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CHANGES IN OLD DARBY – Many of the Old Landmarks are Fast Disappearing – Recent Business Changes

Darby Borough is in many ways undergoing a revolution. Soon all the old landmarks will have disappeared, or will have been so changed as to be hardly recognizable. The selling out of their stores by John R. Sweney and George R. Powell, both of Main Street, recorded in yesterday's Times is the latest chapter in the book of change.

It was in 1878 that John R. Sweney took possession of the grocery store on Main Street, which he has since kept, and where, if report be true, he has made a goodly pile of cash. His estimable wife, whose maiden name was Martha H. Bunting, was born in the residence part of the building. Her father, Jesse D. Bunting, kept the store until his death in 1876. He was also the borough postmaster for years and his daughter, now Mrs. Sweney, kept the post office for several years thereafter. In 1877 she was married to John R. Sweney, who long ago became familiarly known as Darby's merchant prince. Mrs. Sweney has been a right arm, as it were to her husband in his business and now, when both husband and wife need a well-earned rest from such an arduous business, she dislikes to give up the business and the old home. They will not remove from Darby, however, at least not for the present, but will select a quiet, pleasant spot, where Mr. Sweney will pursue other enterprises in which he is interested.

The new firm, who took possession yesterday is designated Charles Lloyd and Co., Limited. Mr. Lloyd, the senior member, who has been in business for many years at Riverton, N.J., is a brother-in-law of the Verlenden Brothers, having married their sister. It is understood that the Verlenden Brothers are also interested in the new grocery firm.

Another change is the selling out by George R. Powell, of Main Street, of his general store business to the Lion Tea Company of Philadelphia, who have several stores in Philadelphia and other places. Mr. Powell, who has not enjoyed good health of late will still continue the hardware part of the business, next door, also continuing to live on the premises. His father, Joseph B. Powell, kept these stores before him and it will be a big change indeed for Mr. Powell to relinquish the business.

In part of the building to be occupied by the new firm which is now being torn out and remodeled by them was first printed one of the first newspapers in Delaware County as a matter of fact the second one, the Delaware County Republican which was started by Y.S. Walter in 1833. The new firm is composed of Walter P. Marvin, Charles Wilson and Joseph Purdy, the well-known biscuit manufacturers.

They will open it in a few days as a general grocery store and it is understood will out prices very decidedly.

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