburgh and Lake Champlain and the branch of the Grand Trunk. A branch of the Delaware and Hudson also runs southwest to Ausable, in Clinton county.

Plattsburgh is also the terminal point of the Chateaugay railroad, running to Saranac Lake, seventy-four miles. The officers of the Chateaugay railroad company are: President, Smith M. Weed; general manager, A. L. Inman; secretary, H. L. Olmstead; superintendent, M. L. French; general ticket agent, M. F. Parkhurst.

S. D. Curtis is the agent at Plattsburgh of the Delaware and Hudson and also of the Chateaugay railroad. He fills the bill to the satisfaction of all concerned. A fine view of the depot is given in to-day's *Times*. It is 35x140 feet, brick, with stone trimmings. It is two stories high, with a tower. It is heated by steam and lighted by electricity. The National express company has an office at the depot, with M. S. Clow as the local agent.

The Champlain transportation company runs the steamers Vermont, Chateaugay, Horicon and Ticonderoga. The Vermont and Chateaugay run on Lake Champlain. E. J. Baldwin is captain of the Chateaugay, and J. H. Manville was captain of the Vermont up to the close of navigation. The general superintendent of the company is Captain George Rushlow at Burlington.

The steamer Reindeer of St. Albans stops at Plattsburgh on excursions, and the steamer Maquam runs between Plattsburgh and Maquam, touching at the islands. As to the importance of Plattsburgh as a mercantile port reference is invited to custom-house statistics in this article.

M. J. O'Bryan is manager of the Commercial Union telegraph company, with office on Clinton street; George W. Hickey is manager of the Great Northwestern company, office on same street; R. M. Cunningham is manager of the Northern telephone company's office at Plattsburgh; John J. Finnegan is the popular ticket clerk and telegraph operator of the Delaware and Hudson at the depot.

#### Fine Residences.

Plattsburgh has many fine residences, eligibly situated, pure water, an excel-

lent sewer system and admirable protection in case of fire. Included among the notable residences are those of the following citizens: Hon. Smith M. Weed, Cumberland avenue; Hon. John M. Wever, Court street; W. W. Hartwell, Brinkerhoff street; Mrs. Harriet Hunt Vilas, facing Catharine street; Hon. S. P. Bowen, McComb street; Hon. Alfred Guibord, Court street; Hon. Andrew Williams, McComb street; Merritt Sowles, Prospect hill; George W. Hartwell, Broad street; George Henry Beckwith, Court street; A. L. Inman, Broad street; Hon. S. Alonzo Kellogg, McComb street; S. D. Curtis, Hamilton street; M. L. French, Hamilton street (on ground occupied by an old fort in 1814); S. K. Ryan, Margaret street; M. P. Myers, McComb street; C. E. M. Edwards, Broad street; John H. Myers, Court street; John L. Carter, McComb street; E. S. Winslow, Cornelia street.

#### Plattsburgh Newspapers.

Newspapers were published in Plattsburgh early in its history, and quite a number of magazines and books of like character were brought out in the village. The *Political Observatory* was printed in Plattsburgh by Samuel Lowell in 1811. The *Northern Herald* was running in 1813, Frederick C. Powell printer. The *Plattsburgh Republican* antedates the last war with Great Britain, and Dr. D. S. Kellogg has a well-preserved copy of volume 1, No. 31, printed in April, 1814. The *Northern Intelligencer* was published at Plattsburgh in 1822, by F. P. Allen. The *Northern Lancet*, a medical gazette, was also published in the village from 1850 to 1856 by Horace Nelson, M. D.

There was also published at Plattsburgh in 1833, by F. P. Allen, a book entitled "Experiences and Observations on the Gastric Juice and the Physiology of Digestion," by Dr. William Beaumont, United States of America, stationed at the military garrison. The book described the surgeon's observation in the case of Alexander St. Martin, a soldier who was accidentally wounded, and this was the first case of the kind, on record, that afforded the medical fraternity an opportunity to satisfactorily observe the process of digestion, Martin's wounds being of such character as to expose the different stages.

Plattsburgh now has a daily, the *Telegram*, W. H. Ferrell editor, published by the *Telegram* company. Grant & Bixby are proprietors of the *Republican*, published weekly. The *Sentinel* is published weekly by Lansing & Son, and the *Clinton Courier* is also published Fridays at Plattsburgh by the *Telegram* company.

#### **The Hotel Champlain.**

One of the finest hotel buildings in the country is Hotel Champlain at Bluff Point, three miles south of Plattsburgh, overlooking the lake. The scenery is magnificent. The hotel is 400 feet long, seventy-five feet wide and has three towers, the top of the central tower being 125 feet from the ground. The hotel is fitted with all modern conveniences and is a delightful summer-resort. J. W. Burdick, general passenger agent of the Delaware and Hudson canal company, is the directing manager of the hotel, which was recently fully described in the *Times*. Upward of \$500,000 has been spent on the hotel and grounds. There are more than ten miles of drives connected with the hotel.

#### **Here and There.**

—Plattsburgh contributed its full quota of volunteers for the war of the rebellion.

—Allan & Sherman's pulp-mill is located at the dam on the Saranac in Plattsburgh.

—C. P. Watson is treasurer of the Mountain lumber company, which has an office in the village.

—Dr. E. C. Low now occupies the house where President Monroe was dined on his visit to Plattsburgh in 1817.

—Dr. C. C. Schuyler, formerly of Troy, makes it pleasant for Trojan visitors to Plattsburgh, where he now resides.

—The first Catholic church built in Plattsburgh is now standing on the premises of Rev. F. B. Hall on Cumberland avenue.

—The United States board of pension surgeons at Plattsburgh consists of Drs. R. E. Hyde and D. S. Kellogg.

—The Saranac pulp company, J. O. Smith manager, will soon have a new mill at Cadyville, which will double the capacity of its works.

—Plattsburgh has several delightful

drives—out Cumberland Head way, to Fredenburg Falls, three miles southwest, and out toward Bluff Point.

—W. V. S. Woodward, United States commissioner at Plattsburgh, was formerly located at Troy. He is also assistant United States attorney.

—Dr. Thomas P. Nichols is president, W. S. Guibord secretary and M. P. Myers treasurer of the Clinton county bible society, which was organized in 1816.

—W. A. Drowne, proprietor of the Baldwin art-gallery, has fine views of Plattsburgh. The cuts published in today's *Times* are from photographs by Mr. Drowne.

—A "Geography and History of Clinton County," published by H. K. Averill, jr., civil engineer at Plattsburgh, is a useful and reliable volume containing much of interest about the county and towns.

—Plattsburgh is a station for civil-service examinations, and it is also the residence of John B. Riley, chief examiner of the state civil-service board. Mr. Riley is a member of the law firm of Riley & Cantwell, and one of the most enterprising citizens of northern New York.

—Dr. D. S. Kellogg has an interesting and valuable collection of relics, including some from the prehistoric period. He has many Indian relics of war implements, etc., and a flint-lock musket carried by Sergeant Samuel Couch, subsequently General Couch, at the battle of Lundy's Lane.

—The kitchen part of A. M. Warren's house on Cumberland avenue was built by Mrs. Warren's grandfather, Peter Saily, more than 100 years ago. It is still used by the family. Another old house is on Bridge and Peru streets. The door and window facings still show marks where they were struck by bullets at the battle of Plattsburgh in 1814.

—Professor George H. Hudson of the state normal school has a valuable and interesting collection of insects, including several undescribed specimens. He has more than 800 species found in the town of Plattsburgh. He has many different species of land and freshwater shells; also an interesting collection of Indian relics, etc. His collection is on exhibition at the school.

—Mrs. A. Moore resides on Cumberland avenue in the house occupied in their lifetime by the Davidson sisters, Lucretia M. and Margaret M., each of whom was a celebrated poetess. The former wrote poetry when she was four years old. She was born September 27, 1808, and died August 27, 1825. Margaret was born in 1823 and died in 1838. Mrs. M. P. Myers is the possessor of a manuscript book of poems written many of them by Lucretia M. Davidson.