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AUSTIN

Yesterday and Today

Compliments of
The American National Bank



AUSTIN YESTERDAY AND TODAY

A GLANCE AT HER HISTORY
A WORD ABOUT HER ENTERPRISES
A DESCRIPTION *of* HER BIG BANKING
ESTABLISHMENT

By PEARL CASHELL JACKSON

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AUSTIN ABOUT 1839 OR 1841.

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□ AUSTIN OF YESTERDAY □



IN the Lamar papers in the State Library there is a reference to three colored sketches of Austin in 1839, made by one Sandusky, a surveyor and draughtsman, and the frontispiece of this booklet is supposed to be one of the original sketches. There is no way to verify this, as the picture was not signed nor dated. Be that as it may, this picture was owned by Mrs. Burchard, later Mrs. Pierce, who lived in Austin in 1848, on the spot where the Air Dome now stands, and, according to verification by the oldest inhabitants, this picture must have been made between the years of 1839 and 1841. It was taken from President's Hill, where now stands St. Mary's Academy. It shows the Capitol of the Republic, the Bullock Tavern, the Walsh blacksmith shop, George Hancock's store, Ham Metz father's store and their log cabin home adjoining, each facing the Avenue, Dutch John's bakery, etc., and is the earliest picture of Austin, so far as known, in existence. The picture was given to Mrs. Burchard by a surveyor who boarded with her. She gave it to her daughter, Fidelia, who married Capt. R. M. Potter, U. S. A., and they later went to New York, where Mrs. Potter died. This picture was with the effects she willed to her niece, Mrs. Fidelia Saunders of Houston, and was shipped to her.

The writer appreciated the value of this quaint old picture, and being deeply interested in Austin history, purchased it from Mrs. Saunders.



AUSTIN'S CELEBRATED DAM.

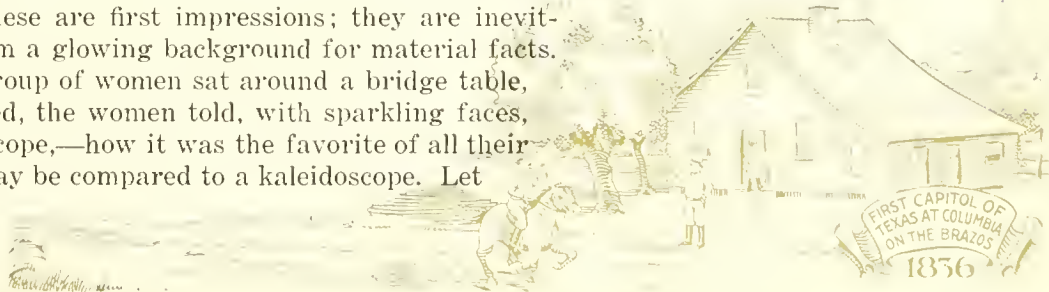
AUSTIN YESTERDAY AND TODAY



WHEN asked to write this article on Austin, as a background for the valuable old pictures that are to go with it, and as a fitting souvenir for distribution by the American National Bank on the celebration of its Twenty-fifth Anniversary, I felt it would be easy to say something obvious about this interesting home city of mine, which has played such an active part in the romantic, commercial, and historical drama of the most interesting State in the Union. But to express the sober truth of these impressions, when one is imbued with the spirit of the place through familiarity, is difficult.

A story is told of Poussin, the French painter, that when he was asked why he would not stay in Venice, he replied, "If I stay here, I shall become a colourist." In a lesser degree the same thing may be said of Austin. The sunsets emblazoned in gold and crimson; the violet domes, the irregularly roofed houses etched against the orange of a western sky; the moonlight silvering breeze-rippled breaths of purest ozone; the distant trees shimmering in sun-lit haze; the voices of happy-hearted students as the college yells echo from the hills; our Capitol halls where men play the ever-interesting political game; social life so alluring and seductive when people have a noticeable alertness and independence of mind which Edwin Markham says is found in people of pioneer heredity; all this and more belong to the City nestling in the green-rimmed cup of the Colorado hills. These are first impressions; they are inevitable. They abide and form a glowing background for material facts.

A few days since, a group of women sat around a bridge table, and as conversation drifted, the women told, with sparkling faces, of the joys of the kaleidoscope,—how it was the favorite of all their childhood toys. History may be compared to a kaleidoscope. Let

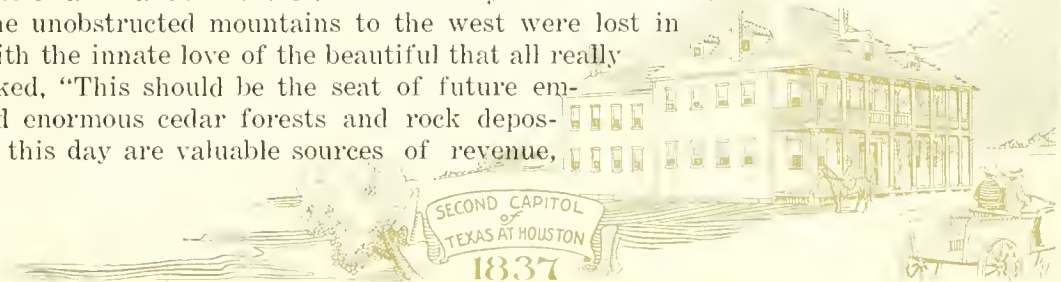




A SCENE ON LAKE AUSTIN.

me raise the wonder-working tube, allow the fragments to settle as they will, and with words attempt to render something of the patterns I behold.

Nearly four score years ago, in 1838, a little more than six years before Texas became a State, Vice President Lamar, weary of official life, came to the upper Colorado on a buffalo hunt. At old Fort Prairie, six miles below here, he secured an escort of six rangers. Jacob Harrell was then the only white frontier settler where Austin is now located, and no white man lived on the river above him, though Reuben Hornsby was already living eight miles below the city. Harrell's cabin and blockade were at the mouth of Shoal Creek, near the old river ford. There Lamar, Fontaine, his private secretary, and his ranger escort spent the night. The next morning early, the young son of Harrell awakened them, telling them the prairie was covered with buffalo. When the successful hunters gathered on the ground now occupied by the Capitol building, they were irresistably attracted by the picture before them. From the clustering hills on the northwest the Colorado River meandered on its four hundred and seventy-two mile trip to the Gulf (McKinstry's "Colorado Navigator"). East and north the country was slightly rolling and the soil very rich, while to the southeast were the fertile river lands which are now among the most valuable farm lands in the State. The valley below them was covered with wild rye; the unobstructed mountains to the west were lost in purplish haze. Lamar, with the innate love of the beautiful that all really great people have, remarked, "This should be the seat of future empire." Nature had placed enormous cedar forests and rock deposits near at hand which to this day are valuable sources of revenue,





THE STATE CAPITOL AT AUSTIN.

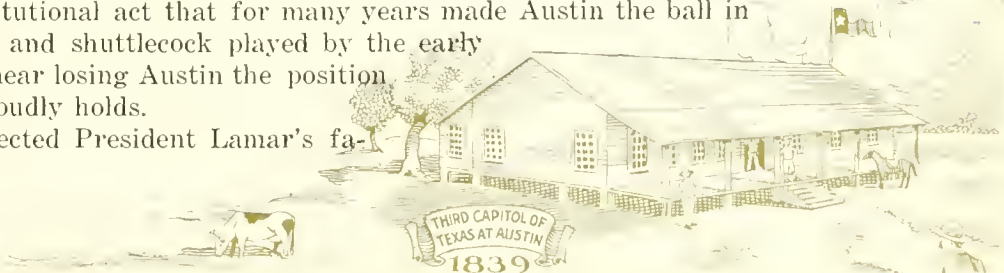
and which then would make the building of a town possible. As early as 1838 Ed Bureson located a town at the present site and called it Waterloo.

In 1839, Lamar, as President, approved the Act of Congress of January 16th, 1839, which provided for commissioners to select a site for the capital. He instructed them to go to Jake Harrell's cabin on the Colorado and look carefully at that location. Lamar's admiration for this particular spot no doubt influenced the commissioners in its selection. This same Act of Congress, in Section 2, said, "Be it further enacted that the name of said site shall be the City of Austin." This was proposed by Thomas J. Hardeman, one of the members of the Texas Congress.

The first section of the Act requires that the site for the capital "should be selected at some point between the rivers Trinidad and Colorado, and above the San Antonio Road." That Camino Real or San Antonio Road was then a celebrated trail. It started from a Mission Church on the Rio Grande and had been traveled for over a hundred years by Mission priests in their visitations to the Missions of Eastern Texas near Nacogdoches, Missions that were later permanently rebuilt near San Antonio and rechristened San Jose, Concepcion, and San Juan, and this band passed through and visited the Missions on the San Gabriel until after the priests were massacred by the Indians.

That old San Antonio Road crossed the Colorado eighteen miles below Austin. It was this technicality in the Constitutional act that for many years made Austin the ball in the lively game of battledore and shuttlecock played by the early statesmen and which came so near losing Austin the position of capital, which it now so proudly holds.

The third commission selected President Lamar's fa-



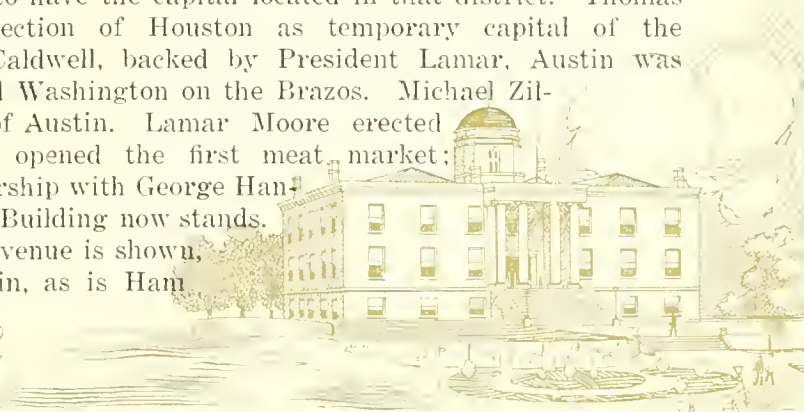


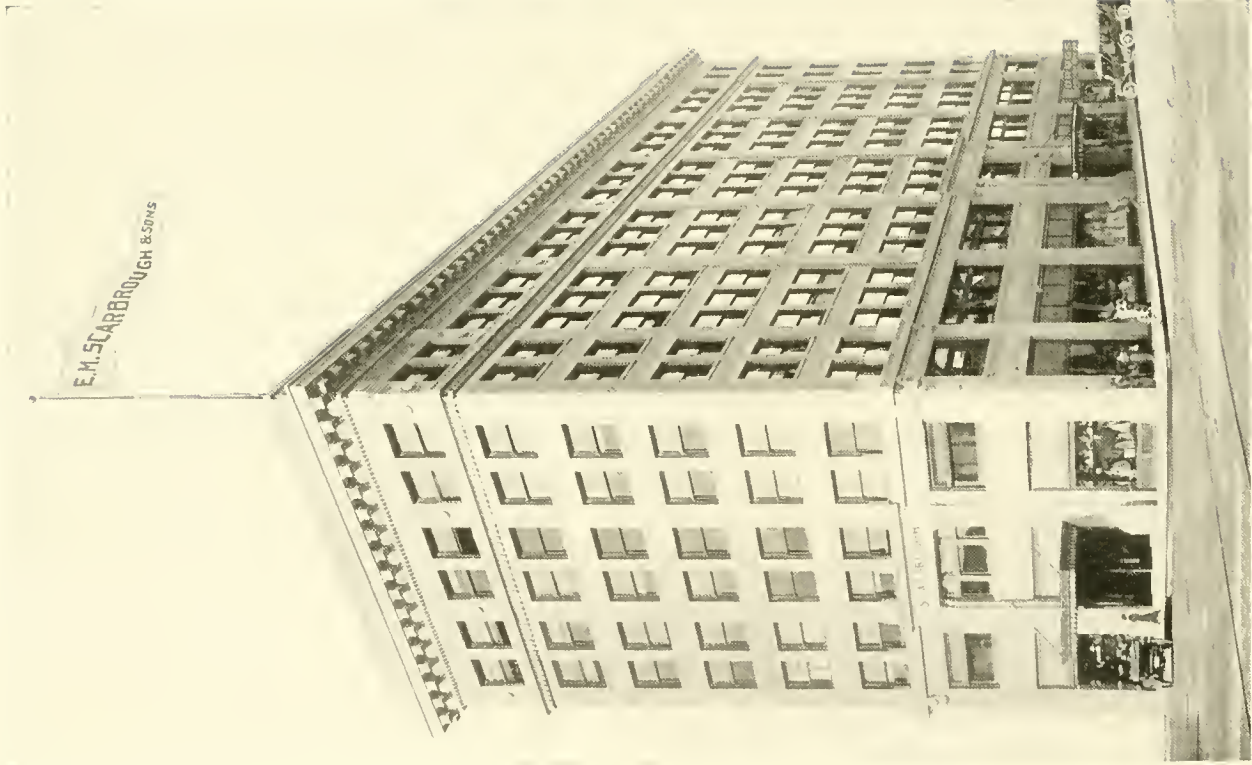
THE TERRY RANGERS MONUMENT.

The remaining members of this brave regiment meet each year in Austin as the guests of their loyal comrade, Major Geo. W. Littlefield.

vorite site and surveyed one mile square, laying it off in blocks and lots, between Shoal and Waller Creeks, and designated locations for public buildings. The first sale of lots occurred August 11, 1839. Three hundred and sixty-five were sold at that time at an average of six hundred dollars per lot.

Edwin Waller, protected by a company of armed citizens, began in Austin the work of building houses for the use of the Republic of Texas in May, 1839, and though no lumber mill had been established to furnish plank, houses had been built by October, 1839, in which forty wagon-loads of archives, books, papers, and furniture of the Republic were stored. Their report was made to Congress April 13th, 1839, and so rapidly was the work pushed that in October, 1839, houses for most of the departments of government had been erected. The United States census in 1850 gave Austin a population of six hundred and thirty-nine. The slow growth was caused by its location on the extreme edge of Texas civilization, the Mexican and Indian raids, and the continual fight by the eastern faction of the State to have the capital located in that district. Thomas J. Rusk and Sam Houston influenced the selection of Houston as temporary capital of the State, but thanks to Ed Burleson and John Caldwell, backed by President Lamar, Austin was again chosen in preference to Houston or old Washington on the Brazos. Michael Zil-ler erected the first stone building in the city of Austin. Lamar Moore erected the first brick building. Dietrich and Horst opened the first meat market; later Dietrich sold out and went into partnership with George Hancock, whose store stood where the Scarbrough Building now stands. Dutch John's bakery, on the east side of the Avenue is shown, with its blockade, in the old picture of Austin, as is Ham



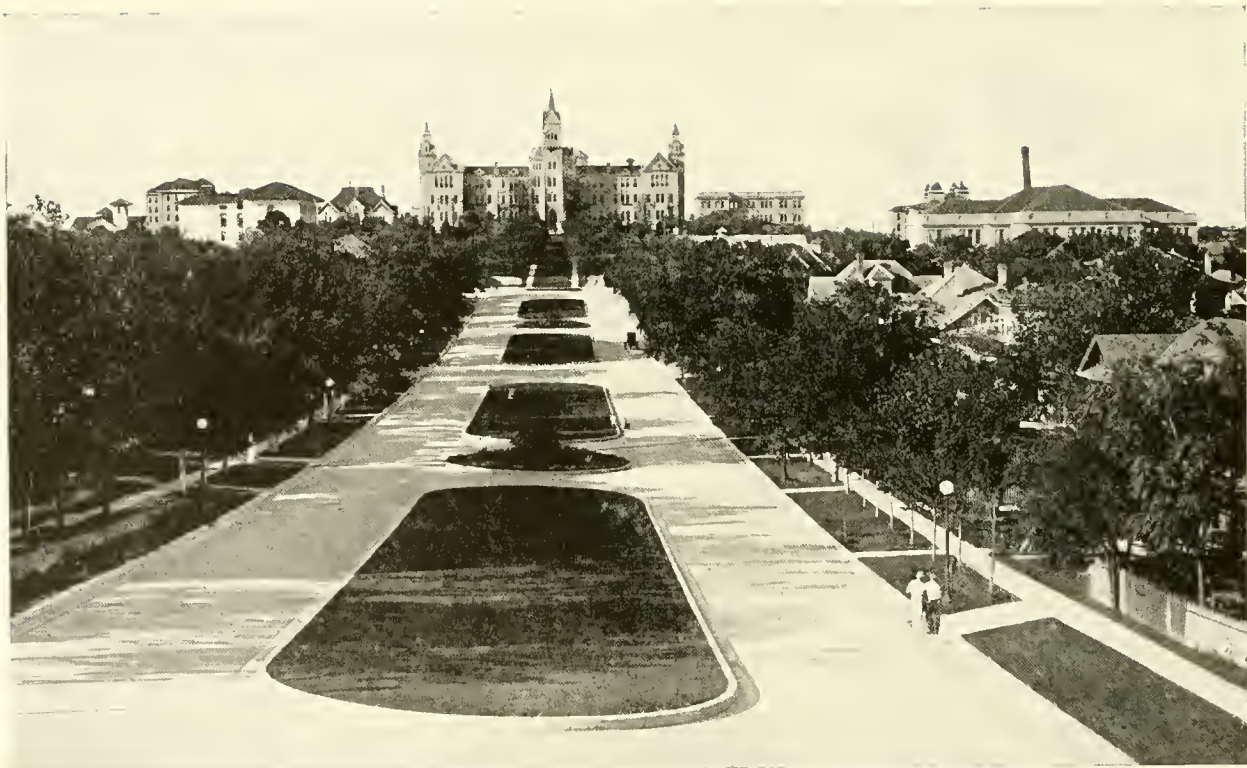


SCARBROUGH & SONS—AUSTIN'S BIG DEPARTMENT STORE.

Metz's father's store on the right hand side of the Avenue, and a small house where the family lived. The houses of that time were generally built of hewn logs, being double log houses with a passage between. The planks for building were sawed into pine logs, were squared with a broad-axe, and then placed on a scaffold. Mr. J. W. Darlington, now past ninety, assisted in hauling the planks to Austin. He now lives in Austin, and so far as I know is the only one of that day now alive. All of the public buildings were covered with split boards rived by hand with a froe. A double log house with a passage between was built on the east side of the Avenue at the intersection with Eighth Street, about fifteen paces from Congress Avenue. There Lamar, Houston and Anson Jones, as Presidents, had their business offices. There Houston received Monsieur de Saligny, the Minister of France to Texas, and there Governors Wood, Bell, and Pease had their offices until 1855.

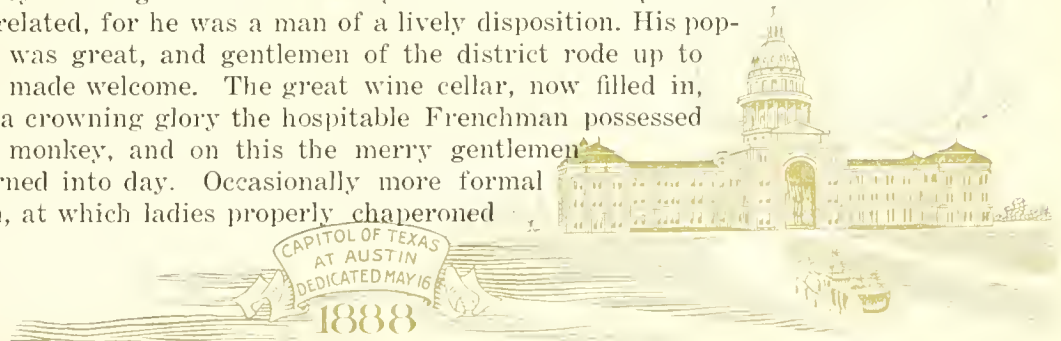
Probably the most pretentious mansion of those early days was built by Monsieur de Saligny when he came from France to fill his important post as Minister to the Republic of Texas. The house this Frenchman built is in a wonderful state of preservation, and is now occupied by Miss Lillie Robertson, a loyal daughter of the Texas Republic. The site was away from the settlement, on a hill overlooking Austin, now known as Robertson Hill. This gay young bachelor, younger son and later Count Saligny, prudently brought with him from France doors, hinges, locks, and other building material. These doors and other things remain intact after all the years. The doors are quaint French paneled designs, all double, and swung on huge serpentine-shaped hinges. The locks are a foot in diameter and possessed of solid brass knobs. He designed a double house, with a double hall in the center, using this as a din-





UNIVERSITY AVENUE—ONE OF THE PRETTIEST STREETS IN THE SOUTH.

ing hall. Two rooms were arranged on either side of the hall, each having a great open fireplace, with natural stone hearths and great mantels of colonial white finish, all of delicate detail and workmanship. A rather narrow colonial stairway extended from the hall to a platform crossing the hall at the rear, and ascended from this to a large attic above, lighted by dormer windows and used as quarters for his servants. One of the dormer windows lighted the stairway and hall at the rear. Beneath this substantial home the French Consul caused to be made a great wine cellar and stocked it well. The hall was not plastered, nor was it papered, but faced with hand-dressed matched boards painted white. A great porch with square pillars extended along the front, these square pillars being grouped oddly, as twins, and connected by a curious old trellis work similar to modern lattice, but with strips two feet apart. Across the upper part of the porch was a railing bearing the words, "Legation of France," and this alone has been changed. With this exception the house is as Saligny left it, though additions have been made in the rear and the building has been repainted, as nearly as possible in the chocolate and white affected by this French resident of old. There are quaint closets, wide of panel and white of finish, that were built into the house by the original owner. Many tales of the merry entertainments of the French Consul are related, for he was a man of a lively disposition. His popularity in the community was great, and gentlemen of the district rode up to his home nightly and were made welcome. The great wine cellar, now filled in, made itself useful, and as a crowning glory the hospitable Frenchman possessed a hand organ, minus the monkey, and on this the merry gentlemen would play until night turned into day. Occasionally more formal entertainments were given, at which ladies properly chaperoned





THE SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL.

were among the guests. A frame building, near where St. Mary's Academy now stands, served for the President's Mansion. The heads of the departments were compelled to put up with log cabins. the Capitol of the Republic was a two-roomed log house with a hall between, the west side divided and subdivided into committee rooms, with porches back and front, and stood where our City Hall now stands. The principal hotel was the old Bullock Tavern, where Van Smith's Drug Store now is. The first church was a Methodist, and the first preacher was Reverend John Haynie. The Austin Gazette appeared on October 30th, 1830, bearing the name of S. Whiting as publisher.

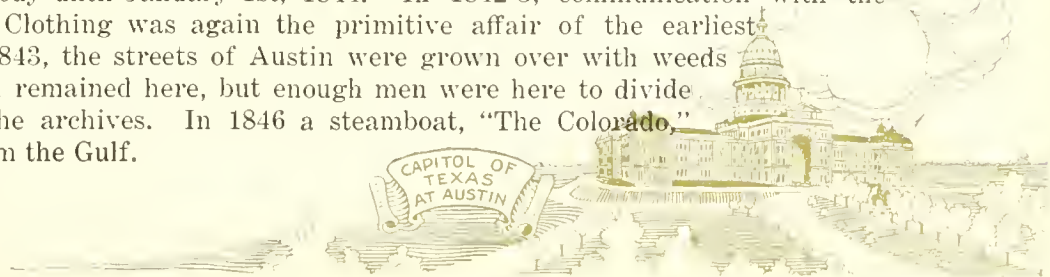
On the 17th of October, 1839, President Lamar and his cabinet reached Austin with a cavalcade, at the head of which were Albert Sidney Johnston and Ed Burleson. There was great rejoicing in the small village when a bugle heralded their approach. The presidential party was welcomed by a salute of twenty-one guns. That night they were royally entertained at the famous old Bullock Hotel, kept then by Mrs. Ebberly, who afterwards became Mrs. Bullock, and who played such a conspicuous part in the early history of Austin. At that supper, where Hon. Edwin Waller made the address of welcome, many toasts were drunk; among them were, "Sam Houston and San Jacinto; they will be remembered as long as Texas possesses a single freeman;" "General Albert Sidney Johnston: A scholar, a soldier and gentleman—the highest qualities a man may possess;" "The memory of Stephen F. Austin: Whatever may be the pretense of others to the paternity of Texas, we recognize him alone as the Father of this Republic." General Houston was a member of the first Congress





THE NEW GAITY THEATER—THE PROPERTY OF THE NALLE ESTATE.

that met in Austin, and did not conceal his objection to the capital remaining here, though after his election the second time as President he stayed in Austin with the heads of the departments until after San Antonio was captured, in March, 1842. At that time there was not a house between Austin and San Antonio. It was at this lawless time that President Houston called Congress to meet at Washington, on the Brazos, where it continued to meet until 1845, without access to the archives, which citizens of Austin flatly refused to give up. President Houston, however, sent Captain Thomas Smith to try to secretly remove the records to Washington. Smith reached Austin at midnight, December 30th, 1842, and was first discovered by Mrs. Ebberly while he was loading his wagons in the alley west of the old Hancock store (alley back of Griffith's Drug Store). To arouse the citizens Mrs. Ebberly went quickly to where a six-pound cannon loaded with grape stood on Congress Avenue, and fired it at the Land Office, where other wagons were being loaded with archives. Captain Smith hastily retreated, but was overtaken early the next morning by the infuriated citizens, who had followed with their cannon, one of the "Twin Sisters." The archives were retaken at Kinney's Ford, on Brushy Creek, and when brought back were sealed in tin cans and placed in the custody of Mrs. Ebberly. After that they were kept under guard in an old log store on the Avenue. Still later, they were buried and not restored to lawful custody until January 1st, 1844. In 1842-3, communication with the coast towns was cut off. Clothing was again the primitive affair of the earliest times. It is said that in 1843, the streets of Austin were grown over with weeds and that only three women remained here, but enough men were here to divide the Republic and retain the archives. In 1846 a steamboat, "The Colorado," made its way to Austin from the Gulf.





THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY—ONE OF THE BEST PIECES OF ARCHITECTURE IN TEXAS.

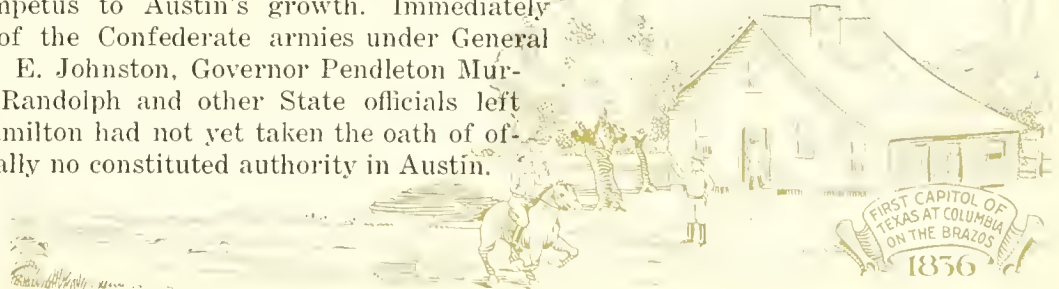


N 1846, during the Mexican War, the government established a military post in Austin. The army officers added very much to the pioneer life of the town. The inhabitants at that time were mostly soldiers of fortune, lawyers, army people, and gamblers. The wholesale issue of bogus land certificates offered a fertile field for legal talent, and attracted many brainy men from the older States. The United States arsenal stood where Palm School is now.

When the last President of the Republic, Anson Jones, standing in front of the capitol, after making his farewell address, lowered the Lone Star flag and said, "The Republic of Texas is no more," strong men wept, but as many of the early Austinites were born under the National flag, the Stars and Stripes received a hearty welcome.

In 1850 the location of the capital became a sectional question. It was to the energy of the people of Austin and El Paso that Austin remained, and later by vote of the State it was made the permanent capital.

During the administration of Governor Pease, the State received a vast Indian claim from the United States government. With splendid taste and judgment, Governor Pease had the old capitol finished. The Governor's Mansion and eleemosynary institutions were built, and in various ways gave impetus to Austin's growth. Immediately following the surrender of the Confederate armies under General Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston, Governor Pendleton Murrah and State Treasurer Randolph and other State officials left for Mexico. Governor Hamilton had not yet taken the oath of office, and there was practically no constituted authority in Austin.

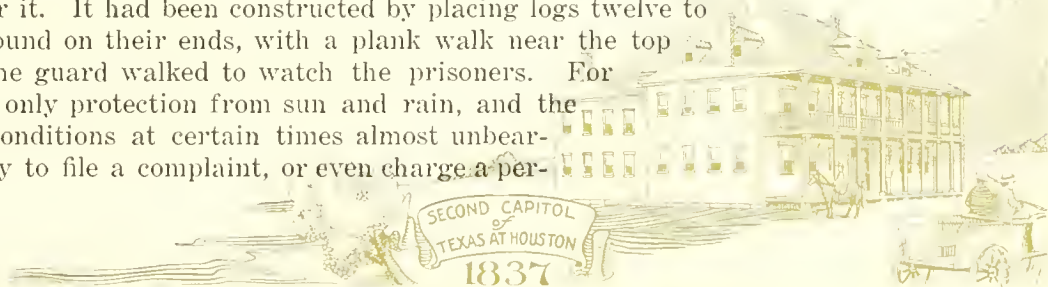




THE BRIDGE—CROSSING THE COLORADO AT AUSTIN.

Bold, open, daylight robberies and incendiary fires took place daily. Forty or fifty ex-Confederates organized themselves to protect property and prevent lawlessness. The temporary armory for this band was on the second floor of the Dietrich building, which stood at the corner of Sixth and Congress Avenue, where Raatz & O'Reilly's store was. On the night of the 11th of June, 1865, which was one of notably bright moonlight, Colonel John C. Walker was notified by General N. G. Shelley that robbers were at work. The Land Office was in a two-story building northeast of the old capitol which was burned in 1881. Nineteen men volunteered to move on the robbers, thirty or forty in number, who were in possession of the treasury building. The robbers fled at the approach of the men, taking with them about seventeen thousand dollars. They were traced by gold pieces nearly as far as Fiskville. The citizens were notified of the robbery by the ringing of the bell of the Baptist church, which stood at the corner of Tenth and Colorado Streets, and is even now being replaced by a modern church building.

During reconstruction days, as this period was called, when the military was in charge at Austin, there was constructed what was known as the Bull Pen, in which persons arrested by the soldiers were confined. The Bull Pen was located near the road leading to the dam. It was circular in form and about one hundred and fifty feet in diameter, with no covering over it. It had been constructed by placing logs twelve to fifteen feet long in the ground on their ends, with a plank walk near the top on the outside on which the guard walked to watch the prisoners. For these small tents were the only protection from sun and rain, and the clayey, sticky soil made conditions at certain times almost unbearable. It was not necessary to file a complaint, or even charge a per-





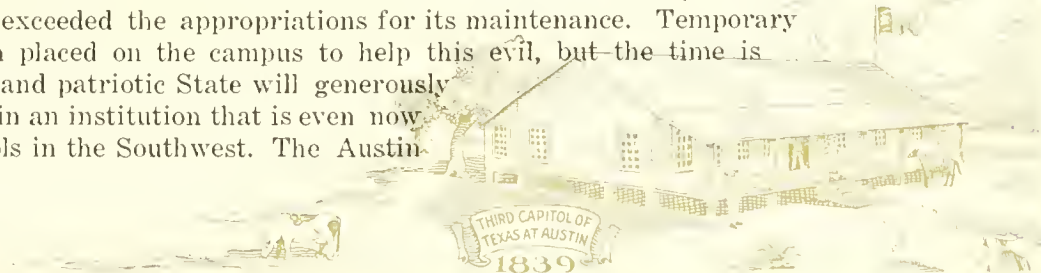
AUSTIN'S NEW POSTOFFICE.

son with an offense to have him placed in that most uncomfortable spot. The tyranny and oppression of the military in those trying times was almost beyond human endurance.

Austin is preeminently an educational center, and from its earliest days has been the magnet that attracted people with literary tendencies. At one time the winsome Amelia Barr lived, wrote, and taught school in Austin. Here O. Henry (Will Porter) spent many years of his young manhood,—here he danced and flirted, here he wooed and won sweet Athol Estes. Here brilliant Harry Steger was the idol of his boon companions; and had death not cut off his career, many think he would have become the most brilliant figure among Austin's literati. Austin was the birthplace of Betty Paschal, the charming wife of the Irish patriot, T. P. O'Connor. Elizabeth Ney, after traveling nearly around the world, built her home in the bluebonnet fields of Austin's suburbs.

Many of the men and women who have helped to make Washington, D. C., the social as well as the political center of the Union have been Austin people.

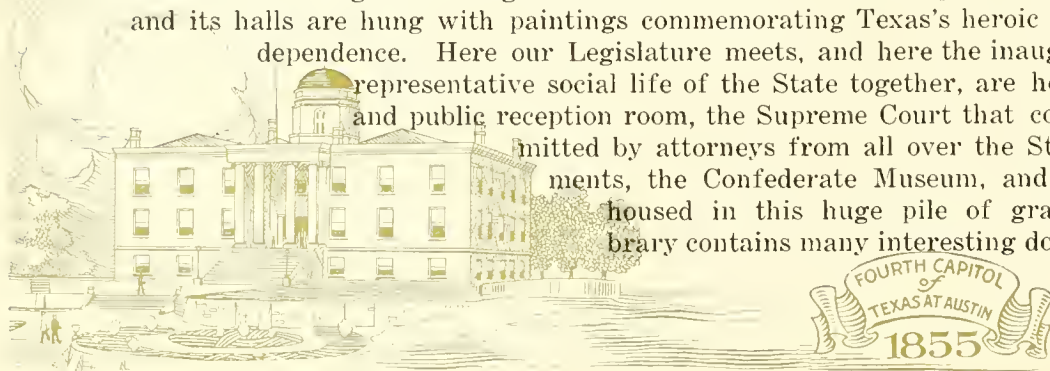
The State University, at the head of the public school system of the State, is located here, and is the greatest gift Texas has to offer to her sons and daughters. The buildings are located on a tract of forty acres about three-fourths of a mile directly north of the capitol and facing one of the prettiest bits of avenue in the South. The needs of the University called forth by its rapid growth have exceeded the appropriations for its maintenance. Temporary frame buildings have been placed on the campus to help this evil, but the time is near at hand when a loyal and patriotic State will generously give to upbuild and maintain an institution that is even now at the head of all the schools in the Southwest. The Austin



High School and a splendid system of ward schools, St. Mary's Academy for girls, St. Edward's College for boys, the excellent preparatory schools,—Whitis, Kenilworth and Kelley, the Theological Schools and the University Bible Chair, all endeavor to keep pace with the desire for education in Austin.

The City Hospital, the Austin Sanitarium, and Seton Infirmary all help to care for the sick not only in Austin but in the surrounding country. Austin has one of the lowest death rates in the State owing to her natural drainage and the dry, invigorating atmosphere. The State Lunatic Asylum, with its two thousand patients, has the lowest death rate in the world for an institution of its size.

Among the chief attractions of the city is the great granite Capitol, built of the celebrated Texas granite from near Llano. The building, approximating a Greek cross in outline, with a grand dome rising directly over the intersection of the main corridors, is second only to the capitol of New York in construction, second in size to that of the nation at Washington, and it is the seventh largest building in the world. It has beautiful grounds set with historical statues, and its halls are hung with paintings commemorating Texas's heroic daring and struggle for independence. Here our Legislature meets, and here the inaugural balls, which bring the representative social life of the State together, are held. The Governor's office and public reception room, the Supreme Court that considers the questions submitted by attorneys from all over the State, various State departments, the Confederate Museum, and the State Library are all housed in this huge pile of granite. The Texas State Library contains many interesting documents besides the books.



In the carefully guarded receptacles are the worm-eaten treaties drawn up between Texas and other nations. The one with England is signed by Queen Victoria; the one with Holland bears the bold signature of Willem. These treaties are velvet-bound and silver-clasped. Here are the time-stained Lamar papers, where many items of early history are found. Here can be found the record of the loan the Republic failed to get from France, all because the Bullock pigs insisted on eating Monsieur Saligny's horses' corn. The quarrel between the landlord and the groom extended to the French Consul and the President, and led directly to the recall of Monsieur de Saligny. The State Library is rich in history and romance, and the well-trained librarians make research a pleasure.

The most important happening in Austin's history was the change to the Commission form of government. Austin's progress under the Commission has been phenomenal. Austin's manufacturing and wholesale interests are materially increasing from year to year. The railroad facilities have increased correspondingly. The wholesale trade for a radius of a hundred miles is an important factor in the city's commercial prosperity.

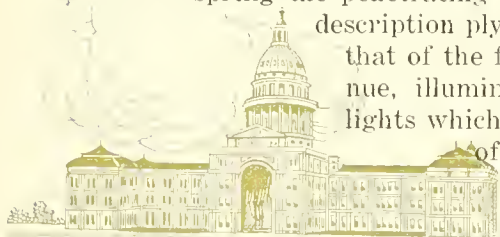
In 1840 the Mormon settlers, who had located at Webberville, took the contract for the first jail in Austin. They chose the present site of the dam as their abiding place, and here they built Texas' first mill. Up to that time the corn was ground on the old steel mills by hand. It was these same Mormons who first manufactured the white chairs from hackberry wood, which are even now sought for as relics of pioneer Texas. Wash-out after washout demolished their plant, for, as we learned in 1900, the old Colorado and the water sprites who live between the hills above the dam are not to be defied.



ON April 7th, 1900, the great dam, which was the pride of Austin and the admiration of the engineering world, gave way, but the indomitable energy of Austin's people prevailed and the recuperation was phenomenal. The new dam is now finished,—1915. Correcting by experience the weaknesses of the former structure, the new dam, constructed with brawn and brain, now is imbedded in the heart of the hills and the granite structure has already stood several severe tests as the raging water pushed against the powerful bulwark. The facilities this enormous water power will give in generating electricity will give Austin the cheapest power in the State, and it is probable that transmission lines will be installed to carry electricity all over the surrounding country.

The lake above the dam will again be, as it was before, the playground of Texas, as well as a Mecca for the tourists from the ice-gripped North. The banks will be lined with merry campers, beautiful homes, and enticing hotels and club houses.

This great dam forms a lake thirty miles in length, and a little more than a quarter of a mile wide. On each side the rugged cliffs are thickly covered with evergreen trees, and in the spring the penetrating odor of the purple mountain laurel pervades the air. Boats of every description ply back and forth, and many say the scenery is more picturesque than that of the famed Hudson. Austin now has many paved streets. Congress Avenue, illuminated at night by its diamond-shaped frames, holding bright-hued lights which supplement the other lights on the street railway poles in the center of the street, the well-lighted University campus, the glowing lamps of the principal streets, and overhead the spectacular towers which can be seen for many miles, make Austin a city of light.



CAPITOL OF TEXAS
AT AUSTIN
DEDICATED MAY 16
1888



AUSTIN is just getting ready to enjoy the greatest prosperity in her history. The Colorado bridge, modeled after the one at Des Moines, Iowa, cost \$210,000. It is built of concrete and is nearly a thousand feet long and about fifty feet wide. There are walks on each side for pedestrians, and it is beautifully lighted with cluster lamps.

The Austin Volunteer Fire Department must have its meed of praise. So efficient is the service of this patriotic band of men and their up-to-the-minute apparatus that the fire rate in Austin is unusually low.

It is in the fertile valley below town that the largest spinach farm in the United States is located. It covers nearly one thousand acres, employs a small army of Mexicans, and ships ten carloads of spinach daily during the winter. Another unique industry is the huge turkey-shipping plant. Here, before the holidays, turkeys were killed by the thousands and shipped to eastern markets.

The splendid new \$250,000 post office at West Sixth and Lavaca Streets is a study in architectural fitness.

The new post road now under way, which will link Austin and San Antonio, will be of inestimable benefit from a financial as well as from a social standpoint. The enterprising merchants in every department of trade cater to the tastes of every class of society. The banks of Austin have always been the cornerstone of its commercial prosperity, and at present their condition is more stable and prosperous than ever before, notwithstanding the terrible strain brought on by the European war, and the delay in

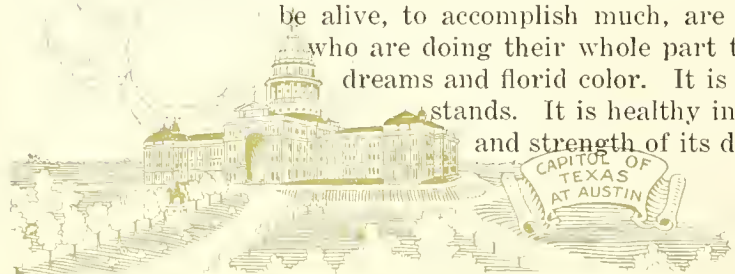


marketing the enormous cotton crop of 1914. The men who direct Austin's banks are at the head of all advancement, not only for Austin but for the State. For the last turn of the kaleidoscope I can not do better than show an extract from the National Printer-Journalist, published in Chicago:

"Austin is in the heart of Texas. It is the almost equi-distant point for all sections. Here have been bound together the interests of El Paso and of Texarkana; those of Orange and the Panhandle. Here is the river which holds together a State larger than all New England. As the young folks seek this center of the educational system of the State Austin breathes into them the spirit of the whole of Texas, for which it stands. The ideals and the sentiment and the broad-mindedness of the Southwest are well preserved; the common history consecrated in the mind of a people.

"Romance is not lost, and imagination has its play. High hills, high thoughts; such beauty, such landscapes, such atmosphere, help in the compassing of nature's lessons; give breadth of view and strength of will. The mountains fairly breathe the legends of old Indian days. The record of heroes and the glories of Texas history seem to have been wrought into the walls and towers and domes and structures which stand for statehood and advancement.

"Such as it is and as it promises to be, as the city progressing according to the substantial growth of all Texas, it seems as much to individualize the charms which appear to have so gripped its people and influenced their lives. Those fundamental things which make it so pleasant to be alive, to accomplish much, are here. Discovered, they have brought the people who are doing their whole part to meet the standards set. This is not a city of dreams and florid color. It is one of firm foundation like the rock on which it stands. It is healthy in every organ and just now coming into full power and strength of its development."

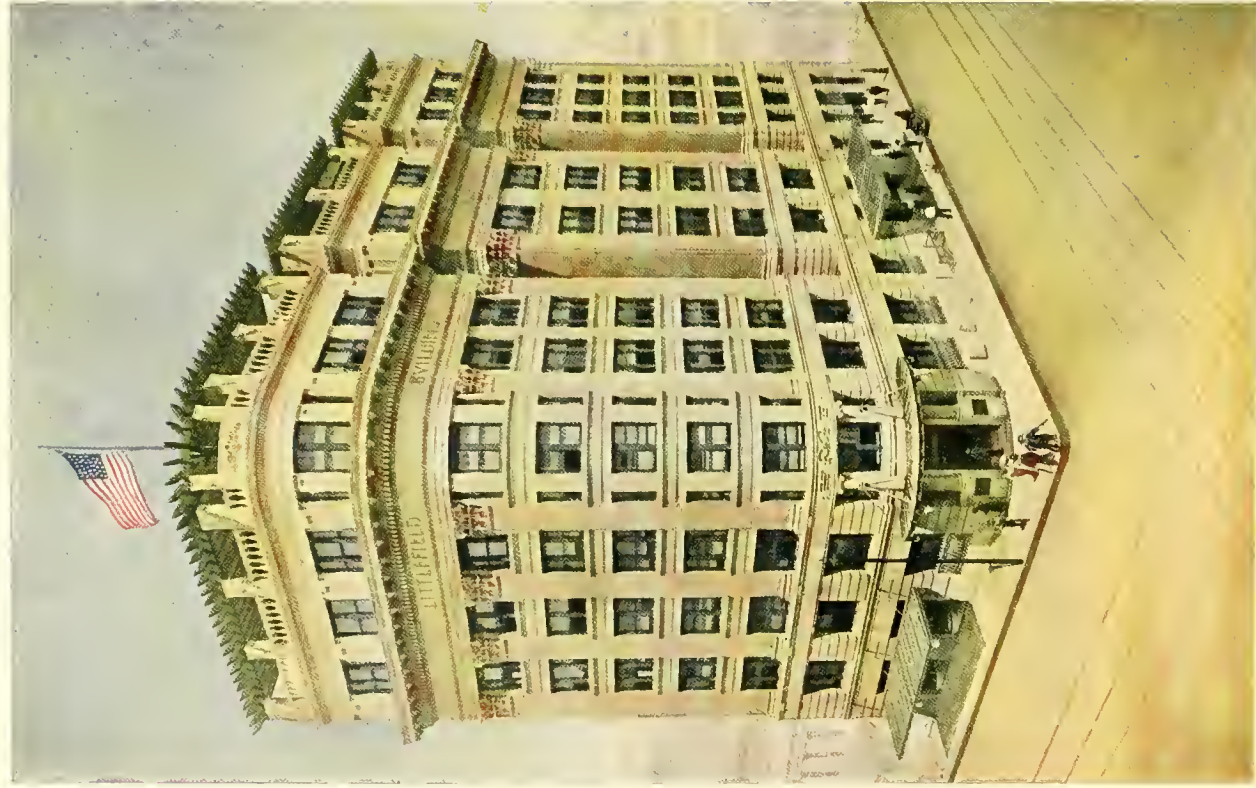




ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Besides the usual channels which are at the disposal of a writer of a historical sketch, and of which I have not failed to avail myself, I am deeply indebted to the late Judge A. W. Terrell, Drs. Eugene Barker and Killis Campbell of the State University, Mr. E. W. Winkler, State Librarian, and Mr. Darlington of Austin; also to Mesdames Jas. H. Raymond, Mrs. A. J. (Jack) Hamilton, and Mrs. Jas. P. Hart, for verification and interest displayed.

P. C. J.



THE LITTLEFIELD BUILDING.
The Home of the American National Bank.

▣ THE LITTLEFIELD BUILDING ▣



HE huge sky scraper at the corner of Congress Avenue and East Sixth Street is classic in outline and an up-to-date office building from basement to roof garden, which is even now being replaced by two more stories to accommodate men who want spacious, effective, and ornate offices.

The massive steel frame of the building is filled in with brick; the trimmings are of terra cotta and gray granite from the Llano quarries. It is fireproof and splendidly ventilated.

Two sixteen-passenger elevators carry people back and forth from the main corridor, which faces East Sixth Street. The wainscoting of this corridor is of Pavonazzi marble, in frames of verdi antique, from Vermont.

The corridors are tile floored, and the general trim of the interior of the building is Tennessee pink marble. The toilet rooms are finished in Italian white marble and French beveled mirrors. The basement is in Mission and contains a grill room and restaurant. The entire Littlefield building is synonymous with the aspirations and ambitions of "Austin of Today."



MAJ. GEO. W. LITTLEFIELD,
President The American National Bank.



THE AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK

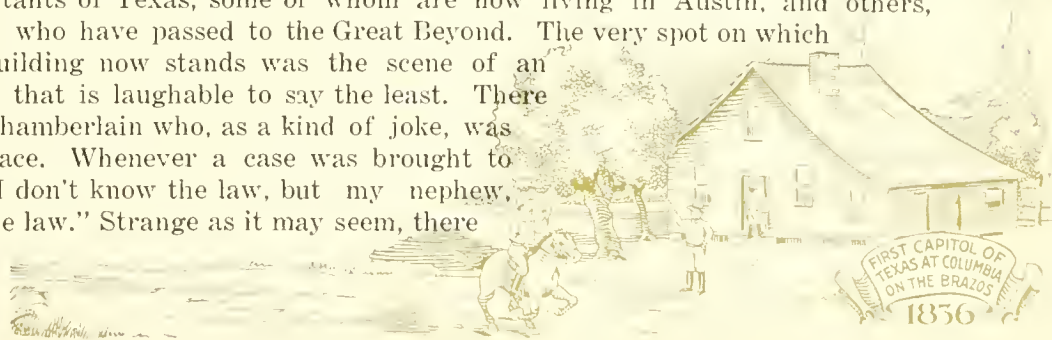


N presenting "Austin, Yesterday and Today," to the patrons of The American National Bank, the Directors of this bank feel they are fulfilling another part of their obligation to the Capital City of Texas, of which the American National Bank has become a part of the warp and woof. This bank is composed of Texas men, men whose money was made and a great part of it spent in Texas; men whose interests are for Texas first, last and all the time.

This bank has reached a respectable age as things go in this country of rapid development, and takes pleasure in celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversary with this historical souvenir.

Dr. David F. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture, once said, "The South has seemed to be content to make history and to have a certain contempt for recording her deeds, for accumulating her material, and for interpreting them to the world." Austin has reached the stage in her development that will appreciate her historical background as a setting for a future greatness.

A great part of "Austin, Yesterday and Today," is compiled,—scraps taken from historical papers, dusty newspaper files, and Texas history, but all verified as far as possible for the writer by the oldest living inhabitants of Texas, some of whom are now living in Austin, and others, friends of childhood days, who have passed to the Great Beyond. The very spot on which the massive eight-story building now stands was the scene of an early bit of Texas history that is laughable to say the least. There was an old fellow named Chamberlain who, as a kind of joke, was elected Justice of the Peace. Whenever a case was brought to him he would say, "Wa'l, I don't know the law, but my nephew, Mr. Baker, will give you the law." Strange as it may seem, there





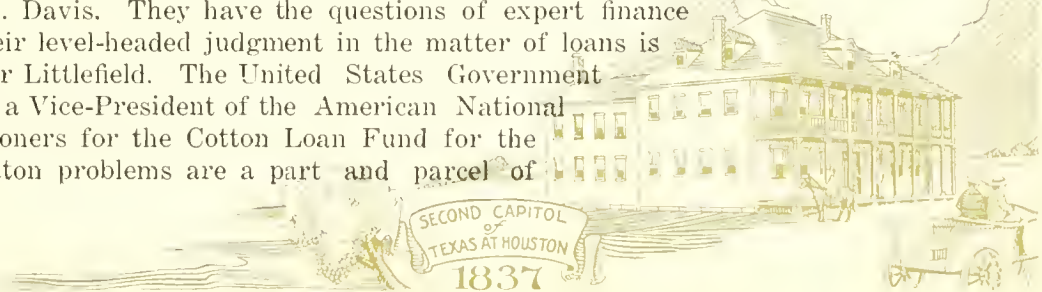
THE BRONZE DOORS.

was a tent containing a lot of flour just about where Deen's big grocery store now stands. One night two men made a raid, captured a barrel of flour, and started across town. The top of the barrel came out and they were tracked to where the Littlefield Building now stands. They were caught. One man claimed he was not accessory, as he had no use for the flour. Judge Chamberlain said, "My nephew, Mr. Baker, will give you the law." Big Foot Wallace was deputized to put the first offender under a peace bond, and the man who had no use for the flour was released.

The very spot where this typical office building of classic lines now stands,—Lot 1, in Block 69,—is part of the land granted to Michael Ziller by the Republic of Texas, and Major Littlefield's deed dates indirectly to 1852, when Pease was Governor of Texas.

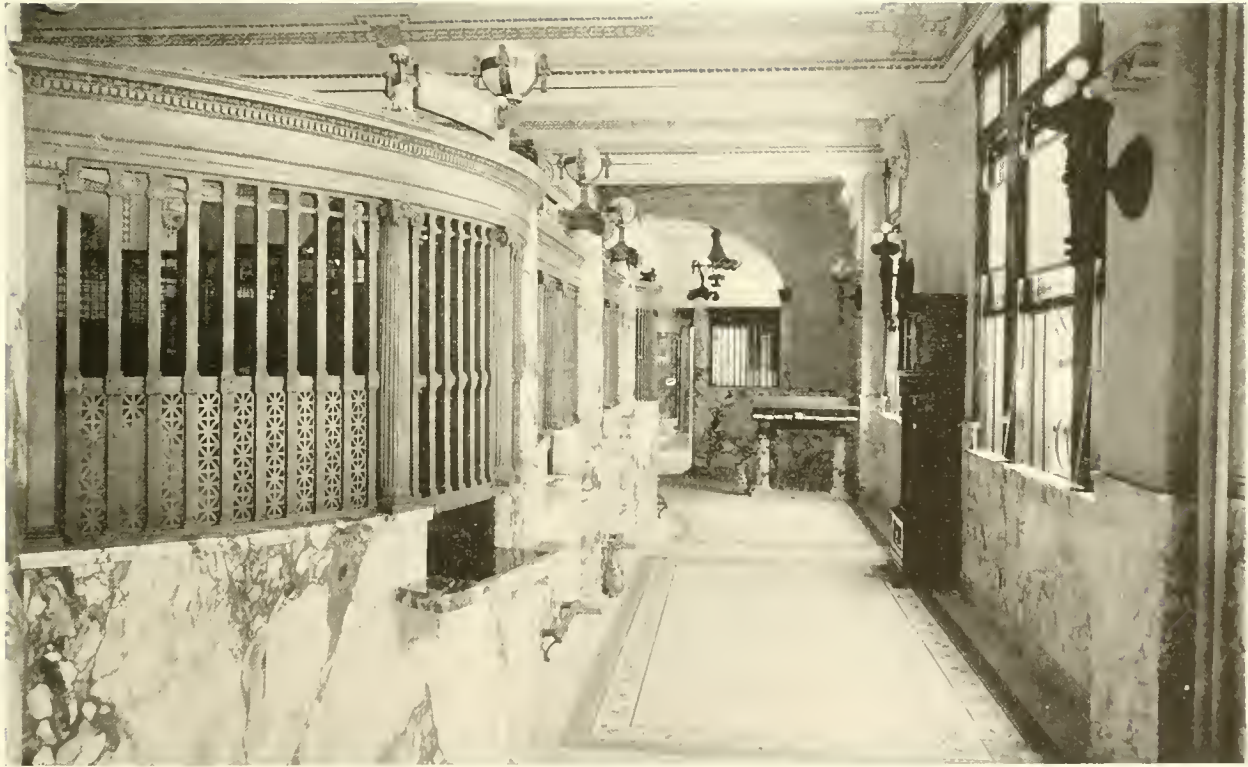
The minute description of the bank was given in an edition de luxe and presented to the citizens of Austin when the American National Bank moved into its commodious new home. Suffice it to say there is such a demand for space in this elegant building that, even now, two extra stories are being added to create more office room. The financial condition of the American National Bank is stronger than ever before. Major Littlefield has the Midas touch that turns everything to gold. His vast cattle and landed interests increase in value each year.

The three Vice-Presidents of this big banking house are Messrs. H. A. Wroe, R. C. Roberdeau, and T. H. Davis. They have the questions of expert finance at their finger tips, and their level-headed judgment in the matter of loans is of material service to Major Littlefield. The United States Government made no mistake in making a Vice-President of the American National Bank one of the Commissioners for the Cotton Loan Fund for the State of Texas because cotton problems are a part and parcel of





THE FRONT LOBBY.



THE SIDE LOBBY



H. A. WROE.
Vice President



R. C. ROBERDEAU.
Vice President.



THE AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK



money matters in Texas. The efficient Cashier, Mr. L. J. Schneider, is a self-made man and exemplifies the confidence that Major Littlefield believes in placing in young men's hands. Mr. Schneider has been with the bank for fifteen years.

Back of and behind the senior officers of the bank, Major Littlefield has the hearty co-operation of his big working force, among whom are some of the ablest men in Austin. These men are, in a great measure, the strength of this big financial enterprise. They display a loyalty and confidence in their routine work that is absolutely necessary in a bank of this magnitude.

The American National Bank's phenomenal growth indicates that the public mind has not lost sight of the solidity and safety of this bank, and a bank of this standing should appeal to a most discriminating public, with a capital of \$300,000, a surplus of \$600,000, and undivided profits of \$94,265.03. With resources that reach nearly \$6,000,000, this bank offers absolute security to its depositors.

In the last few years the number of depositors of this bank has grown to over ten thousand, which explains the continuous growth of the bank in influence and financial importance.





T. H. DAVIS,
Vice President.



L. J. SCHNEIDER,
Cashier.

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OFFICERS

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T. H. DAVIS,
VICE-PRESIDENT.

H. A. WROE,
VICE-PRESIDENT.

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CASHIER.

R. C. ROBERDEAU,
VICE-PRESIDENT.

H. PFAEFFLIN,
ASS'T CASHIER.

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THE BANK FAMILY



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R. C. ROBERDEAU

T. H. DAVIS

L. J. SCHNEIDER

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