

GOVERNOR MARCUS H. HOLCOMB AWARDS THE FOURTEEN PRIZES IN THE SUNDAY

First Prize In Bulfinch Contest for Boys and Girls In the High School Goes to Herbert H. Mills, Second to Donald P. Lane, Third to O. H. Clark, Jr., Fourth to Roy E. Donlon, Fifth to Olive S. Abbey, Sixth to John Sabin Hunt and Seventh to Robert Abram.

THE HON. MARCUS H. HOLCOMB, Governor of the State of Connecticut, acted as judge in awarding the prizes in the Sunday "Courant's" contest for two sets of essays on the subject "Why the Old City Hall Should Be Saved" and winners are herewith announced and the prize winning essays printed below.

"The Courant" wishes to publicly express its thanks to Governor Holcomb and also to the boys and girls of the Hartford, East Hartford and West Hartford schools who responded so well to the opportunity to tell how they felt regarding the preservation of Hartford's most important historical building.

For the large number of excellent essays received the fourteen winning the prizes were selected as the ones which best expressed the reasons for saving the old City Hall.

It is well to review briefly the conditions of the contest which was first suggested by two Hartford women, who prefer to remain unknown, but who are very anxious that the historic old structure be repaired and made a monument to the early days of the city and state. On making their desire known, "The Courant" willingly seconded their efforts and contributed an equal amount of money to be distributed in prizes.

Accordingly, two groups of seven prizes each were announced. The first group, known as the Bulfinch prizes, was for the essays written by high school pupils. There was a first prize of \$10, a second prize of \$5 and five prizes of \$1 each for the next five most worthy essays. The Bulfinch prizes were given by these public-spirited women. "The Courant" made a similar offer to pupils of grade schools. The group of prizes known as the Bushnell prizes, in memory of Dr. Horace Bushnell, consisted of one first prize of \$10, one second prize of \$5 and five prizes of \$1 each, to be given to the five next best essays.

Below are printed the Bulfinch prize essays written by pupils of the Hartford Public High School, and on the following page "The Courant" prize essays written by the boys and girls in the grade schools:—

FIRST BULFINCH PRIZE.

HERBERT H. MILLS

Situated in the center of Hartford, the most beautiful city in the state, is the massive old City Hall. Standing as it does, among splendid examples of twentieth century structures, it forms a picturesque contrast. The building is a fine relic of architecture 125 years ago. Our old State House and Independence Hall possess much in common. One marks the making of a state, the other the birth of a nation. Would it be justice to destroy either of these monuments of liberty and government? It is our duty to preserve them, not only for ourselves, but for the coming generations.

A wonderful drama has taken place in and about the old State House. Upon the site of the building the primitive redskin roamed, and, later, traded with our ancestors. Imagine spilling the site which designates where our forefathers, attired in knickerbockers, exchanged their heads, chains and other trinkets for the furs and land of the Indian! How absurd it would be to obliterate the few evidences of events long passed!

The building, completed in 1796 had a romantic history from the first. Many events took place in the building. In the year 1797 the funeral sermon of the murderer, Done, was preached before a crowd larger than twice the population of Hartford at the time. The famous Hartford Convention met in the State House in 1814. It was followed four years later by the memorable convention which framed the Constitution of our state. General Lafayette, the great Frenchman to whom we owe so much for our liberty, held a reception in the building in 1825. During its long existence five Presidents have visited the old State House. They were Presidents Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Johnson and Grant. The building was considered the best of its kind in the country and was anxiously sought out by notable men. If the old City Hall is torn down, no real, concrete evidence of these stirring events will remain, only the "dry" information of our text-books. Why are not scholars satisfied with just reading about olden times? They go abroad to see some real evidence of what has gone by. For the same reason we should preserve our old State House for those who study the history of our state.

In all Connecticut there is no place more appropriate for housing the deeds, words and treaties of the commonwealth. Hartford is central to all Connecticut. Only a small sum would be required to turn part of the old City Hall into a museum. Here could be gathered together the numerous relics of our past. Such an institution would be in perfect accord with the building, because of its historical importance.

The people of Connecticut are greatly indebted to the numerous historical and civic societies. They have done much to promote historic research and to arouse our patriotism. These organizations have responded admirably whenever called upon to donate to some worthy cause. Would it not be a just reward for their great service to us to have them housed in the old City Hall? In these troubled times our patriotic societies do a great deal toward fostering national unity. Surely, the building could not be put to a better use.

Now, rulers of Hartford, do not remove such an asset to our beautiful city! Not many years ago Hartford allowed a great industry to slip from

its hands. Do not let history repeat itself! The old City Hall is our index to our past history. Before the beautiful structure is destroyed let us read over once more the words of Colonel William E. Cone, who, at the dedication of the old State House as a new City Hall, said, in part: "For nearly 250 years the history of State House square has been intimately connected with the history of our city and state. Here our ancestors for many generations met in council and enacted those laws and laid the foundations for those institutions which have distinguished our state above her sisters. Let us trust that this building and square may long be preserved as a monument of former generations, and may those who in future years occupy these chambers as legislators be governed by the same patriotic motives and wise judgment which have distinguished their predecessors."

How appropriate these words are! How unpatriotic it would be to destroy the memento of former generations! How unwise it would be to obliterate that structure which sheltered the lawmakers of Connecticut! Colonel Cone's memorable words should ring in every patriotic ear. The venerable old building, perhaps a little obsolete as regards architecture, nevertheless has served us well. Let us preserve it. It is no more than our duty.

SECOND BULFINCH PRIZE.

DONALD P. LANE

In order that the reader may judge for himself whether the historic old City Hall should be allowed to keep the place which it has faithfully held for more than a century, or should be razed that some "skyscraper" may adorn its valuable site, I will try to give a little idea of its importance in the history of the state and commonwealth.

Before 1720 there was no courthouse or State House and the General



DONALD P. LANE
Second Bulfinch Prize

Assembly met in the meeting-house near the site of the present postoffice. The first Connecticut State House was a wooden structure standing a little to the west of where the old City Hall now stands. It probably served the state in many ways, for we find it recorded that in the garret were stored arms for the militia. During the peace celebration in 1783 fire seriously damaged the old structure. Hartford contributed \$250 of the \$750 (English currency) necessary to have it repaired. The old State House was useful in many ways. Town meetings were held there, as was also the first city meeting. Churches sometimes used it for services, and the Junior class of Yale College gave a play there in 1788. When the General Assembly provided for the new State House in 1792 the old building was to be sold at auction. It is not generally known what became of it.

The second State House, now known as the old City Hall, was built of brick with brownstone trimmings from a design by Charles Bulfinch, the famous architect of that period. Its total cost was \$22,480, of which \$3,500 was raised by subscription from the citizens of Hartford. Hartford county gave \$1,500, the state of Connecticut \$12,480 and Messrs. Ward and Halsey furnished the rest of the amount upon promise of the "Gore lands" near Pennsylvania, which were claimed by Connecticut. A bell and cupola were put up in 1822 at a total cost of \$600, the city and county giving \$300 for the bell and the state erecting the cupola. The building was used for state offices, county purposes until 1830 and town meetings until 1832. In 1832 a controversy between Hartford city and county over the title to the State House was settled by the supreme court in favor of the city. The state conveyed any interests which it may have had in the building to the city of Hartford in 1879. The city was then in possession of the land and building, which it has used for city purposes from that time until the building of the new Municipal Building.

Now that we know something of the history of the famous building we should be able to judge accurately as to its fate. Should it not, I ask you, be left to stand where it was planned for and built by our forefathers? Are sites for business blocks so scarce and the love of money so strong in our citizens that this historic landmark should be removed for these purposes? Some worthy persons would no doubt like to see a park where the building now stands. But does Hartford, "The City Beautiful," need another park to add to its already goodly number? And besides, would this park be large enough and do good enough to pay for the irreparable loss of the City Hall?

Should not this famous old structure be preserved as a resting place and a museum for such sacred old relics as the staff of Thomas Seymour, Hartford's first mayor? Is it not a good place in which to exhibit such objects as the portraits of Hartford's earlier mayors? Could this city do better than to save this building for future generations as one of the works of Bulfinch? Boston has its much-loved Faneuil Hall and Philadelphia its Independence Hall. Should not Hartford follow the example of these patriotic cities and look upon the destruction of the City Hall as reflecting discredit upon the name of the city? The razing of the building can mean but small profit to the city, and I think that, on the whole, it would be unwise to destroy or mar in any way the beauty of the old building.

These are the arguments and reasons that I submit for the preservation of the old City Hall.

THIRD BULFINCH PRIZE.

O. HOWARD CLARK, JR.

Before presenting the reasons why the City Hall should be preserved it might be well to give a short history of the building and a resume of the events which have made it famous and entitle it to a position on the same level as the historically famed buildings of Philadelphia and Boston. The City Hall was begun in 1792, at which time the General Assembly appointed a building commission of five prominent men. The Assembly appropriated \$1,500 and the citizens of Hartford a like amount. But when this total was found insufficient a contract was made with Messrs. Ward and Halsey of Guilford and Norwich, respectively, to finish the City Hall, provided that the Gore lands, north of Pennsylvania, were ceded to them. The edifice was completed in 1796 at a cost of \$22,480. Other additions and improvements were made later. At the time of its completion it was the finest State House in the country, which is not surprising when one knows that Charles Bulfinch, who designed the national Capitol at Washington, was the architect. In 1879 the city took formal possession of the building. From an address given by Alderman William E. Cone at this occasion the following extract is taken:—

"For nearly 250 years the history of State House square has been intimately connected with the history of our city and state. Here our ancestors for many generations met in

council and laid the foundations of those institutions which have distinguished our state above her sisters. Let us trust that this building and square may be long preserved as a memento of former generations."

The practical arguments for the preservation of the old City Hall are many. After the city offices are removed to the new Municipal Building the City Hall could be converted into a museum and historical showplace, where the relics and curiosities of "ye olden days," in connection with the building itself, would form an interesting exhibit for visitors and townspeople. Probably the historical society would be glad to move its possessions into a more public and roomier place. The value of the land in City Hall square is steadily in-



O. HOWARD CLARK, JR.
Third Bulfinch Prize.

creasing and is a good investment for the city, as the building itself is in fairly good condition and looks as fine as many more recently constructed edifices.

Again, the larger halls might be used as assembly rooms for the many conventions which do not require such large buildings as Unity Hall or Foot Guard. If it were known that such a place was to be had, many gatherings would occur here and indirectly bring business to the hotels and stores.

Is it possible that any building could be erected on this spot which would have more varied uses than the present edifice? Under sentimental reasons are found the historical associations and ideals connected with the former State House. The historical events are varied and many. Five Presidents, Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Johnson and Grant, have visited the building. In 1814 in the aidersmen's chamber was held the famous Hartford Convention, mentioned in every history as intimately connected with the war of 1812. The convention which framed the present Constitution of the state met in this building in 1818 and constructed a document famous for its sagacious wording and wise provisions. Lafayette once held a reception in the rooms of the State House.

If the City Hall were left standing it would be a potent and daily reminder of the ideals which every citizen of Hartford has or should have had from the days of the original body of intrepid settlers. The old buildings and landmarks have disappeared, and if this last remaining outpost of the old times is torn down it will be an everlasting regret to the majority of the citizens of this city.

On the top of the City Hall is a statue of Justice with her scales. Surely, now is the time to show justice and not allow the building to be demolished, simply because a more modern structure has been erected, especially when it has so many associations and utilities as has the Hartford City Hall.

FOURTH BULFINCH PRIZE.

ROY E. DONLON

Why should the old City Hall be saved? A question that should arouse interest and enthusiasm in every true Connecticut son. The reasons why it should be saved are many and various, and not more than one reason can be given as to why it should be torn down, viz.: It is old and worn and the upkeep cost would be too much of a drain on the city's treasury. A poor reason for its destruction, we must admit, when the pages of its history are slowly turned and read, and there are many of us who believe that it is just as classic in design and construction as the magnificent building which now houses our city officials.

Let us go back 123 years to 1792, when the General Assembly of Connecticut appointed a building committee to superintend the erection of a new State House. The Assembly voted the sum of \$1,500 toward the cost of said building, providing the citizens would subscribe a like amount before May, 1793. The site selected was in the heart of the then small city and it is hinted in some of the historical pamphlets that the sum of \$40,000 was raised by the Assembly through the sale of land in western Pennsylvania, to which this state had no claim. This is an important fact in the early history of the building and one which is not generally known.

The purchasers of the stolen land were Andrew Ward and Jeremiah Halsey, later known as the Gore Company. The total cost of the building was \$52,480, of which the city subscribed about \$12,000.

In one of the Municipal Art society's Bulletins there is an interesting letter dated September 30, 1792, in which John Trumbull, painter, asks the advice of his friend, Oliver Wolcott, comptroller of the United States treasury, as to the cost of certain materials and decorations for the State House. The material decided upon was brownstone and Charles Bulfinch was called upon to design the building. We should derive satisfaction from the fact that one of the most noteworthy architects of his time was given this work and that the Representatives' Hall in Boston State House is said to be similar in construction lines to our "Monument to the Pioneers of Connecticut."

Even the land on which this much-discussed building stands deserves its place in history, as much so as the Charter Oak site, in that it was deeded by Sequans to Samuel Stone and others of the early inhabitants, in or about 1670, being the first deed recorded in the Hartford town records.

The building contract was given to Elisha Saxe of Middletown, grandfather of the famous Tusell Sage, and it is not generally known that the fulfilling of this contract drove him into bankruptcy. The petition in bankruptcy names \$800 as the sum, which was considered large in those days.

And so the beautiful building progressed and at its finish was thought to be the finest State House in the country, and well it might have been.

In 1796 the people in the small but growing state rejoiced in the housing of the General Assembly, and after that important event in our city's career political wars were ended and always the State House showed up with a clean slate. Even the fact that the greater part of the building money was secured by the sale of stolen land cannot cloud its bright history, for it is recorded that in 1800 the Assembly renounced the act of its predecessors and voted to pay back the sum secured. This was done and \$40,000 was given in four payments to the Gore Company, on the consideration that they give the state a quitclaim for the land, which was grant-



ROY E. DONLON
Fourth Bulfinch Prize.

ed, and our government ship steered into clear and unspotted waters.

From that time (1796) until the erection of our present State House the laws of Connecticut were made and unmade in the old City Hall. In 1879 the city began its use of the historic building and continued to do so until the completion of the new Municipal Building, which is now one of our most beautiful public buildings.

So now, as the old "place" is fast losing its tenants, the question arises: "What shall we do with our old City Hall?" The city should congratulate itself in the possession of this "home of contention" and, like thousands of other interested citizens, I cannot see why the state should have allowed such a famous landmark to pass into our hands, and, as we do own it, why not keep it, just as every other of the first settled colonies keeps everything that connects in any way with the history of their towns and cities. It should be kept in the city's possession just as the old and respected Gold Street Cemetery is, and if the persons who have the say in the matter don't know what to do with it let it be turned over by common consent and for a feasible amount of yearly rent to be used by them as a fitting and valued memorial to the founders of this wonderful city. If the protests of the people and schoolchildren fail to arouse such sentiments in our practical municipal powers, let the question be settled by vote; even make the campaign statewide, as I am sure all the residents in this state must feel an active interest in the state's most honored memorial.

FIFTH BULFINCH PRIZE.

OLIVE S. ABBEY

"Destructor, spare that building!" is a phrase that can certainly be applied to the old City Hall. The building itself is not unpleasant to look at. It is not awkward. We have no cause to be ashamed of it. It has been said that Richard E. Brooks, the sculptor, remarked that the old City Hall is one of Hartford's finest pieces of architecture. The plot of green grass and the shrubs around the building form the most cheerful and picturesque spot on Main street in that vicinity.

No other well-known building in



HERBERT H. MILLS
First Bulfinch Prize.

Hartford can boast of being the greatest historical relic here. It has now been standing 120 years. It seems that such a monument should not be torn down, but should be made good use of and diligently preserved.

It seems to me that the best use to which it can be put is to convert the second floor into an auditorium.

There is one in Springfield and it is being used to great advantage. We have nothing of the kind in Hartford that is used exclusively for an auditorium. One would imagine that the vicinity would be too noisy, but the walls are so thick that the racket from outside can scarcely be heard. It seems to me that the acoustic properties might be good. Therefore it would be an ideal place for musicals, lectures, etc. It also would be a very excellent place for the Hartford Public High School Glee Club to give its concerts. Since the women are daily bringing themselves more in contact with the political sphere, an auditorium in such a convenient location would be such a convenient place for the suffragettes and the ants to indulge in their refreshing and inspiring contests.

Once the grammar school children were asked to go to the old Fourth Church to hear stories told by the Grand Army soldiers. I think that, if we had an auditorium, that that would be a much more suitable place for such entertainments than a church. The old City Hall is in a convenient locality. No one has to change cars to get to it. All one has to do is to take the car, ride to City Hall and then is deposited, as it were, at the door. The first floor could be, if fitted up properly, as a memorial. I think it would not be a bad idea to decorate a memorial of that sort with pictures of Hartford's famous people, historical relics, etc.

It seems to me that it would not be in good taste for any other building to be set up in the place of the

back a moment through the haze of years to that time when our country was just recovering from the burden of war and when our city was striving to build a home where our forefathers would be able to make laws.

When we look at our City Hall it reminds us of the days when our forefathers were struggling with financial troubles and resorting even to lotteries to obtain money to build a suitable State House. What a con-



JOHN SABIN HUNT
Sixth Bulfinch Prize.

trast it forms; the new City Hall compared with the old; the financial condition of Hartford, now prosperous and beautiful, compared to the old Hartford, which was poor and even without a suitable building to hold public meetings.

But, after all, our City Hall is still young, for our memory recalls that memorable date in 1814 and 1815 when the famous Hartford Convention met there. Hartford can be proud to say that men of political, army and scientific fame have visited our old City Hall, how its halls rang with the speeches from the mouths of men who have helped make Hartford "The City Beautiful." Let us recall the words of that well-known Massachusetts man in referring to our old City Hall: "It has lodged many generations of city government." And true are his words, for our own state Constitution was signed here when the old City Hall was the State House.

If the people who think it would be a great expense to take care of the City Hall would look up a date in January, 1915, they would find that the certain patriotic women of the state have a sum of money invested in the bank and ready to be drawn out. Love for our old City Hall has extended to everyone and the motive of these women is high and grand, for they realized that to tear down that venerable building would be disgracing our city. Our city should never stoop to such a thing, for as Charles Noel Flagg has said, "To destroy it would be a crime, both from the artistic and historical point of view." True as gold are his words, because Boston and Philadelphia still preserve their buildings and Hartford has none too many. Consider New Haven. They now wish their old building back, for they are no longer in any respect considered important in the historical world.

Someone has suggested that the old City Hall be torn down and rebuilt on the same plan in some public park. In protest to this we can fittingly use the line from "Old Ironsides":—

O, better that her shattered hulk Should sink beneath the wave. Her thunders shook the mighty deep, And there should be her grave. As old Ironsides stood, so has our old City Hall, grand and sublime through the storms and denunciations. Better it will be to let her crumble

(Concluded on Page 12.)



OLIVE S. ABBEY
Fifth Bulfinch Prize.

City Hall when it has heretofore served for such beneficial purposes. I have often heard rumors that the City Hall and the grounds around it would be very much improved if the postoffice at the rear of the building were to be used as a green. The people could really see and appreciate the beauty of the architecture of the City Hall and it would be likely that those who want the building torn down now would favor the other side, who are trying to preserve it.

SIXTH BULFINCH PRIZE.

JOHN SABIN HUNT

As we pass our city's principal building some day let us stop a moment and ask ourselves, "What is our City Hall?" Our City Hall is the place where the minor laws beneficial to our city are made. But let us come to our point, "Why the old City Hall should be saved." Let us go

"COURANT'S" ESSAY CONTEST ON "WHY THE OLD CITY HALL SHOULD BE SAVED"

First Prize In "Courant" Contest for Boys and Girls In the Grade Schools Awarded to Richard J. Smith, Center School, East Hartford, Second Prize to Thaddeus Kosiniski, Immaculate Conception School, Third Prize to Ellen C. Strom, Fourth to Anna Nirenstein, Fifth to David Ellovich, Sixth to Elsie Florence Benoit, all of the Wadsworth Street School and Seventh to Louise H. Langdon, Arsenal School.

FIRST "COURANT" PRIZE.

RICHARD J. SMITH

"What is to be done with the old City Hall?" is now being hotly debated. For many years this question has been discussed, but it has now reached its crisis, due to the vacating of the City Hall by the city officers. A new and larger municipal building has been built but it is not as great as the old City Hall in architecture and history.

There are two important reasons why the old City Hall should be preserved. First because it is such a wonderful piece of Colonial architecture. There are few original Colonial style buildings now standing, and very few buildings designed by Bulfinch, the great Colonial architect, who designed the old City Hall in Hartford and Faneuil Hall in Boston.

Secondly the old City Hall should be saved because it is such a great historical building. In the early history of the state of Connecticut and its influence on national history has

suddenly everything and everybody around me seemed changed—so changed—why I wish I could tell how funny the women looked in their very wide what I called "hoop skirts" and the men nearly all wore funny coats, silk hats and grey trousers.

I was so confused I walked up to a venerable looking man and inquired, "Sir, will you kindly tell me where I am?" "Ha, Ha," the man laughed, "Can't you see that you are on State House Square in the shadow of this here building—our City Hall. Listen here lad, if you want to learn more than you know about this building, I will tell you." "Oh! do tell me" I almost cried. "Then take a seat."

He began, "This very spot on which you are sitting was many years ago part of the first purchase made by the English within the limits of Connecticut and was deeded by Squassan, sachem of the Tunxis or Hartford Indians to Samuel Stone and others in behalf of the inhabitants of Hartford. The first burial in Hartford was upon this square.

"The first building on this square was built in 1635-6. It was occupied by the First Church of Hartford and was also used for public purposes, such as town meetings, sessions of General Assembly, and so forth.

"And let me tell you," he continued, "the first State House was erected near the northwest corner of the square. This building was constructed forty-five years before the first State House of New Haven. It remained in this square until 1833 when it was removed to Church street over yonder," he said pointing his finger in a westerly direction. "Perhaps the most notable events which occurred in it was the ratification of the constitution of the United States. I am sure that in 1781 Washington and Rochambeau visited this building for the purpose of planning the memorable campaign which ended in the capture of Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, Virginia.

"I think that is all," he said. "Oh! no, no, go on, I am ever so much interested in your talk," I cried. "As you want it, my son," the good gentleman answered.

He continued, "And so this building proving too small for the uses of which it was designated, the present State House which you now see was begun in 1792. In May the same year the General Assembly appointed a building committee composed of John Chester, John Trumbull whom I knew well, Noudiah Hooker and John Caldwell, to superintend the erection of this State House and at the same time giving 1,500 pounds for the purpose, provided the citizens of city, town and county would furnish a like amount on or before May, 1793. Upon report of the building committee that the money appropriated was insufficient the General Assembly authorized the committee to raise by lottery the sum of 5,000 pounds for the completion of the building. Some of the states were beginning to oppose lotteries; others wanted only their own. Nothing came of the enterprise of completing the building and for the purpose of doing so a contract was made with General Andrew Ward of Guilford and Jeremiah Halsey of Norwich, the state agreeing to convey to them a tract known as the "Gore Lands," lying within the limits of the charter granted by Charles II in 1662, north of and adjacent to the north line of Pennsylvania. In consideration of this grant Messrs Ward and Halsey agreed to complete the State House. The cost of the building was \$52,480; of this, I think the citizens of Hartford town contributed \$3,500, of the county \$1,500 and of the state \$12,480 but Messrs Ward and Halsey expended \$35,000 on its completion. So you see you should know and learn to love this memorable Bulfinch structure. I think that is about all I can tell you, but if you want to learn more, then follow me."

"Yes, yes I do," I clamored out. We walked down the square to a queer looking vehicle, which I can't describe. We sat in it—and swish—"where were we now," I cried out. The good gentleman told me that we were in the Catskill Mountains where Rip Van Winkle slept twenty years. True it was, for there were the nine pin players. The good gentleman took a goblet of some sparkling beverage from one of them and handing it to me, beckoned me to drink which I did.

What! Where was I now?—I recall I was in Hartford again. There was the City Hall standing but another building had sprung up in the rear of it—the federal building. Everything was changed.

He said to me, "And so you want to know more about the City Hall of Hartford?" "Oh yes, I certainly do," I answered.

"Then—let us sit on the doorted of this noble building and I will tell you the rest. As my friend finished I will begin."

He began, "As the 'Gore tract of land' conveyed to Messrs Ward and Halsey proved a failure, because the title of the state was imperfect, finally in 1828 there was voted \$20,000 by Legislature as a sort of compensation. The ballustrade of this building was added in 1815. The cupola was added in 1822, Hartford having voted \$300 with which to purchase a bell, which it gave the state.

"The Legislature ordered the cupola to be built after that of the old City Hall in New York. At the time of its completion it was said to have been the finest State House in the country. So you see how under the strife and struggle, our ancestors weathered in building this City Hall. The materials used for its construction were

Portland stone for the first story and brick for the second. The brick was not painted white until 1827 when in charge of Solomon Porter. A few now remember the structure originally faced the East but as the greater part of the city is on the opposite side, it now faces the West. The architect was Charles Bulfinch who also designed the national Capitol at Washington.

"The east section of the building in which is now constructed of suites of rooms, was formerly an open portico used for public addresses to the people standing in the triangle green below where the post office now stands. It was here that the former governors addressed the people.

"There is a solemnity about the halls of this building and you could not pass them without the idea that they still held many unrevealed secrets and an eventful history to moralize upon.

"Five presidents visited this famous building: Presidents Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Johnston and Grant. In the alderman's chamber the famous Hartford convention met. In this same chamber, the convention met in 1818 which framed the present constitution of the state. There also General Lafayette held a public reception when making his last visit to this country in 1825. Fifty years from this date have elapsed since he first drew his sword in defense of American liberty. The first session of the General Assembly was convened in this building in May, 119 years ago. The last session was in March, 1878. At the May session a resolution was introduced, I think, by the Hon. W. W. Eaton, member of Legislature from Hartford, providing mostly for to said Hartford of all rights and title of the state in and to the old State House upon completion of the Capitol. The final conveyance of the state's interest was consummated and the city took formal possession through its committee on the 13th day of March, 1878. The common council assembled here for the first time on July 21, 1879. But come, it is getting dark."

"He walked for a way with me. As I passed the post office I perceived he was not with me. Had he vanished? I looked everywhere for him but in vain. I gave up hope of finding him. I went somewhere to sleep, I can't recall where. When I awoke it was already day. My attention was suddenly arrested to the gathering of a crowd around the City Hall. "What did it mean," I thought.

As they neared a vast light shone before them and the crowd. As it faded the dim outlines of Generals Rochambeau, Lafayette, Presidents Washington, Monroe, Polk, Jackson, Johnston and Grant appeared like phantom ghosts on the outside walls of the building. Also the outlines of John Chester and the building committee, Rev. Hooker and the former governors of the state and mayors of Hartford. They all raised their right hands as if to stop the workmen, as a voice from the cupola sang out: Citizens, spare City Hall; Touch not a single stone; For years and years it has guarded all. And we'll protect it now.

With this they all vanished. It was some time before the crowd showed signs of movement. One enthusiastic fellow shouted, "All in favor of preserving the City Hall say 'Aye.'" The air was rent with the noise of eyes, ayes! There was hardly a human being in that crowd that did not say aye.

After the noise had somewhat subsided a fine looking man stepped upon a box and addressed the people. "Ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor to inform you that our City Hall shall be long preserved."

I shouted and shouted for joy until I was interrupted by someone telling me "Thaddeus, stop your noise, don't scream!" Where! Where! Where am I? "You're in your own home and you were sound asleep the last time I saw you," my mother answered.

I afterwards thought what a fine and patriotic dream I had—some people dream dreams that come true, I wish mine would. I say, "Why should the City Hall of Hartford Be Saved?"

Was it not built under the most sacrificing efforts of our ancestors. It had been the pride of the people in its early days.

And as Byron said of St. Peter's at Rome—"It stands alone with nothing like it. It recalls and may it long recall—power and glory and strength that money cannot buy." We can say the same of City Hall.

True, it might bring a paltry few thousand into the city's treasury but would Hartford forget historical fame for money? I hope not. We should preserve it. Let us never be chronicled in history that Hartford would tear down this City Hall.

Some say the reason for tearing it down is to put a beautiful building in its place and beautify the square. Nay! Splendid historical record and honor should precede beauty. Keep City Hall.

Why do they in Europe not tear down such buildings as the Tomb of Hadrian? Because they want to preserve them as remembrances, relics, as landmarks of their early history. For this same reason we should preserve City Hall.

I claim he is not a good citizen of Hartford who does anything to impair its splendid historical record and good name. No citizen can read the historical record of Hartford in any book without being proud of his inheritance in its history.

For ever so many years the history of our City Hall and State House square have been intimately connected with the history of our city and state. Here our ancestors for many generations met in council and enacted those laws and laid the foundations of those institutions which distinguish our state above her sisters. Let us trust that this building and square may be long preserved as a memento of former generations and may those who occupy its chambers be governed with the same patriotic motive and wise judgments which have distinguished its predecessors.

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Independence Hall. Now, if people should come to Hartford they certainly would ask to see a historical building. If we should tear it down we will have nothing to show them, but if we do not we can show them our City Hall. For an example I will cite the Charter Oak. After it fell it was cut up and the wood from it is valued very much and is held in museums and costly houses. The people only hoped that this would stand for centuries, but they couldn't help it, so it fell.

But our City Hall can be saved by our own will; but still we do not care to save it because we can. The people of Hartford appropriated a large sum of money on condition that the building should be made to look newer. There are a lot of men of Hartford who want this building to remain standing and not tear it down and sell the land. Our City Hall is too good to be sold for the highest amount of money given for it.

The people of Hartford will have to answer, "Oh we have torn it down, but there is our lovely new building, why it is almost as high as the skyscrapers of New York city."

Boston would not tear down Faneuil Hall or Philadelphia, Independence Hall, why should Hartford be compelled to tear down her old City Hall.

The famous Hartford convention was held at the old State House on December 15, 1814. Delegates of the New England states met at Hartford to discuss the war. It was feared at the time that the New England states might withdraw from the Union. A committee was appointed to lay the whole matter before Congress, but the treaty of peace had been signed by Great Britain before the convention adjourned and nothing came of the matter.

By the great expense the city is now placed by reason of the new Municipal Building, the bridge and other improvements we would not expect them to raise a large amount to preserve City Hall. There has already one historical society donated ten thousand dollars provided the city will raise a like amount and there must be other organizations and individual citizens who will contribute liberally to the preservation of the old building.

In the struggle to save City Hall we have attracted the attention of outsiders. Even the people of New York take time to notice our efforts and the following from "Life" is worthy of attention: "There is a rumor that Hartford contemplates tearing down her old

Why not preserve the City Hall where for years in the past men strived to make a prosperous and beautiful city of Hartford.

Why not have this old building used as the center of attraction instead of business and have the people from the other parts of the country see the spot where the Union was saved? It came about in this way. When England and America were at their second war, New England thought the war unjust. Delegates from the different New England states met in the old meeting house in back of our present hall.

They met to discuss the evils of the war and at last concluded that they withdraw from the Union. Before action was taken the war ended, and it came out with no result excepting from one, that the Union was saved.

To keep such a building would be honorable not only towards ourselves but towards others.

To tear down the City Hall would be just as dishonorable as tearing down the American flag.

What use would the spot be to us when another man is making his profit on the land. To preserve the City Hall would be a profit to everyone.

If they think of tearing down the building why do they not tear the post office down first?

We have not only ourselves to think of in regard to this memorable building but our children and our children's children. Just think in later years how they will regard the City

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RICHARD J. SMITH
First "Courant" Prize.

been followed down the century by the development of Hartford as a city. There are few buildings in the country so enshrined in historic memories.

The City Hall originally faced down State street looking toward the old schooner and sloop transportation at the foot of State street.

If it could be said it could tell of the important gatherings at the American House across the way and could swap stories with the "Courant" on Hartford a century ago. The old State House square extended to the very doors of the present "Courant" building.

At the time the old State House was built money was scarce and the financial committee tried to obtain money by means of a lottery, common in those days, but the plan failed and later money was obtained from the United States treasurer and from some wealthy people who contributed towards its cost.

At one time the City Hall was one of the Capitol buildings of the state. And remained so until the new Capitol was built.



THADDEUS KOSINISKI
Second "Courant" Prize.

Portland stone for the first story and brick for the second. The brick was not painted white until 1827 when in charge of Solomon Porter. A few now remember the structure originally faced the East but as the greater part of the city is on the opposite side, it now faces the West. The architect was Charles Bulfinch who also designed the national Capitol at Washington.

"The east section of the building in which is now constructed of suites of rooms, was formerly an open portico used for public addresses to the people standing in the triangle green below where the post office now stands. It was here that the former governors addressed the people.

"There is a solemnity about the halls of this building and you could not pass them without the idea that they still held many unrevealed secrets and an eventful history to moralize upon.

"Five presidents visited this famous building: Presidents Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Johnston and Grant. In the alderman's chamber the famous Hartford convention met. In this same chamber, the convention met in 1818 which framed the present constitution of the state. There also General Lafayette held a public reception when making his last visit to this country in 1825. Fifty years from this date have elapsed since he first drew his sword in defense of American liberty. The first session of the General Assembly was convened in this building in May, 119 years ago. The last session was in March, 1878. At the May session a resolution was introduced, I think, by the Hon. W. W. Eaton, member of Legislature from Hartford, providing mostly for to said Hartford of all rights and title of the state in and to the old State House upon completion of the Capitol. The final conveyance of the state's interest was consummated and the city took formal possession through its committee on the 13th day of March, 1878. The common council assembled here for the first time on July 21, 1879. But come, it is getting dark."

"He walked for a way with me. As I passed the post office I perceived he was not with me. Had he vanished? I looked everywhere for him but in vain. I gave up hope of finding him. I went somewhere to sleep, I can't recall where. When I awoke it was already day. My attention was suddenly arrested to the gathering of a crowd around the City Hall. "What did it mean," I thought.



ELLEN C. STROM
Third "Courant" Prize.

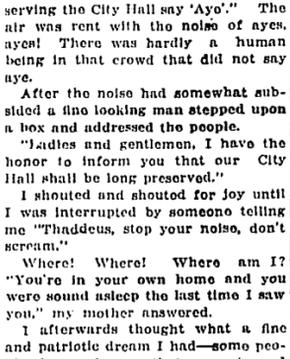
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ANNA NIRENSTEIN
Fourth "Courant" Prize.

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DAVID ELLOVICH
Fifth "Courant" Prize.

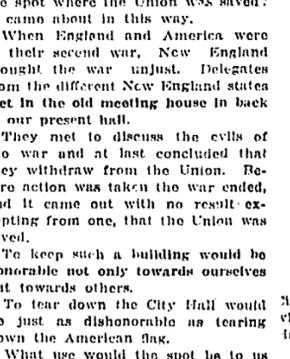
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ELSIE F. BENOIT
Sixth "Courant" Prize.

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LOUISE H. LANGDON
Seventh "Courant" Prize.

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