

## LOCAL MATTERS.

*Laying of the Corner-Stone of the St. James' Roman Catholic Church—Religious Procession and Ceremonies.*—Yesterday afternoon the interesting religious ceremonies of laying the corner-stone of St. James' Roman Catholic Church, southeast corner of Alsquith and Eager streets, took place. There were thousands of persons present, the various Catholic societies being among the number, and the scene presented was of a very impressive character. About 2 o'clock the societies assembled on Saratoga street, with the right resting on Charles street. Capt. John Bitter was the chief marshal of the procession, with Francis Albert, Joseph J. Shaub, G. Wanner, John S. Picquett, Edward Connelly and Jno. Luckeely as his chief aids, while each society had its chief marshal and aids.

The procession moved down Saratoga to Charles, to Baltimore, to Gay, to Centralavenue, to Eager, and thence to the church site. The following was the order of the procession: Chief marshal and aids, Lelunardt's band, beneficial societies, Immaculate Conception, St. Peter's, St. Joseph's, Rose's band, St. Jacobus' and Sacred Holy Family, Young Catholic Friends Society, the boys of the Taney Institute, St. Patrick's, St. John's, St. Vincent's, St. Ignatius, St. Basilianus, St. Alphonsus and St. Martin's, the 8th Regular's brass band, St. Stephens', St. Peters' St. John's (German) Beneficial Societies, the German Help Society, the School of the Holy Cross, the Society of the Holy Cross, Wacker's band, St. Johannes', St. Francis' and St. Ludgerus' Societies, a detachment of Knabe's school-boys St. Aloysius Society, a number of carriages containing the clergymen, with a guard of honor from the Young Catholic Friends and other societies, Prof. Charles' band, St. Michael's and St. Joseph's Societies, and a number of persons voluntarily joining in, closed the pageant. Banners of beautiful and costly description, and flags were carried by all the societies, and as the procession moved along the route to the church, it was witnessed by thousands from the windows and sidewalks. Upon their arrival at the church site the banners of the various societies were placed upon the rear part of the platform erected for the services and for the accommodation of the clergymen. The members of the procession then took their designated places, and the Very Rev. H. B. Cookery, Vicar General of the Arch-diocese of Baltimore, (in the absence of Archbishop Spalding,) commenced the religious exercises, assisted by the Revs. Father John Hicky, Delan. McManus, McColgan, Myers, Miller, Anwander, John Foley, Foran, Luerman, Galistiniana, McCauley, Mallory, Rathko and McDevitt.

The corner-stone is situated at the north corner of the front of the building, (which is on Alsquith street,) and weighs about five tons. It was taken from the marble quarries of Mr. John F. Connolly, Texas, Baltimore county. The religious exercises lasted about one hour, and were very imposing and interesting. The box placed in the corner-stone is made of copper, and contained the different daily and weekly newspapers of the State; the names of the general, State and city officials; gold and silver coins, and the note currency of the country; the name of the Rev. Father Hembrecht, the Provincial of the Society of Redemptorists in this country, and the names of all the Redemptorists' clergymen in this city, and who are in any way connected with the building of the new church, &c. After the exercises of laying the corner-stone were concluded, the Rev. Father Cookery delivered an appropriate sermon, followed by the Rev. Father Anwander, who delivered his address in German. About 5 1/2 o'clock the ceremonies were concluded, and the various societies reformed and marched to their respective meeting places, and were there dismissed.

The lot on which the new St. James' Church is to be built is 128 feet front on Alsquith street, with a depth of 212 feet on Eager street, running back to Somerset street. It is the site of the old St. James' Church, (built many years ago by the Rev. Father Gildra,) and the site of the old Immaculate Conception Nunnery, (a new one having been recently erected on Alsquith street, south of the church site.) Mr. George A. Frederick, a young Baltimorean, is the architect of the new church. The foundation work is already under way, and is of the most massive character; it is being laid by Mr. Robert Oliver, of the firm of Oliver & Fleming. The front will be seventy-three feet on Alsquith street, with a depth of 18 feet, and is designed to be of marble and the finest red pressed brick. The basement will be used only for heating purposes. The main floor is designed to seat about 1,500 persons; the side galleries about 400; the choir, which will be in the front of the church, about 100 persons. A large main altar and two side altars, a sanctuary, sacristy and vestibule will occupy the eastern end of the building. The main altar will be 26 feet wide, and the side altars 14 feet each, all with altar caps. The inside body of the main floor is to be 152 feet long, and 65 feet high. A centre tower, 220 feet high, and 28 feet wide at the base will be erected. This tower will be of brick and stone to a height of 180 feet, and then be surmounted with a wooden spire 50 feet high. A clock will be placed in the tower, 120 feet from the base, and a large and suitable bell be placed for the time-piece, the dials of which will be on the four fronts.

The set of church bells, four in number, will be the same used in the tower of the old St. James' Church. The organ, which will be of the largest dimensions, will be placed in the base of the tower. The interior decorations of the church are to be of the most elaborate character, with stained window glass, tiled floors, heavy sunk panelled and covered cushioned pews, &c. The style of the church is early Italian Romanesque. It is thought that it will be ready for occupancy in the early spring of 1877. It will be the largest church (except the Cathedral) in the city, and its estimated cost is placed at over \$100,000. The house for the clergymen will be built at the rear of the church, and will front on Eager street 45 feet, with a depth of 60 feet, and will connect with the rear of the church, and will have all the necessary accommodations for the pastor and his assistants. The Order of the Redemptorists have charge of the building of this new St. James' Church. The Rev. Father Hembrecht is the Provincial of the Order in this country, and has his headquarters at St. Alphonsus Church, in this city. Under his general supervision the Revs. Father Anwander and Luerman, the two members of the Order who are designated as the pastors, have a special control of the construction of the building. Upon its completion it will certainly reflect much credit upon all concerned.

*The Southern Trade.*—On Saturday last the bark *Flores*, Capt. Hubbard from Charleston and