

Suburban Baltimore

Catonsville And Vicinity--Beautiful Residences And Cultivated People--The "American Graces"

By EMILY BURROUGHS LANE.  
"The American Graces"--so pretty a title--  
Applied to three fair little girls--  
Who from Catonsville quiet (where with hearts  
they ran riot)  
Went abroad and were married to earls.

One of the prettiest romances of Maryland is the story of 16-year-old Mary Carroll, daughter of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, who so cared for her young English lover, Richard Caton, that when her father's confidante and friend, seeking to dissuade her from marrying a poor man of alien faith, asked concerning her lover: "Who shall take him out if he gets into jail?" held up her slim girlish hands, and with smiling lips and eyes alight with love, replied: "These hands shall take him out."

No parental sternness or disapproval was proof against such innocent faith, such tender courage, and Charles Carroll, signer of the American Declaration of Independence, promptly withdrew his opposition to the match, and signed a deed giving to his winsome daughter the marriage dower of a magnificent estate located some six miles west of Baltimore, that is now known as Catonsville and its environs. All this happened far away and long ago, but the home to which Richard Caton took his bride still stands at the corner of the Frederick road and Beaumont avenue, and continues in possession of Mary Carroll's descendants.

This old home at Catonsville, Brookland-wood in the Green Spring Valley, then the estate of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and Doughoregan Manor were destined to be the home-roofs that sheltered three of the most beautiful women of America. These were the three eldest of Richard Caton's four daughters, who married abroad and were known as "The American Graces." Richard Caton, the young Eng-

lish gentleman who came to Baltimore in 1785 a comparatively poor man, afterwards became very wealthy himself by the finding of coal at Cape Sable. His marriage to Mary Carroll occurred in 1786.

Mary Caton, eldest daughter of Richard and Mary (Carroll) Caton, married, first, Robert Patterson, brother of Mme. Jerome Bonaparte, and, second, the Marquis of Wellesley, Governor-General of India and Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. Mary Caton Marchioness of Wellesley, thus held many years ago the honors as first lady of India so gracefully borne by her country woman and successor--Mary Lett. She was also appointed first lady in waiting to Queen Adelaide, who, with William IV, ascended the British throne in 1830.

Elizabeth Caton, second daughter of Richard and Mary (Carroll) Caton, married Col. Sir Bathurst Harvey, aide-de-camp to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent. The wedding was solemnized at the home of the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, and that illustrious soldier gave the bride in marriage. After the death of her first husband, Louise Catherine Caton married the Marquis of Carmarthen, Duke of Leeds.

Like Cinderella of fairy lore, Emily Caton, fourth and youngest daughter, Richard and Mary (Carroll) Caton, remained by the home fireside, but the fairy godmother in her case was her great and noble grandaunt, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, whose favorite granddaughter she was, and it was her gentle ministry as amanuensis that brightened the Signer's declining years. His blessing and presence beautified her marriage to John Lovet Mac-tavish, of Scotland, and it was he who gave the bride into her husband's keeping. To Emily Mac-tavish Charles Carroll gave Carrollton Hall, a part of Doughoregan Manor, as a marriage dower, the name of which was afterwards changed to Folly Hall, from an estate owned by the Mac-tavish family in Scotland. To her also was vouchsafed the priceless blessing of children, denied her distinguished sisters. Her son, the late Charles Carroll Mac-tavish, married Marceline Scott, daughter of Gen. Winfield Scott, and their living children are: Maria Mayo Mac-tavish, who is a religious in Belgium; Emily Mac-tavish, who is also a nun in the Convent of Mount St. Mary, near Catonsville. Charles Carroll Mac-tavish, who lives abroad, and Miss Virginia Mac-tavish, who resides with her mother in Rome, but pays frequent visits to Baltimore, where she has a wide circle of friends.

The Catonsville estate was divided by decree of the High Court of Chancery in Colonial times. Previous to the Revolutionary War it is said to have been inhabited by Susquehanna Indians. John Jay, of Town, where teamsters stopped for refreshment when journeying along the National Turnpike, was an earlier settler. There were farms dotted here and there; the soil was extensively raised and along the Old Rolling road, at the western end of Catonsville, planters rolled their hogsheds of the fragrant wood to the Colonial waterway at Elkton. The site of the village itself includes part of the tract of land granted to the Baltimore Land Company, which subsequently passed into the possession of Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

The village is located on one of the highest points of Parr's Ridge, 600 feet above the sea level, with the Patuxent river flowing about two miles to the south. It is surrounded by beautiful woodland, most picturesque scenery and interesting places, such as quaint Elkton City; Richwood, with its Alpine views, and Avalon, where iron furnaces and foundries once flourished. This de Lane, leading from the western end of Catonsville, arched with oak trees and passing through a romantic glen, leads to the old manufacturing village of Thistle, recalling Barrie's village of Thrums, where silk mills are now in active operation and restless bobbins flash to and fro in the loom. Elkridge, not far distant, is one of the oldest towns in Maryland, and once a busy shipping port and a rival of Baltimore, and from points all along the way can be obtained glimpses of the Chesapeake bay--Maryland's estuary waterway to the sea. There are four fine driving approaches to Catonsville from Baltimore, whose extended city limits now reach to within about three miles of the village. These are the Old Frederick road, the Frederick turnpike, Edmondson avenue and Wilkens avenue. The United Railways and Electric Company has extended its line through the village along the Frederick road on the south and Edmondson avenue on the north, and the Baltimore and Catonsville Passenger Railway, built in 1891 at a cost of \$100,000, continues in operation for the transfer of freight. The business interests of the place where is situated the property of the First National Bank of Catonsville. It is a Government, State and county depository has been most successful in its financial career. Among those who organized it in 1897 were Messrs. Victor G. Bloede, Edwin J. Farber and John F. Sippel. The present officers of the bank are: President, Dr. Charles G. W. Macgill; vice-presidents, Messrs. Victor G. Bloede and John F. Sippel; attorney, Mr. Edwin J. Farber; cashier, Mr. Arthur C. Cuntzell, with the additional directors--Messrs. William Bowly Wilson, Daniel A. Leonard, David E. Evans, Jacob Hann, Jr., George J. Hafer and L. A. Poehlmann. The building is graystone, trimmed with Indiana sandstone.

The Masonic Temple, rebuilt in 1859, is also a handsome graystone edifice, with red tile trimming, and a handsome postoffice building is also included in recent improvements of the place. All modern improvements of electric, telephone service and an abundant and pure water supply are enjoyed by those who reside in and about Catonsville, and property is protected by a local police force, a fully equipped fire department and an additional volunteer fire company. An alarm system exists throughout the county, and in the event of a general conflagration neighborly help can be quickly summoned.

The Argus, a progressive weekly newspaper, was founded 24 years ago by Mr. Edwin J. Farber in Catonsville. It has a first-class plant, a well-equipped job department and occupies an up-to-date building on Frederick avenue. The editor is Mr. George Betzold.

There is a lyceum for local entertainments in the village, and Mr. Eugene Carlington at one time started a local public library. John S. Wilson & Co. are among the long-established business firms of the place, and, among others, is Mr. W. H. Matfield. Mr. Jordan Stabler has also established a branch of his Baltimore business there.

Hon. John Hubner has been most active in promoting the development of Catonsville in recent years, and the building of the Edmondson avenue electric line to Elkton City has paved the way for the

erection of many beautiful homes throughout that district.

Mr. Joseph M. Cone, through whose influence the Catonsville Water Company was organized, has also done much for the development of the locality, and Oak Forest, on the old Thistle road, owes its recent improvements to him. John Hubner and Mr. William H. Gorman. Mr. Edwin J. Farber opened Beaumont avenue, has constructed a number of cottages in the vicinity and has been active in promoting the interests of the Children's Country Home, which is situated on the Rolling road. Mr. Victor G. Bloede has also built a beautiful country of Catonsville known as Eden Terrace.

The Catonsville Country Club, founded about 1885, and one of the pleasantest social features of the neighborhood, owes its existence largely to the influence of Gen. John Gill, who called the first meeting for club organization, and the original committee for founding it included Gen. John Gill and Messrs. Blanchard Randall, John Glenn, Jr., Henry P. C. Wilson, Allan McLane, B. Stanley Gary and Edwin J. Farber. The Glenn estate gave the ground upon a massive stone and brick, a well-appointed and beautiful clubhouse has been erected, and the same family has been active in promoting club interests in many ways. There are attractive tennis grounds surrounding the clubhouse, where many of the most distinguished amateur players in the United States have competed in tennis tournaments. The ladies belonging to the club have also entered with spirit in similar tournaments and have won many valuable trophies as proof of their skill in this graceful yet difficult game.

St. Timothy's School for Girls, which has long enjoyed high rank for scholarship under the direction of the Misses Carter, was upon the site, near Ingleside avenue, what was once St. Timothy's Hall, established in 1854 as a military school by Rev. Dr. L. Van Bokelen. This military school building was said to have been seven stories high, of massive stone and wood, and for some years sustained an enviable reputation in educational circles. Among men educated there were John Wilkes Booth, John Winfield, of North Carolina; Gen. Wade Hampton, of South Carolina; Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, of Virginia; Gen. William Morgan and others. A cavalry company called the Maryland Mounted Guard, was organized in 1861, with headquarters at Catonsville. Its officers were: Capt. Talbot J. Taylor, First Lieutenant William Taylor, Second Lieutenant B. D. Mullikin, Third Lieutenant O. C. Zell. The company numbered 32 members, all in the prime of life. St. Timothy's Hall was destroyed by fire in 1872, but previous to that time Gen. Lew Wallace, author of "Ben-Hur," had visited the school and promptly abolished the gray uniforms that all the boys wore wearing. It is said that at a later period a Capt. Thomas Cheffell, of Scotland, a Captain, established a strictly military school at the old Paradise Hotel, but there are few who remember anything concerning it.

Besides various private institutions, Catonsville has a good high school and a German-English school, and through the efforts of the pupils and their friends a library containing several hundred volumes has been opened in connection with the public schools.

The splendid convent school, Mount de Sales Academy, conducted by the Sisters of the Order of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin, has contributed much to the fame of Catonsville as an educational center. The academy was founded in 1852 by 12 Sisters from the convent at Georgetown, who, under the supervision of Sister Mary Cecelia Brooks, established the school at Catonsville, and the latter Sister became the first superior of the institution. Bishop Charbonnet, of Canada, laid the cornerstone of the academy, and the imposing group of buildings that comprise the academy convent is emblematic of the educational work carried on within their walls. The alumnae association of the convent numbers cultured and prominent women all over the United States, who return joyously to the scenes of their school days and the companionship of former teachers upon the occasion of the alumnae reunion.

The name Bloomsbury so identified with Catonsville is derived from Bloomsbury, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Somerville, near Catonsville, which contains about a thousand acres and was named after Mr. Somerville's family place in St. Mary's county. Mr. Somerville married in 1815 Rebecca Tierman, and Hon. George Tyler Bigelow, afterward Chief Justice of Massachusetts, spent a year with the Somerville family as tutor to the children. Writing of the social circle of Catonsville at that time Mr. Bigelow says: "The society which I meet here is all the best of Baltimore. Literary and fashionable people--beaux, belles, literati--all meet here. He added further that he found beneath this roof all that this world could have to make life pleasant."

Mrs. Somerville was a large benefactress of the Catholic Church and built, in 1863, the Church of St. Agnes, near the convent of Mount de Sales. It was named after her daughter Agnes and was for many years the only Catholic church in that neighborhood. The first priest to minister here to a large, if widely scattered congregation was Rev. Edward Caton, who was deeply beloved. He died in 1862 and was buried in the lot in front of the church, his being the only grave. St. Mary's Catholic Church, which has superseded St. Agnes' on the old Frederick road, was dedicated in 1888 and is a very handsome structure. Through the benevolence of Mrs. Mary Crowl the church has been beautifully frescoed and ornamented with a marble altar and railing and enriched by a gold chalice, set with precious stones. There is also a parsonage, a parochial school, conducted by the sisters of the order of Notre Dame, and a home for the Sisters.

The oldest church of Catonsville is St. Timothy's Protestant Episcopal Church, which was organized May 22, 1844, when the members met at the residence of Rev. George F. Worthington and elected the first vestry. The first congregation consisted of the family of the late Judge John Glenn, who was the principal benefactor of the church; the family of Mr. James Gibson, Mr. John K. Smith and a few others from Catonsville, numbering about 25 in all. The initial services were held at the residence of Rev. George F. Worthington, who was the first rector of the church. The cornerstone of the edifice was laid September 11, 1844. The building is of stone, Gothic in design and overgrown with ivy. It is surrounded by a beautiful grove of trees, and near by is the rectory and a Sunday-school hall. The body of the late Judge John Glenn, who was so closely identified with the development of the church, is interred in a vault just in front of the building, and the spot is marked by a stone cross. The Presbyterian Church at Catonsville is located on Frederick avenue, and had its beginning in 1880, when services were held in the old Paradise Hotel. The Rev. J. F. Jennison, now pastor-emeritus, was the first one in charge of the congregation, and soon collected sufficient money to begin the building of the church, the cornerstone of which was laid in 1880, and the church was organized in 1881. Ex-Postmaster-General James A. Gary presented a beautiful pipe organ to the church. The Zion Lutheran Church, on Frederick avenue, has recently been erected, and its architectural beauty is a matter of pride to the community.

By one of those peculiar developments of custom the term "a resident of Catonsville" means quite as often a resident of the outlying neighborhood as of the village itself. There is no district of Baltimore county where more beautiful estates are found or that is settled by more cultured people. Most of the property owners have been identified with the development of Catonsville in recent years, and many of them have individually opened up the beautiful avenues upon which their estates lie. Among

interesting homes in or about Catonsville is Bureka, long the residence of Dr. Charles B. Macgill. The house has been added to from time to time and is an American adaptation of the Italian style of architecture. It belonged at one time to Col. John C. Holland, from whom it passed to Dr. C. W. Lawrence, thence to Dr. Lewis Elcheberger, and finally to Dr. Macgill, who, with his son, Dr. J. Charles Macgill, makes the fourth physician to have uninterruptedly occupied it as a residence.

Ingleside, the residence of Mr. Bernard N. Baker, is one of the most beautiful country estates in Maryland. Kenwood, the country home of Gen. John Gill, is another beautiful place. Still another is Summit, the home of ex-Postmaster-General James A. Gary. Uplands, the old Swan property, is now the summer home of Mrs. Henry Barton Jacobs. Hunting Ridge, which successively belonged to the Tapscotts, the Dulans and the Swans, is now the property of Mr. E. Austin Jenkins. Tower Hill, the James estate, and Chesmont, the home of Mr. Alexander Harvey, are both on the Frederick road. Alpine Glen is the summer home, the Rolling road, of Mr. William Bowly Wilson, while Beaumont, the residence of Mrs. Henry J. Farber, adjoins the Caton estate. Bloomsbury, the Lurman property, on Bloomsbury avenue, and Hilton, the old Glenn place, are among the oldest and largest estates in the vicinity. Hilton is on the Rolling road and has descended successively from the late Judge John Glenn to his son and grandson of the same name. The homes of Mr. Robert K. Waring and Mr. William H. Gorman are in what is known as Oak Forest, and there is also in the neighborhood Cloud Capped, owned by Mr. Blanchard Randall. Beechwood is the home of the Hon. John Hubner, who has served two terms as member of the Maryland House of Delegates, was the Speaker of that body and later Senator from Baltimore county. Still others having long-established and beautiful homes in the neighborhood are: The Thom family, Mr. John R. Bland, Mr. William Graham Bowdoin, Mr. David E. Evans, Mr. Nathaniel W. James, Mr. James H. Whiteley, Mr. Frederick W. Feldner, Mr. William L. Manly, Mr. Edward West, Mr. George Muth, Mr. Eugene DeBuliet, Mr. W. J. H. Watters, Gen. A. Stuart MacDonald, Mr. Victor G. Bloede, Mr. Elias Livergy, Mr. George C. Keidel and others.



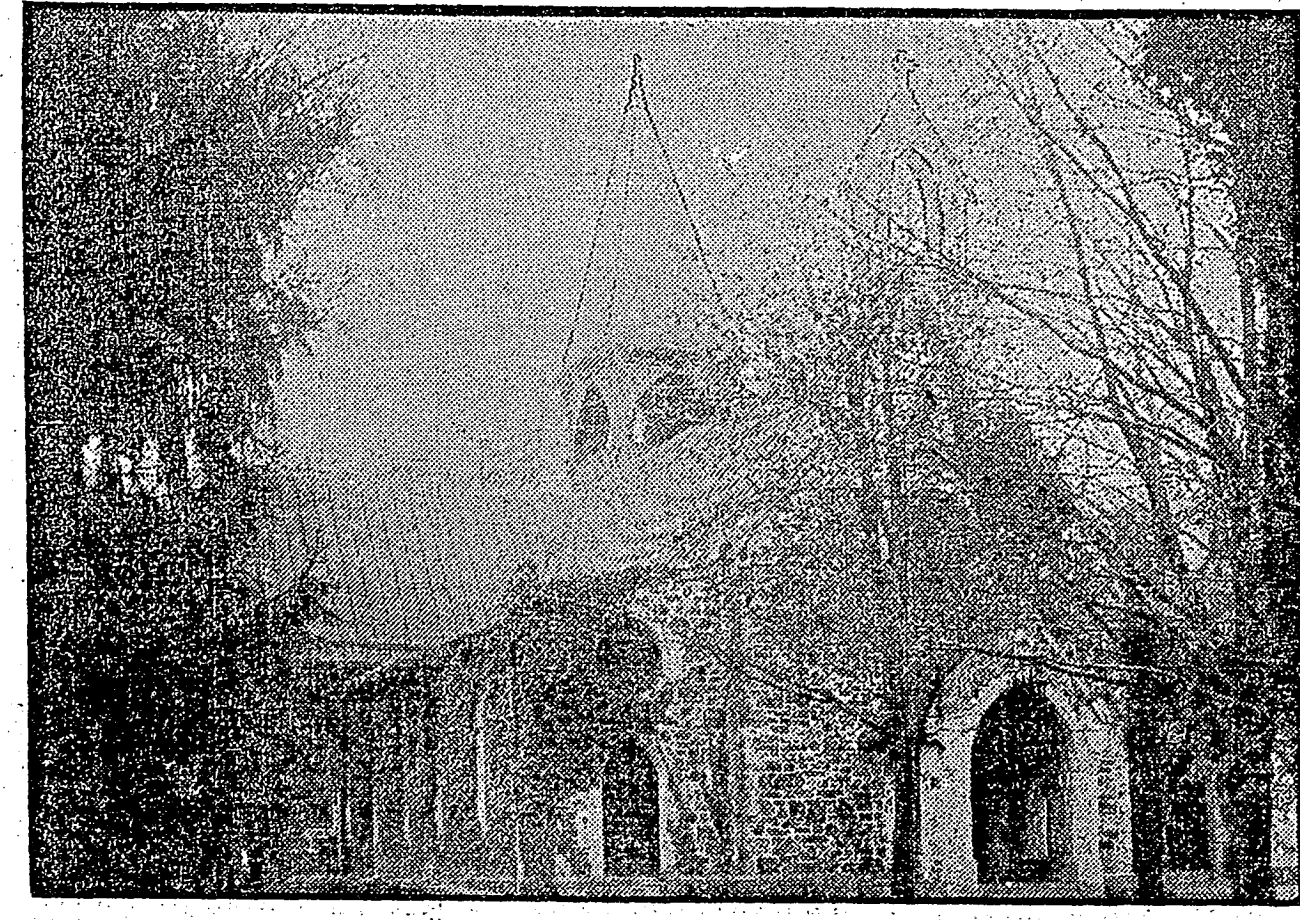
MRS. RICHARD CATON (NEE CARROLL)  
From an original picture by Robert Edge Pine in the possession of Mrs. Mac-tavish, of Baltimore.



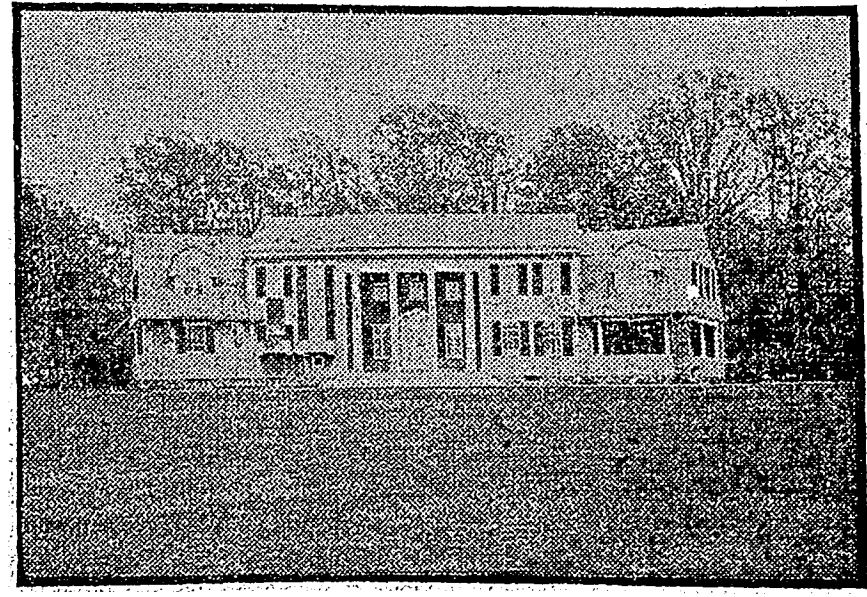
BEAUMONT  
The residence of Mrs. Edwin J. Farber.



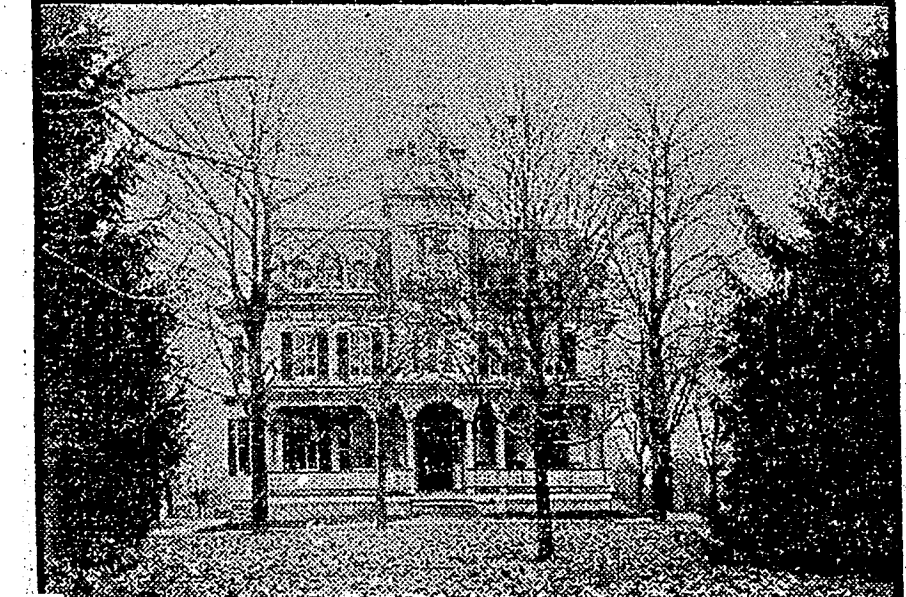
RESIDENCE OF GEN. JOHN GILL OF R



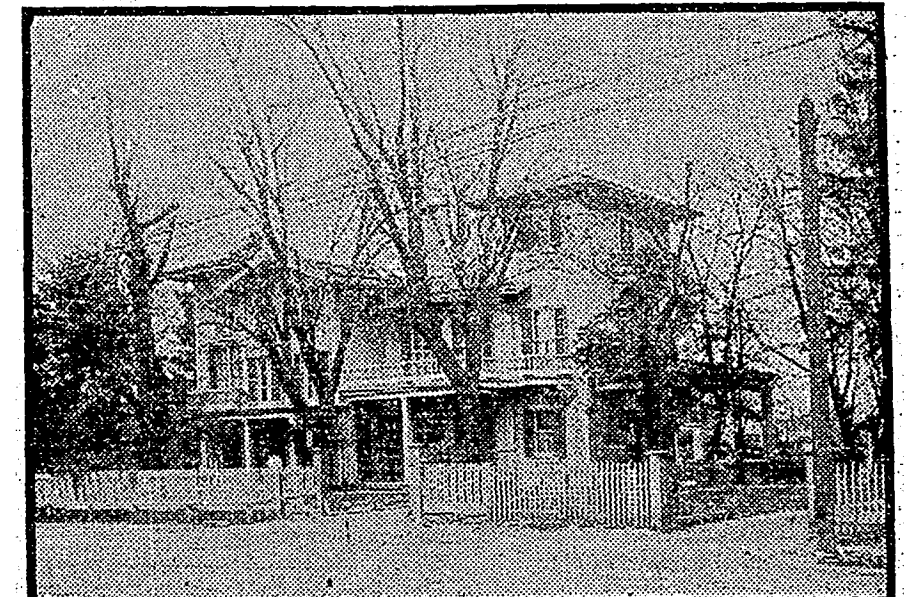
ST. TIMOTHY'S P. E. CHURCH



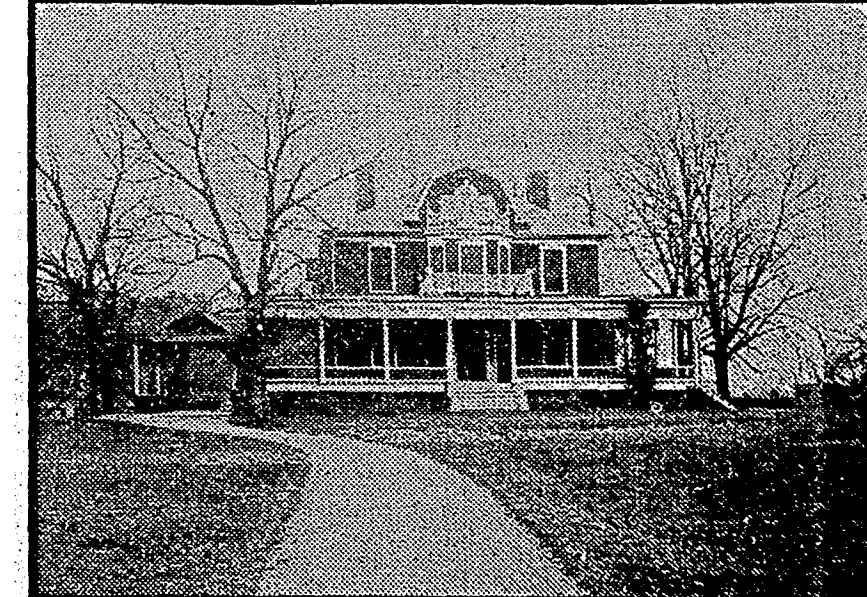
RESIDENCE OF MR. ALEXANDER HARVEY



SENATOR JOHN HUBNER'S HOME



HOME OF DR. CHARLES G. W. MACGILL



RESIDENCE OF MR. N. W. JAMES