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IMPROVEMENTS.

The number of improvements in the city during 1876 probably exceeded any previous year in its history. And they are of an attractive and substantial nature, the buildings erected being generally large business houses or handsome dwellings. The erection of the structures reported has given employment to hundreds of mechanics and has thereby added materially to the prosperity of the city as well to its beauty and importance. The construction of the courthouse, the corner-stone of which was laid on the Fourth of July, has been an event of considerable consequence, but of not less importance, probably, are the Evangelical Salem Church, White and Slingerland's new block, Joseph Adamy's block, Baker's brick commission house at Second and Hampshire streets, and the residences of Messrs. Blasland, Manson, Felsenhold, Snitjer, Wm. Brown, Sr., and others of value, also reported. It will be noticed that the sum of \$469,967 is given as the amount expended on buildings of all kinds. This includes the whole cost of the courthouse, but does not take in the money expected on the new Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, upon which considerable work has been done since January last. There have been, also, a few small residences put up in the Southern part of the city, of which it was impossible to gain definite information; but in the following list the contract price, or the actual cost, is given:

L. Prince, brick addition to water-works.....	\$ 400
F. Rogers, brick addition to blacksmith shop, Sixth, between Maine and Hampshire.....	400
Knollenberg, Wavering & Co., brick mill on Eighth and York.....	2,600
Owen Thom, brick mill, Broadway, between Tenth and Eleventh.....	3,500
I. E. Jansen, brick stable, Seventh and Washington.....	500
Evangelical Salem Church, brick, corner Ninth and State.....	30,000
S. Benneson, brick tool-house, Jersey, between Second and Third.....	100
Dr. Cherry, brick addition to residence, Kentucky, between Third and Fourth.....	600
L. Jance, brick dwelling, Cedar, between Second and Third.....	700