



ORPHANS' HOME.

land around Fort Harrison and in other parts of the county, it was not until 1816 that the foundation of the city of Terre Haute was laid. In 1783, Capt. Thos. Bullitt and adventurous friends made the beginning of the present great city of Louisville. We find in 1816, Cuthbert and Thos. Bullitt of Louisville, with Abraham Markle, Hyacinth La Salle and Jonathan Lindley, as the Terre Haute Land Company, buying thirteen tracts of land on which to lay out this city. The streets and lots were platted with good judgment and on a scale to provide for several thousand people, showing faith in the future of their venture.

The original boundaries of the town were the river and Fifth street, Eagle street on the north, and Oak street on the south. The streets were laid out as with square and compass. The unfortunate bend in Wabash avenue was caused in later years when the National road was surveyed, joining the Main street at Eighth street at an angle. All the streets running east and west were 65 feet wide, with the exception of Wabash street (now Wabash avenue) which was 81½ feet; streets north and south were 81½, except Third street (formerly Market street), which was 99 feet wide. A square was reserved for a court house, two lots at the southwest corner of Fourth and Mulberry streets for a school, and another lot at Third and Poplar, now occupied by the Asbury M. E. Church, for the first society which would build a church upon it.

The first sale of lots was in October, 1816. Dr. Charles Modesitt, who had removed from Virginia several years before, was one of the large buyers, and old plats show his name on numerous lots on North and South Sixth street and elsewhere. The Chauncy Warren homestead still occupies one which may have been a wedding present to his daughter, Mrs. Francis E. Warren, who still lives there, and whose life includes the whole history of Terre Haute, as her father built the first house in Terre Haute, when she was then a little child. This primitive building, of unhewn logs, was at the corner of Ohio and Water streets, where Arthur Jordan's extensive poultry packing establishment now stands. Then the river bank was covered with flowers, and hazel-thickets grew on the hill. The little log cabin was the germ of all the splendor of civilization which can be seen from the dome of the stately court-house, but a few hundred yards distant from which lofty aerie spreads before the gazer the homes, farms, shops and factories of 60,000 people with numerous