

A RIVAL FOR OLD HARVARD

A NEW UNIVERSITY PLANNED FOR WORCESTER.

JONAS G. CLARK'S MUNIFICENT SCHEME TO ENDOW ANOTHER SEAT OF LEARNING IN MASSACHUSETTS.

WORCESTER, Mass., Jan. 17.—Jonas G. Clark, one of the wealthiest men in Central Massachusetts, has signified his intention to found and endow a university in this city whose ambitious scheme shall not fall behind that of Yale or Harvard. It has been hinted about town for several weeks that Mr. Clark had in contemplation some great gift for the city, but the public did not learn what it really was until to-day, when a petition was filed in the Legislature asking for a special act of incorporation for the Clark University. The petition is signed by Jonas G. Clark, Stephen Salisbury, Charles Devens, George F. Hoar, W. W. Rice, Joseph Sargent, John D. Washburn, Francis P. Goulding, and George Swan. Mr. Salisbury is a capitalist and a well known antiquarian. Gen. Devens is the ex-Attorney-General. Mr. Hoar is United States Senator, and Mr. Rice is the Congressman from this district. The others are well known professional men of this city.

These gentlemen have been selected by Mr. Clark to form with him a close corporation for carrying out the scheme he has in view. The petition asks for an act of incorporation establishing at Worcester, in the county of Worcester, an institution for the promotion and encouragement of learning in all its higher branches, with the power to receive and hold real and personal estate, the use and income of which is to be devoted wholly to the purposes of said institution; and to hold, enjoy, and exercise all the privileges, immunities, rights, and powers, including that of conferring degrees, held, enjoyed, and exercised by the universities and colleges of this commonwealth. And the petitioners further pray that said institution may be known by the name of Clark University, in recognition of the munificence of its originator and founder, as shown by an endowment of \$1,000,000, and probably more, should the community exhibit substantial evidence of its sympathy, encouragement, and support.

Mr. Clark has already selected the site for the new university, and has decided in a general way about the plan of the buildings. The lot selected is a square of about eight acres at the south end, about one and one-quarter miles from the City Hall. It is bounded by Main, Waywood, Woodland, and Downing streets. The design is to have the principal building about 500 feet long, at the back side of the lot near Woodlawn, leaving room for a campus gently sloping toward Main-street. As soon as the act of incorporation is secured the money will be ready. Mr. Clark has so arranged his affairs that even in the event of his death his plans will be carried out. It is understood that he does not propose to confine his gifts to the original million, but will add to the endowment as occasion requires. He says that he has had this scheme in mind many years, and has visited most of the principal educational institutions in the Old World and in this country in getting ideas for his pet project. He does not design that the new university shall be sectarian in any sense, but means that it shall cover broadly all fields of knowledge. A law school, medical school, and possibly a theological school will be established, as well as an academic department.

Mr. Clark is a native of Worcester County, having been born in Hubbardston Feb. 1, 1815. After leaving his father's farm he began business life as a carriagemaker. He then went to manufacturing tinware and afterward added hardware to his business. When the California gold excitement broke out in 1849 he was a prosperous merchant with stores in Lowell and Milford. He early began to cater to the California trade, shipping builders' hardware and general stores. The business grew and in 1853 he went to California and did an enormous business in hardware, paints and oils, furniture, and miners' outfits. When the war broke out he took a prominent part in the Union League which saved California to the Union, becoming Grand Treasurer of the State organization. He had unbounded faith in the Union and put his money largely into Government bonds at low prices. He also made a handsome sum in the rise of real estate in and about San Francisco. He came East in 1864, turned his gold into greenbacks at the big premium then prevailing, and made heavy bond and real estate investments in New-York, which increased in value enormously on his hands. He is still a heavy owner of real estate in New-York City. After traveling some time in Europe he came back to Worcester County and built a town hall and library building for his native town, Hubbardston, at a cost of about \$50,000. He also built the elegant stone mansion on Elm-street, in which he now lives, and invested largely in Worcester real estate. He is the owner of several of Worcester's finest business blocks. He married in 1836 Miss Susan Wright, of Hubbardston. He has never had any children.