

THE CITY'S FESTIVAL.

THE PARADE LAST EVENING AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE.

The Popular Demonstration Over Danbury as a City.—The Parade.—The Illuminations and Decorations.—Other Notes and Incidents.

Danbury last evening celebrated the fact that it has assumed a city dress, and discarded the more infantile garb of a borough, with a big parade, red fire, and other signs of popular joy. Danbury is now a city with all the machinery in working order, and for this reason Danbury engaged in a genuine blow out. Considering the fact that the matter of the parade was only started three days ago, and was really an impromptu affair, the big has reason to be very proud of the city demonstration last evening, the manner in which it was conducted, together with the entire success of the affair, and the general good order that was maintained during the parade.

At dusk the work of decoration generally commenced and for its bright display, especially on some of the side streets the effect was very pretty and reflects great credit on the public spirit of our citizens. The general good order maintained is something to be proud of and deserves mention. Not a single case happened that required the attention of the police, but the fact is that there was no business for the police court this morning, which fact speaks for itself.

The crowd that gathered on the streets to witness the parade and look on the display of fireworks and the general display, was something immense. The evening was everything that could be desired and it seemed that everybody took advantage of it. About the City Hall before the parade started walking was impossible, and those who wanted to go to a fixed point had to take the advice of the old darkey refrain and "Get in de middle ob de road." This crowded state of affairs was the same up Main street to White street, and down White street as far as Balmforth avenue. On this latter avenue walking was good, although every house piazza on that street was crowded with spectators. It is claimed by some that no bigger crowd was ever seen on our streets.

A word about the pyrotechnic display. If there is one thing more than another that gives zest to a demonstration of this kind it is the burning of fire along the line of parade. Last evening Danbury did nobly in that line, and it is a question if any city of twice its pretensions can do as much. On White street and parts of Main street it was as bright as day. The fumes of the strontia was, perhaps, suffocating, but no matter. It was a brilliant sight and an imposing scene.

At eight o'clock the fire bell began to toll. This was the signal for Marshal Sunderland to give the order to march, which they did in the following order:

Grand Marshal—George W. Sunderland.
Aids—Mounted Cavalade, Indians, etc.
Platoon of Fire police—15 men. L. H. Boughton captain.
Danbury Band—20 pieces, George E. Ives leader.
Company G, Fourth Regiment C. N. G.—40 men, Capt. F. R. Nash commanding.
Shields Guards—40 men, Capt. Delurey commanding.

Mayor and City Officers in Carriages.
Aldermen in Carriages.
Councillors in Carriages.
John Elwood, Chief Engineer Danbury Fire Department.
Steamer No. 1—Clark Knapp driver.
Washington Hook and Ladder Company—30 men, Alexander Harkness foreman.
Edward Lewis driver, Thomas Warner tillerman.
Humane Hose Company No. 1—20 men, Morris Meyers foreman.
Kohanza Drum Corps—15 pieces.
Kohanza Hose Company No. 2—20 men, Edward Lobdell foreman.
Madanaram Hose Company No. 3—25 men, James Boughey foreman.
Beckerle & Co. Hose Company—20 men, Peter Beckerle foreman.
Wooster Hose Company No. 5—25 men, George Foote foreman.
Citizens Hose Company No. 6—15 men, George Eliwood foreman.
Musical Virtuoso Club.

Illumination and Decoration.

It being a night affair the illumination, of course, outdid the decorations. This is a natural sequence. Besides, it's a pretty hard thing to make a comparison between fire and decorations, no matter how brilliant the coloring of the latter. There is always enthusiasm and inspiration in the blaze of a bon fire and in the blinding and colored blast of chemicals. Decorations, if neatly done, simply excite our admiration. Thus it was that the illuminations of last evening cast the more dignified decorations in the shade. Take White street, for instance. On both sides of the street there were bonfires of pitch barrels, numerous blinding lights from chemicals, skyrockets whizzing through the air heavenward and the banging of fireworks, that one, looking from Main street down to the railroad station could not help feeling deeply impressed with. It was one continuous blaze from Main street corner to the bridge, and from the bridge to Balmforth avenue. Considering the fact that it was practically an impromptu affair it is surprising how much was done both in the line of fireworks and beautiful decorations.

A few minutes after 8 o'clock the word of command was given to start, and immediately there was a blinding flash from colored fireworks in front of Stratton's drug store and Judge Hough's residence. The house of the latter was decorated with the national colors and flags were displayed about the drug store and from the windows above. The flash from the fires was so copious that a general cough was indulged in from the fumes of the strontia and shellac. On the same side of the street on the line of march, the windows of the stores were generally decorated, but those who made special effort were L. Kline, tailor, who burned red fire and decorated with flags. Tully Brothers, tailors, had a neat illumination with rows of candles in their windows. Sherwood Ray, the awning man, burned red fire from his windows, and John Cuff, the stationer, besides his decorations, burned copious quantities of red fire. Foley Brothers, tobacconist, made a good display.

Outside the decorations there were colored fires, fire works and the rattle of torpedoes which kept drivers of horses busy holding them down. The Wooster House was very neatly decorated in bunting and American flags, and the piazzas were crowded with sight-seers who were busy in burning sticks of colored fire.

The Boston grocery made a display of flags, but other than that patriotism was not very enthusiastically displayed along that side of Main street, until L. K. Mansfield appeared bearing aloft a huge stick of red fire. A large bonfire illuminated Library place. James McDonald, W. H. Hitchcock, Eugene Westsells, the Main street billiard parlors, and A. Begg made displays of flags and lanterns. At the corner of Elm street Chas. Mason made a display of flags, and Capt. C. Quen burned red fire in abundance.

WHITE STREET.

White street on occasions of this kind shows up bright and brilliant every time. For colored and bon-fires White street is the banner thoroughfare, and last evening she showed up in line of illumination as well as she ever did. Around the corner from Main street, Hector Hauchir, the proprietor of the bathing establishment, had strings of Chinese lanterns hung in front of his place. Further down on the north side of the street, Simon's drug store, and the rooms above, burned colored lights. The store was illuminated. Down lives a large bon fire was ablaze as the parade passed by. At the corner Jim Lee, the laundryman, had rows of Chinese lanterns strung up in front of his establishment, showing his interest in the affair. All his almond-eyed associates were out in full force to see the procession go by. About McPhelimy's saloon and grocery store the decoration were numerous. The burning of red lights, the shooting of sky-rockets and a blazing of a big bonfire greeted the paraders at this point. About the Central Hotel decorations covered the entire front of the building, also Sherman, the grocer, and Mayer, the clothier, under the hotel, added their share, so that the building was entirely covered. The burning of colored bonfires greeted the paraders here. When the procession got over the bridge fireworks from the saloons of Michael Brauneis, Henry Geis, Thomas Madden and J. T. Bartley, all in a row, besides burning colored fires, decorated their places. The last decoration and colored fire on this side of the street was from McNiff's saloon. Before the parade turned into Balmforth avenue, a big bonfire on Canal street lighted their path for them.

On the opposite side of the street, A. Chichester's market, and M. Henrietta's saloon, were prettily decorated. T. E. Rowan made a liberal display of fireworks, and McAllister's saloon was trimmed with flags. From here to the corner of Crosby street nearly every store was decorated. J. H. Riley, Thomas Bartley, W. E. Henebry, Stone Brothers, and Edward McPhelimy were among the number, and from the doorways of most of these stores were sent up rockets and Roman candles in abundance. Riley, Gallagan and Gallagher each made decorations of flags and bunting about their saloons. Metropolitan Hall displayed a flag, and Joseph Galli's store was not the least decorated. Walsh's grocery and Sherwood's market were trimmed with flags and bunting. The Hotel L'Amoureux was

made brilliant with illuminations of candles and red fire.

BALMFORTH AVENUE.

The residents of Balmforth avenue made ample preparations, and the street was a marvel of colors and light. The residence of Mrs. D. P. Barlow was neatly decorated, as were also those of A. J. Smith and W. G. Randall. The residence of H. B. Osborne was trimmed with flags, and Howard B. Ives made a large red fire. Jesse D. Stevens and A. W. Northrop, each displayed flags, and the residence of Mrs. Elizabeth Balmforth was prettily illuminated with candles. Hodge's grocery store made things bright farther along the street. There were many smaller but equally tasteful decorations on each side of this avenue, and the effect was really striking.

On the east side of the street the decorations and illuminations were generally unanimous. About as near a one was that of John Leonard on the corner. On wires he had bunches of cotton baton and brooms that were saturated in kerosene oil burning, and the effect was very fine. His house to the north was neatly decorated and some colored fires were burned. Among the houses worthy of special mention in the matter of display were Frank Leach, Zabudd Mead, and the house of Mr. Spraul. Theodore Clark's residence was decorated with Chinese lanterns and red fire was kept burning. Other houses were those of Messrs. Pakulski, Read and Hoyt, and the residences of Mrs. Elizabeth and William E. Craig, H. C. Gray, Alexander Turner and Fred Dauchy combined together and decorated and kept a bonfire blazing. Then came the illuminated residences of Mr. Platt, Clarence Abbott, Mr. Barnum and Chris Stone.

NORTH STREET.

The boys of North street united their efforts in a huge bonfire. Alexander Knapp made a display of flags, and Mrs. Lewis made the front of her store brilliant with fireworks. The residence of Henry Lane was decorated and that of J. W. Porter brightly illuminated.

MAIN STREET.

The north part of Main street never indulges in the loud order of display, but is given to more of the dignified and neat kind. The houses that made no attempt to display had all their rooms illuminated and the piazzas were generally crowded with people. At the corner of Main and Downs streets the residences of George Downs and of Austin Wright, on Downs street, were tastefully decorated, making as neat a picture as was seen on the parade. The special displays on the west side were made by Virgil Barnum, George B. Sherman, N. T. Bulkeley and S. H. Rundle. The brightness about the houses of George White and Dr. Skiff attracted general attention. Other illuminations were from the houses of Burr Roland, William H. Barnum, and M. Henrietta. The residence of Alfred Wildman was illuminated, and about his piazzas were crowds of people. From the bridge to Elm street the crowd was pretty thick, and in front of the Boston grocery store a big bon-fire was blazing. Beard, the druggist, decorated and burned colored fires.

George Northrop succeeded in brightening up the upper end of Main street, and the residence of Mrs. Hendrick Barnum and the store of Mrs. Roome completed the illuminations in that portion of the street. Morris Meyers displayed flags, as did also Messrs. Hatch and Leach. The residence of D. S. Cosier was neatly decorated. Then followed a space of darkness until the office of Dr. Fox was reached. Cosier's undertaking establishment was embellished with red, white and blue, and appropriate displays were made by Mrs. B. M. Boff and F. W. Barnum.

ELM STREET.

The paraders came down Main street, and turned into Elm, thus dispelling the fears of the inhabitants of this thoroughfare that the procession would not pass their generally decorated stores and blocks. A rumor gained circulation early in the evening that owing to the partial blockading of the street by the trench of the gas company, the parade would go directly down Main to West street. However, it did not, and their displays were seen by the paraders. John McCarthy's coal office was trimmed with bunting, and Vermilyea's market displayed flags. Fanton's block was decorated with flags in the window of the Central Labor Union Hall and the fruit store, and by bunting nicely arranged about the bay window, of Dr. Gorton's office. Ladies waved flags from the windows of Perry's block, and in the windows of Griffing's block. W. H. Matchet had brightly burning candles. The Twenty-five cent store, and the market of Theodore Morris were decorated with flags. About the piazza of the house occupied by D. E. Sullivan, at the corner of River and Elm streets, Japanese lanterns were prettily arranged. S. Spiro decorated the front of his store with the national colors, and Thomas Meuth's shoe shop was festooned with bunting. Coleman's saloon and Lynch's restaurant each added to the brilliancy of the spectacle, as did also the Elm street cafe, and Frank Gallagher's store.

NEW STREET.

Presented a line of attractively decorated houses and the inhabitants indulged more intensively in a display of the national colors and illuminating material than those of many of the other streets. Dr. W. H. Rider had a flag swung to the breeze from a window and red fire helped paint things red. John Chambers decorated with lanterns of the Japanese style, as did also C. G. Mallory and W. E. Mallory. Clark Beer's yard was brightly illuminated with Japanese lanterns. A. Foubert had lines of candles behind the glass of his show windows. The residences of Misses Keeler and E. A. Mallory on the east side completed the decorations of that street.

DEER HILL.

Was almost wrapped in darkness. On one side of the street Mrs. Booram had blinds swung open and windows illuminated, and Mrs. Wm. P. Seeley had her residence thoroughly lit up, while on the opposite side the residence of A. B. Morse was illuminated with lanterns, and that of W. E. Taylor was brilliantly illuminated. The parade came to a halt at this point and during the twelve minutes they were resting explosions of red fire and Roman candles in Mrs. Seeley's yard amused the crowd. When the line started again R. B. Pearce, as it moved by his residence, painted a crimson hue everything in that vicinity. The parade went as far as Whitlock street, then countermarched to

WEST STREET.

As it had not been announced that the procession would march on this street the residents made no preparations in the way of decorating. However many windows in the houses, before dark, now became suddenly brilliant from the lighting up within. A big crowd had gathered on Main and West streets to see the firemen and their vehicles and the military and other features of the parade as they passed the soldiers' monument and entered

LIBERTY STREET.

Where the decorations were profuse, Joseph Billing's house looked attractive in its dress of flags and bunting, and with its tapers in the windows. The ladies, near John O'Brien's house, started a bonfire that only made more brilliant the scene on the corner of Liberty street and Town Hill avenue, where a huge pile of barrels and boxes were burning. Others who decorated on Liberty street were Cole & Stevens, flags; the Misses Rockwell, also flags; and P. F. Henebry's block, flags and illuminations.

TOWN HILL AVENUE.

was second to none in the character of its illuminations and all along the street the paraders were greeted with fireworks and decorations. Richard Maney displayed flags and lights, as did also Thomas Tracey, Edward McPhelimy's yard and residence were a display of light. Timothy Foster, E. H. Oshee, Casper Ziegler, Patrick Smith, James Gibson, Ira R. Wildman, Charles Brown and William Duffey, each made illuminations and decorations to a greater or lesser degree.

Sprout & Vongal at their grocery lit up the surroundings with red fire and farther up the avenue a bonfire was blazing in front of George's barber shop. H. S. Reed decorated and at the junction of Center street Ed. Smith had a blazing barrel filled with fire crackers that not only illuminated but made a noise. Jerry Keeler's house was dressed in candles and M. McPhelimy displayed many flags. John R. Spain had a lot of Japanese lanterns, but it was C. W. Murphy who had the most elaborate trimmings on the avenue. Every window was filled with vari-colored tissue paper and on the piazza enthusiastic ladies burned red fire. Others who joined in the decorating were Michael Shaeley, Dr. Todd, Mr. Corrid and P. E. Jeffries. The band started to play a martial air as they rounded the corner and entered

SOUTH STREET.

The saloon and grocery store of E. Burke were trimmed with Japanese lanterns, and candles shone from the window. Japanese lanterns graced the house of A. O. Hope, and bunting figured in the decorations of Mrs. Ormsbee and Philip Kelley. William Strasser had a line of lanterns strung in front of his building.

MAIN STREET.

The entrance to this street was the commencement of the end. In Mrs. Charles Rider's yard red fire sticks were neatly arranged on the trees. A flag was hung out by M. S. Stokes, a bonfire set off the flags on M. McCue's building. A Carara displayed a flag, George Phillips helped his flags out by burning red fire, William A. Brauneis displayed bunting and burned fire crackers, John Welsh had a bonfire, E. Stone's house was nicely trimmed with Japanese lan-

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Dr. A.

PHYSICIAN

276 Main Street

House, Danbury

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