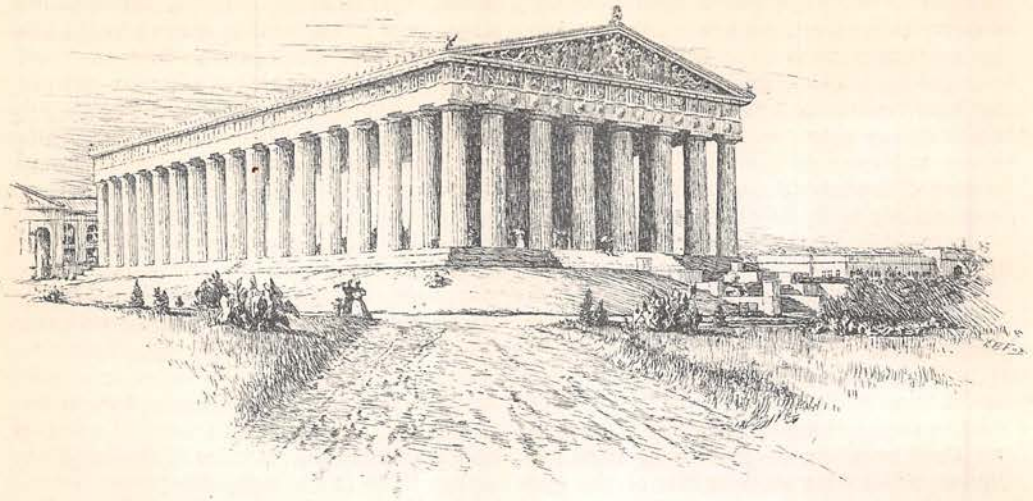

DRAWN BY GEORGE BLADEN FOX.

THE ART BUILDING OF THE TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.
A MODEL OF THE PARTHENON, ACTUAL SIZE.

TENNESSEE AND ITS CENTENNIAL.

CRADDOCK'S mountaineers have made Tennessee famous, without giving more than a very limited idea of its people. Mr. Cable's «John March, Southerner,» while not directed particularly to Tennessee, describes another and more general aspect with marvelous fidelity. But Mr. Page's «In Ole Virginia» might have been written in the heart's blood of Tennesseeans, just as it was written in the heart's blood of Virginians, for it truthfully portrays the Tennesseean's ideal, toward which the early settlers strained invincible energies, for which the passing generation fought with incomparable gallantry, and of which their successors dream and sing and make orations and write in the newspapers and magazines. To commemorate their achievements in the pursuit of this ideal during the hundred years of Statehood just completed by Tennessee, the citizens have prepared at Nashville a Centennial Exposition, which will be open to the public from May till November of this year. The occasion is excellent for the study of that personal self-consciousness which belongs to a community as well as to individuals, and is the essence of patriotism.

Nature has liberally endowed Tennessee with riches and variety. It is isothermal with Spain, Italy, Greece, and Japan, yet its wind-swept plateaus have the summers of Norway, and a few of its mountain-peaks reach near to the line of perpetual snow. Four times it is measured from side to side by navigable waters—twelve hundred miles in all; their countless tributaries afford excellent water-power, and are well stocked with fish; while Reelfoot Lake, covering half a county, is the sportsman's paradise—a midway station for all the migratory birds.

Between the gaunt metamorphic crags of the Unaka Mountains on the east, and the broad alluvial plains of the Mississippi River on the west, twenty-seven geological formations have been recognized, belonging to each of the seven geological ages. Their dynamic history has divided the State into three regions of nearly equal size and striking diversity, which have been further distinguished by social developments and legislative enactment.

East Tennessee is the wreckage of a vast convulsion wherein everything was mixed, from Cambrian to Carboniferous. Its surface is crossed and scored by precipitous ridges, sheltering fertile valleys and confining impetuous streams which are eager to be in harness to the saw-mill and the ore-crusher. Middle Tennessee is a land of broad meadows and peacefully rounded hills, scoured into submissive contour by the glaciers, and of late so thoroughly subject to the arts of agriculture that it is called by its inhabitants a garden. More than half of it is a

low basin, greater in area than, and identical in character with, the famous blue-grass region of Kentucky. West Tennessee has the level surface of modern sedimentary deposits. For the most part, its soil is a mellow loam, working kindly and washing easily; but in the Mississippi bottoms the black earth produces each year two crops of the most exhausting character, the forests are dense, the streams are sluggish, and while the cranberries are being gathered in the Unakas, here figs are ripening.

Sixty per cent. of the State is forest land, the tulip-tree, misnamed the poplar, being the most abundant of the highly prized woods; oak comes next, and the Central Basin has the largest red-cedar forests in America.

Excepting the tropical fruits of Florida and California, every crop grown in the United States flourishes in Tennessee. In the last Federal census the highest averages, both as regards quantity per acre and excellence of quality, were awarded to various sections of the State for its great staples, corn, wheat, cotton, and tobacco. Tennessee wheat sells at a premium, and the tobacco of west Tennessee has drawn to the center of that district a permanent colony of European buyers. The light, aromatic leaves produced in the northeastern corner of the State are prized as ingredients for smoking-mixtures. But new conceptions of agricultural economy are becoming prevalent, and next to these staples, strawberries and tomatoes constitute the largest farm exports.

Blue grass, native to the soil, is gradually predominating in a State where every square foot of open land is covered with grass of some kind. Watered by plentiful springs and rills, this territory, where cattle need to be housed only two months in the year, affords ideal conditions for the cultivation of live stock; and although over three millions of acres of good pasturage in the State are unfenced and scarcely utilized, Tennessee is famous for the extent and perfection of its stock-farms. One establishment alone, for breeding race-horses, is valued at two and a half millions of dollars, its oldest stallion at a quarter of a million, and at its annual sales yearlings average two thousand dollars a head. Running, trotting, and pacing thoroughbreds lead the industry; yet the number of registered kine in the State is exceptionally large, and Tennessee wool took the gold medal over all competitors at the World's Fair, London, in 1851.

Nevertheless, it appears that the chief wealth of the State lies beneath the surface. Coal, iron, marble, copper, zinc, lead, phosphates, petroleum, cement, lithographic stone, gold in moderately paying quantities, dolomites for the manufacture of steel, barytes for paint, kaolin clay for pottery, granite, and roofing-slates, are now being mined, and the full resources of the region are still undiscovered. Twenty-two counties are comprised in the coal-fields; beneath them lie forty-two billions of tons of coal, enough to supply the State, at its present rate of consumption, for the next twenty thousand years. The quality varies from soft bituminous to cannel and anthracite. Connected with this deposit are petroleum reservoirs which repeated borings during the last thirty years have demonstrated to be of great capacity; their development is at present exciting lively interest. Since each division of the State contains hills and mountains of iron ore,—limonite, hematite, brown and red, and even magnetite in considerable amounts,—the supply is practically inexhaustible. Coal or charcoal, iron ore, and the limestone used as a reagent in the blast-furnaces, are usually found within a stone's throw of one another. This so greatly lessens the cost of smelting that Tennessee pig-iron competes advantageously with the product of States nearer market.

In east and middle Tennessee are found two hundred varieties of marble, from jet-black to Parian white. The brown marble which takes its name from the State is familiar throughout the world, owing to its superior decorative value. It is the only domestic stone admitted to the highest place of honor—the superb rotunda—of the Congressional Library at Washington, in harmonious contrast with the marble imported from Italy and Egypt. The railroads in Tennessee are ballasted with this beautiful stone, and it is used in the construction of the humblest dwellings.

The phosphate deposits, which have been only recently prospected, are estimated by the State geologist to be worth one hundred and twenty-three million dollars net profit. Copper ore of excellent grade is found and mined in a region of forty square miles. Six counties have prolific veins of lead and zinc.

The inhabitants of this bountiful domain number close upon two million. Only eighteen per cent. live in the fifty-three towns and villages, of which only four contain over thirty thousand souls. Nashville, the capital, numbers, with its immediate suburbs, one hundred and fifty thousand. The proportion of negroes to whites in the State is less than

thirty per cent., and is steadily diminishing. The foreign-born population is only one and a half per cent. of the whole.

Nevertheless foreign capital is a large sharer in the agricultural, live-stock, mining, and manufacturing industries, which, with the usual large show of aggressive enterprise, are at the same time accomplishing much solid growth. Three thousand miles of railway are operated; the coal and coke trade employs six thousand persons; there are twenty-six iron furnaces, feeding several foundries and rolling-mills; twenty-five large quarries prepare marble for shipment; and ten smelters are supplied by the copper-, lead-, and zinc-mines. Cotton-, woolen-, and flouring-mills thrive; leather and tobacco engage a number of large factories; and lumber, handled from the trees to agricultural implements and finished hard wood, supports one of the chief industries. As a lumber-market the State is prominent in America and Europe; its interests are thoroughly organized and ably represented by a prosperous journal. Although two million dollars are annually expended upon public schools, education is one of the most fruitful sources of revenue: nearly one thousand private schools, including six universities, enroll a yearly population of forty-four thousand, largely from other States. Book-printing and kindred crafts are extensively practised, especially as connected with religious organizations.

Self-sufficiency, therefore, is frequently claimed for Tennessee. Survivors of the old South are at times fond of talking about a condition of siege in which the State, cut off from every succor of the external world, could rejoice and prosper indefinitely, producing within its own borders all of the necessities and most of the luxuries of modern civilization.

It is remarkable to find how far this trait of self-sufficiency—borrowed doubtless, to a considerable degree, from their environment—goes to explain the social characteristics of Tennesseeans. Obstinate faith in native endowments, a mettle and zest for any enterprise in the face of whatever odds, and a grip on destiny which never loosens this side of death or victory—these qualities have shaped the history of the State, and constitute the most brilliant virtues of its public men. The first settlers (1754) were the first Anglo-Americans to build homes south of Pennsylvania, west of the Alleghanies. Twice these emigrants from Virginia and North Carolina were repulsed and butchered by the Indians, whom, on their third expedition, they compelled to sue for peace. During the Revolution, not only the men,—including the parsons,—but even the women and children, rushed to the aid of the colonies. One of the women, who at the cost of her life ministered to the Americans in hospitals and on the battle-field, was the mother of General Andrew Jackson; one of the six leaders who routed the British at King's Mountain was Colonel John Sevier, first governor of the State. Thirty years after their earliest settlement the pioneers, impatient of dependence upon North Carolina, declared themselves to constitute the State of Franklin; and although this government endured for only three years, the spirit of which it was an expression obtained from Congress, within the decade, territorial privileges which, on June 1, 1796, were perfected by the formal admission into the Union of the State of Tennessee.

Religion promptly followed the trails of the pioneers, carried from settlement to settlement by men who declared themselves to be the firebrands of God. Many of them were crude woodsmen converted suddenly from desperados to missionaries. Under their preaching the virile frontiersmen were infected with a frenzy of religious excitement, which in the years 1801–3 became one of the most notable revivals in American history, and firmly established in Tennessee three great Protestant denominations—Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian. Even here the trait of self-reliance manifested itself: a remonstrance from certain clergymen against the ministry of uneducated persons led to the foundation, in 1810, of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which ordained the despised preachers and cherished them to such good purpose that it is now one of the most prosperous denominations in the Southern and Western States, a leader in educational as well as religious activities.

In many respects General Andrew Jackson is the central figure and chief representative of Tennessee life during the early years. He was born shortly after the first settlement of the territory; at thirteen he was a Revolutionary soldier, at fourteen a British prisoner, at fifteen an orphan and destitute, at nineteen a licensed lawyer, at twenty-one attorney-general of the district afterward comprised in Tennessee. His fearless and indefatigable journeys through the primeval forest which separated the sparse settlements of the pioneers, exposed to perils of ferocious beasts and hostile savages; his horse-racing,

foot-racing, and cock-fights; his eager acquisition of the choicest farm and timber lands, were typical of his sturdy generation. Together, Jackson and his fellows drafted the State constitution; side by side they fought in national House and Senate for frugality at home and inflexibility abroad; on the supreme judicial bench of the State they were the forerunners of later Tennesseeans who performed honorable service on the supreme judicial bench of the nation; they were rivals in agriculture and merchandise, or on the race-course and the dueling-ground; and perhaps Jackson's only distinction in these lines was the multiplicity of his pursuits. But in his great campaigns also—the return from Natchez, where he won the name «Hickory»; the four battles in which he exterminated the Creeks and broke forever the power of the red man in North America; the rash invasion of Spanish dominions in Florida, to begin the work of repelling the British, which he gloriously consummated at New Orleans in 1815; finally, the Seminole war, with its swift success and grave international menaces resulting from his peremptory disregard of *habeas corpus*—in these campaigns, which distinguished him as the military leader of the nation, faithful Tennesseeans under his guidance fought and suffered, and despised every obstacle, earning for their home the proud title of «the Volunteer State.» Sam Houston, governor and senator from Tennessee, the avenger of the Alamo and Goliad, the creator of Texas and the father of the red man, emulated General Jackson in his contempt of greater forces than his own, and was rewarded with equally marvelous victories. To complete the parallel, two other Tennesseeans have followed President Jackson to the White House; and although Mr. Polk was of far gentler temperament, to his vigorous administration is due, from beginning to end, the Mexican war, in which Tennesseeans figured eminently; while Andrew Johnson, the intrepid war governor of Tennessee, out-Hickoried «Old Hickory» as President, by his domineering impatience of constitutional limitations and official dignities.

It was in the nature of things that Tennessee should be among the last to join the Confederate States; but the first general secession convention was held in Nashville (in 1850), and Tennessee troops were the first to answer the call to arms after the attack upon Sumter. During the war one hundred and three thousand Tennesseeans fought for the Confederacy, constituting one sixth of the entire insurgent force, and exceeding the whole number under arms at the surrender. Of these Tennesseeans, two, Forrest and Stewart, were lieutenant-generals, seven were major-generals, and thirty-two were brigadier-generals. Meanwhile several gallant Tennessee regiments entered the Union army. Within the confines of the State one hundred and thirty-seven battles were fought, including Fort Donelson, Fort Henry, Shiloh, Stone's River, Cumberland Gap, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Knoxville, and Franklin, which were among the bloodiest and most decisive of the war. Next to Virginia, no State suffered so much from the ravages of the conflict, and in next to none has the havoc been more energetically repaired.

To this the present Centennial and International Exposition bears eloquent witness. Vermont and Kentucky entered the Union in 1791, but allowed their hundredth anniversaries to slip by without celebration; Tennessee has set the example for younger States, and upon a scale that will hardly be surpassed. Not only has the World's Fair at Chicago been fearlessly imitated, but it is safe to affirm that in certain respects it has been rivaled; at Nashville, as at Chicago, every endeavor has conspired to the one effect of harmonious beauty, and the enterprise of the Tennesseeans has been wonderfully assisted by the munificence of nature and the abundance of time allowed for preparation. Thus a second example is given of the new love for architecture in America, which finds characteristic expression on a scale of magnificence beyond the dreams of an Oriental despot, yet in structures so ephemeral that their use is overpassed in less than a year. Literally a city has been built, with sewerage, water, and electric subways, with an elaborate system of public illumination, with graded streets and asphalt walks, with navigable waters spanned by costly bridges,—one of these a reproduction of the Venetian Rialto,—with countless devices for comfort and refreshment, and, finally, with public buildings of every description, which in extent and elegance transcend the permanent adornments of a modern metropolis.

When the affair was at first proposed, applications were made to the State and national governments for aid or coöperation. Upon the failure of these attempts, and in spite of the grievous business depression which prevailed, there ensued a generous rivalry of private contributions, which thoroughly demonstrated the patriotic character of the

enterprise. The plans called for an outlay of two million dollars, which were secured by various devices, a notable measure coming from shareholders at five dollars each. The children of the State gathered enough to erect a spacious building, and purchased for it a belfry of silver chimes. All responsibility for the Woman's Building was assumed by the women, who earned a considerable amount by conducting a special edition of the State's leading newspaper. The departments of general administration were undertaken without salary by professional and business men; artists, architects, and contractors volunteered many services free of charge; implements and materials were given; and in many instances even the laborers remitted a large proportion of their wages to the common fund. The effect of this was particularly noticeable in one contract, estimated at four hundred thousand dollars, which was completed for just one half that sum. It follows that all interests and classes are pledged to the success of the Exposition; original and eager thought has been concentrated upon it from every point of view, and the outcome is thoroughly representative of the entire State.

That some of the features are quaintly provincial is a natural consequence; but by far the most impressive fact is the universality of the Exposition, based perhaps as much upon the self-complacency as upon the self-sufficiency of Tennessee. If the idea of even a national fair, which obtained previous to 1893, had been the limit of the present enterprise, almost the whole might have been sheltered in the great Commerce Building of the Tennessee Centennial: but there have been erected fourteen buildings corresponding in size and beauty with the one devoted to commerce, and a score of smaller edifices have been constructed by other States, or counties, cities, churches, and private corporations. A separate village, to be known as « Vanity Fair,» comprises the same motley assortment of diversions which became famous as the «Midway Plaisance» at Chicago. In addition, stables, a cattle-ring, and a pavilion, an athletic field and an amphitheater, and the quarters and parade-ground for a continuous military encampment, occupy separate locations adjacent to the Exposition.

In his «Shadow of a Dream,» Mr. Howells credits those who live remote from the great centers of artistic and literary activity with the liveliest critical faculties and the most thorough reverence for masterpieces. Art culture has long received loyal support in Tennessee, and the Centennial gives to it the place of honor, making the Parthenon the central figure about which all the other buildings are grouped. This is a studiously classical reproduction of that glory of Greek architecture. Before it stands the colossal Athene of the Acropolis; but within the cella the plan of the temple is modified to afford admirable hanging-space for paintings, under the supervision of a numerous committee of American artists, with Mr. E. H. Blashfield at the head. Cash prizes, as well as medals of honor, will be awarded. The Centennial advertises the first general collection of art pottery in one department, and the first dedication of special days to art conventions during the summer program.

Of paramount significance is a noble structure fronting the Parthenon, devoted to the first exhibition by the negro race in America, contributed by organizations created for the purpose in the principal cities of the Union. Herein are displayed the records of a century's progress from barbarism to civilization, a presentation doubtless without parallel in the history of mankind.

Since we like to believe that Southern womanhood has been little involved in the coming of the new woman, it is pleasant to find that Tennessee women of the old school have outstripped all the other departments of the Centennial in designing, completing, and paying for the Woman's Building, which is a Greek idealization of the typical Southern mansion, as exemplified in the «Hermitage,» the residence of General Andrew Jackson. The Children's Building, set on the edge of a deer-park, contains exhibits collected by United States consuls in every part of the world. Daily exercises will be conducted by children from the schools of the State.

The pride of Tennessee in its past suggested a History Building, which, although it came somewhat as an afterthought, is in admirable accord with the original plans, which it perfects and dignifies. It reproduces a third memorable feature of the Acropolis—the Erechtheum. This temple was more intimately associated with the cultus of Athene and the fortunes of Athens than the Parthenon; but since its construction suffered more vicissitudes and its present ruin is more complete, the architects at Nashville have contented themselves with fidelity to the spirit of the original rather than strict adherence to archæology. Two of the four porches have been preserved in dimensions and details; rooms have been substituted for the other two, so that the interior consists

of five compartments, devoted respectively to history and antiquities, the Confederate Veterans, the Grand Army of the Republic, the Colonial Dames and the Daughters of the Revolution, and miscellanies.

Between ten and eleven millions live within a night's ride of Nashville. Over eighty conventions, chiefly representative of their common concerns, but several also of national importance, will meet during the six months of the Centennial. For them and for various festal occasions an auditorium has been provided, a majestic specimen of colonial architecture, with a seating capacity of six thousand.

It was not until the Exposition neared its completion that assurance was obtained of a Federal appropriation, of which thirty thousand dollars is to be expended upon a United States Building, and one hundred thousand dollars upon government exhibits. On the other hand, Congress early released from duty all foreign exhibits intended for the Centennial, and the State Department invited every city and commonwealth on the globe to participate. These interests were further promoted by the same staff of special agents who represented the World's Fair abroad. Consequently the fifty thousand square feet of space allotted to foreign exhibits were occupied three months in advance of the opening, and several countries erected special buildings.

The most commodious and imposing edifices are those appropriated to industries and natural resources—commerce, machinery, transportation, minerals and forestry, and agriculture. Their utilitarian character has been entirely superseded by the diligent adaptation of them to the purposes of architectural display. Greek models, suggested by the immediate presence of the Parthenon, were confirmed by a tradition in favor of Greek architecture which has always prevailed in the Southern States. Present variations from the classic are in keeping with this tradition; and since all the exteriors are white, the entire effect is eminently chaste and reposeful. Built by local artists in accordance with local tastes, this White City is essentially a home production. A generous half of its charm is due to the pure skies, the encircling hills, the luxuriant blue grass, the maples and oaks, and thousands of roses, which associate with the art work of man the bewitchments of nature, and are modestly claimed by Tennesseeans to surpass sky and water, trees and flowers, wherever else they may be found.

Marks White Handly.

DAYS TO COME.

A LONG, grim corridor; a sullen bar
Of light athwart the pavement, where no fleet
Pale sunshine spreads for dark her winding-sheet.
A light not born of noon or placid star
Glows lurid through the gloom, while from afar
Beats marching of innumerable feet.
Is this the place where tragic armies meet?
The throb of terror that presages war?
I strain to see; then softly on my sight
There falls the vision: manifold they come—
White, listless Day chained to her brother Night;
Their hands are shackled and their lips are dumb,
And as they meet the air where each one dies
They turn and smile at me with weary eyes.

Helen Hay.