

## CHAPTER IX

Debt and Disaster Follow the Fever. Surrender of the City Charter. The Taxing District Act. Struggle with Creditors. How Memphis had been Robbed. The Taxing District Officials. How Memphis was Redeemed. Another Epidemic Breaks Out. Efficient Sanitary Measures Discussed. The Meeting of Refugees in St. Louis. Colonel Waring Plans Sewer System. Work on the Sewers Begun. Character of the System. The People Take Heart. Progress of Reconstructing the City Government. D. P. Hadden, President. The Old Debt Refunded. New Water System Established. Artesian Wells Sunk.

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**A**FTER domestic and business affairs were again fairly launched, more attention was paid to sanitation than had been before, and there was certainly much to be done in this line. The city had little money to use, as her repeated calamities had left her bankrupt and, under the burden of an enormous debt,—the only thing that had not decreased during the plague,—that hung over her like a great pall.

It was evident that under the then existing government there was no way of escaping the Tennessee and United States writs of mandamus, which were demanding all the taxes collected and would leave nothing for carrying on the city, nor allow her anything with which to take precautions against future scourges of disease. Creditors became clamorous for their money, despite the general mourning and financial embarrassment of the people, and men saw that nothing short of complete change in government would or could work out a solution and get the disabled town in condition to escape annihilation.

The ablest men in the city discussed the matter and a

meeting was called when people listened to a bill that had been prepared by Colonel George Gantt, and a discussion in which the true state of affairs was set forth and a dissolution of the charter earnestly recommended.

The bill drafted before the epidemic by S. P. Walker was reexamined and revised by able legal men, prominently among them Judge C. W. Heiskell and Colonel Gantt. The new bill as revised, was adopted and ordered presented to the members-elect of the Legislature, for their consideration. These members had been elected with a view to their approval of the bill and now they were urged to push it through immediately.

On January 29, 1879, the bill was passed, but not approved by Governor Marks until January 31. During this delay of two days Memphis officials resigned and the city government became thoroughly disorganized.

Humiliations seemed to pile up for poor Memphis. Now she was not even a city,—had been reduced to a Taxing District. Her charter of incorporation passed in 1826, and approved and extended at later intervals, had been dissolved. her population “resolved back into the body of the state,” her offices all abolished and her municipal affairs were to be managed by the state. But it has been shown how unsettled conditions during and after the war, fraud, misgovernment and pestilence had made such ravages on the town that she had been left stranded and the Taxing District Act\* seemed the only lever to assist in setting her again afloat.

This new bill provided that taxes for the support of the government of the Taxing District “shall be imposed directly by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee and not otherwise.” But an amendment of this Act† gave the Taxing District more power to handle her own affairs.

Instead of a Board of Mayor and Aldermen or the General Council, as heretofore, the Taxing District was to be regulated and administered by the “Legislative Council of the Taxing District,” to consist of “the commissioners of the fire and

\*Capter XI of the Acts of the Legislature of 1879, p. 15.

†Chap. LXXXIV, of the Acts of the Legislature of 1879, p. 98.

police board and the supervisors of the board of public works."

Provision was made for "A board of health, to consist of the chief of police, a health officer and one physician, \* \* \* who shall be ex officio president of the board."

A board of public works, consisting of five supervisors, was also provided for.

Section 3, of this bill defined the powers of the government of the Taxing District, which were much the same as those of the former city, giving "power over all affairs in the taxing district in which the peace, safety and general welfare of the inhabitants is interested."

The President of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was also judge of the police court and tried all offences against the District ordinances. He was also a justice of the peace, having criminal jurisdiction within the limits of the District. When the same act was an offense against the State and District, he had the right to try both offenses; when against the state only he could fine, if the party submitted, otherwise the accused was held to the criminal court.

Section 4, defined the powers and restrictions of the Legislative Council, this being "restricted to the business alone of making ordinances or local laws for the Taxing District, except as hereinafter provided."

Section 5, fixed the salary of the president at \$2,000 per annum, demanding that he "shall devote his entire time and attention to the duties of his office." This \$2,000 was to be his only compensation, any fees that he might make as justice of the peace, to be credited on his salary "and if such fees amount to \$2,000 or more per annum, he shall receive no other compensation."\* The salaries of the commissioners are also provided for and fixed at \$500 per annum.

Section 5, also provided the number of fire and police commissioners, their ages, duties and mode of appointment. They were authorized to elect a president from their number after each biennial election, such president to be the executive officer of the Taxing District. The said commissioners were also

\*The first part of this paragraph is taken from the original Act, and the latter part from the Amendatory Act.

authorized to appoint a secretary at a yearly salary of \$1,800, and they were given "power to appoint all officers and subordinates in the police and fire service, including the Chief of Police, and to suspend and discharge the same at will." Also to make rules for the discipline of policemen and firemen.

In Section 6, the Commissioners are given supervision over streets, drains, sewers and all sanitary measures, lighting, bridges, wharves, etc., and are authorized to "employ a competent civil engineer at a salary not exceeding \$2,000 per annum.

The remaining sections, with the amendments, elaborate on the duties of the Commissioners and all officials, their oaths, elections, levy of taxes for streets, hospital purposes, wharfage, contracts and other Taxing District necessities.

Judge C. W. Heiskell gives a comprehensive statement of the Taxing District and its government in a few words, as follows:

This government is simply an agent of the state government, without the power of credit or taxation, and the evils consequent thereto. It owns no property, except for governmental purposes alone. It can issue no bonds and has no power to pay them if they are issued. It contracts no debt, except as against particular taxes levied by the state itself, to pay them year by year. It therefore pays as it goes—the only true policy for individuals and states. What improvements it makes it pays for, and if it has no money to pay, it waits till it has. Launched under such auspices, it is hoped that it will prove a lasting blessing, and that economy, honesty and enterprise, cleanliness and sanitation, good streets, and an efficient fire and police protection, will close its gates on the pestilence forever, and open wide the doors of health and lasting prosperity.

Creditors were not pleased at this new state of Memphis affairs and attempted to test this new law creating taxing districts in every court until the Supreme Court of the United States declared it entirely constitutional. Colonel Gantt worked hard to gain this opinion and many declared that his argument before the United States Supreme Court on the

constitutionality of the law establishing taxing districts, turned the scales that logically compelled the Judicial finding.

This new settlement brought great relief to Memphis people and assured them of more time and money for civic improvements and defense against future attacks of pestilence.

Doctor Porter said of the new form of government: "The object in creating the Taxing District was not to repudiate the debt of the old city of Memphis, but to have a cheap and efficient system of government, so as to put the municipality in a good sanitary condition, pave the streets, and enable us to pay that debt upon terms that may be agreed on by the commissioners that may be appointed, and the creditors."

When the bondholders could no longer mandamus the citizens of Memphis to provide for their improvident debts, they petitioned the General Assembly of the state to give them power to collect their money, in which petition they stated that their debts were lawfully created and that "there is no substantial ground on which it can be claimed that such debts, or any part or portion of any of them are not justly owing."

In the cross-petition of the citizens to that of the bondholders, and in response to the above charge, they answered: "There is much of the debt that is not *justly* owing, but very largely fraudulent. As a sample, we submit the following statements:

*"First Statement—*On the 10th of June, 1868, Joseph A. Mabry, holding \$275,000 of city script, and others holding large amounts, submitted a written proposition to the acting mayor to accept city bonds for their debts, giving \$65 of script for each \$100 of bonds, a loss to the city of 35 cents on the dollar, when the amount paid for the indebtedness was not exceeding 30 cents for a dollar, thus making a \$1000 bond cost \$216. This proposition was accepted, and it is stated that the arrangement was consummated, without any authority from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. This fact appears from the report of a committee raised by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 1872, four years after the transaction. That report is in these words:

" 'Your committee are unable to find on the records of the city any resolution authorizing such contract, nor does it

appear from the records that any meeting from the Board of Aldermen was held on the 10th day of June, 1868, as stated in the indorsement,' (the Mayor's endorsement accepting the proposition.)

"By this arrangement, \$568,000 six per cent bonds were issued to take up \$369,000 of open accounts. In other words to settle \$369,000 of debt, the bonds and interest would cost us \$1,590,400.

"*Second Statement*—In June, 1867, \$897,000 of paving bonds were authorized to be issued. Under this authority sixty-two bonds, (\$62,000) were actually sold at the following prices:

Bonds	Proceeds	Proceeds on the Dol.	Loss on Dol.
\$ 4,000	\$ 643.34	16 cents	84 cents
3,000	670.00	22 "	78 "
5,000	941.67	19 "	81 "
5,000	753.57	15 "	85 "
7,000	1,682.10	24 "	76 "
8,000	1,746.95	22 "	78 "
1,000	450.00	45 "	55 "
8,000	2,710.00	34 "	66 "
3,000	900.00	30 "	70 "
8,000	1,432.75	18 "	82 "
4,000	812.67	20 "	80 "
2,000	64.12	3 1-5c	96 4-5c
4,000			100 "
<hr/>			
\$62,000	\$12,807.17	Av. 20 3-5 cents	79 2-5c

After setting forth these statements and other conditions, the petitioners continued:

"And so, petitioners, through your honorable body and the highest judicature of the country, having obtained some surcease from their intolerable burdens, hope your honorable body will not again enslave them, but allow them to maintain their vantage ground, and make such a settlement of the debts of the dead city of Memphis as will be just and fair to the creditor, and not compel petitioners to desert their homes, or give them over to the merciless exaction of those who in time past have shown no mercy."

The petitioners showed the former excessive expenses of the old city government and the much reduced amounts for carrying on the same functions under the Taxing District. After stating the greedy demands of the bondholders to levy taxes, they stated:

"It can easily be demonstrated that a tax sufficient to meet the demands of bondholders, together with the state and county taxes, would amount to confiscation—speedy and irretrievable. \* \* \* And in after years—well it is unnecessary to calculate them, for the first year would finish us."

Setting forth the city's wrongs and hardships, they continued:

"Had it not been for the charity of our fellow citizens throughout the whole country [during the epidemics] we would not have been able to bury our dead—and in the midst of it all the insatiate clamor of creditors, not for justice, not for compromise, not for a fair compensation, but for the pound of flesh which they have from the beginning claimed, was it not time for us to ask your honorable body, the State Legislature, to take back our franchises, and give us another and different municipal instrumentality by which we could preserve ourselves from absolute destruction?"

Again:

"It should not be forgotten that the policy pursued by these creditors, in connection with the great plagues that from time to time have afflicted this community, has reduced the population from fifty thousand to a little more than thirty thousand inhabitants, and its taxable values from \$30,000,000 to the nominal amount of \$13,900,000, but to the actual amount of only about *eleven millions* that can be relied on to produce revenue; and that the relief extended to these creditors should be made with reference to this diminished capacity to bear burdens, it being a state of things which they aided largely, by the course they pursued, in bringing about."

This petition, which was quite lengthy, was signed by twenty-five citizens of the Taxing District.

The Taxing District officers of 1880 were:

*Board of Fire and Police Commissioners*—D. T. Porter,

president, salary \$2,000; John Overton, Jr., salary \$500; M. Burke, salary \$500; C. L. Pullen, secretary, salary \$800.

*Board of Public Works*—C. M. Goyer, chairman; R. Galloway, W. N. Brown, John Gunn, J. M. Goodbar. These members received no salary.

The Legislative Council was composed of the two boards in joint session, Hon. D. T. Porter, Chairman.

Dr. D. T. Porter was elected first President of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners, and we learn from his report, tendered to the Governor of Tennessee, as required by Section 13 of the Act creating the Taxing District of Shelby County, Tennessee, Dec. 1, 1880, something of the work following the organization of the Taxing District. He says in part:

“While a rate of taxation was fixed, the assessment of property and merchants’ capital was not provided for, which necessitated an amendment, which was passed March 13th. Very soon thereafter the validity of the Charter or Act creating the Taxing District was contested, which stopped the payment of taxes. The Supreme Court decided in our favor on the fourth day of June, 1879, during which time a very small amount of revenue was received, and, in order to run the government, Hon. John Overton, Jr., and myself borrowed about \$7,000. After that time taxes were being promptly paid until the 10th of July, 1879, when the yellow fever made its appearance, which prevailed until about the 1st of November. During that time the payment of taxes ceased again, and business of every kind was almost entirely suspended.”

In April of 1879 there was a meeting of Taxing District citizens in the Greenlaw Opera House, called for the purpose of coöperation in providing ways and means for preventing yellow fever. Colonel Keating delivered an address on the benefits of sanitary work to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases, which created enthusiasm among his audience and brought immediate subscriptions of several thousand dollars for a fund for the purpose. The Auxiliary Sanitary Association was organized and officers elected, James S. Prestidge, president, and the association declared itself ready to work with the city to make Memphis a clean and



non-epidemic city. The members of this new organization were: James S. Prestidge, president; Colton Greene, J. W. Dillard, N. Fontaine and H. Furstenheim, vice-presidents; W. W. Thatcher, treasurer; A. D. Langstaff, secretary; John T. Willins, assistant secretary; Elias Lowenstein, Dave Eisman, J. S. Watkins, Sr., Luke E. Wright and J. M. Keating, executive committee; D. P. Hadden, L. Hanauer, H. M. Neely, J. Fowlkes and J. E. Beasley, finance committee; Dr. R. W. Mitchell, Dr. Overall and Dr. W. B. Winn, committee on sanitation.

A valuable auxiliary these self-sacrificing and worthy citizens made, but summer was too near for their work, which had been begun at once, to advance far that year. Their industrious emptying of cesspools and general cleaning up was stopped, as Doctor Porter said tax-collecting was, by the reappearance of yellow-fever. In April the woman who had charge of the Linden Street school had a case of suspicious fever and she was reported to Doctor Thornton, of the Board of Health. She died and, to allay excitement, it was given out that her case was malarial fever.

The weather was getting warm, so emptying of vaults and otherwise stirring up filth was postponed for cooler days. The spring of that year was unusually warm and in May, another case of suspicious fever was reported in South Memphis. On the 26th this man died, having black vomit, and a few days after his decease another case of the disease occurred. In June several cases were diagnosed and in July the disease broke out in different parts of the town. The doctors no longer denied the nature of these maladies but instead, advised and urged depopulation of the city. By August there were only 16,000 people left out of 40,000, the estimate of the previous June. Nearly 16,000 of the refugees took advantage of the camps around the city and so avoided the isolated suffering and neglect of the year before. The State Board of Health passed strict quarantine laws which were rigidly enforced, to prevent the spread of the disease to neighboring towns.

The epidemic this year lasted from its early start until November 10, but was of a much milder form than it had been in 1873 and 1878. There were 2,010 cases of the disease, 587 of

which were fatal. The per centum of white people attacked was  $30\frac{1}{4}$ , and of colored,  $6\frac{1}{2}$ . The percentage of deaths among the whites was 36.21 and of black 16.04. \*

The Howards and other organizations were again at the post of duty and self-sacrifice, and Doctor Thornton was as untiring in his labors as he had been the year before. Under his direction the Taxing District Board of Health, together with the State and National Boards of Health, made great strides in sanitary work, the beginning of a system that was to rid the city of the plague and enable her to recuperate and take her place as the important city she was entitled to be.

Memphis seemed a ruined city, one with a stigma that would make her the shunned of all home-seekers, but her problem was only a repetition of the experiences of cities before, some of them important centers of America. London and Paris had their plagues in former times, after which strenuous measures were taken to clean the cities, and other European and Asiatic municipalities had been called to account in the same way. The important city of Philadelphia once had her time of reckoning, when it was not known whether or not she would survive. In the last part of the Eighteenth Century, after this city had been ravaged by *yellow fever*, her citizens rallied their forces and her valuable son, Benjamin Franklin, urged cleanliness and a supply of pure water to be brought to the city in pipes, as the wells then in use he thought partook of the filth that soaked into the ground. He also advocated that the streets be paved and city ground be made as solid as possible in order to carry off rain and snow to prevent their soaking into the earth and carrying with them impurities to the wells. In 1789 he wrote: "I recommend that at the end of the first hundred years, if not done before, the corporation of the city employ a part of the hundred thousand pounds in bringing by pipes the water of Wissahickon Creek into the town, so as to supply the inhabitants." In 1798, Doctor Brown of New York, said that he considered much of the sickness of that city, especially "the yellow fever which had recently made great

\*From the table of the State Board of Health, taken by Mr. John Johnson.

ravages there," to be caused from the use of impure water, caused by the sinking of filth into the soil.\*

So Memphis, younger than these cities, had learned her lesson at great cost, as they had done, and now was her time to act and to rectify former carelessness.

Refugees who were in St. Louis in 1879, had meetings to discuss the future of Memphis and decided that complete sanitation and pure water were the only solutions of the problem.† They determined to spare no expense within reason for an efficient sewer system and to petition the Legislature to aid in carrying out the work. Memphis must be saved soon or entirely lost. As she stood now, strangers would not go to her and present inhabitants were leaving by hundreds to seek more healthful homes. Business people and property-holders were desperate, hence the call of these meetings in another city before the return of the people to their homes. Memphis citizens in St. Louis formed committees to start to work immediately upon returning to the desolated Taxing District, or just as soon as cool weather would permit general renovation. These committees were the Executive Committee, the members of which were W. H. Proudfit, Ben Eiseman, I. N. Snowden, Dr. D. T. Porter, M. Gavin, H. Furstenheim, John Overton, Elias Lowenstein, W. N. Brown, W. W. Thatcher, John W. Cochran and John K. Speed; the Committee on Calling an Extra Session of the Legislature, composed of George Gantt, Jerome Hill, Julius A. Taylor, J. M. Keating, A. J. Kellar, J. Harvey Mathes, J. S. Brigham, George R. Phelan and George B. Peters; Committee on Loans and Finance—Napoleon Hill, Amos Woodruff, W. M. Farrington and Hugh L. Brinkley; Committee on Engineering and Surveying—Colton Green, M. Burke, O. H. P.

\*Charles Hermany's Water Report to the Water Works & Sewerage Commissioners of Memphis.—1868.

†Nothing was known at that time of the mosquito as the mischievous factor in the dissemination of yellow fever. But the proposed remedy of "complete sanitation and pure water" nevertheless proved the most important boon to Memphis, as regarded its healthfulness, that had ever been proposed and carried into effect. Aside from yellow fever, these indispensable requisities of comfortable living and good health have reduced the death rate from general causes more than one-half and made of a plague spot one of the most healthful cities in North America.

Piper; Committee on Legislation and Laws—Luke E. Wright, Judge John M. Lea, Thomas B. Turley, John T. Fargason and John Johnson.

While these men were making home plans the National Board of Health had a meeting in Washington,—October 13,—to discuss Memphis, and a committee was appointed to make a sanitary survey of the Taxing District. This committee comprised Dr. J. S. Billings of the United States Army, Dr. R. W. Mitchell, of Memphis, and Dr. H. A. Johnson, of Chicago.\*

The State Board joined these national and city workers and they investigated a thorough sewer plan and a house to house inspection, to be rigidly enforced, the Taxing District president and other officers joining heartily in the too-long-delayed campaign.

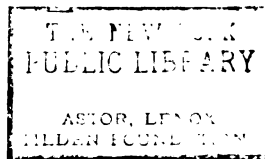
Memphis inhabitants had not all returned to their homes when the house-to-house inspection began, under the personal direction of Doctor Mitchell.

On November 22, the American Public Health Association met in Nashville. Col. George E. Waring, Jr., an experienced civil engineer of Newport, R. I., had been invited by Doctor Cabell, president of the association, to offer a plan of sewerage to be considered and discussed. His paper was listened to with interest and his plan not discussed, but adopted by the commissioners from Memphis. These men invited Colonel Waring to make a special plan for sewerage Memphis with the new, small-pipe, separate system he proposed. Later, the committee of the National Board of Health that visited Memphis engaged him as consulting engineer. Numerous meetings were held in Memphis, when all sorts of sewer systems were discussed. These discussions terminated with a general agreement to adopt the Waring system of sewers, and the inventor was employed to put in this system.†

The National Board, impressed by the necessity of prompt

\*Colonel George E. Waring said that "It was out of this epidemic 1878 that the National Board of Health grew."

†Colonel Waring was well known in Memphis. He had commanded a brigade of Federal cavalry operating about Memphis. He was often engaged in fierce combats with General Forrest and, though generally worsted, was a brave and chivalrous soldier.





Engraved by W. H. Wood

*Niles Mesivether*

action, made its examinations at once and prepared their report, a copy of which was furnished Governor Marks. They recommended the ventilation of all houses, disinfection of houses throughout, tearing down many unsanitary buildings, cleaning wells and cisterns, cleaning out and filling with fresh earth all excrement vaults and the introduction of Colonel Waring's sewer system.

The work on the sewers was begun January 21, 1880, and went on fairly well, though much interfered with by the incessant rains of the early spring of that year. But "within four months after breaking ground," wrote Colonel Waring, "we had laid the whole of the west main, the submain east of the bayou, and all of the laterals shown on the map of 1880, making a total length of over 18 miles with 152 flush-tanks and with four-inch house-connecting drains extending from the sewer to the sidewalk, or in alleys to the line of each private property."

Colonel Waring remained in Memphis during the first part of the work on the sewers, but the efficiency of the city engineer, Mr. Niles Meriwether, and his better knowledge of handling some of the inexperienced assistants and laborers necessarily employed, obviated all necessity for the superintendence of the inventor and the greater part of the responsibility of the work devolved upon Mr. Meriwether and his assistants, though Major Humphreys was "engineer in charge" until 1883, when the entire responsibility devolved upon Mr. Meriwether. Mr. A. J. Murray was assistant engineer.

This system of sewerage, known as the Waring System, was one not heretofore used to any extent, and hence uncertain, but it seemed reasonable and the fact that it was cheaper than the big-pipe sewerage recommended it to a city impoverished as Memphis had been. But, aside from economy, arguments in favor of the new system won the ears of the committee and the public, who, as before stated, acted upon the plan immediately. Colonel Waring at a later date wrote of the prompt action of Memphis at that time: "That such a town, impoverished by a dishonest government, disheartened by the most serious epidemic extending over two years, and

without financial credit, should have done so promptly and so thoroughly the work that it did do must ever redound to the great credit of its people and of its rulers."

Waring's plan provided for six-inch vitrified pipes, which discharged into pipes of eight inches diameter, these sub-mains increasing to ten and twelve inch pipes where the flow was greater. The mains were from twelve to fifteen inches and when the mouth was neared the increase grew to twenty inches of brick inclosure. The small pipes were easily ventilated and their glazed smoothness allowed sewerage to pass through easily. The workmen were instructed not to allow the slightest roughness in joining the pipes, as even a small defect of this sort would gather and hold silt and rubbish.

These pipes were for sewerage only, excluding surface and underground drainage, but they were regulated and cleansed from flush-tanks and ventilators, so they could be kept constantly cleaned and half full of water. The pipes or drains for disposing of storm-water was an independent system, and discharged into the bayou. It was argued that the storm water should be used as flush for the sewers, but experienced engineers said that plan had never worked well as such supply of water was not constant; that the sudden rush smeared the pipe and as it receded left the smeared matter to ferment or make a slime that became offensively odorous and escaped through the ventilators as misnamed "sewer-gas," while systematic flushing from tanks provided for the purpose, kept the pipes well washed and then half or nearly half full of water, that a constant flow might be had. Ventilation was obtained through the numerous house drains.

Mr. F. S. Odell, who was one of the able assistants on the Memphis work, said that "the advantage of this system over the ordinary system of large sewers is two-fold. It is cleaner and cheaper—cleaner because the pipes are kept constantly flushed and thoroughly ventilated; cheaper because there is a vast difference between the cost of a large brick sewer, with its man-holes and receiving basins, and a small pipe-sewer, with its simple fresh-air inlets. The difference is very apparent when it is considered that the total cost of twenty miles of



sewers in Memphis, for labor, materials, engineering, superintending and incidentals, including the two main sewers, was about \$137,000."

Charles Hermany, in his report to the Memphis Water Works and Sewerage Commissioners, had this to say: "As sanitary measures, large sewers are very objectionable, for the reason that the ordinary flow of sewerage spreading over the invert of large sewers has not sufficient volume and scouring efficacy to remove promptly the heavier particles of undecomposed animal and vegetable matter constantly finding their way into them. The constant accumulation of such matter during the dry season of each year, when the flow of sewage does not keep the main sewers clean, would convert them, as it were, into 'elongated' cess-pools, and thus originate or aid in prolonging epidemics to a fearful extent. To keep sewers of this magnitude clean by flushing them with water from the public water supply, would involve an expense for elevating water for this purpose alone."

This small-pipe system brought another good than that for which the engineers were working. In the big sewers it is necessary that men go into them often, and by manual labor rid them of their filth. This is exceedingly unpleasant, unwholesome and dangerous work, and an abolishment of such labor is a benefit to humanity.

Charles H. Latrobe, C. E., of Baltimore, Md., who, after the Memphis sewers had been working successfully, came to examine them, said: "I examined the action of the flush-tanks, which I found discharged with the most perfect regularity, being under complete control as to the amount of water used. I also examined personally into the condition of the main and outlet sewers, both of the fifteen-inch pipe and the twenty-inch brick sewer. The sewers were running at the time of my inspection three fourths full with a swift current. Nothing solid could be detected, not even paper, in the flow. Nor was it in the least offensive. This condition existed, I was told, as a rule in all parts of the system. I also measured the flow, and was astonished at its regularity. My conclusions were that the Memphis system answered fully the purpose for

which it was intended, and which is primarily the object of all sewerage systems, but which seemed to me to be attained more perfectly in this case than in any other I had ever known of—viz: to carry off domestic and industrial wastes with rapidity and without offense to their destination. So regular and rapid was the flow through the pipes of the Memphis system that no time was given for putrefaction to take place between the time at which the waste products entered the system and were delivered into Wolf River.”

This innovation in sewerage was watched with interest by engineers all over the civilized world, especially in England, where a separate system had never been used and where the engineers had grave doubts of its working efficacy. In France the new system was looked upon favorably and Mr. E. Lavoinne, chief engineer of the department of Rouen, said “that the sewerage of the city of Memphis had solved the sewerage problem for Paris.”\*

Doctor Porter, in the Taxing District report of December 1, 1880, already referred to, had this to say of the streets and sewers: “Very little paving or other work was done until January, 1880; since which time over five miles of stone pavement have been completed, and twenty-four miles of sewers, and about the same number of miles of sub-soil drains have been completed, the sewers to convey sewage into the river, and the subsoil drains to drain and purify the soil. Both are acting splendidly. Our thanks are due Col. George E. Waring, Jr., of Newport, R. I., for this admirable system of sewerage and subsoil drains. I think other cities would do well to investigate before adopting any other system.”

Other cities did adopt the system and eight years after the adoption by Memphis, the inventor wrote: “The sewers of Memphis have now been in operation for eight years. Their original extent has been more than doubled. That they have been successful is shown not only by their increased use there, but by the quite remarkable extension of the use of the system throughout the country.” During that time the Waring system had been put into thirty-seven other towns, these scattered

\*Waring, in “Sewerage and Land-Draining.”

all over the United States, and plans had been made for eighteen other places.

Colonel Waring concludes his extensive book of 1889 on "Sewerage and Land Drainage," thus: "The city [Memphis] would not have adopted this plan but for its sore need and its great poverty. Work of the same sort had never been done before anywhere in the world. Other engineers predicted the failure of the system. Notwithstanding their predictions, it succeeded, and those who once opposed it have since adopted it. Memphis itself, now rich and prosperous, still adheres to the plan, and has more than doubled the length of pipe laid in 1880\* \* \* \* the total length of sewers of this system now in completely successful operation in the United States is between 250 and 300 miles. \* \* \* No engineer who has had experience with its working would think of giving it up."

Mr. Niles Meriwether, who superintended the work of laying the sewers from the beginning, found it necessary from time to time, as the work progressed and grew in magnitude, to enlarge the supply pipes. Of the system he entirely approved and of it said, six years after its introduction: "Thus far no fault can be found with the manner in which this system has worked. The excessive quantity of mud in the water is our chief cause of trouble, the small, three-quarter inch supply pipes of the flush-tanks being clogged with mud, making it necessary to replace these in high places with large pipes. With clear-settled or filtered water all this trouble will cease and the whole system will work to a charm."

So the manifold misfortunes and poverty of Memphis caused her to be the starting place of a system of cleanliness that was to become widespread and benefit much of the civilized world. All animal excrement and other waste matter not carried through the sewers was to be carted away and the condition of premises was to be rigidly inspected by the Board of Health. The inspectors appointed for this work were Doctors G. D. Bradford, S. H. Collins, H. Ess, G. W. Overall and W. B. Winn, of Memphis, and Drs. P. B. McCutchen and F. W. Parham, of New Orleans, who were assisted by a corps of twenty-six able helpers.

These inspectors found some deplorable conditions in cellars and yards. Among these finds were 1,184 public nuisances; 124 stagnant pools, 369 cisterns and wells within ten feet of vaults, 3,039 within from ten feet to fifty feet from them, and many of these vaults were under houses and in cellars, some holding collections of filth of many years accumulation.

The Taxing District officers tried to use her money to advantage. Improvements in all the municipal branches went forward and residents were requested and required to put private property in sanitary condition. The report of the city engineer, Mr. Meriwether, to the President of the Taxing District, Dec. 1, 1880, tells of some of the important work done and money expended from Feb. 1, 1879 to Dec. 1, 1880. To quote from that report: "The total expenditures have been \$199,533.35 \* \* \* \* \$160,296.02 have been expended in the purchase of materials (stone, gravel, etc.), and the paving of streets—a total of 5 28-100 miles having been paved, equal to 99,903 square yards. Of this amount about 38,000 square yards, or about 1 7-10 miles were block stone, and the remainder Telford and Macadam form. The statement also shows that 4 23-100 miles of Nicholson pavement have been taken up, the greater part of which has been replaced with stone pavements. Much of this work was done under great disadvantages of bad weather, and the trials and troubles occasioned by the fever of 1879.

"Considering all the difficulties encountered, a great deal has been accomplished, and the citizens of the District have reason to be proud of the work of the past twenty-two months."

This report also showed that twenty bridges and culverts had been built and repaired in the twenty-two months; that 2,800 cubic yards of rip rap stone had been used and 15,800 square yards of the wharf had been paved, thirty anchor-rings placed, a large amount of piping for cleaning and fire purposes, besides much repairing,—this outside of the sewerage.

Major Humphreys reported up to July 1, 1881, the putting in of 3,579 water-closets, 2,408 sinks, 133 urinals, 267 bath tubs, 200 wash-basins, 17 privy-sinks and 14 cellar-drains, and he added the words: "The system of sewers appears to give

entire satisfaction both to the city government and citizens generally."

All branches of civic improvements were receiving their due attention during this time of agitating and putting in sewers, and a few excerpts from Doctor Porter's report to Governor Marks will suffice to show how the Taxing District officials and others were performing their several duties. He says, in praise of his helpers:

"The police department, under P. R. Athy, as chief until August 1st, when he was elected sheriff, and since that time under W. C. Davis, as chief, has been admirably managed, and the officers and men have performed their duties well and faithfully. \* \* \* \* The fire department, under M. McFadden, as chief, has been very efficient, and officers and men have done their duty nobly and efficiently. \* \* \* \* To these departments our people owe a debt of gratitude for their vigilance and promptness in protecting life and property, especially during the epidemic.

"C. L. Pullem, secretary, has rendered me invaluable aid.  
\* \* \* \* \*

"Judge C. W. Heiskell, district attorney, has done his whole duty, promptly and efficiently.

"Major N. Meriwether, district engineer, has performed the arduous duties of his office satisfactorily and well.

"Dr. G. B. Thornton, President of the Board of Health, has been active and vigilant in performing his duties, and has had an immense amount of work done. Capt. D. F. Jackson, health officer, has rendered him valuable assistance."

After commending other individuals and organizations, he continues: "The people have been the great friend of the government, not only obeying the laws, but by paying their taxes promptly and making liberal subscriptions for paving and sanitary work. Besides paying their taxes they have expended from \$150,000 to \$200,000 in cleaning out, disinfecting and filling up privy vaults, making connections with the sewers, and other valuable sanitary work during this year—this, too, after two successive epidemics of yellow fever, which

prostrated business and reduced values of property, etc., very largely."

Of the financial condition of the new government he said:

"All employees of the government have been promptly paid, and the Taxing District can pay all its liabilities on demand, except what it owes to Overton, Burke and Porter, about \$40,000, temporarily loaned to finish paving and continue the sewer work while the weather was suitable, which will be paid in a few weeks.

"All contracts are made on a cash basis."

Doctor Porter thanked the Governor for his interest in Memphis, thus:

"Our people owe your Excellency a debt of gratitude that cannot be expressed by words only, for assistance you rendered at the breaking out of the yellow fever in 1879, which enabled me to protect life and property; for the powerful appeal made to the people of Tennessee for money and supplies to aid in feeding and caring for our people in camps; for your very generous offer to aid me in taking care of the same without limit as to the amount, if reasonable, for calling the Legislature together in extra session to pass our sewer bill; and for many other acts of kindness."

Doctor Porter's work had been through a trying period and he had never held public office before, but by giving all of his time to the problem he was helping to solve, he started the new government on the road to success.

Doctor Porter was succeeded in 1882 by Hon. D. P. Hadden. The officers and members of the Legislative Council for the Taxing District this year were elected by popular vote, as had been provided in the Taxing District Act. D. P. Hadden, R. C. Graves and M. Burke were elected the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners and James Lee, Jr., Lymus Wallace, Charles Kney, Henry James and M. Gavin, the Board of Public Works.

At the first meeting held by the Police and Fire Commissioners, D. P. Hadden was elected President. Mr. Hadden was a unique character but a strong man and well fitted to take up the arduous work of the Taxing District.

The great problem was still the Memphis debt, which had not yet been satisfactorily arranged. In 1882 the Legislature empowered a liquidating board to settle the liabilities at 33 1-3 cents on the dollar. The board comprised J. R. Godwin, J. J. Duffy and H. F. Dix. This act was generally so unsatisfactory to the creditors that only a small part of the debt was thus funded. The following year another act was passed whereby a new liquidating board was authorized to compromise the debt at 50 cents on the dollar. The members appointed on this board were D. P. Hadden, S. P. Walker and C. W. Heiskell. By December, 1884, \$4,589,881.38 of the old debt was refunded and a debt of \$2,396,299.67 was created against the Taxing District.

Some of the creditors were still stubborn and refused the fifty per cent compromise, so in 1885 another board was allowed by the Legislature to still further negotiate for final settlement. This board was made up of Napoleon Hill, I. N. Snowden, Thomas B. Turley, J. R. Godwin and the three police and fire commissioners, who were James Lee, Jr., H. A. Montgomery and D. P. Hadden. These men were to compromise on the best terms they could, and after much controversy and arguments of length they settled the remaining debt of \$1,049,940.80 by the issuance of \$773,830 in bonds against the Taxing District. The bonds of the three refunding boards made \$3,102,930.14, the whole debt of the Taxing District.\*

By November, 1886, there was only \$150,000 of the old city debt left, most of that in bonds not then due.† By 1888 there was outstanding \$3,241,710.85 of new bonds to mature in 1907, 1913 and 1915, the annual interest on the amount being \$148,648, which, Colonel Keating said in 1888, was "met promptly every six months at maturity."

Mr. Hadden's first report, to Governor Alvin Hawkins, successor to Governor Marks, who had been such a friend to Memphis, showed the Taxing District to be succeeding as a government. The president said, "The present form of government becomes more and more satisfactory with each day of its existence. It is less cumbrous, and so far superior to

\*Gathered from Vedder and Taxing District Reports.

†Vedder.

the old municipal form of government that I will venture to say no thinking citizen desires its dissolution. The old system was complicated, and made necessary the establishment of many offices which are not now required. \* \* \* \* Again it has been sufficiently proven that the present method of electing officers by the voice of the whole people is far preferable to the the old system of election by wards." Of the Board of Health he said: "The Board of Health, composed of Dr. G. B. Thornton, president; Dr. J. H. Purnell, secretary; D. F. Jackson, health officer, and W. C. Davis, chief of police, is active, vigilant and effective in all things pertaining to local sanitation. \* \* \* Its efficacy in the past two years in all respects has been thoroughly tested as a public health organization, and it has given entire satisfaction to the government and our citizens generally."

He commended other public workers and said of the District Attorney, "Judge C. W. Heiskell, Taxing District Attorney, has fulfilled the duties of his office in a highly satisfactory manner to the government and its citizens. In all matters affecting the Taxing District government, from its incipency to the present hour, he has been its warm friend, defender and legal adviser and he is more familiar with all the legal points affecting its interests than any member of the government."

In his report of 1884 President Hadden complained of the poor method of collecting taxes, by which delinquency became so enormous. He stated that in the then six years of the existence of the Taxing District there was a "delinquent tax list of \$134,526.08 for general purposes and \$28,602.32 for the purpose of paying interest on the compromise debt of the Taxing District." Two years later he showed the accumulated delinquency to be \$125,288.32, and to these figures he added the words: "Experience teaches us that under the present laws and present mode of collecting taxes our city government will always have to carry about \$150,000 of delinquent back taxes. About as much as is collected from the preceding years will offset the delinquency for the current years."

Further on in this 1886 report he cautioned: "We would



not overlook the fact that being a prosperous and rapidly growing city we have much to do to meet the demands of this growth and prosperity. Our greatest need at present is good, pure, wholesome water."

But although there were still glaring needs, the growth of the city was an assured fact and the president said, in recognition of this: "The past two years have been the most prosperous and most important in the history of Memphis. This seems to have been brought about by the general outside feeling that Memphis possesses the location of a great railroad center. Congress recognizing this fact, has recently passed a bill providing for the construction of a railroad bridge over the Mississippi River at this point. This bridge will be completed within the next three years, or sooner, if possible, as the demands of trade are now requiring it, and the various railroad interests both east and west of the Mississippi will be focalized at Memphis, thereby forever fixing her commercial supremacy in the great Mississippi Valley."

Obtaining pure water was quite as potent a municipal necessity as disposing of the dirt, so this subject went hand in hand with the sewers.

In 1868 Mr. Charles Hermany, then civil engineer of Memphis, after investigating the supply and quality of water to be obtained for the city, recommended that Wolf River water be used. A water company was formed and in 1870 they obtained a charter from the Legislature, under the name of the Memphis Water Company. A pumping station was erected on the south bank of Wolf River and the company laid seventeen miles of pipe to supply the city with river water.\* Previous to this time only cisterns and wells had supplied the inhabitants with water and some of these were far from sanitary.

This company did not succeed financially and their plant was sold in 1879 to a newly organized company for \$200,000. This new organization was also named The Memphis Water Company.

March 6, 1880, the water works were again sold, this time for only \$155,000. Of this new company, which was composed

\*Lundee's Report on the Water Works System of Memphis.

of business men, Judge T. J. Latham was elected president.\*

After the epidemics had brought forth the sewer system more water was needed for the flush-tanks, house-flushes and other domestic purposes, so the Memphis Water Company extended its pipes and started negotiations with the Taxing District for the public supply of water. This contract was not completed until May, 1882. After this water-piping increased rapidly, but the water was sometimes so muddy as to be very unsatisfactory. Three years after the consummation of this contract, which was to remain in force for twenty years, there were citizens' meetings for the purpose of providing ways and means of getting better water. The Legislative Council of the Taxing District appointed a committee of ten to investigate water supplies in the vicinity. General Colton Greene was engaged to report to this committee, which he did in February, 1886. After hearing from General Greene the committee pursued its further investigation and reported in December of the same year to the Legislative Council. Three sources of water supply were considered, namely, that of the Mississippi River, of Horn Lake and of Wolf River, higher up stream than where the supply was then obtained. In any case it would be necessary to provide for filtration.

Wells had been suggested to the committee, but wells at that time were not thought feasible, especially as The Memphis Water Company had experimented with wells and reported them failures. They rejected driven wells as "impracticable for local reasons," and artesian wells because of their "uncertainty and unreliability."

After much discussion of all the systems presented, this committee recommended "Wolf River, at a point above and near to the L. & N. R. R. crossing, as the proper source of supply," and they advised the adoption of the plan of the water works described by Gen. Colton Greene.

While this committee was busy with its discussions and recommendations against the wells, Mr. R. C. Graves, superintendent of the Bohlen-Huse Ice Company, had a well sunk

\*Keating.

on Court Street for "obtaining water for condensing purposes, to a depth of 354 feet."\*

This well proved a success and came to be much discussed, casting other recommended systems for the city supply of water into shadow. A company was organized to supply the Taxing District from wells, and upon successful experiments they were able to contract with the authorities in July, 1887. This new company took the name of "The Artesian Water Company," and agreed to supply water to the city and to individuals. This interfered with the Wolf River Company, so they too sank wells. Consolidation of interests was considered, but that plan was not fully agreed upon until 1889. In April of that year the two companies combined and soon after this consolidation the Wolf River plant became a thing of the past.

In 1890 a first-class pumping station was started, and the Memphis water supply became one of the best supplies in the world. Mr. Lundee gives this description of how the wells give forth their supply:

"To the bottom of each well tube, in the case of the water works wells, is attached a strainer, consisting of a long section of brass tubing having fine slots cut in it, which permit the water to pass but hold back the sand. These slots are liable to become filled up, especially if the well should be in proximity to a clay pocket in the sand. When this occurs the water is held back and consequently the yield of the well is diminished. Various methods are adopted for cleaning the strainers. \* \* \* \* The water is pumped directly into the distributing mains. \* \* \* \* The major quantity leaving the pumping station is primarily taken by a 36-inch pipe which runs west along Auction Street and south along Front and Shelby Streets, connecting with a standpipe about two miles distant from the station, situated on a lot at Tennessee and Talbot Streets. \* \* \* \* From this pipe subdistribution is made. The standpipe is of steel construction, twenty feet in diameter and 160 feet high. The function of the standpipe is simply that of a pressure regulator and in a limited degree acts as a reservoir."

Experts from different sections examined the Memphis

\*Lundee's Report.

artesian water and all pronounced it excellent, some the best city supply in the world. Of the yield, Mr. Lundee says: "The supply is inexhaustible and it is limited only as the supply from any spring or river has its natural limitations by the rate at which it is called on to yield water. Thus the water, while there is no reason for not using it liberally, ought not to be unnecessarily wasted."

In the contract between the Taxing District and the Artesian Water Company, the latter contracted to furnish, twelve months from the time of the contract, "good, clear, pure and wholesome water of the character examined and approved" by the board of inspectors in a previous report, from "deep wells of the depth of about 400 feet below the level of Court Square in said Taxing District or deeper, if necessary." Besides private supply they contracted to furnish water for fire-hydrants, flush-tanks, to be flushed once or twice every twenty-four hours, dumping stations, public municipal offices, police stations, municipal hospitals, engine-houses, public fountains—not over two,—sanitary stables, levee washing, flushing gutters, public drinking-fountains—not over twelve, etc.

So the eighties seemed to be untangling all the knotty problems of the two previous decades that had hampered Memphis and made her very existence doubtful.

The Board of Health reports from year to year show improved conditions and much work along sanitary lines. In 1885 Dr. Thornton said in his annual report: "The year was an exceptionally healthy one. \* \* \* The total freedom from epidemic disease, with a lower death rate calculated upon the same estimated population, must be due, in a large measure, to the improved sanitary condition of the city, the enforcement of the health ordinances and operations of the health department.

"With a steadily increasing population, which is apparent and conceded, and which is attested by improvements in every part of the city, the number of deaths for the year is 193 less than for 1884, and only 81 in excess of 1883. This, I think,

demonstrates very clearly an improved condition of the public health of the city."

In each year's report Doctor Thornton compliments sanitary and sewerage work in the Taxing District but deploras always the unsanitary condition of Bayou Gayoso and the dilapidated and unsanitary condition of the City Hospital.

In 1888 yellow fever was reported in Jacksonville, Fla., Decatur, Ala., Jackson, Miss., and other Southern points, so quarantine became strict in Memphis and a refuge hospital, to be placed in a safe locality, was advocated. Mr. Niles Meriwether had a plan for such a hospital "of eight rooms, with halls, verandas, etc., \* \* \* \* estimated to cost \$3,000." There were a few suspicious cases of fever in Memphis that season, but the decade ended free from pestilence with a small death rate and the Bluff City had come in a few years time to be pronounced one of the most healthful cities in the country, instead of one of danger.

In his fourth biennial report, Jan. 1, 1889, President Had-den gave the happy statement: "It is gratifying to report that the debt of the old city of Memphis is practically settled—probably ten thousand dollars yet outstanding. The compromise bonds are above par."

He said he "would also state that during the last two years a new gas company has been introduced into our city, and also a new water company, and our citizens are to be congratulated upon having at present an abundant supply of pure artesian water, overflowing from thirty-two wells. This is the greatest boon our city has ever possessed. \* \* \* \* We are also to be congratulated that work has been commenced upon a railroad traffic bridge across the Mississippi at this point, which will add greatly to our material prosperity. Our city has enjoyed perfect health during the past two years, and we know of no city that has such a bright future and possesses so many elements of prosperity and future greatness."

## CHAPTER X

Memphis Rising From Her Ashes. Census of 1890. Details of the Sewer System. The Bethell Administration. Increase of Property Values. The Cotton Trade. Big Fires in Memphis. The Mississippi River Bridge. Ceremonies of the Opening. Electric Car Service Inaugurated. Protest Against Taxing District Form of Government. Taxing District Proves a Success. Form of Taxation Unjust to Memphis. Gamblers Again. Law and Order League. Sam Jones in Memphis. Other Lecturers and Moral Workers. The Legislature Restores Titles of City, Mayor and Vice-Mayor. Clapp Elected Mayor. Artesian Water Company, Telephones and Electric Lighting. Back Tax Collector Appointed. Memphis to Levy Her Own Taxes. New City Hospital. Interstate Drill and Encampment. Flood of Mississippi River. Yellow Fever Scare. Bank Clearings.

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**A**S MEMPHIS had from her beginning, after every back-set, taken new life so, even after she had seemed to be left in ashes she revived, and out of the ruins rose, like the ever mythical-truthful phoenix. Hope, her shining though sometimes cloud-hidden star, rose higher and clearer in the sky as the eighties progressed, and Memphis again asserted herself.

This city was a need of the country and it was inevitable that she should take her place in the work of the Nation. There was no other important city within two hundred or more miles of her bluffs. Her situation made her the entrepot of several states and western produce could come most conveniently to this market. She was a valuable point between St. Louis and New Orleans and by right, if freed from misfortunes that had held her back, should become as great and important as either of these cities.

Mississippi, with its wealth of cotton, lay just south of

her borders, her own great state, that was yearly developing in untold riches, lay north and east, while Arkansas, a state beginning to be recognized as one of the richest of the country, was to be joined to the Bluff City by a great steel bridge. These advantages could not but receive recognition from the business world and, as assurance spread that pestilence and unreasonable debt were no longer hindrances to her citizens, her residents were encouraged and new people began to come.

In 1880 the population had been reduced from 40,226 in 1870, and 40,230 in 1875,\* to 33,592. By 1885, the estimated population was 60,000, and each year of confidence added to the number until by 1890 there were 64,495. In 1880 Memphis had been practically a city in the mud, but the efficient work year by year of the city engineer and his assistants had brought many good streets, bridges, culverts, miles of sewers, drains and other conveniences, as shown in the lucid annual reports of Mr. Meriwether.

President Hadden, in his report of December 1, 1884, to Governor Bate, said of Mr. Meriwether's work: "I am satisfied that no city ever received more or better work for the same amount of money than has been accomplished by this able engineer. He in connection with Mr. Anthony Ross, his assistant, have vastly extended and improved our sewer system, which has done so much to improve the health of our city since its introduction four years ago."

In this same report Mr. Hadden praised the Board of Health work and said: "The garbage system of this city we think excels in efficiency any city that we know of, and our own people as well as those who visit us, express the belief that we are the cleanest city in the country. This entire department receives the personal attention of that able sanitarian Dr. G. B. Thornton, who is the president of our local Board of Health, which is composed of Dr. G. B. Thornton, Dr. George S. Graves, secretary, D. F. Jackson, Health Officer, and W. C. Davis, Chief of Police."

As Memphis grew and the sewer-pipes became vehicles of

\*This standstill of population from 1870 to 1875 was due to the yellow fever epidemic of 1873.

more and more sewage the six-inch pipes were found to be inadequate. Obstructions sometimes occurred of sticks, bones and other objects getting caught cross-wise in the small pipes. It was necessary to locate and remove all these, which added considerably to the cost of the maintenance, the cost of these removals averaging \$13.50 each.

In a report "compiled and prepared under the supervision of Niles Meriwether," by his assistant, James H. Elliott, in 1891, it was set forward that "the unit or six-inch pipe is too small, as nearly all of the stoppages occur in them; very few in large pipes where properly laid. \* \* \* \* As early as 1882 the main sewers were at times taxed to their full capacity. In 1885-86 the main sewers had become so overcharged as to make it necessary to tap them at several points north of Monroe Street."

Manholes, which had been left out when the Waring system was laid, because of the saving of expense, were now necessary and many were put in along the old line of work and in the new. These soon proved their efficacy by reducing the cost of removals of stoppages, as well as enabling better observation of the pipes and so fewer obstructions had to be dealt with.

Mr. Elliott had to say of the plumbing of that period: "Attention is called to the great improvement in our plumbing work. To the untiring energy of the inspector, Mr. William Lunn, and his hearty interest in his work is this great improvement greatly due; and it may also be added that we have in this work, as a rule, the hearty coöperation of the plumbers, who have come to realize that they have, if possible, as much or more interest in first-class plumbing and good sanitary work."

The cost of the sewerage during that decade amounted to \$399,314.18, an average per mile of about \$8,100.

Mr. Meriwether said: "It would seem that we have now reached a period in the growth of the city when it has become necessary to build in the near future one or two large intercepting sewers, discharging by independent outlets directly into the river, for which surveys and plans should be made as soon as the time and means will permit. \* \* \* \* These sewers should



be made sufficiently large to accommodate territory beyond our present limits that may be brought in within a few years."

When the Waring system of pipes was put in only the southern part of the city profited from the work. The northern part, known as Chelsea, remained unsewered, except for private pipes, so Mr. Meriwether now advocated sewerage for that portion of the city with the Waring system, but with the mistakes of the first work rectified. These mistakes had not been many and the system had worked admirably on the whole. Colonel Waring himself, who came to Memphis in the early nineties to examine the system after thirteen years' trial, said:

"If time has shown that something less than absolute perfection was secured, here and there, I think it may still be said, that considering all the circumstances, we did reasonably well. The work then done had its desired effect of aiding to improve the sanitary condition of Memphis, and of showing to the world, that this condemned city had taken on a new life, that it was earnest in its determination to overcome the disastrous effects of its epidemics, and that it offered a hopeful field for enterprise. During the thirteen years that have since passed, it has maintained its promise, and from that moment of its regeneration, it has gone bravely on and has, by its prosperity, astonished the world, which in 1879, would have been glad to see it swept off the face of the earth, as a dangerous public nuisance."

In 1888 the Council ordered a survey of a system of sewerage in Chelsea, which was made and a plan submitted by Mr. R. F. Hartford of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mr. Hartford consulted Mr. Meriwether and, considering the defects of the old system, they worked out an improved plan.

The Chelsea work was begun but progressed slowly the first year, retardation being enforced by the delay in getting pipe. Over 3,000 feet of pipe were laid in 1889 and a year later Mr. Meriwether said, "For the coming year, 1891, we start out with a well-organized force at work on the Chelsea system. The work should be pushed to completion the coming year, if possible."

The Chelsea work and that all over the city went rapidly

forward, each portion of the city suggesting by its position or peculiarities its special needs.

In 1890 Dr. J. E. Black was president of the Board of Health, and he continued the work begun by Doctor Thornton as well as he could with the small force allowed for his work. The house-to-house inspection was persevered in, much to the discomfort of careless house-keepers and other thoughtless persons.

The population had more than doubled in ten years and larger forces became urgent in all the city departments.

The chief officers of the Taxing District at that time, January, 1890, were: Fire and Police Commissioners,—W. D. Bethel, president; J. T. Pettit, vice-president; Martin Kelly. Supervisors of Public Works,—T. J. Graham, Samuel Hirsch, E. J. Carrington, George Haszinger, George E. Herbers.

These two boards composed the Legislative Council, with Honorable W. D. Bethell, president.

Other city officers were,—Henry J. Lynn, secretary; William M. Sneed, attorney; Niles Meriwether, chief engineer; A. T. Bell, assistant engineer; W. C. Davis, chief of police; James Burke, chief of fire department; W. B. Rogers, president of the board of health; William Krauss, secretary of board of health; Dr. J. E. Black, surgeon in charge of the City Hospital.

Doctor Rogers' first report shows work done in many branches, especially praising the inspection work of Mr. William Lunn, inspector of plumbing. Doctor Rogers, as Doctor Thornton had been doing for several years, condemned in earnest language the city hospital, recommending that it be burnt to the ground and a new and modern one erected.

Doctor Rogers' sanitary work extended itself to the humane effort of lifting poverty above some existing horrible conditions to cleaner habitations that would improve the inmates morally by making them more thoughtful of their surroundings and more active in keeping themselves decent. All work done for the betterment of humanity in one direction bears fruit in other directions as well.

One of the first things this officer did was to ascertain how far the ordinance allowed the Health Board to go and

then, using his authority to the fullest extent, he worked faithfully for bettering conditions wherever he could. Among other renovations he condemned "numerous decaying rookeries in which were cuddled hundreds of human beings; reveling in filth and breathing most unhealthful atmospheres."

Doctor Krauss examined the water from cisterns and wells, many being condemned and ordered filled with fresh earth in consequence of these examinations. He recommended the artesian water in use as "absolutely pure."

Dr. W. B. Rogers was followed in office by Dr. Shep. A. Rogers, who continued the city health work faithfully. One of this president's most earnest appeals was for a milk-inspector properly equipped with Babcock apparatus, and that his duties be not only to inspect the milk, but to visit and inspect the dairies. He also asked that abattoirs be established at some point along the river below the city, and that the unsanitary slaughter houses then existing be abandoned.

In 1893 Doctor Thornton again took charge of the Health Department, under better auspices than formerly. This year the sanitary force was strengthened, consisting of G. B. Thornton, M. D., president; J. J. McGowan, M. D., secretary; D. F. Jackson, health officer; W. C. Davis, chief of police; W. L. Clapp, mayor, ex-officio member; Miss Verner Jones, clerk. The sanitary police officers were O. B. Farris, John McPartland, W. A. Casey, Thomas McCormick and E. F. Cunny.

The total number of deaths reported for the year 1893 was 1,235—the smallest number reported since 1882, when the population was very much smaller.

Dr. Thornton resumed his condemnation of the condition of many parts of Bayou Gayoso and of the wretched old city hospital building.

The decade just closed, that had made such strides in business and better conditions generally, and brought Memphis to the favorable recognition of the world once more, still had its official trials, as what city has not? One of these at that time was serious shortage in the Taxing District finances. The grand jury appointed for investigating this affair found a deficit of \$10,377.80 in the station house fund between 1886

and 1889. After this unfortunate discovery the jury was instructed to investigate further back and found that dishonesty or carelessness had robbed the city of considerable of her revenue.

On January 9, 1890, Honorable W. D. Bethell had been elected to succeed President Hadden, and on the 15th of the same month was inducted into office.

Of President Hadden's retirement the Appeal had this to say :

"After 8 years of service the Hon. D. P. Hadden retires from the presidency of the Taxing District. During this period he has shown himself a tireless officer. His individuality is of so pronounced a type that he has made himself famous. The Administration of the city government for the last eight years, has been distinctly his administration. His will has controlled the council. \* \* \* \* He has enjoyed demonstrations of the popular regard such as has rarely been experienced by public officials. He can point with satisfaction to many good results of his administration."

In his parting speech, the last time he officiated as Police Judge, Mr. Hadden said :

"I feel sad at leaving two such departments, but the will of the people seems to be that I should do so; and I certainly resign the position which I hold with much more pleasure than I experienced when I took it up. \* \* \* \* I go forth without any ill feeling towards any one. \* \* \* \* I well know how tempestuous is the sea of politics, and how many have been wrecked thereon, but I claim that I was not sailing the bark of government upon this sea, and have ever looked upon it as a purely business government."

Several northern and other papers writing of Memphis at this period likened her to great cities of the country and spoke of her as a "future Chicago of the southwest," the "future metropolis of the Mississippi Valley," a "great city of the future," and one author and poet\* called her "The Colossus of the Valley."

President Bethell, in his first report to Governor Buchan-

\*James R. Randall.

an, called attention to the growth of Memphis and the growing needs as a consequence, thus:

"The reports of these two years are very suggestive, and in a growing city, full of enterprising and public-spirited people, will doubtless show the necessity for increased provision for enlarged public works during the incoming two years, and I trust it will please your Excellency to invite the attention of the Legislature of the State to these growing demands upon our city's public service, and allowing for its rapid growth, year by year, to make provision accordingly, by wise and liberal legislation."

The total outstanding bonded indebtedness in 1890 was \$3,248,977.11. By 1891 several thousand of these outstanding bonds had been called, leaving the amount outstanding, \$3,230,042.93.

Much of the street work done in the city was performed by the criminals or chain-gang, and this supplied the double service of keeping these unfortunates busy and forcing them to serve the city to which they were an expense. Of these workmen, Mr. Meriwether said in his report of January 1, 1891:

"In working the chain-gang every effort has been made to obtain the greatest amount of service, and in such directions as would do the most good; and a great deal has been accomplished with that force during the year. The carpenter and bridge and street forces have done a large and unusual amount of work. There is no ward in the city in which more or less work has not been done by all of the above forces: grading and cleaning streets and alleys and repairing same, building bridges, culverts and drains, putting down crossings, setting curbing and other miscellaneous work. We have endeavored to do the greatest amount of work with these forces, and as impartially as possible."

He also wrote, realizing the rapid growth of the city and consequently the need of increase in materials and working forces:

"The question as to the best plan of grading and paving all the streets and alleys of the city in the shortest possible time, is now one of absorbing interest. The steady growth

of the city and the great volume of business that has followed in the past two or three years, would seem to demand a change in our methods in this respect. There is no question that we need more paved streets and a better class of work, at least upon all of the central traffic streets of the city. The subject is one requiring the greatest care and deliberation. \* \* \* \* Our progress made in the past ten years has been commendable, but something more is now required and the question is, upon what plan is it best to proceed?"

He commends the work of his assistants, thanks them and concludes the report with a summary of the work done by his different departments from February, 1879 to December 31, 1890, the total of all these amounting to \$399,314.18.

Chief of Police Davis in his report to President Bethell also urged increase of facilities to accord with the city's rapid growth. He said:

"I urgently call your attention to the necessity of furnishing the department with more men, as you see from the roster we have only thirty-eight patrolmen, nineteen on each relief. We need at least twenty more men, which would be twenty-nine for each relief, which is less than three men to each ward. This is quite few enough, considering the extent of territory to patrol and the time taken up attending to the wants of the public at the depots of the ten railroads coming into our city, where some forty passenger trains arrive and depart daily. If the enactment giving us additional territory shall become a law, we shall need at least twelve mounted policemen—six on each relief—to patrol the new district. \* \* \* \* The patrol wagon so long needed and furnished the department a few months ago is a great benefit, bringing the prisoner quickly to the Station House, leaving the officer on his beat, and sparing him many hard struggles in bringing drunk and disorderly persons to the Station House; but the full benefit of the wagon cannot be realized until we have established a police signal system. At present the police have to depend on private telephones to call for the wagon, and when the call is most urgent the officer may have to await the convenience of others before he can be accommodated."

Chief Davis, often heartsick at the downfall of youth in the city, urged upon the Council the necessity of a reformatory for boys. To quote from this plea:

"In years past I have urged the establishment of a house of correction for boys; the necessity still becomes greater for such an institution. The Mission Home and House of the Good Shepherd take care of many of the wayward girls we have to look after, but the viciously inclined boy roams about the streets, plunging into every kind of vice. For him we have no place except the rock-pile, where he is associated with still more hardened criminals than himself; where instead of being reformed, is prepared as he grows older to take position among the mature criminals in the penitentiary. Something should be done for the restoration and protection of these poor boys."

One arrest recorded about this period was of a negro boy six years of age who had battered a somewhat larger boy's face with a brick. The little fellow was fined ten dollars. He had no father and his mother was a poor charwoman, so he had to work out his fine on the rock-pile, with older criminals who, amused at his infancy, enjoyed joking with and about him, not at all to his benefit. A judge who would thrust into such company a baby, that would in all probability grow to maturity, perhaps a menace to the city that had allowed him to develop in crime, was not appreciative of his power for good or evil. Chief Davis could see the hurtful consequences of such procedures and petitioned that they might be averted.

For the year 1890 the Chief said that on the whole "we had had but little serious crime during the year."

In his report for the following two years we find him still pleading for more modern and efficient appliances and methods, according with the growth of the city, which he said already compared favorably with larger cities. In this report he thanked the Council for what they had allowed for the furtherance of improvement.

We have seen how, many years ago, the Memphis wharf-master had numerous trials in collecting the required fees from flatboat-men for the city, and how he finally came out victorious. All the years since then wharfage had continued

to be an item in Memphis revenue, and at the close of 1890 Wharfmaster Simon W. Green showed his collections during the year to have been \$10,141.95.

Memphis real estate had increased very much during the years from her awakening in 1880 to the nineties. Real estate transfers showed that during the years 1890 and 1891 the property changing hands in Memphis aggregated \$5,183,830.

A few items of interest recorded in 1892 by business men, help to show the growth of the Taxing District. The enhancement of real estate values from 1882 to 1892 had been 500 per cent, and much property was paying from 25 to 30 per cent on prices paid for it in the early eighties. The Peabody Hotel, which at one time had brought little to its owners was reputed in 1892 to be returning a rental of \$50,000 a year.

People in general had lost all fear of Memphis as an abiding place, as was proved by the numbers that came for the purpose of settling and stayed.

Business in all branches was not only hopeful but continually increasing. Building was progressing more than ever before and on greater scales. Workmen were in such constant demand that in 1890 Memphis had two labor agencies, which could scarcely supply the demand for labor.

To get an idea of the increase in business we can consult a few figures gathered by business men in 1892: In 1880 the cotton trade, which comprised nearly all the business of Memphis at that date, aggregated for the season 470,000 bales, valued at \$23,000,000, while for the season of 1891-92, the aggregate was 770,000 bales, valued at over \$30,000,000.

The banking capital was estimated in 1880 to be about \$1,500,000, and in 1892 it had increased to \$7,200,000.

Besides these improvements the lumber trade had grown to be so important as to make Memphis one of the lumber centers of the world, and the grocery business, both wholesale and retail, had grown enormously.

Another indication of the city's growth from the time of her calamities to the early nineties was the increase in the postal business, the figures in 1890 and 1891 showing an aggregate that equaled those of the city's most flourishing banks.



The United States census for 1890 gave a population of 64,589 and in 1892 the population was estimated from the city directory to be 85,000.

The nineties showed Memphis to have many new industries and these were constantly increasing. Her municipal advantages were among the first of the country. Taxes had been reduced from \$2.35 to \$1.80, which encouraged home-seekers and people wishing to invest money.

The fire department continued to grow in efficiency and although some destructive fires occurred they were better handled than formerly. In April, 1891, Hill, Fontaine & Company's cotton-shed, situated in the old navy yard, was struck by lightning, which started a conflagration. This occurred about eleven o'clock at night and the shed was filled with cotton, so the flames spread rapidly, but the firemen succeeded in confining the damage to the shed. This fire caused the greatest loss of that year.

On the night of February 8, 1892, a fire swept the block bounded by Main, Monroe, Second and Union Streets. This fire started in the auction rooms of Rosin & Hurst, and created a loss of a million dollars. Among the buildings destroyed were Luehrman's Hotel, Lemon & Gale's wholesale drygoods house, Langstaff Hardware Company, Wetter & Company, Beine-Bruce Hat Company, Jack & Company, Wilkerson & Company, Levy Trunk Factory and several smaller firms. This destructive conflagration was supposed to have been started by an electric wire.

The following year this same re-built block was much damaged by another destructive fire, the Wetter block being again demolished, other serious losers by these flames being the Y. M. C. A. and the Pythian Journal. Several persons being entrapped by this fire and consequently injured by jumping to safety, much blame was attributed to the neglect of fire-escapes and criminal negligence was charged. This unhappy experience started strict enforcement of the laws regarding fire-escapes.

In April, 1892, flames were discovered by the night-watchman, at 2:30 a. m., in an unfinished seven-story building on

Adams Street, and before the firemen could reach it much damage had been done. Chief Burke said of this fire, in his report to the Legislative Council:

"This building formed a veritable flue, no doors or windows in, and the flooring, which was only partially laid, covered with highly inflammable material, pine-shavings, etc. This fire was discovered in its incipency by the watchman at the Adams Street engine-house, the alarm promptly given and responded to, but owing to the condition of the building, within ten seconds from the time the fire was discovered, the flames had reached the roof and communicated to the adjoining buildings. It required almost superhuman efforts on the part of every member of the department to extinguish this fire. We had no ladders at that time sufficiently long to enable the men to reach an advantageous position, a fact detrimental to the interests of the city, which has since been remedied, thanks to your honorable body in purchasing an aerial truck."

In November of this same year the Chief said of the new equipment:

"We had an opportunity to test the new aerial truck on the night of November 2, at a stubborn fire which originated on the third floor of the building occupied by Fly, Hobson & Company. By means of the aerial used as a water-tower, we were enabled to extinguish, with a comparatively trifling loss, what at one time looked as if it would prove to be a disastrous conflagration."

In consequence of these and other serious losses, Chief Burke said in his report:

"I feel it my duty to reiterate the recommendations made in my last report, viz., that at least two more engine companies and one chemical company be placed in the suburban districts, as with the limited number of men and pieces of apparatus now constituting the fire department, it is a matter of impossibility or rather poor judgment, to reserve any in case of an alarm being sounded from the business portion of the city. \* \* \* \* A valuable adjunct to every well-equipped fire department is the latest improved 'water-tower.' In other cities the efficacy of these machines has been proved on numerous occasions. This

city has suffered losses in the past which could have been saved if one of these 'towers' had been in service."

He explained how a building could be flooded with one of these towers and so save the spread of disaster, and recommended "the purchase of one of these 'towers' as soon as possible."

In January of 1893 there was another big and destructive fire in which several prominent business houses and some smaller ones were demolished or severely damaged. The firemen worked desperately and bravely this night, saving much property and perhaps nearly the whole business section of the city. When the flames reached Dean & Carroll's paint store most of the attention was centered on that place and the efforts of the hard-worked men really succeeded in quenching the flames before they reached the cellar in which was stored thousands of pounds of the combustibles and explosives kept in paint stock. The firemen were much exhausted by that night's labor and Chief Burke was injured by a falling brick.

1892 brought forth the consummation of the great achievement long contemplated and anticipated by hundreds of people,—that of joining Tennessee and Arkansas together. In May, 1892, the great cantilever bridge that accomplished this feat was finished and on the 12th of that same month the bridge was formally opened. The *Commercial* called this structure a "notable triumph of engineering and mechanical skill."

It had taken three and a half years to construct this steel connection, the work having been carried on from both ends simultaneously, until the middle span met. Its finished length from end to end, was 15,635 feet, or nearly three miles, and it contained 7,000 tons of steel, while in its construction had been used 2,000,000 feet of lumber.

Building a bridge across the Mississippi at Memphis had first been agitated in 1856, but some engineers at that time thought the expense of such a structure would not pay for itself, while still others thought the scheme wholly unfeasible. But the subject was not dropped and continued to be brought forward at intervals until 1885, when an act was passed and approved by Congress, authorizing the construction of a bridge

at this point. Following this act William G. Ford, Reese B. Edmondson and others obtained a charter in Tennessee and Arkansas, but lack of funds caused the matter to stand still until three years later, when James Phelan introduced a bill in the Congress, authorizing the construction of a bridge across the Mississippi River at Memphis, by the Kansas City and Memphis Railway and Bridge Company. This act, which came to be known as the "Phelan Bill," passed and was approved April 24, 1888.

The act required that the bridge be seventy-five feet above high water mark, across the entire bed of the river, which provision, later carried out, caused it to extend a long way high over the Arkansas swamps. Many engineers were consulted and finally the plans of Morrison and Nettleton were accepted, the contractors to be two brothers, Andrew and William Baird.

When this long-wished-for convenience was completed, naturally the people desired a celebration and they had a pretentious one. Numerous eminent people were invited for the opening and thousands of other visitors came.

On the morning of May 12, 1892, a parade two miles in length passed through the streets of Memphis, headed by twenty-four policemen, mounted four abreast, the leading four being Chief Davis, Captain O'Haver, Captain Hacket and Sergeant Horan. Following them was the Grand Marshal, Colonel Hugh Pettit, and his assistant marshals, General G. W. Gordon, Captain W. W. Carnes, John M. Tuther, E. A. Keeling and Honorable Zachary Taylor. Then followed the National Guards of Tennessee, commanded by Colonel Arthur Taylor. Arnold's band filled the air with music and after them came more military, some of these being visitors to the city. The civic societies were imposing in their regalias and they were followed by the fire department with their burnished engines and other equipment, headed by Chief Burke. The Colored Chickasaw Band made their instruments do justice to the occasion and following them distinguished guests rode in carriages, other carriages conveying city officials, committees, citizens, etc. After this long line of carriages came the artistic floats on which were represented the industries of Memphis. These were interesting

as well as beautiful, and were enthusiastically received by the spectators.

At and near the bridge gathered great crowds to witness, or to try to witness the ceremonies of opening the bridge for traffic. The papers estimated this crowd to number 25,000 people.

Soon after ten o'clock eighteen locomotives slowly entered the bridge and steamed back and forth, snorting and causing many of the onlookers to wonder what they were about. What they really were doing was testing the strength of the structure that had been built for their accommodation. Each span was tested and proved satisfactory. The total weight of these iron horses was 3,000,000 pounds.

After this test was over a decorated car, the "Tennessee train," on which the Tennessee Governor, Adjutant General Norman, Inspector-General Weakly, Quartermaster Frank and many other distinguished guests and Memphis people, went to the middle of the bridge. There this car was met by the "Arkansas train," on which were the Arkansas Governor and his party. When these cars met Governor Buchanan rose and said, "Governor Eagle, in the name of the State of Tennessee, I bring you greeting." Governor Eagle responded: "In the name of Arkansas I accept it. I trust that the two great states may ever be upon the same sisterly terms, their relations ever becoming closer."

After these greetings there was a cheer and both cars returned to Memphis, where a platform of people awaited them. Colonel J. R. Godwin was chairman of the committee on this platform, and with him sat prominent guests from many states.

After the Arkansas and Tennessee governors and their parties were greeted, speeches were made. Governor Buchanan set forth the advantages to come from the new bridge, and his speech was followed by one from Governor Eagle, quite as patriotic and enthusiastically received. Other orations followed, in which were given much of the history of early days in the Bluff City, of navigation, development of the South

and National progress in general, while much hope was expressed for the future.

Chief Engineer Morrison and General Nettleton received much praise for their success in carrying the work of the bridge to completion and both of these modest workers displayed embarrassment in responding. One of them said that his business was not speech-making and hence his embarrassment.

The night pageant was an impressive one. This procession was led by city officials and contained artistic floats and inspiring music. The first float represented "Aurora" and following the Queen of Early Day were floats containing allegorical displays, giving the history of Memphis from aboriginal days.

It was recorded that out of all the throng in Memphis on Bridge Opening Day there was not a drunken disturbance.

The then new electric car service proved itself very efficient and these cars were to many of the visitors even more interesting than the big bridge, as they had never before seen horseless or muleless street conveyances. There were a few amusing incidents of people who walked long distances rather than trust themselves on these cars and some visitors left satisfied to only look at these new rapid carriers of street passengers. Stories were circulated of watches being stopped, eyesight ruined, people terribly shocked and even killed by the electric currents that *passed through these cars*. But despite the timid ones the cars were said to have carried on that date 126,000 passengers.

The gunboat "Concord" came to Memphis in honor of the celebration and was the first sea-going vessel many of the people had ever seen. It was much visited and its officers and crew received considerable attention.

A round of festivities was given to visitors and many of the strangers expressed admiration for Memphis and for Memphis people.

During the time committee meetings were held for various purposes, among these being one for discussing the possibility and practicability of a deep-water way through the Mississippi River.

The Bridge celebration attracted much attention to the

Bluff City and the business exchanges received numerous letters from people impressed by the growing importance of the place and wishing to invest capital.

Memphis had grown and was continuing to grow so rapidly and her place in the world seemed now so sure that her officials and citizens were advocating a change from the taxing district government, as the time for its expediency was thought to have passed. There was much discussion over the subject, the consensus of opinion seeming to be that Memphis should have her identity restored. It was argued that the object for which the taxing district government had been formed was accomplished and that to longer remain under such jurisdiction was subservient and reflected upon Memphis abroad. The *Commercial* said it was time for Memphis to be divorced from the County and that she should fix her own tax-rate, collect her own taxes and spend them for her own improvements. This paper called for the opinions of citizens and many were given, mostly in favor of abandoning the taxing district form.

General Peters said that St. Louis and Louisville had had similar experiences and that those now flourishing cities dated their prosperity from the time that each became separated from the county.

Mr. J. S. Menken said that the taxing district government "accomplished much good, but it has fulfilled its mission, and is now unequal to our requirements." He advocated "home rule." Of taxing Mr. Menken said, "Such bungling and ignorance as are exemplified in some of our revenue laws are difficult to parallel in the statute books of the country. It appears as if the makers of those laws had resolved to kill all enterprise, to ignore justice, and place a fine on honesty."

Mr. Robert Galloway said, "I see no reason for our going to Nashville every two years to have our 'country cousins' from all parts of the State, many of whom know absolutely nothing about city government, fix our rate of taxation." He also advocated a change in the taxing system, saying, "No matter what change we make, we can't be worsted."

Chairman Harrell, of the County Court, only objected to the taxing power. He said: "It places us in an embarrassing

attitude abroad to have the budget of the city's expenses audited and passed upon by the State Legislature. If it would be possible to maintain the present form of government with the power to levy taxes delegated to the local authorities, I would be heartily in favor of it. It is the cheapest government on earth, and is less liable to fraud and corruption."

County Clerk T. B. Crenshaw declared the taxing district form of government "undemocratic."

Other officials and business men gave opinions, and while a few desired the taxing district form of government, all wanted a change in the taxing system.

Mr. Clapp, making a speech in contemplation of running again for the presidency, said of the taxing district government, "This may have been suitable enough, and satisfactory in results, when the cities of the State were little more than villages; but when a city comes to be a metropolis, embracing population, wealth and taxable property greater in number and value than many of the counties combined, and with widely diverging interests and requirements, the absurdity of the system is manifest. \* \* \* It is not easy to conceive of anything more illogical and oppressive than the situation of your city dangling on the apron strings of her Nashville nurses. The subserviency of the city to the county may be more tolerable than to the State, because the benefits are more frequent and of direct application, but the relationship is hardly less oppressive."

Mr. Clapp gave as illustration some of the business pursuits of Memphis, and showed the amount of revenue of each to the state, county and city, half of which are here given:

	State Rate	Co. Rate	City Rate
Breweries .....	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 100
Cold Storage Company .....	1,000	1,000	50
Construction Company .....	100	100	None
Gas Company .....	700	300	25
Liquor, Wholesale .....	300	150	10
Lightning Rod Agents .....	150	50	15
Land Stock Company .....	75	75	None
Telephone Co. (1500 in use) ..	750	750	250



Water Company .....	800	800	200
Grand Opera House Theatre..	200	200	75
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$4,275	\$3,625	\$ 725

In view of these figures one does not wonder at the general desire of citizens for a change in the tax-rate.

Mr. Clapp set forth other inequalities and oppressions. In the course of his speech he said: "The city provides good streets, over which the business may be economically done, and has them cleaned and lighted; gives fire and police protection; supplies the population for trade and consumption and can with some conscience exact a privilege, but pray what help or assistance is given by the other governments to the dealer?"

At this time Memphis had her moral troubles as well as political, as had so often happened before in her history. Gambling and other immoral practices had become so open-faced and prevalent as to cause law-abiding citizens to become alarmed for the youth of the city and to take measures for improving conditions. Some blamed the city administration, saying that the officials cared more for retaining a "fat office" than for enforcing the laws.

In January, 1893, at a meeting of the Council, the questions of gambling and other evils were brought before the members, and President Clapp made a lengthy speech on the subject. He said:

"\* \* \* \* No city has ever authoritatively claimed to have suppressed these evils, nor will this be entirely or partially accomplished to the full satisfaction of every class in the community, until poor human nature undergoes a transformation. Your present fire and police commissioners, whose duty it is, through the constituted departments to look after these social evils are but men, no better nor worse than sagacious officials, charged with similar duties in other cities. \* \* \* \* Such authority and information as the board could command led to the conclusion that in every city of respectable size, in all the states and nations, these 'social evils' were regulated and controlled, but not suppressed."

Mr. Clapp said that the evil of gambling had perplexed Memphis as far back as the oldest living citizen and officer could remember and that it had been impossible to put it down, though the city had regulated, fined, etc. He said that in previous years, when gambling houses had been closed and gamblers ordered to leave town, "where there was formerly one gambling house there were then five or more gambling rooms." As a preventive of this evil he said that "the commissioners agreed that the chief of police might permit the most reliable and trustworthy of the gaming men, who lived in Memphis, to open their houses and play four games, which, in the opinion of the police, offered the least opportunity for fraud or cheating."

After more arguments in favor of "suppression," he concluded with:

"I therefore submit the question to the council, with this suggestion: Should you be of the opinion that it is best for the city and her people, then request the Legislature now in session to repeal so much of the city's charter as gives the fire and police commissioners any power to regulate or control, and leave the charter to provide, as does the law of the state, for suppression only."

This opinion of the Taxing District president was hailed with delight by the gamblers and other moral law breakers, and variously received by citizens. Members present at this meeting discussed the subject and the president's opinion. Mr. Haszinger asked, "Do you think gambling can be suppressed?" and upon the president saying that he thought it possible, Mr. Haszinger replied, "Well, I don't!"

Others agreed with the president and others did not and arguments were vehement for a while.

The message stirred up the citizens at large, as it had the Council, and upon request, men wrote their views to the papers. One of these, Mr. R. G. Craig, wrote: "If every voter who has an interest in the lawful pursuits of our city and county would take care to exercise his right and privileges, I feel sure men would be elected who would enforce proper

measures for the proper government of our city and suppress criminal development."

W. H. Leath, said: "I am opposed to gambling in all its forms, but I have no suggestion to make to President Clapp. I think he is opposed to gambling himself, but the question is how to handle the matter. There are many complications arising that are hard to deal with."

S. H. Dunscomb, said: "I don't approve the action of the Council on gambling. I think where there are laws they should be enforced."

Joseph Reynolds: "I am opposed to gambling in all its forms, or anything that looks like it. It is all nonsense that it can't be stopped. I know it can, for I have seen towns where it was not allowed, and they were as large and as lively as Memphis. It simply means the law enforced to the very letter."

Judge C. W. Heiskell responded: "I see Mr. Clapp fortifies himself behind a long established custom, which I think would be more honored in the breach than in the observance. \* \* \* I would like to ask the gentlemen of the council if they would invite Christian people to Memphis when they establish it as their policy that gamblers are to be given a *quasi* legal status in the city? Do they not think that it would invite Christian citizenship if they would, as they have the power to do, suppress gambling as the charter authorizes? Do they not think further that not only Christian people but all other people would have more respect for law and the constituted authorities if those authorities would execute the law against law-breaking?"

J. P. Young replied: "Mr. Clapp is mistaken in his premises. Open gambling houses can be suppressed. A notice to the chief of police from the proper authorities would enable him to close up every house in Memphis within twenty-four hours. \* \* \* As long as the felony statute stands it is as much a crime to gamble in Memphis as in any other town in Tennessee."

M. B. Trezevant said: "I don't see how gambling can

be justified in any way. \* \* \* \* Gambling is by no means a necessary evil."

D. M. Scales: "I am unable to see how a municipal corporation can license a crime forbidden by the laws of the State."

On January 31, a "Law and Order League" was organized over Joseph Specht's on Madison Street. Judge Heiskell was elected president, Col. John W. Dillard, vice-president and G. T. Fitzhugh, secretary.

Much enthusiasm was expressed by the members of this organization, and committees were formed as follows:

*Executive*: Napoleon Hill, chairman; G. W. McCrea, J. M. Greer, J. M. Steen, L. Lehman, T. C. Hindman, W. B. Glisson.

*Financial*: W. F. Taylor, chairman; J. M. Goodbar, J. C. Norfleet, Tom Gale, J. P. Edmondson.

*Constitution and By-Laws*: E. W. Carmack, chairman; J. H. Watson, John Johnson.

Secretary Fitzhugh submitted seventy-five names of men wishing to become members of the league, and he was instructed to enroll them.

The *Scimitar* advocated the Law and Order League and denounced the gamblers, as did their contemporary, the *Commercial*. Mr. A. B. Pickett, of the *Scimitar*, had this to say of existing evils:

"We have tried to make it very clear, since we began on the gambling question, how corrupt is the city. People ought to know about the evil that they may correct it. \* \* \* \* The extravagant burdens of taxation, the corner groceries and the power of political rings growing out of that thing have polluted the city, county and state. \* \* \* \* We have no personal malice in doing what we think right as a public journal. \* \* \* \* We are banking on the *Commercial* to stand by us in this work."

On the evening of February 21, 1893, there was a rousing meeting of the Law and Order League in Jefferson Club Hall, which was packed to overflowing. Many votes for the betterment of conditions were taken that night and it is recorded that every ballot was unanimous.

It would be fortunate if a community in choosing its leaders

could always get those who would hold the good of their charges above selfish ends, and would respect the law they are expected to uphold and fairly administer. The reverse of this is sometimes true and Memphis has had numerous misfortunes of this sort. During this part of her history, when so many good men were trying to make the city a clean one morally, some considered only selfish or even dishonest gains and smiled at the efforts for moral uplift. A prominent lawyer of that period was disbarred because of dishonest and unprofessional conduct, while a judge of the criminal bench so perverted his power in a tyrannical and despicable manner that it finally became its own foil and caused him to be tried by an indignant people, the result being impeachment and expulsion from office.

Such misguided characters often mar the progress of cities, but they cannot continue their work indefinitely as right will find them out. In history it would be pleasing to record only the good, especially as it is the strong, but history tell of the things that are or have been, even though the telling is sometimes unfortunate or unpleasant.

While Memphis was thus trying to rid herself of evil influence the evangelist, Sam Jones, came within her bounds and in his unique and strictly "Sam Jones way" did his part to make people "quit their meanness." He preached daily and nightly to packed houses and in his unvarnished, straightforward manner held hundreds of people spellbound. On the first of these visits he was tendered the largest church, the First Methodist, but when the new Auditorium on the corner of Main and Linden Streets was completed he was invited to open it and even in that commodious structure it was found almost as difficult to seat the thousands as the church had found in seating its hundreds. Men and women of all grades and professions attended these meetings and the coldest and rainiest days and nights found full attendance. The success of this man was remarkable.

He scored Memphis officials and berated the saloons and gamblers, sometimes using expressions in doing so that few would have dared use in the pulpit. One of his pointed thrusts was: "You are afraid of hurting your business and making

enemies, you are afraid of losing votes if you stand up for the right."

Again: "You will never drive gambling out of the town until the members of the church quit gambling for cut-glass vases. You will never drive the saloon out as long as the deacon keeps a demijohn in the closet." "If whiskey ran ankle deep in Memphis, and each front door had a dipper tied to it, you could not get drunk quicker than you can in Memphis now."

He advocated that all the ministers become members of the Law and Order League, and that all respectable men in Memphis belong to it, and not be afraid. "An honest man," he said, "is willing to know what and where he is." He said that many of the people sang "Hold the Fort,—for I am going the other way."

He thought that the real starting-point of morality and decency was in the home and said, "God help you parents to see that it is right in the homes, and that when the homes are right, everything will be right."

In these attempts at moral cleaning up women were not idle. They urged their husbands, fathers, brothers, sons and friends on in the work and they themselves came forward in a public way more than ever before in Memphis history. In 1892 the Association for the Advancement of Women met here, when many distinguished women from all over the world were Memphis guests. Most of these women had been earnest workers in the cause of allowing suffrage to women as one means of purifying social conditions, and there were, during their stay here, more well-received speeches on this and other moral subjects than ever before in the Bluff City. The daily papers, all at that time more or less opposed to woman suffrage, praised these intellectual women and gave much space to their lectures, their work, ability and themselves as individuals.

A few seasons later Miss Susan B. Anthony and Mrs. Carrie Chapman-Catt were guests in Memphis again, when they had not only good audience but enthusiastic gatherings. Mrs. Lide Meriwether introduced both of these speakers and one of the dailies in mentioning this Memphis woman who had done so

much for the cause of Temperance and justice for women, called her "deservedly popular" and praised her achievements.

Mrs. Meriwether did much, and some have said more than any other woman in the state to get the law known as the "age of consent law" raised from infancy,—ten years,—to an age when girls would at least be beyond the baby, doll-playing age. This age was first raised through the efforts of the untiring workers of that time to sixteen years and a few years later to eighteen years.

Governor McMillan, under whose administration this last was accomplished, argued that he thought a wrong whereby a young person's whole future life was marred should be of as much importance in the laws of the land as those of larceny, vagrancy and other petty crimes. He said that if a boy twenty years and eleven months old made a business transaction on credit, neither he nor his parents could be held responsible for the obligation, but that if his much younger sister had her life wrecked by some man old enough to be her father, neither she nor her parents had any redress whatever. He thought this unjust, as did many other good men and they, being larger and more progressive than the then-existing law, listened to parents and other moral reformers and had the age when an inexperienced girl could be said by law to consent to her degradation, raised to eighteen years, an age when she could at least comprehend that there were human beings immoral enough to prey on inexperience. Another Memphis "Mother in Israel" who worked hard for the moral uplift of both sexes was Mrs. Elizabeth Lyle Saxon.

Women usually work hardest for moral reforms and charity, and they take advantage of opportunities offered them for this work. In 1895 the Commercial offered to give women the Valentine edition of their paper, to be conducted by women throughout. This offer was gladly accepted and on February 14, after much labor, a mammoth paper was produced, containing original articles, sketches, drawings, stories, poems and many pages of advertisements. One department was devoted to men and many literary and other men contributed

meritorious articles. Arts and industries had departments, all of which were well conducted. The space allotted to the War Between the States and other memorials was conducted by Mrs. Luke E. Wright, Mrs. Kellar Anderson, Mrs. J. H. Humphries and Mrs. M. L. Beecher. This department was deservedly popular, and these ladies, having experienced the war's disadvantages, knew how to conduct the work.

The Board of Managers of this paper comprised: Mesdames C. N. Grosvenor, W. M. Farrabee, J. M. Judah, Cooper Nelson, J. W. Allison and James M. Greer. The business managers were Mesdames C. B. Galloway and M. M. Betts and the treasurer, Mrs. C. F. M. Niles.

The women were grateful for the liberal patronage this paper received and all of the proceeds of the big volume-paper went to the United Charities.

The city was not cleared of evil influences and undesirable characters, but the work of good citizenship had its weight and many conditions were bettered. She was partially restored to cityhood and again held her place as a civic, independent center.

In 1893 the Legislature passed an act declaring that "the president and vice-president of the board of fire and police commissioners of the city of Memphis shall be hereafter designated respectively mayor and vice-mayor of the city of Memphis." And,—“That at the expiration of the respective terms of office of the president and vice-president of the board of fire and police commissioners of the city of Memphis, their successors respectively, shall be elected by popular vote, in the manner provided in said acts. The mayor of said city to be voted for and elected in and by that name at the expiration of the term of the now president of said board, and the vice-mayor to be elected in and by that name at the expiration of the term of the now vice-president of said board. The said board shall remain constituted as heretofore, of three fire and police commissioners, the said mayor and vice-mayor to remain and be, as heretofore, commissioners and members of said board.”

In the race for the next election of city officers in 1893, three men were candidates for the mayoralty, namely, W. L.



Clapp, J. J. Williams and D. P. Hadden. The faction headed by each of these men held enthusiastic meetings and it was a spirited race. Many of the Law and Order League members worked for Mr. Hadden, as they said he was a positive character, not afraid to act, and would enforce law and collect the taxes.

Mr. Clapp was elected and with him Mr. Jeptha Fowlkes, vice-mayor.

City improvements went on as steadily as means would allow and Memphis was becoming more and more habitable. The city engineer reported that in 1892 \$116,473.37 had been spent on pavements, while that year's work on sewers had made the complete length of the city's system 54.6 miles.

The Artesian Water Company, with Judge T. J. Latham as president, and Mr. R. C. Graves, vice-president, continued to grow and by 1892 there were 41 artesian wells, ranging from 350 to 500 feet in depth and covering an area of about 23 acres.

Telephones increased rapidly in use and from luxuries had become necessities to business houses and many homes.

Electric lights continued to improve and became popular as illuminating power for residences, stores and streets.

Electric lights were first introduced into Memphis in 1882 by the Brush Electric Light and Power Company. Three years later a competitor in this business came,—the Thompson-Houston Electric Company. Later the Brush Company bought the stock of the Thompson-Houston Company and the two companies became incorporated as the Memphis Light and Power Co. The officers of this company in 1891 were S. T. Carnes, president and general manager, S. H. Brooks, vice-president, W. W. Carnes, secretary and D. T. Porter, treasurer.

The electric car service also continued to improve, as shown in the chapter on transportation.

January 3, 1895, Mayor Clapp said there was not a cent of floating debt against the city, as Memphis had paid for all material supplied during 1894, despite the fact that receipts had been limited.

Still, Memphis had causes for complaint. In this same

month of January the Mayor and Mr. Hu Brinkley presented several Memphis bills to the Legislature at Nashville, the most important being that "To amend the general assessment law of 1889; also to amend the Taxing District Act so as to enable the legislative council of Memphis to fix the tax levy instead of the assembly."

The "debt" and taxing system continued to keep Memphis hampered and her officials and citizens in a wrangle that seemed destined never to have an end.

In 1895 the Legislature appointed a back-tax collector for Memphis and the city council opposed it and appointed a collector of their own. Mr. Clapp complained that collection of taxes by the state was tyranny and that "the city of Memphis, in common with the other cities of the state, has power through its own selected agency and employes to collect its delinquent taxes." He complained that no matter how much Memphis needed these taxes, she must wait and let her expenses, incurred for officers, teachers, etc., etc., remain unpaid until the state turned over the money; that during the period of four years proposed for the term of the tax collector of the state, "there will come into his hands on the basis of the average delinquencies for the past three years \$450,000; and it is believed to be impossible to suggest a plausible, much less a valid or logical, reason why the power to collect this amount of taxes should be taken out of the hands of the chosen representatives of the city and lodged in the hands of a state officer, a resident of Nashville, and wholly foreign to every interest of the city except such as might be assumed to exist in any non-resident of the city clothed with so vast a power over the city's interests."

In May of this year the legislature amended the act denying Memphis the power of levying her own taxes and conferred upon her taxing power "to be free from restrictions and limits imposed" before that time.

The reader has perhaps noted how Dr. G. B. Thornton, year after year, decried the old City Hospital, setting forth its wretched condition, and petitioned for a new building, and how his successors in office reiterated his statements. It was

a trying time for those earnest workers who felt the necessity of surrounding the sick with sanitary and pleasant conditions, but they were finally rewarded. The Legislature of 1895 passed an act authorizing Memphis to levy an ad valorem tax of nine cents for the years of 1895, 1896 and 1897 for a new hospital, "the proceeds thereof to be appropriated and devoted exclusively to the building and equipping of a new hospital, and to the purchasing of a new hospital site, if, in the judgment of the Legislative Council, a new site should be deemed more desirable than the present one."

The old hospital was torn away, a new site purchased and a splendid new building, the plan of which was selected from a number of excellent plans submitted, was erected. After completion this hospital became one of the most important adjuncts of the city, and is one of the best arranged and equipped buildings for its purpose in the country, where hundreds of people have since received attention and comforts that have brought them back to useful life or made their last earthly days more pleasant than they would otherwise have been.

This hospital has pay and free service, the latter receiving no less careful attention than that for which patients are fortunate enough to pay. Two long wings extend from the central building, on either side, facsimiles of each other, one for white and the other for colored patients. The building is so arranged that other wings can be added from the central structure, as increased patronage or demands might require. Every room in the building has outside ventilation and sunshine some part of the day.

When the edifice was near completion, Mrs. W. L. Surprise was appointed by the fire and police commissioners to the position of matron of the institution. Her first duty was to purchase all the bedding and hospital linen, the purchase and care of which was a greater responsibility than one without experience of such domestic duty can easily realize.

In January, 1899, an ordinance was passed to establish a medical staff to take charge of the City Hospital, and these physicians assumed their duties March 1, following.

W. C. Davis was appointed superintendent and his report, tendered to the mayor and councilmen, showed the first year's work to be productive of much good. Of the medical staff he said, "It affords me much pleasure to say that the staff have performed their duties well and without compensation."

In connection with the Hospital a Training School for Nurses was established, the nurses to serve, under professional direction, in the institution while receiving their training.

The report of Superintendent Davis for 1899 showed the number of patients received during the entire year to have been 2,452, all of whom had recovered except 242. Of these, 385 were from Mississippi, 275 from Arkansas and 738 from other states besides Tennessee. Memphis had furnished only 403 of these patients. The cash taken in from pay patients during that year was only \$3,009.93.

May 10, 1895, the Interstate Drill and Encampment opened at Montgomery Park, and was the occasion of much interest and enjoyment to Memphis people and visitors. Among the military companies was the famous Veteran Chickasaw Guards, whose achievements in former days had won them much recognition.

Miss Helen Gould, one of the numerous distinguished guests expected, could not attend the encampment, but she sent a solid silver urn, skillfully chased and gold-lined, with these lines engraved upon it:

"Presented to the Veteran Chickasaw Guards by Miss Helen M. Gould on the occasion of the Interstate Drill and Encampment, held at Memphis, Tenn., May 10th to 21st, 1895."

There were daily drills at the park and several brilliant parades of visiting and home troops through the streets.

On Confederate Day, May 18, the business houses closed and a general holiday was enjoyed in honor of the Southern soldiers.

May 20, there was a Grand Review of all the troops, the soldiers making a splendid spectacle in full dress.

During these patriotic May days the Chickasaw Guards were enthusiastically received wherever they appeared, but for one time they did not carry off first honors, which was a

disappointment to Memphis people. They were in Class A, but did not head the list.

On the last day there was a great sham battle and award of prizes. The Thurston Rifles of Omaha carried off first honors and the best-drilled individual soldier was Private H. K. Williams of this well-drilled company.

The Memphis Neely Zouaves led in the Zouave class, and Company A of the Memphis Confederate Veterans led in the Hardee tactics class.

Going back to municipal affairs, we find that in June of 1895, there were complaints because no work had been done on the streets, sewers, bridges and other civic necessities during the year, and a long list of petitions for improvements was presented to the city council by tax-payers who suffered inconvenience from this sort of neglect. Some of the petitions received attention, while others continued causes of complaint.

Despite all drawbacks, however, the council declared that Memphis had made unusual progress in the past sixteen years and by the close of 1895 she was able to refund \$1,300,000 of her bonds, thus saving \$30,000 of annual interest.

In the spring of 1896 there was an unusually high flood that left much devastation and suffering in its wake. The breaking of several levees caused great destruction of property. Many animals were drowned and some people lost their lives in the flood torrents, but most of the people were saved. Memphis cared for over 6,000 of the refugees that year whose homes and other earthly possessions had been swept away.

After this affairs went along with comparative smoothness until the fall of 1897, when a yellow fever scare retarded business somewhat.

In September of that year a number of cases of this dread disease were reported in New Orleans, Mobile and other Southern cities, especially along the Gulf coast. There were some deaths and in October the disease spread considerably. Quarantine was very strict in Memphis but the yellow pest crept in. The fact was kept out of the papers for a while and the yellow fever deaths were reported as malarial fever, but the Board of Health demanded that it be made known.

Such knowledge frightened many people and there was an exodus of thousands, but most of the populace acted on the advice of the Board of Health, stayed at home and attended strictly to sanitation and cleanliness, as this was urged by the health officers to be the best quarantine, although the other sort was strictly enforced.

Some papers declared quarantine unnecessary and very disastrous to business, but it lasted all through October and was not lifted until November 5th.

The tension through October was great but an epidemic was averted although Memphis had so many more people than she had during her former disastrous experiences from this plague. Some physicians said such a catastrophe was averted because of the cleaner condition of the city, while others declared that the cool-headedness of the people who remained in the city helped more than anything else. "Fear," said one, "is a greater devastator than disease itself," and fear was not allowed to enter to the extent of getting the upper hand that year.

Three new cases were reported the day before the quarantine was lifted and there were a few scattered cases after, but danger was declared past and people came flocking home.

After this unsettling experience was over business was resumed with renewed vigor and the people advocated adding many of the suburbs to the corporation of the city, as the greater number of inhabitants lived beyond the city limits. This was necessary, many of the citizens claimed, that more of the inhabited territory might have civic improvements and enforced sanitation.

There were croakers who declared that the following year would produce an epidemic worse than any ever known before because there were so many more people but the majority were optimistic and they were correct for the year following was free from fever, as have been the fifteen years ensuing. An occasional quarantine has been enforced because yellow fever has made a feeble appearance further south, but just as this plague grew to be a thing of the past in New York, Philadelphia and other Northern cities, so it has become a pest and

dread of the past to Memphis. It is claimed that the discovery of the yellow fever mosquito will put an end to the plague in future.

On November 18, 1897, there was a conference in the city hall between the city council and two committees of suburban residents, presided over by Mayor Clapp, for the purpose of discussing the annexation of more territory to the city of Memphis. This was an enthusiastic meeting, with many speeches, suggestions, objections, etc. Some advocated that the limits be extended only a short distance while others objected that this would be no advantage, as many people would then build just outside the limits to avoid city taxes and that in a few years conditions from lack of sanitation would be the same as those then in the outskirts of town.

Large extensions would of course necessitate extending sewers and water-pipes at great expense and there were arguments for and against the advisability of this action.

Those in favor of extending the lines won in the arguments for in February, 1898 the Legislature passed an act extending the limits of Memphis, thus:

Beginning at a point on the east bank of Wolf River, at the west end of the south line of Maple Street if extended west to Wolf River, running thence eastward with the south line of Maple Street if extended to the west line of Breedlove Avenue; thence south with the west line of Breedlove Avenue to the south line of Vollentine Avenue; thence east with the south line of Vollentine Avenue to the west line of Watkins Avenue; thence south along the west line of Watkins Avenue to the north line of the right of way of the Raleigh Springs electric line; thence east with the north line of said right of way to the west line of Cooper Avenue; thence south with the west line of Cooper Avenue to the north line of Central Avenue; thence west with the north line of the Central Avenue, to a point north of the west line of Brown Avenue; thence south with the west line of Brown Avenue to the south line of the right of way of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad Company; thence west with the south line of said right of way to a point opposite the west line of Rayner Avenue;

thence south with the west line of Rayner Avenue to the north line of the right of way of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad Company; thence east along the north line of said right of way to a point opposite the west line of Ragan Avenue; thence south along the west line of Ragan Avenue to the north line of Austin Avenue; thence west along the north line of Austin Avenue to the west line of Raleigh Avenue; thence south along the west line of Raleigh Avenue if extended to the northeast corner of Calvary Cemetery; thence westward along the north line of said cemetery to its northwest corner; thence south along the west line of said cemetery one thousand feet to the center of Kerr tract; thence west with the center line of Kerr tract to the east bank of the Mississippi River; thence northward with the meanderings of the east bank of the Mississippi River to the south line of Wolf River where it empties into the Mississippi River; thence northeast up the meanderings of said bank of Wolf River to the point of beginning.

The Act authorizing these boundaries also authorized the city of Memphis to divide her territory "into such wards as may be necessary or may attach parts of the same to the wards now in existence."

The annexed territory was to be exempt from paying former debts of the city and from taxation for police, fire and light departments for ten years.

Despite the fever scare, the clearings of Memphis for November, 1897 exceeded those of November, 1896, \$1,856,240.60, those for 1896 showing \$10,635,361.04. And the bank clearings for the week ending December 11, 1897, were \$3,386,523.77, while the same week the previous year showed \$2,930,454.64 and the same week in 1895 showed \$2,624,143.45.



## CHAPTER XI

**J. J. Williams Elected Mayor. Death of Senator Harris. T. B. Turley Appointed Senator. Gambling Houses Closed. Further Extension of the City Limits. Collection of Taxes Authorized. Sewer Extension. Visit of President McKinley. Great Confederate Reunion. Williams is Reelected Mayor. Municipal Ownership of Water works. Purchase of the Old Plant. Attempt to Amend Charter. Memphis Streets Renamed. Quarantine.**

**ON JANUARY 6, 1898, J. J. Williams was elected mayor of Memphis, D. P. Hadden, vice-mayor and W. B. Armour, secretary. The board of fire and police commissioners of this administration comprised the three just named and Hu L. Brinkley. The supervisors of Public Works were E. C. Green, B. R. Henderson, G. D. Raine, William LaCroix, H. H. Litty, P. J. Moran, Thomas Clark, E. J. Carrington and W. B. Armour, clerk.**

**Dr. Heber Jones was president of the Board of Health and Dr. Marcus Haase, secretary.**

**Jerome E. Richards was Chief of Police. Wm. F. Carroll, Chief of the Fire Department.**

**John H. Watkins, City Attorney, A. T. Bell, City Engineer.**

**W. C. Davis, Superintendent of the City Hospital.**

**These and all other city officials went into office January 17, 1898.**

**On the night of February 3, Memphis did honor at the Auditorium to one of her sons, Thomas B. Turley, who had been appointed by Governor Robert L. Taylor to succeed the late, lamented Senator Isham G. Harris. Mayor Williams introduced Judge Greer as chairman of the meeting, and Judge Greer, in his own inimitable manner introduced the guest of honor, Senator Turley.**

When the new senator stepped before the audience applause and cheering made it impossible for him to be heard for some time, but finally the audience subsided and Mr. Turley thanked the people for this reception and for all they had done for him.

After Memphis boundaries had been extended the city went to work to improve Greater Memphis. The increased property value amounted to \$8,000,000. Memphis was now the largest city in the state and had much to do to get all within her boundaries in running order.

One of the first benefits to suburbanites who had come into the corporation was diminishing their car-fares by getting transfers to the different lines of the city. They also profited from the extension of streets, sewers, lights and educational facilities.

Early in February all the gambling houses were closed and their proprietors thrown out of business, if preying on the possessions of others can be called a business. This promptitude of the new city administration surprised the gamblers, but many of them said it was only a temporary suspension and waited around to see whether they would be allowed to resume or if, as the *Commercial* expressed it, they would have to "seek pastures new."

February 15, the Battleship Maine was blown up in Havana harbor, and Memphis, with all the Country, became very patriotic and little was discussed beside this catastrophe. The accident theory was at first accepted but the people soon grew to believe that treachery lay at the bottom, especially when Spain commenced to send war boats and torpedoes to Havana. Investigation proceedings were instituted and the spirit of war and revenge became rampant until war was finally declared.

For months papers teemed with war news almost to the exclusion of other events. War was east of us in Cuba and west in the Philippines, and many of our young men were called both ways. West Tennessee militia companies centered in Memphis and for a while the Bluff City seemed to have

revived the days of the sixties except that this time her boys all wore the blue.

But the fields of action were distant and Memphis, with her additional territory, had much home work to do. In 1898 her limits had been extended, as we have seen, and the city officials had put in many improvements, besides keeping up those of the old part of the city. In January, 1899 the Legislature passed another bill extending the limits still further, thus:

“Commencing where the north line of Trigg Avenue touches the Mississippi River at low water mark; thence east with the north line of Trigg Avenue to Raleigh Avenue; thence east with the north line of Trigg Avenue if extended to the intersection of the Pidgeon Roost road and Cooper Avenue; thence north with the west line of Cooper Avenue to the intersection of Old Raleigh road; thence north to a point where Vollentine Avenue, if extended east, would intersect the west line of Cooper Avenue as produced; thence west along said south line of Vollentine Avenue as produced east, to Marley Avenue; thence west on the south line of Vollentine Avenue produced west, to the south line of Brinkley Street; thence west along the south line of Brinkley Street as now opened and as produced west, to the east bank of Wolf River at low water mark; thence in a southerly direction along the east bank of Wolf River to the Mississippi River; thence along the east line of Mississippi River at low water mark to the point of beginning.”

Another act passed at the same session enabled the city to levy her own taxes for her own purposes, and in April of the same year the Legislature authorized “That all commissions, which have been paid or turned over to the County of Shelby, for the collection of the taxes of the city of Memphis, since January 1, 1899, shall be refunded by the county to the city of Memphis, and hereafter no commissions for the collection of the taxes of the city of Memphis shall be paid to the County of Shelby, or collected out of its current taxes or by the county trustee.”

Memphis was also empowered by Act of this same Legisla-

ture, to provide for the collection of her current and delinquent taxes and was "vested with the power to establish the office of tax receiver," and to elect or employ said tax collector by her legislative council.

She was vested with full city powers as to appointing the time and place for collecting taxes, to fix delinquencies, penalties, costs, advertisements, etc. She was "vested with full and complete power to establish, by ordinance, and to enforce in any manner advisable any and all measures necessary or expedient for the collection of the current and delinquent taxes of such city, and all such measures and acts of all officers and persons acting thereunder shall be as valid and binding as if such measures were enacted by the Legislature."

Although still under the weight of the debt begun in her helpless days, Memphis was practically restored to the full privileges of cityhood, and was no longer dubbed merely a taxing district, though in fact it continued to be one in modified form.

The "Williams administration" started in to do conscientious work and much was accomplished under the difficulties prevailing.

Mr. Williams, in his report for 1899, said:

"By the addition of twelve square miles of territory, part of which was thickly settled, having many miles of unpaved streets totally lacking in sewers or any other means of sanitation, wholly without provision for lights, fire or police protection, and having a very limited mileage of water or gas pipes, there was thrust upon our shoulders a very mountain of responsibility and difficulty, the magnitude of which few of our people are conscious of. \* \* \* If we had all the money wanted the needed improvements could be rapidly accomplished; but, our tax rate, while lower than in former years, is as high as our people are willing to bear. I therefore recommend that the rate of taxation for general purposes remain the same as it was last year, and that by a judicious appointment of the budget and an economical administration of affairs, the improvements demanded by our people be pushed to the utmost limits of our resources."

During this year thirty-six miles of sewers were laid, costing \$141,930.99, as against twenty miles for the previous year, costing \$166,955.49.\*

The Board of Health had a good report for the work of the year 1899, both in the old and annexed territory. Among other improvements for the latter, two crematories had been built, as cremating garbage had now become a prevalent system in Memphis.

The sanitary inspector of the health department, Dr. J. L. Andrews, expressed gratification for the fact that citizens and property owners had generally been prompt in making sewer connections and in complying with other demands. These owners had been rewarded by having their property increased in value from ten to twenty-five per cent.

The *Sanitarian*, a periodical of New York, had to say of the condition of Memphis at that time: "The health of Memphis is of abiding interest as an object lesson for sanitarians, and it is gratifying to observe that her health authorities are constantly alive to the importance of cleanly local conditions."

The Artesian Water Company reported 125,835 feet or 25 miles of water-pipes laid in 1899.

The street commissioner, Mr. George Haszinger, reported that there had been grading, rounding up of dirt streets, cleaning gutters, filling sewer ditches and approaches to new bridges mainly in the annexed territory, but sufficient money had not been allowed to insure half the work needed, some of the streets in the annexed portions of the city being in very bad condition. Mr. Haszinger recommended a new sweeping machine, new carts for hauling sweepings and a stable owned by the city for housing city street cleaning property.

The police and fire departments made good showings for the closing of the century, according to their facilities, but both these departments felt the need of additions to their forces, the added miles of city territory requiring it. Chief Richards said of this:

"The area of territory to be patrolled and protected was increased from four miles (the area of the old city limits) to

\*Engineer's Report.

sixteen miles, which additional territory was annexed by an act of the Legislature, and embraced all the thickly settled suburbs to the north, east and south of the old city limits. This annexation made the increase of the force imperative, and one sergeant and eighteen men were added to the regular patrol force, which, up to March 1, 1899, was limited to forty-five men."

The entire number of patrolmen of that time was only sixty-three for both reliefs which, Mayor Williams said was "wholly inadequate to properly guard the territory of sixteen square miles."

Chief Richards suggested that in order to get conscientious work from policemen they should be paid sufficient to enable them to support families and, when too old to work, should be pensioned on half pay, when the better part of their lives had been spent in the service.

He praised the detective force, through whose agency he reported \$15,656.85 worth of property to have been restored to the owners.

Of the police matron the chief said: "I cannot speak in too high terms of praise of the work performed by Miss M. E. Roark, the police matron. Her position is a most trying one, and is not confined alone to the searching of females who have been arrested. Abandoned infants, homeless girls, poverty-stricken families, and all the misery that follows broken homes, deserted wives and helpless children, it has been her task to succor and relieve."

A report of her work showed 140 white and 360 colored female prisoners searched.

Strangers cared for in Matron's Apartment .....	504
Girls placed in Reformatories .....	18
Employment secured for Girls and Women .....	74
Children cared for .....	50
Children placed in Orphan Asylums .....	14
Infants given to families for adoption .....	24
Homes found for children between the ages of four and 14	10
Infants that died while in her charge .....	2

This did not include medicine and clothing distributed among the poor whom she visited.

Chief Carroll of the Fire Department, reported sixty-five as his total force, including himself. Much of the vigilance of this department has been spent in discovering and removing or remedying defects and dangerous conditions of property. There were 442 of these reported and the chief said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure."

Six hundred and six plugs and hydrants were at the service of the Fire Department at that time, and their property at the close of the century was valued at \$191,300.00.

Mayor Williams said: "The rapid growth of the old city, as well as the addition of the annexed territory, demand a greater number of fire-engines and the maintenance of the facilities of this department at the highest standard."

Several large fires and many small blazes, some of which would have resulted direfully but for the quick work of the firemen, were reported for 1899, the total fire loss for that year showing \$906,452.14, as against insurance for \$1,500,891.73.

The City Secretary, W. B. Armour, showed that on January 1, 1900, there was \$11,140.23 on hand, after the expenses of the city had been paid, besides \$58,000 of annexed territory taxes that had been repaid, according to an act of 1899,\* making that requirement.

The total receipts shown for this year were \$925,936.40 and the disbursements \$873,658.64.

Mayor Williams, in concluding his report for the year ending December 31, 1899, said to the councilmen:

"In conclusion, allow me to remind you that we have in our hands the welfare of a great and prospering city. The responsibility upon us is great. Numerous questions of the very highest importance demand our earnest and immediate action. The people have recently expressed their confidence in us. Let us handle these questions in a way which will demonstrate that we deserve their confidences. Each of us is entitled to a full expression of his views, but due considera-

\*House Bill 124, Acts of 1899, approved Jan. 25th.

tion for each other and the harmonious action of the Council as a whole is necessary to the public weal."

With the opening of the new century the one-time unfortunate Memphis had left fears behind and seemed to be steadily climbing the road to prosperity. The eyes of the world seemed to be turned upon her and many newspapers commented on her achievements and future. The census of 1900 gave the city a population of 102,320, which caused great rejoicing, but in fact the city census had been fraudulently "padded" about 20,000 names, as the people of the city only found out a decade later.

Her growth during the past decade showed an increase on the face of the figures of fifty-nine per cent while in truth it was only twenty-nine. However, eleven steam-railways steamed in and out her confines and the river facilities were excellent.

The Nineteenth Century had been a wonderful span of time for humanity, having brought more advancement than any other in the world's history. All sciences had made great strides; many helpful discoveries had lightened many forms of labor and brought luxuries before undreamed of; art had both made much advancement and resuscitated bygone skill; universal peace had grown in favor and the brotherhood of man had gained a firm foundation.

In April of 1901 President McKinley, his wife and their party visited Memphis and were cordially received. From the station they were escorted by Company A, Confederate Veterans, who formed a guard around the President's carriage, all the way to Court Square.

In Court Square a stand had been erected for the speaking, where Mayor Williams presented the President to the great throng gathered to see and hear him. The mayor gave a graceful introduction, to which the President responded quite as gracefully. He paid high tribute to Tennessee and to Tennessee soldiers, then showed he knew something of Memphis history by mentioning her bitter trials of past years. He praised her for overcoming difficulties as she had, predicting for the Bluff City a great future. He called Memphis the leading



commercial city of the Middle South, and in paying tribute to her bravery and energy, said: "No other city in your country has suffered more than Memphis and no other city has overcome so completely adversity as Memphis." He expressed high regard for General Luke E. Wright who, he said, was doing his duty in the Philippines, just as he had done it in Memphis.

The President and his wife received many honors while here, for which they expressed appreciation, and no celebrated visitors ever left kindlier feelings in the hearts of their hosts than these two and their distinguished party. So it was with doubly deep sorrow that Memphians heard a month later of the serious illness of Mrs. McKinley, and later in the year of the terrible assassination of Mr. McKinley, one of the noblest souls that had ever held high office.

On the day of his funeral, September 19th, Memphis respected his memory by closing her business houses in the afternoon and draping them in mourning. The churches also had services on that day and church and fire bells tolled during the time of the funeral procession. At a mass meeting held for the purpose, resolutions of sorrow on the death of the President were drawn up and passed.

In May, 1901, the Confederate Reunion was held here, and Memphis had been preparing for the reception and entertainment of the soldiers for months. Eighty thousand dollars had been contributed for the purpose and conspicuous in the contributions was a check for \$1,000 from Robert Church, an ex-slave who, by his industry, had made for himself a fortune in Memphis. His contribution was accompanied by a letter, showing high merit and refined feeling.

All the railroads reduced rates for the Reunion and these trains, with extra cars and schedules, came to the city with load after load of visitors, the number during the Reunion being 125,580,\* more guests than she had inhabitants. This included eighteen thousand veterans.

The city was beautifully decorated in honor of the soldiers, some of the arches being feats of artistic skill, while bunting

\*"Commercial Appeal."

and flags,—Confederate and Union,—waved in all directions.

General John B. Gordon of Georgia, was at that time Commander-in-Chief of the Confederate Veterans and he received much attention and many honors. The papers were filled with Reunion affairs, war reminiscences and pages and pages of pictures of soldiers, officers, sponsors, etc.

In the address of welcome to the Veterans, Mayor Williams said many loving things, expressing the general feeling of the people,—which was one of reverence and tenderness for the men who had lost a cause and then suffered untold humiliations heaped upon them by the worst element of their enemies.

But these men have again reached a state of citizenship as high as they and their fathers had enjoyed before the war. Sons and daughters of these heroes, born Americans and loyal to their birth, yet revere and honor their fathers who fought for a cause they believed to be just, and are keeping green the memory that would otherwise die before many more years.

Bishop Gailor addressed the Sons of Veterans in an eloquent speech, as he can so well do, especially when talking to young men. At the conclusion of this address he said: "There is no virtue more manly or more precious than filial reverence for the traditions of one's own people, and there is no patriotism so enduring and so reliable as that which begins with and proceeds from the honest, the firm, the unswerving affection for one's own section and one's native land."

On May 30, there was a mammoth parade, greeted and cheered by thousands, especially that part of the procession made up of the soldiers. Cheers, tears, yells, waving and all possible demonstrations greeted them.

Many tributes were paid during the Reunion to the South's leaders and the Confederate Veterans were never and will never be more honored than they were in May, 1901, in Memphis, by the thousands who revered and loved them so.

Great efforts were made in 1901 to lesson evils and promote all kinds of municipal benefits. An act was passed this year enabling Memphis to levy an ad valorem tax of \$1.00 on the \$100.00 of all taxable property within the city limits,

to improve streets, highways and bridges and to complete the sewer system.

During this same year the city won a suit requiring real estate agents and others to consider city health, comfort and convenience in laying off subdivisions, and all other precautions possible were taken to keep up the standard of city health and to increase it.

Growth was shown by the constant increase of population, which had passed the 100,000 point, by the phenomenal building permits, growth of manufactures and by the increase in Bank and Clearing House receipts. During the last five years of the Nineteenth Century bank clearings had increased nearly sixty per cent, and the Clearing House showed in May, 1901, \$12,157,500.58, as against \$9,949,648.76 for May, 1900, and this, after caring for over 100,000 visitors at the Reunion.

At this time Memphis was the leading manufacturing city in the state and she owned much of her precedence in this and other advancement to the Industrial League.

In January, 1902, an election was held for Mayor, when Mr. Williams was reelected with the entire Democratic ticket, having had little opposition, for a term of four years. It was said that the four years of the Williams administration ending with December, 1901, were among the most prosperous in the history of Memphis.

Sanitation in Memphis at this time was said to be a "model for the world."

The people complained of high taxes and the high price of water and lights, and the municipal ownership of these conveniences grew in favor. In 1898 the Legislature had passed a bill authorizing the city of Memphis to control her own water works, and under a contract between the water works and Memphis the city was given the right to buy the existing plant. Judge Latham said that meters would obviate all trouble and he urged their use. He said that under the then existing system there was so much waste of water that the company could not afford to cut the rates as the city demanded without bankrupting the water company, but that meters would reduce individual consumption and so the general expense.

Meters were put in where people wanted them but their use was discouraged. Dr. Jones, President of the Board of Health, said that the meters would bring about more evils than cures and the plan became so unpopular that Judge Latham refused any further controversy on the subject. A committee was appointed in February, 1902, composed of E. B. LeMaster, chairman, B. R. Henderson and Ed. F. Grace, to investigate the situation. They made a report the following May, and after setting forth the conditions of the contract between the city and the Water Company, existing conditions of the meters, flat rates, water quality, etc., they recommended that the city either buy the water plant then in existence or construct one of their own.

The mayor was opposed to municipal ownership and most of the councilmen agreed with him, but some argued that it was the only wise solution of the problem and citizens generally favored it, so it was the plan finally agreed upon. The committee was authorized to negotiate with the Water Company and in December, 1902, Mr. Armour, the City Secretary received a communication from the Water Company accepting the proposition of the city to buy the plant and to "pay off in cash the floating indebtedness of the company."

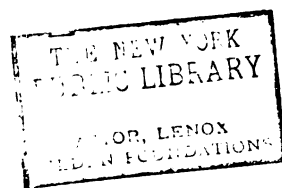
On January 27, 1903, the committee, of which Mr. LeMaster was chairman, held a meeting to receive bids for \$1,250,000 water bonds. Three bids were made but rejected, and the committee was authorized to sell the "\$1,250,000 of 4 per cent 30-year water bonds at the best price obtainable, but at a price not less than par."

After much controversy and many business transactions, matters were finally settled and the city possessed the water plant with all its properties, since which time water has been furnished at as low rate as possible to good business judgment, and wrangling in that branch of municipal affairs has ceased.

In 1902 the Water Company had sunk six new wells and in 1905 eight more were sunk, as the former wells were inadequate to supply the greatly increased demand for water.

In April, 1902, all the gambling houses were closed and, as of old, the gamblers waited around for the time to come





when they could open their houses or rooms again. This time, however, they stayed closed so much longer than on former occasions that in February, 1903, the gamblers appealed to the city council, promising to keep orderly houses, refuse to allow intoxicated persons into their places or youths under twenty-one, and to close at the hour of night required. These men argued that closing their houses had injured the city in many ways and had caused suffering to the families of the gamblers. One wonders that men having such a fluctuating existence should not change their employment. Each year added to the uncertainty of their positions and laws were gradually closing round them.

In 1905, when some of them had grown to believe that they again had a foothold in Memphis, the Legislature passed an act authorizing taxing districts to suppress gaming houses and punish gaming by fine and imprisonment, this act taking from taxing districts the "power to control and regulate" and to make it their duty to suppress gaming houses.\*

The trusts, so steadily gaining power all over the country, affected Memphis as well as other places and the increase in cost of living was very noticeable.

The year 1903 found the street-car service very insufficient for city needs. In September of that year the company added thirty new cars and it was required under the franchise of the company that they do \$100,000 worth of street paving. In December this company was given a fifty-year franchise. In 1905 it changed hands after which further improvements were made.

A bill was framed for the Legislature of 1903, amending the Memphis charter, but many people objected to its provisions and at the same time it went to the Capitol, a petition went, signed by 13,000 Memphis citizens, to defeat the same. One of the objectionable provisions was the creation of the office of tax-assessor; that officer to be elected by the council. Many citizens said that this and other objects of the bill would bring back some of the old conditions before 1879. After much fighting for and against, the bill was passed with a proviso

\*Acts of 1905.

that it should be submitted to Memphis people for approval or rejection at an election to be held in July. At this time the tax-assessor was to be elected by the people, but in the meantime one was to be employed by the city government of their own choosing.

Scarcity of money was very apparent in 1903 and the mayor felt the necessity of curtailing asphalt and other city work, but there was a great demand for building and the general growth of the city was steady. The amusements were all well patronized, the streets were crowded and old residents saw many more new than familiar faces on the streets. The postal increase was large, bank clearings excellent and the public school system had grown to be more extensive than that of any other city in the state.

The Commercial Appeal said at this time: "You can hear the town growing early in the morning before the street-cars are running."

Mayor Williams entered upon his second term without opposition, but politics later caused dissensions, as is so often the case where there are many men of many minds. These dissensions continued and increased as the years went on.

The News made war on the Williams administration, accusing it of profligate expenditure of the city's money, etc., while others complained because the mayor tried to reduce expenses. He said there should be no extensive civic improvements while the city funds were so low. The added territory gave more responsibility, more work to be done and more people to be satisfied or dissatisfied.

The bank clearings of 1904 exceeded those of 1903 twenty-two per cent, and the increase for ten years previous was 171 per cent, while the Clearing House showed an increase of \$48,000,000 over 1903. Building permits for this same year showed \$3,274,398.35 and the volume of trade, \$436,000,000.

In 1905 Memphis streets were renamed and the names placed on corners. Those running north and south were called streets and those running east and west, avenues. Many old land-marks like DeSoto, Hernando, and others originally named for early settlers and builders of Memphis had their names



changed, which change was not to the liking of many old residents.

In the summer of 1905 yellow fever made its appearance in New Orleans and other Southern points, but the *Commercial Appeal* said "Memphis is serene."

The mosquito theory was prevalent by that time and the health officers in their house to house inspection saw that no water was allowed to stand in pools, barrels, or otherwise. Cisterns were condemned as mosquito breeders and people forced to use city water. Dr. Albright, president of the State Board of Health at that time, declared Memphis to be "a health resort," so favorable were her health reports.

Many business people were opposed to quarantine, but after a mass meeting held to discuss the subject, the matter was left in the hands of Mayor Williams and Dr. Jones, President of the Board of Health. They decided quarantine to be safe and that too much was at stake to act recklessly.

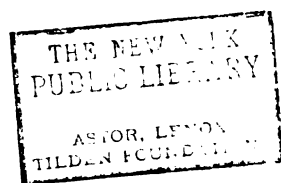
Meetings were held by business exchanges, city officials and others, all coming to the final agreement that while quarantine would inconvenience business and travelers, it and cleanliness were the safest methods. Quarantine went into effect July 29, and after being enforced became very strict. It was not lifted until October. Rumors got abroad occasionally that someone had the disease in Memphis but these were wholly false and the fever did not get into the city at all.

On November 23, following the excellent management of the "fever scare," there was a meeting held in the Cotton Exchange Building, where Dr. Heber Jones was presented with a check of \$10,000, a gift from Memphis citizens, in appreciation of his splendid services to the city. Doctor Jones had given up a very large and lucrative practice to become President of the Board of Health, that he might serve the city, and had been unsparing of himself in pursuing the duties he had taken upon himself, and the fact of the yellow fever being kept entirely from our borders and so preventing untold calamity to the city, was most largely due to his vigilance.

In presenting him with the check Mr. Caldwell made the presentation speech and gave the doctor a book containing the

names of several hundred subscribers to the gift. After Doctor Jones responded, expressing deep feeling for Memphis people and their appreciation of his services, he was tendered an ovation.

In 1905 the Circuit Court work had become so heavy that three new divisions were added, Judge Walter Malone being appointed to the second division, Judge A. B. Pittman to the third and Judge H. W. Laughlin to the fourth. The judge of the fourth division was given jurisdiction of divorce proceedings before that time vested in the second circuit court, which was abolished.





*James F. Malone*

## CHAPTER XII

**J. H. Malone Elected Mayor. Attack Upon Charter. Commission Government Established and Declared Unconstitutional. Reduction of Tax Rate. Flippin Compromise Bonds Refunded. Police Department Work. Improvement of Water System. The City's Real Estate. Front Foot Assessment Law. Pensioning Policemen. City Limits Again Extended. Greater Memphis. Resume of Progress, 1909.**

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**I**N THE fall of 1905, Messrs. J. J. Williams and James H. Malone had an animated race for the mayoralty. There were rousing mass-meetings for nights before the election and each candidate set forth in his platform unfailing attention to streets and other civic improvements, schools, taxes, etc. The election was held November 9, and Mr. Malone was elected. The opposing faction claimed that his election was fraudulent and tried to keep the new mayor from going into office, but he entered upon his turbulent duties in January, 1906. Much work was accomplished during that year, despite the depleted treasury and political upheaval, and Mr. Malone carried on with zest improvements begun by Mr. Williams, besides instituting many new ones.

Enemies of his administration did not cease to contend that the election had been fraudulent, and they elected to the Legislature of 1907 members who promised to have the city charter annulled, that the mayor and other officials might be removed from office and others put in their places. They succeeded temporarily in their plan, passed the commission bill and Mayor Malone was ejected from office. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court and there it was decided that the newly made commission form of government was unconstitutional, so two months after the Malone officials had been

put out of office they returned to take up the broken threads of their work. This disorganization of government had not been beneficial to the city and hampered the administration, but by degrees matters became adjusted and the administration continued its work.

There were disheartening conditions in some respects. City debts amounted to \$200,000, some of these being of several year's standing. In order to do the essential work on streets, bridges, sewers, etc., it was necessary to make an overdraft of \$87,950.18, while the fire, police and health departments were each forced to make overdrafts to meet their expenses.

Mayor Malone believed in the granolith sidewalks, that his predecessor had introduced and he had many miles of board, cinder and old brick sidewalks replaced with the smooth, satisfactory walks of granolith. He also had old wooden bridges removed and concrete put in their places and muddy streets, walks and roads lessened appreciably as this administration progressed in its work.

In the beginning of his term Mr. Malone could see no way to reduce taxes and carry on city expenses, but as good management lessened these and adjustments in general grew, the taxes were lowered in 1907 to \$1.97, and a year later to \$1.91, the lowest taxes Memphis had had for thirteen years. The mayor complained that the railroads, street railways, light, telegraph and telephone companies did not pay their share of city taxes, and at the beginning of 1908, the assessments of these different companies was increased nearly \$2,000,000. Mayor Malone's report showed that "The city derived from these public utility corporations in 1907 in ad valorem taxes \$96,722.04, which includes the North Memphis levee, park and Cossitt Library special taxes."

In 1905 the Legislature had repealed the variable ward tax-rates of the city and provided that all wards of the city should be uniformly taxed. This in turn was repealed in 1907, but it was not enacted that the former three rates should be revived and they were not. Later the bill was passed for a commission form of government, which also sanctioned uniform taxation throughout the city and this has since been the rule.

The Mayor's report showed that during 1906-7, \$196,000 of the "Flippin Compromise Bonds" had been cancelled and retired, leaving still outstanding \$551,000, all bearing six per cent interest. Later, "the refunding bonds to redeem the Flippin Compromise Bonds were sold for \$1,025.70 each, so that applying the premium received on the bonds it only became necessary to issue \$537,000 of these bonds, this reducing the principal of the indebtedness \$14,000. These new bonds mature in 1939 and bear only 4½ per cent interest, whereas the Flippin bonds bore six per cent."

It was shown that the indebtedness of the city was then one-thirteenth of the taxable values, while in 1879 it had been one-third.

The Police Department had in 1908 a force of 146, with George T. O'Haver, chief. Chief O'Haver gave an excellent report of the work done in his department during 1907, showing that the department had gradually been increased, but he complained that the force was still far from being numerically sufficient. He stated that Memphis, on account of her geographical position, is a difficult city to patrol and protect, as criminals and fugitives from Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Alabama come here or often get into mischief here while enroute to other cities. To quote from Chief O'Haver: "Memphis is along the great highway of travel between the North and South, also the East and West, and with its eleven railroads and water transportation, navigable all the year, it presents an attraction to thieves to commit depredations not possessed by any other city, and the means for criminals to escape on account of its proximity to other states are unsurpassed."

The amount of stolen property recovered that year by the fourteen detectives was \$22,705.60 and these "plain clothes men" captured many noted criminals in Memphis. One of the duties of the detectives is to protect the traveling public at railroad stations day and night. The chief praised Miss Mary E. Roark's work and said: "She has ever proved equal to the exigencies of the occasion, no matter if the distressed was a reputable woman or one of the unfortunates of the world."

The department at that time had forty police signal boxes.

which had proved all that had been argued for them when the council had been importuned to get them. The Gamewell system had been adopted by Memphis, built at a cost of \$10,000, and the forty boxes in operation enabled policemen in all twenty-two wards of the city to keep in touch with one another.

Of the police station building, Chief O'Haver said: "Central Station still remains the nightmare of the department. Its dangerous condition, together with its lack of facility to properly shelter officers and men, and also those arrested, continues to deserve the severe criticisms that grand juries for the past ten years have never failed to call public attention to, both to its insanitary surroundings and insecurity."

Owing to the crowded condition of the uptown district, the properly policing that portion of the city, as well as policing parks and other places of amusement, caused parts of the city to be neglected, and the Chief said that some people, ever ready to criticise the police service, do not take into consideration, or perhaps do not know, how difficult it is to give proper police protection to a large city, with all of its various demands, without sufficient men to do the work.

Chief O'Haver also thought that everything should be done to raise the standard of the policemen themselves, such as paying them good salaries and enabling them to look forward, after years of faithful service, to pensions for their old age or disability.

The Board of Health used quite an overdraft on their funds during the year 1908, but they did much toward cleaning up the city and worked hand in hand with the Council in getting the city as a whole in good condition. Doctor Raymond was president of the board at that time, and he was an earnest worker.

Among improvements that he and his assistants accomplished was the removal of garbage boxes from streets and putting them in alleys and back-yards, and having the wooden ones, as they wore out, substituted by galvanized iron cans. The removal of these boxes took from the streets many unsightly nuisances. Alleys received careful inspection and those up town, especially, were thoroughly cleaned and ordered kept



so. Some of the street workmen were appointed to this special work and were called the "alley gang." This gang removed during 1907 25,000 cartloads of dirt of various sorts.

Food inspection had become strict and the city attorney, Mr. Thos. H. Jackson, said that enforcing the laws in regard to milk and other pure food restrictions took much of the time of himself and his assistants.

In 1906 the city authorities decided that the "tunnel" system of obtaining water for the city supply was not the best method. It was impossible to abandon the system, as the city plant, with its tunnels and lifts was too extensive for this, but all new works were to be put in according to more advanced methods. In 1906 three air-compressors and pumps were put in in New South Memphis, and in January, 1907, a new "air-lift" plant was erected at the corner of Central and Tanglewood Avenues. It consisted "of five 150-horsepower boilers, five air compressors with a capacity of 500 cubic feet free air per minute each and five 1,000,000-gallon pumps. The maximum capacity of this plant is about 7,500,000 gallons daily, with a normal capacity of 5,000,000 gallons." Six wells were connected with this plant and all were pronounced good.

The water commissioners, comprising Messrs. Wirt J. Wills, James S. Davant and Robert E. Lee, were of opinion that this new water system solved the water problem for Memphis.

Besides this new work, improvements had been made in other ways, all the property of the Department kept in thorough repair, and the water pumped was increased 1,000,000 gallons per day, making the daily pumpage 14,000,000, all of which the commission claimed made "1907 the banner year for the Department."

The reduction in rates since the city bought the water plant had been 34 per cent and yet, by 1907 the commissioners declared that the revenue of the Department had increased until it was equal to what it had been under private ownership. The supply continued in its purity and chemists of America and Germany pronounced it the best public water in the United States. The commissioners gave the value of the water plant to be \$6,000,000.

Much work had been accomplished on streets and bridges and sewers had been greatly extended. City Engineer J. H. Weatherford complained that the supervision of the city government over new subdivisions had not been enforced as to width and location of streets. In closing his report he advised: "As it is probable that the city limits will be again extended in the near future I would respectfully recommend that some legislation be secured to the end that the city may have some positive control of the location and width of streets opened for public use."

The City Hospital had an excellent report for the year 1907 and although still not self-sustaining, was steadily climbing to that point. The amount received for pay-patients during the year was \$56,512.50, and the year's expenses had amounted to \$81,417.42. Doctors and nurses had been added to the service of the hospital, and of these the superintendent, Mr. John H. Kibler, said: "I have nothing but praise for the staff-physicians, interns and co-laborers in the care of the sick and injured."

The number of patients received during the year were 2,874 and those treated numbered 3,918. Of this number 3,624 were cured. The greatest number of patients had been, contrary to former reports, from Memphis, these numbering 2,009, the remaining 864 being from Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and other states.

Miss Nell A. Peeler, superintendent of nurses, reported good work from the graduate and pupil nurses, ending: "I desire to speak in the highest praise of our Training School Faculty and the entire staff, for their painstaking and untiring instructions, both at the bedside and in the class room. This enables us to be successful in giving to the public nurses who are competent and thorough."

The real estate and buildings owned by the city of Memphis in 1907, amounted to \$5,733,800.00.

Despite any and all drawbacks, Mr. Malone said: "We have every reason to be encouraged for the future and should enter upon the duties of the current year [1908] with renewed

energy and hope," and in his next report he declared: "The year 1908 opened under auspicious circumstances."

During 1908 the Mayor proposed that the city limits be extended, both to raise the census of 1910 and from a sanitary and police standpoint, as the immediate suburbs had become very thickly settled, all these inhabitants being strictly Memphis people, making their living in the city, having fire protection without paying city taxes, and enjoying other advantages the city gives.

The front-foot assessment law was enforced in Memphis this year and brought about much complaint, as any new form of taxation always arouses a people, no matter how much good the tax might do the city. This law provided that abutting owners of property should pay two-thirds of the expense of street improvement work done in front of their property, and sixty per cent of the owners on any street could petition for the improvement of their street. In this last case the mayor thought the city should be given the initiative of judging which streets needed attention first. The city, in addition to its one-third of the entire expense of work under this law was "liable for certificates of indebtedness used to cover the cost of the other two-thirds falling on the property holder. In addition to this it is ruled by our legal department that in case it becomes necessary to relay water-pipes or to lay down sewers in advance of a permanent improvement on the street, that the city must pay the entire cost thereof, and no part thereof is chargeable to the property owner. It will thus be seen that as compared with other cities an undue portion of the cost of improvements must fall on the city."

So long as the Flippin Bonds were current, Memphis could not issue any liability bonds, but these being refunded in 1908, the city had the power to issue general liability bonds, the first time she had enjoyed that privilege for forty years. During this period of two score years all improvements had been made by direct taxation. "In the meantime the city was allowed in all these years to collect in addition privilege taxes, and the

Legislature likewise levied special taxes, such as for Parks, Cossitt Library, North Memphis Levee, etc.”\*

Mr. Malone urged the issuance of bonds for city improvements and said in defense of the act:

“We have gone through war, pestilence and financial panic; in short, we have borne the heat and burden of the day, and have now in the rough a city of the most flattering possibilities of any in this broad land, and why should we not make it a finished city?”

“We certainly will hand it over to the generation that succeeds us as a valuable asset, and surely our successors can care for the small liability with such a splendid inheritance.

“There will be opposition to the issue of any bonds. We have the pessimist and doubter always with us. There are men still living who violently opposed sewerage for the city, although it was the only redemption of the city from pestilence. Likewise the purchase of our present water system, so superbly successful and an absolute necessity for our health, was vigorously opposed, and the same pessimists held up their hands in horror when it was proposed to purchase our magnificent large parks, which have been so well brought into public use as to meet universal approval.”

Granolithic sidewalks grew in favor and they, with all the other civic improvements going forward certainly benefitted Memphis so materially that one of the inhabitants of early days coming back to visit her many mudless streets and sidewalks would have marveled indeed, and might have thought that an earthquake had occurred and left the city a rocky foundation instead of the bottomless clay and mud of his own time.

In 1908 Chief O’Haver was succeeded in office by that faithful servant who had served Memphis so long as an officer of the peace, Chief W. C. Davis. In a report given in June, 1909, this ever just man said:

“In presenting the statistical figures, I wish to give credit to ex-Chief of Police, George T. O’Haver, who as head of the department all during the year 1908, is entitled to all praise for

\*From speech of Mayor Malone, given to Business Men’s Club in November, 1908.

the efficiency shown and for the discipline of the department during the year past. He resigned last February, after an honorable career as a police officer of the city extending over a period of thirty-two years."

By this time Memphis contained twenty-two square miles and had become a very difficult and expensive problem for her city fathers to manage. Her size and importance entitled her to first-class advantages of all kinds and her people wanted her to have them. Chief Davis said:

"Citizens generally are fast realizing that municipalities are costly luxuries, when being conducted on lines of latest improved methods in all branches of government, and there is no reason why Memphis should not compare favorably with other metropolitan cities, both as to the strength of its police force and its most modern equipments."

The pension so long asked for policemen and firemen was given in 1909 by an act of the Legislature in which:

"The city of Memphis is hereby empowered to create a fund for the purpose of pensioning members of the police and fire departments of the city, and to compensate members of said departments or their families in case they are killed or injured in the discharge of their duties as members of the said department."

Section 3, of this Act provided "That the city shall have power in cases where any member of said departments shall have been injured, in the discharge of his duty, to make provision for his compensation."

Section 4, "That the city have power in cases where any member of said departments shall have been killed, in the discharge of his duty, to make provision for the compensation of his family."

Section 6, "That the city shall levy a special tax of not more than one cent on the \$100 of taxable property for the purpose of creating a fund with which to meet the expenses and carry out the purposes of this Act."

Mr. Jackson, the City Attorney, had much work during 1908 and 1909 straightening city law affairs and trying to keep

them straight. There were many law-suits to handle and of his assistants in the work he said, in his report to the Mayor and Council:

"In speaking of these matters I desire to call the attention of your honorable body to the fact that Mr. Marion G. Evans and Mr. James L. McRee, my assistants, have done more than their share of the work and labor in the trial and disposition of the matters set forth in this report. The industry and ability of these two gentlemen has made it possible for this department to handle the immense amount of work entailed upon it."

Mr. Jackson gives some idea of his work in the closing paragraph of his report, as follows:

"I have been constantly called upon for advice and services by the various departments of the city government. Among the more important of these matters have been the preparation of the Union Depot ordinance, which required the greatest care and very laborious work. I have also been called upon to look into the extents and limits of the Southern Railway's right of way through the City of Memphis, and the right which that railroad had to extend the limits of its right of way. I have also been called upon to examine the authorities and advise the city with reference to its right to require the railroad companies to rebuild the Madison Street bridge. I have been called on to draw contracts and ordinances at various times. The Engineering Department, the City Judge, the License Inspector, the Building Inspector and the City Register have called upon us for opinions and advice at various times."

Reverting to the water department, its largest well was dug in 1908, on Central Avenue. The pipe leading to this new water supply measured thirteen inches, inside diameter, and the yield from the well was 2,500,000 gallons per day. There were also laid during this year twelve miles of mains, giving 191 miles in the entire water system.

The growth of this department under municipal ownership and management continued favorable and never ceased to be a satisfactory arrangement. The secretary of the water department, Mr. Sanford Morison, said that "Notwithstanding the various reductions in rates, gross earnings for 1904 were

\$378,340.04. For the year 1908 the gross earnings were \$383,881.40."

Mr. Morison's general balance sheet showed the property in 1908 to be worth \$3,080,446.87.

During the term of the Legislature of 1909 numerous bills concerning Memphis were passed, some of these being of vital importance to the city. One of these, passed February 27, and approved March 6, changed the limits of the city, as follows:

"Beginning on the line of midstream of the Mississippi River at a point where the south line of the Speedway is laid off immediately east of Moore Avenue if extended west would intersect said midstream line, and running thence east with the south line of the said Speedway (said Speedway being known here as 'Kerr Avenue') to the southeast corner of said Speedway and Victor Avenue; thence east with the south line of said Speedway to a point where it turns north; thence north to the southeast intersection of said Speedway and Kerr Avenue; thence east with the south line of Kerr Avenue to the northeast corner of Cavalry Cemetery; thence north to the south line of the Speedway (known here as 'Austin Avenue') thence east with the south line of the Speedway to the southeast corner of said Speedway and Locke Avenue; thence due east to the east line of Trezevant Avenue; thence north to the east line of Trezevant Avenue to the south line of the Speedway; thence east with the south line of the Speedway to the east line of the Speedway; thence north following the east line of the said Speedway (said Speedway being known as 'Trezevant Avenue'), to the northeast corner of Trezevant and Summer Avenue; thence north with the east line of Trezevant Avenue to the old Raleigh Road (also known as 'Jackson Avenue'); thence west with the north line of the old Raleigh Road or Jackson Avenue to a point where it intersects the west line of Springdale Avenue; thence north with the west line of Springdale Avenue to the northwest intersection of the said Springdale Avenue and the right of way of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad; thence west to the northeast corner of the present city limits; thence westwardly on the north line of the present city limits (being the south line of Volentine Avenue)

to a point where the west line of Jones Avenue if projected south would intersect said north line of present city limits; thence north to the northwest intersection of Jones Avenue and the New Raleigh Road; thence west on a direct line to the southwest corner of Maple and Chestnut Streets; thence west with the south line of Maple Street to the southeast corner of Maple Street and Thomas Street; thence west on a direct line to midstream of Wolf River; thence southwardly with the meanderings of the midstream line of Wolf River and Manigault Canal to the line of midstream of the Mississippi River; thence southwardly with the meanderings of the midstream line of the Mississippi River to the point of beginning."

The last year of the Malone administration saw quite as much accomplished as the previous year and some of the work progressed faster than formerly. The government was conducted on a cash basis which, Mr. Malone said, was "the only true policy." Still, overdrafts were drawn and owed in the different departments, the Engineering Department alone, owing, by 1909, an overcheck of nearly \$500,000.

Among other improvements for streets attention was turned to getting rid of dust. Sprinkling obviated much of this evil but on warm days the water soon soaked into the streets or evaporated and on driveways much traveled, dust could not be kept down long even by heavy sprinkling. Crude oils had been tried to some extent by a hand system and had been partly successful, but raw oils and tar were found to be hurtful to the streets. A distilled tar, made from bituminous coal, had proved so satisfactory in other places that Memphis decided to use it and an automatic tar-spraying machine was purchased by the city, on Mr. Malone's recommendation and proved successful and economical when it arrived in 1910.

The rate of taxes was fixed for 1909 at \$1.76. The taxable property in Memphis at that time was valued at \$84,058,431.46, an increase of \$43,740,221.46 since 1900.\*

The debts of the city at this time, not backed by property subject to sale, amounted to \$3,195,000.

In 1908 a woman sanitary inspector had been appointed by

**\*Mr. Malone's Message.**



the Fire and Police Commissioners and by the end of 1909 her report showed that she had filled a real need. Among other accomplishments this active woman investigated the condition of factories and stores where women were employed and remedied many evils found thereby, some of these conditions having been almost unbelievable. Many Memphis employers, like those of other parts of the world, grow in prosperity without considering the comfort or convenience of those who are assisting in their business growth, unless forced to do so. Mayors and other city officials have it in their power to remedy many of these evils and Memphis employees as well as the public at large have much cause for gratitude, in this respect, to the late mayors and commissioners of the city.

This inspector also discovered numerous unsanitary kitchens and other places not so apt to be discovered by men, which were ordered cleaned and kept so. She also aided much in keeping the pure food laws enforced.

The chief sanitary inspector was changed from a physician who, on account of his practice, could give only limited time to city duties, to a layman who could give all of his time to the work and supervision of the work of those under him.

For many years subways for street-cars and other vehicles of travel had been advocated, as accidents often occurred where these crossed railroad tracks. Two unsuccessful ordinances had been passed for constructing subways, but on December 24, 1909, an ordinance was passed which provided for the building of eleven subways in Memphis, the bulk of the cost to be borne by the railroads, including incidental damages. As the cost of these constructions amounts to millions of dollars, the advantages to Memphis from a financial point of view, in addition to lessening danger to an untellable degree, is very great.

These new subways were to be a continuation of a system already begun, two having been built and others ordered.

It was a boast of the Malone administration that they left \$240,000 in bank for their successors and that during the period of their supervision there had been no misappropriations; also that the city books had at all times been open to inspection.

One achievement of Mr. Malone's which was not required by his official duties, but that took much time and trouble, was the beginning of a collection of portraits of the mayors of Memphis.

After much inquiry, request, correspondence, etc., fourteen portraits were secured, painted and placed in the city hall in the courthouse. On December 12, 1909, there was an article in the *Commercial Appeal*, giving cuts of these portraits and a short sketch of each mayor represented. On December 28 of that year, Senator Turley presented the portraits to the city in a most excellent address.

These portraits include: Marcus B. Winchester, Edwin Hickman, Addison H. Douglass, John Johnson, John R. Flippin, John Overton, W. D. Bethel, Isaac Rawlings, Gardner B. Locke, John Park, John Loague, D. T. Porter, David P. Hadden, W. L. Clapp.

Another portrait has since been added, that of Seth Wheatley, and one of Mr. Malone has been painted but not yet presented to the city.

It is well for the city to revere those who have helped in her building and as mayors have much to do with this development, it seems a justifiable tribute to have them so honored. Would that we might have all our benefactors, men and women, kept before succeeding generations.

## CHAPTER XIII

Commission Form of Government Established. Provisions of the Act. Election of E. H. Crump, as Mayor. Williams Vigorously Contests the Election of Crump. Contest Withdrawn. Reduction of Tax Rate. Extension of Sewer System to Annexed Territory. Mounted Police Station. Vast Construction of New Streets. The City Greatly Beautified. Prohibition in Memphis. Curious Result of the Law. Juvenile Court Established. Splendid Work Among Children. Mounted Police Force. Modern Fire Equipment. Stupendous Municipal Improvements. Increase of Bond Issues. Purchase of Tri-State Fair Grounds. Crump Reelected. Tremendous Flood of Mississippi River. Part of City Overflowed. Water System Contaminated.

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**A**N ACT of fifty-three sections, passed April 24, and approved April 27, amended the charter so as to make several changes in the city government. In Section 2, of this Act the name of the "Board of Fire and Police Commissioners" was changed to the "Board of Commissioners of the City of Memphis." This new board of Commissioners was to consist of five members, one of these the Mayor.

To quote from Section 1 of this Act:

"The first Board hereunder shall consist of the four members of the present Legislative Council of the City of Memphis, whose terms expire in November, 1911, and of a Mayor, who shall be elected by the people of the city of Memphis on the first Thursday after the first Monday in November, 1909. The qualifications of said Mayor and of the members of said Board of Commissioners shall be those now required by law for the members of the present Legislative Council, and the Mayor shall have the additional qualifications now provided by law for said office; *provided, however,* that no person shall

be ineligible to said office because of having heretofore held said office."

Section 3 provided, "That the said Board of Commissioners shall have and exercise all the powers and discharge all the duties now vested in and imposed upon the present Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, the present Board of Public Works, and the Present Legislative Council, together with such other powers and duties as are hereinafter prescribed."

Section 4: "The Board of Public Works is hereby abolished, and the powers and duties now vested in and imposed upon said Board and the several members thereof by law are hereby vested in and imposed upon the said Board of Commissioners and the several members thereof."

The Board of Health management was thus changed in Section 5: "The Board of Health as at present constituted is hereby abolished, and in lieu thereof is established a subordinate department to be known as the 'Health Department,' to be under the supervision and control of the Department of Public Affairs which said department shall perform the duties and functions heretofore performed by the Board of Health."

Section 7, fixed the salary of the Mayor at \$6,000 per annum and that of the other members of the Board at \$3,000 and further provided that "No member of said Board of Commissioners shall, directly or indirectly, receive any other or greater compensation than that just provided."

Section 9 provided "That at the first meeting of the said Board of Commissioners or at some meeting within thirty days thereafter there shall be elected by said Board the following officers, whose terms of office and whose annual compensation shall be as herein indicated, as follows:

"City Attorney, two years, \$3,600; City Judge, two years, \$2,500; City Engineer, two years, \$3,000; City Clerk, two years, \$3,000; Chief of Police, one year, \$2,700; Chief of Fire Department, one year, \$2,700; City Paymaster, two years, \$2,000; City Chemist, one year, \$2,400; Superintendent of Health Department, two years, \$3,000; Clerk of City Court, one year, \$1,800; City Plumbing Inspector, one year, \$1,500; City Meat Inspector, one year, \$1,500; City Boiler Inspector, one year, \$1,680; Col-

lector of License and Privilege Taxes, one year, \$1,500; Wharfmaster, one year, \$1,500; Marketmaster, one year, \$1,200; City Veterinary Surgeon, one year, \$1,200; Gas and Electric Light Inspector, one year, \$1,500; City Harnessmaker, one year, \$1,200; Inspector of Weights and Measures, one year, \$1,800; Superintendent of City Hospital, one year, \$1,500; Electric Inspector, one year, \$2,000; Building Inspector, one year, \$2,500."

In case of varied opinions as to departmental duties, Section 16 of this Act provided "That whenever a difference of opinion shall arise as to what department embraces a particular work or matter, either because the same is not herein specially provided for or because of the difference of opinion as to the proper construction of the foregoing sections, the question shall be determined by the Board of Commissioners in regular session, and their conclusion shall be final and binding."

Memphis was authorized by this Legislature of 1909 to issue bonds for a police station and engine house and a "Police Station Building Commission," was also appointed, consisting of Messrs. Dwight M. Armstrong, Henry E. Craft and Dave Halle, to serve "until the police station building \* \* \* shall have been completed and turned over to the city of Memphis." This also included the Engine House.

Mr. Malone was succeeded in office January 1, 1910, by E. H. Crump, who was elected under the Commission form of Government, making him mayor and commissioner of Public Affairs and Health. Mayor Crump defeated J. J. Williams.

The old controversy as to the validity of this form of government arose and kept the new administration much vexed but the new commissioners started into their work vigorously, notwithstanding, and continued to accomplish city improvements begun in the last administration and to introduce new ones. Their right to transact business was denied by their opponents and everything that depended upon the legality of the charter was attacked until late in June, when the Supreme Court sustained the charter and decided other cases in favor of the Commission form of Government.

It was charged that the election itself had been fraudulent, which accusation brewed and simmered until October, 1910, when the long complicated case of Crump vs. Williams was brought in Judge J. P. Young's First Division of the Circuit Court. Technicalities became so involved that the attorneys had much ado to untangle the web and to present the case in proper form before the court.

In order to settle the question of the votes beyond a doubt, Judge Young ordered a recount of all the ballots and an investigation of the names of the voters in all the questioned wards, a tedious operation that was much complained of but which settled the controversy, bringing the wrangling to an undisputed end. The recount showed that Mr. Crump was elected mayor by an increased majority. Mr. Williams gracefully withdrew his contest.

After this legal controversy was over the new administration began work vehemently on municipal affairs and the improvement of the city sprang forward with a bound.

Some of the things accomplished in the years 1910 and 1911, were: collection in the fee-earning departments of more money than had been previously collected; reduction of taxes to \$1.59; collection of the full amount of turnpike dues from the County Court, amounting to \$22,500; the removal of many unsightly shacks, which were replaced by more modern and sanitary buildings; extension of the sewer system to the territory annexed in 1909; creation of the office of purchasing agent for the city, whose duty it is to buy all city necessities after bids have been taken, thus saving money for the city; erecting a mounted police station on Barksdale Avenue; remodeling the old section of the City Hospital and building another wing; constructing 30.6 miles of streets and paving 9.60 miles under the front-foot assessment plan; and succeeding in securing from banks  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent interest on city money, on deposit.\*

Municipal ownership of the Light plant has been agitated and continues to be discussed as a great benefit to the city, the success of water ownership being held up as an example. Much

\*From statements in a booklet entitled "One Year Eight Months under Commission Form of Government."

has also been said about reducing telephone rates so that all citizens may have them and all patrons enjoy better service.

The present administration believe they have solved the intricate city-bookkeeping problem, and the mayor says that "under Ennis Douglass, city clerk, and Albert D. Perkins, book-keeper," the system "will compare favorably with that used in any big wholesale house in the country."

Mayor Crump, in proof of the fact that he thinks first of the city's good in what he does, states that he has not ridden on a railroad pass during his connection with the city government, nor accepted free favors from any corporation, man or set of men; that he has refrained from associating himself with any concern that might have business dealings with the city, and that, despite false charges, neither he nor any member of the administration has been guilty of any sort of graft.

During this administration much work has been done on the subways and great is the benefit accrued and yet to be realized from them.

The conduit system of wires has also been extended and by degrees unsightly poles and criss-cross wires are being lost from view. The poles that must remain are painted and made as pleasing to the eye as possible. Many ugly light-posts have been removed and symmetrical, pleasing ones put in their places. Everything that adds to the beauty of the city is educational to its people and, with improving aesthetic taste, comes a refining of the whole public nature. Through physical beauty our people may come to a moral beauty worthy of a municipality striving to climb the hill of progress. The <sup>ad</sup>mayor, city commissioners and public-minded citizens of Memphis have spent thought, time and money in trying to beautify her precincts and the beneficiaries feel grateful as they drive or walk through the beautiful streets on clean, smooth roadways or grass-bordered walks; stroll or rest in the splendid parks or study nature in the wild places of some of them; enjoy the luxury of city benefits, given in artistic form, and behold buildings and sculpture worthy a larger and older city than ours.

Inasmuch as lawlessness and trouble with saloons and

gamblers have been chronicled at intervals through this history, it is but fair to mention the present condition of affairs, as it presents a curious phase of the latest attempt at statewide prohibition. When the prohibition law went into effect in Tennessee in 1911, Memphis saloon-keepers, supposing that the law passed by the Legislature of the State must be a final dictum, at least until some legislative act of the future should repeal it, were ready to leave the city. Many had already left and some of these men had put their capital into other kinds of business. For a time it looked as if saloons and gambling were to be evils of the past in Memphis and it was rare that a drunken man was to be seen. Even some people who did not approve of the principle of prohibition declared it good to see the places closed where youth was so often tempted. But it was whispered, then spoken aloud, that this law was not a popular law and that therefore the saloon-keepers should not be forced to obey it. Many business men openly asserted these views and the press took up the cry. Saloons were reopened surreptitiously at first, but seeing that no attempt was made to close them their proprietors became bolder and by degrees opened wide the doors that the law said must be closed. Others followed the example of the leaders and soon the city was as "wide open" as to saloons, as it had ever been. Whichever theory is correct as to the merits of the prohibition law, open defiance of law, in whatever way that defiance may be practiced, is most prejudicial to a city and gives her citizens a growing contempt for law in general.

Memphis has now been nearly a century fighting for and against the ~~physical~~ part of her development and one can but wonder at the final outcome.

One institution has come into being under Mr. Crump's administration that is calculated to perform a work of untold good and to counteract many evil influences that surround young boys and girls in unfortunate environments, and that is the Juvenile Court.

Much is already known of the workings of the Juvenile court from Judge Lindsey and other great souls who have wrought so much benefit to humanity by its force and it is



good for Memphians to know that we have here more than a nucleus of a most excellently conducted court for the young. The need of such a safe-guard has been felt in Memphis for a great many years and in 1905 the first enactment was passed by the state providing for it. The good of that proceeding, however, stopped with the enactment itself, as no advantage was taken of its privilege to establish such a court.

In 1907 this Act was amended so that only counties containing 100,000 or more inhabitants could establish such courts, jurisdiction being conferred upon all city courts of such counties. Still no juvenile court became part of the Memphis city government and child "criminals" were tried in police courts or committed by judges to an Industrial school or other place of confinement. In 1909 the law was again amended, giving juvenile courts to counties of 150,000 or more inhabitants, and this amended act made it compulsory that all children under sixteen years of age be tried for misconduct only by an officer given the authority of a juvenile judge.

Memphis still hesitated and did not put into form a court for the betterment of her children, but interest had been aroused in the subject and it had obtained numerous friends.

Ten days after Mr. Crump entered upon his duties as mayor, the Juvenile Court of Memphis was established under his authority, with Judge Kelly on the bench. Judge Kelly was interested in his young charges from the beginning and the court was soon accomplishing much good.

The first Advisory Board consisted of Mrs. T. H. Scruggs, chairman, Mrs. Benjamin West, secretary, and Mr. George W. Pease. These members held office for one year and helped many boys and girls during their term of service.

The first probation officers were Messrs. William Eifler, H. H. Chamberlain and R. L. Christy. These officers were detailed from the police department and all proved excellent factors in the new work, contrary to the prediction of some who said that men from the police force could never serve efficiently in juvenile court work.

In 1911 the Juvenile Court Act was again amended and

this time was quite fully treated, having become an important part of the law's business.

All delinquent and dependent children up to the age of sixteen years are taken in charge by this court. A delinquent child is one "who violates any law of the state or any city or town ordinance, or who is incorrigible, or is a persistent truant from school, or who associates with criminals or reputed criminals or vicious or immoral person, or who is growing up in idleness or crime, or who frequents, visits or is found in any disorderly house, bawdy house or house of ill fame \* \* \* \* or in any saloon, barroom or drinking shop or place. \* \* \* \* or who patronizes, frequents, visits or is found in any gaming house \* \* \* \* or who wanders about the streets in the night time without being on any lawful business or occupation, or who habitually wanders about any railroad yards or tracks or climbs on moving trains \* \* \* \* or who habitually uses, vile, obscene, vulgar, profane or indecent language,"\* etc.

A dependent child is "any child who, for any reason, is destitute or homeless or abandoned or dependent upon the public for support, or has not proper parental care or guardianship or who is found begging or receiving or gathering alms \* \* \* \* or who is found living in any saloon, disorderly house \* \* \* \* or with any vicious or disreputable person, or whose home, by reason of neglect, cruelty, drunkenness, or depravity on the part of its parents, guardian or other person in whose care it may be, is an unfit place for such a child, and any child under the age of fourteen (14) years who is found begging, peddling or selling any article or singing or playing any musical instrument upon the streets \* \* \* \* or who is used in aid of any person so doing."\*

Any reputable resident in the city or county, having knowledge of a delinquent or dependent child, may notify the Clerk of the Juvenile Court, filing with him a petition setting forth the facts of the case.

It is the duty of the clerk, when any child is to be brought before the court, to notify a probation officer, whose duty it then becomes to investigate the case, and "to be present in

\*Public Acts of 1911.

court to represent the interest of the child when the case is heard, to furnish such information and assistance as the court may require, and to take charge of any child before or after the trial, as may be directed by the court."

When a child is found by this court to be either delinquent or dependent, "the court may make an order committing the child to the care of some suitable state institution or to the care of some reputable citizen of good moral character, or to the care of some institution provided by law, or to the care of some suitable association willing to receive it, embracing in its objects the purposes of caring for or of obtaining homes for dependent or delinquent children." The city judge is required to "hold his court for the trial of juvenile offenders in a separate place and at a separate time from the courts for the trial of other offenders."

There are many other details to this Act but these quoted give a general idea of the scope of the work of the Juvenile Court.

In 1911 this court was reorganized in Memphis and after the reorganization Mayor Crump appointed Mr. Thomas B. King, chairman, Mrs. Benjamin West, secretary and Mr. G. W. Pease, the other member of the Board. In August of 1911 Judge Kelly was succeeded on the bench by Judge William J. Bacon.

The work went bravely on, Judge Bacon giving much time and thought to judging the young people who came under his direction here, and gaining many confidences from the unmatured young beings who only needed stimulant of the right sort and encouragement to start them on the road to useful man or womanhood.

In the fall of 1910, a colored department of the Juvenile Court was started and the detention home taken in charge by Julia Hooks, a woman who has been working for the betterment of her race for over forty years. Her husband, Charlie Hooks, was made probation officer.

During 1911 Charlie and Julia Hooks had in their charge 288 colored children, all detained from two to ten days. These children had been dependents, or guilty of offenses from petty

larceny to murder. Twenty-nine of them were babies and homes were found for all the twenty-nine. Julia said that colored people love children and it is never difficult to find homes for the foundlings. One six-year old had been rescued from an uncle who used the boy to climb into windows and steal goods, many of which were taken in the day time and concealed in a false bottom to the wagon in which the uncle hauled wood.

So far in this year over 180 colored children have been cared for in this department of the Juvenile Court.

Surely no work of any Memphis administration has been of so great importance as this of rescuing the children. If more money were spent on child-work now, less would be spent on prisons and criminal proceedings in the future. We build many improvements for future generations to enjoy and think little of the generations themselves. The greatest human work is building human character and strengthening the moral fiber of the race.

Returning to older municipal affairs, Memphis now has a most excellent police force, numbering 200 patrolmen, mounted police and detectives, with the chief and other officers. The Memphis force makes a splendid appearance when in drill and Major Kit Deffry is employed to drill the men according to military tactics.

The mounted force also receive careful drilling and these men themselves are selected for their good forms, intelligence and good character. They do credit to their drill-master, their city and their calling. These officers of the peace have regular cavalry drilling from Sergeant W. Lee, a United States cavalry man, and in case of riots or other uprisings they and the patrolmen could act as a unit of soldiers.

The fire department is also "up-to-date" and that means much in our age of invention and convenience. The horses of this department are magnificent specimens but they are greatly reduced in numbers by the use of motor power. The engines are works of skill, beauty and strength, as is all the other apparatus, and the engine-houses do credit to their builders. The latest of these is a beautiful white marble-front building next to the elegant new police-station already referred to.

The aerial ladders and other modern equipments would be a marvel to the aldermen of by-gone years who worked so hard to get the "Little Vigor" in order to help Memphis people save their property.

This department is equipped with the Gamewell system of fire alarms and is of course in touch with all the private telephones in the city. It also has access to 225 miles of water mains, with nearly 1,500 hydrants and fifty storage cisterns, ranging from 17,500 to 70,000 gallons.

Engineering work of the past two years has been vast. Since the introduction of tar macadam for streets in 1910, it has proved successful and so has been used a great deal; also creosoted wooden blocks which are placed over a concrete foundation, have proved satisfactory street material. Many of the new neighborhoods taken into the corporation in 1909 have been sewered, and a large sewer-main has been run up Nonconnah Creek, that that remote part of the city may be connected with the city sewerage. This pipe enables the city to dispense with the pumping-station on Wilson Avenue, the one at Kyle Street and the Southern Railway.

During the twenty months for which Mr. Crump reported, one hundred and five streets were paved under the front-foot assessment plan; thirty-four streets and alleys were graded, paved, curbed and guttered; 37.29 mile of sewers laid; 11.7 streets resurfaced; 85 streets and alleys spread with gravel; 14.4 miles of dirt streets rounded up; 30.6 total mileage of completed street pavements laid. Work in all these departments is being assiduously continued, and 1912 has seen much addition to the above.

The city's legal business has so increased that a second assistant attorney has been added to the force of which Charles M. Bryan is city attorney, Leo Goodman, assistant and William M. Stanton, second assistant. It is the duty of the second assistant to look after unpaid taxes, and his first year of work showed an increased collection that proved his need.

In the Health Department, of which Dr. M. Goltman is superintendent, John C. Bell, secretary, Dr. Cummings Harris, health officer, Miss Teresa Manley, bookkeeper, and Mr. June

Sneed, chief sanitary officer, improvements are being made in many directions. The garbage system is being improved and contains about 85 routes, north and south. It is the rule of this department that every portion of the city be visited every day, but the force is not large enough to enable this to be done.

Milk and other pure food laws are strictly enforced and results are beneficial to the city thereby.

A number of bonds have been issued during this administration which, some complain, raises the city debt to appalling figures, but each bond was issued for a specific benefit and, as Mr. Malone expressed it during his administration, with the indebtedness is left an inheritance of great value in the work done.

A street, alley, highway and subway bond of \$750,000 has been issued to carry on street improvements and to pay the city's share of the subway expense. This bond was recommended by a citizen's committee of tax-payers and was passed by the Legislature of February, 1911.

Another bond, issued by request of the Water Commission, and recommended by a citizens' committee "to extend mains into territory where sewers had been laid, and where the health department was demanding water in the interests of sanitation," was passed last year by the Legislature. This bond is to the amount of \$250,000 of negotiable coupon bonds of \$1,000 each, to bear interest of not more than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

A school bond issue of "\$250,000 gave the means to complete the new high school, erect a grammar school and make repairs on numerous other buildings."

The Tri-State Fair bond was recommended by the city commissioners and decided on after a meeting of citizens, who indorsed the issuance of such bonds. The Tri-State Fair, given annually in Memphis, has proved to be a successful enterprise and one calculated to bring much future good not only to Memphis, but to all three of the States represented in the enterprise.

\$275,000 of negotiable coupon bonds have been issued "for the purpose of acquiring property to be used as public

recreation parks and playgrounds, and for the maintenance and equipment of same."

The City Treasurer has been made the "tax collector and disburser of the municipal taxes of the city of Memphis including all funds derived from assessments for street improvements and proceeds of all bond sales. He shall have and possess all the powers and be subject to all the duties and obligations now vested in or imposed upon the Treasurer or tax receiver of said city, and his compensation for such service is fixed at three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per annum." The said City Treasurer and tax collector is nominated by the Commissioner of Accounts, Finances and Revenues, and elected by the Board of Commissioners of the city of Memphis.

Mayor Crump succeeded himself in office in 1912, with Mr. R. A. Utley as vice-mayor.

Chief Davis was succeeded by W. J. Hayes, as Chief of Police, Chief Davis to go to the sub-station. Chief Davis has served Memphis on the police force for forty-two years, entering upon his duties in January, 1870. In 1880 he was appointed chief, and again, after having served as Wharfmaster, Hospital Superintendent and Court Square Guard, in 1908. His service as chief alone has covered eighteen years, and he has witnessed and helped in the development of his department of municipal discipline in Memphis.

The new chief has served a number of years on the force and comes to his new office from that of Inspector of Police. His has also been an up and down experience on the force.

The winter of 1911-12 was an unusually severe one all over the country and the upper Mississippi River was filled was ice, as were its upper tributaries. Ice and snow accumulated for months and in the spring heavy rains fell. The result was a tremendous flood which grew into proportions never before known in the history of the Mississippi Valley. Those of 1858 and 1882 gave forth as great an onrush of waters, but in some respects this flood of 1912 surpassed both of those record breakers.

Levees that had been thought impregnable broke as the waters surged southward and pressed with a terrific force

against these safeguards, and each break carried tremendous destruction in its wake, making hundreds of people homeless.

These homeless ones had to be cared for, and as their distresses became known and surmised, Memphis saw the necessity for quick action, in order to save human beings and their stock. By April the situation had grown alarming and a mass meeting was held in Memphis for the purpose of providing ways to help the sufferers. A committee was appointed to solicit funds and provide for their use. This committee consisted of Mr. James F. Hunter, Chairman, and Messrs. W. R. Barksdale, C. O. Scholder, F. G. Barton, Fred B. Jones, T. R. Boyle and R. G. Brown. This committee met April 8, organized and began active duty at once. The first work they did was to have skiffs made and to press other boats into immediate service. With these they rescued people, cattle and other animals in the St. Francis Basin, inundated from the breaking of levees, where loss was very great. People were rescued from tops of houses, trees and floating debris, some of these unfortunates being in half-starved and nearly frozen condition.

The rescue work was pushed speedily and the next task was to provide a place for the shelter of all who were taken up or who were known to be homeless. Clothing and food had also to be provided, most of the rescued having nothing but the bedraggled clothing on their bodies.

Mayor Crump and Vice-mayor Utley coöperated with the committee and they, together with Messrs. J. A. Riechman and Frank Omberg, established a Refugees' Camp at Montgomery Park, and gave it their strict personal attention. In that inclosure over 1,700 people were housed, clothed and fed for six weeks, besides a large number of cattle and stock sheltered and fed for that time.

Realizing the stupendous task of caring for all these beings, military discipline was established and an excellent sanitary system was instituted, in consequence of which the camp was managed throughout with order and satisfaction and won the compliment of being the best managed camp of all that were organized in the valley.

In answer to the call for funds, food and clothing, Mem-



phis and other places responded liberally, and abundance came flowing in without the necessity of any personal solicitations. These contributions were handled by the Committee and the Associated Charities, which organization worked with the city through the whole undertaking.

Some food was sent by individuals and business firms, all of which was gratefully received, but the daily rations were furnished by the government. These consisted of substantial and pure food, served in two plentiful meals a day, and pint bottles of certified milk were furnished for all the babies. Each mother of a babe left the mess-hall after the four o'clock meal, with a pint bottle of this pure rich milk for night use for her little one.

The Government sent aid so promptly that the people felt very grateful, and the work between the Government employes and the committee here was so harmonious that Memphis felt a great bond had been established with the National as well as between the state and municipal government.

Major J. E. Normoyle of the Government Commissary department had his headquarters in Memphis and much credit is due him for the able manner in which he organized the working forces and for the well-managed distribution of supplies. The Memphis Committee were in personal touch with Major Normoyle while he was in Memphis, and in daily communication with him when he went South, in obedience to a call for help in alleviating suffering there, which had become appalling. When this excellent manager left Capt. S. McP. Rutherford took charge of the Memphis district and all went well under his good management. He was ably assisted by Capt. J. A. Logan, Mr. Cooke, Sergeant Edward McCormack and Corporal Henry Brouch.

The territory looked after by Memphis workers was divided into three sections. That section of the river from the city to seventy-five miles north was taken in charge by Messrs. D. H. White and C. O. Scholder; that portion south to Bledsoe's Landing, Arkansas, was under the supervision of Messrs. W. R. Barksdale and Doc Hottum, and the interior country in

East Arkansas, west of Memphis, was in charge of Mr. F. G. Barton.

Major C. D. Smith is due much credit for the valuable aid he rendered in caring for the destitute, as well as those efficient workers, Messrs. James Barton, George W. Blackwell, George T. Webb, Miss Helen Forsdick and others that gave untiring assistance to the cause.

After the waters subsided and the refugees were sent back to their homes, many individual cases of those who had been made destitute by the flood, continued to be cared for, this attention being chiefly turned over to the Associated Charities of Memphis whose employes, headed by Mr. Kranz, served untiringly through the whole period, and they cared for the destitute from many sections.

The flood brought more problems to Memphis than that of caring for the refugees. This visitation of the waters lasted through a long and trying period. The flood stage was passed at this point March 22, after which date the water rose steadily until far into April, before it began to go down again. So much work and expense had been spent on the levees that it was thought they would withhold any flood that might come, but such an unusual catastrophe as the flood of this year was not contemplated. Forty two feet is the mark considered dangerous at Memphis, and when that was reached, the rise continued daily until April 6, when the gauge was 45.3. This was a stage three feet higher than the levees had been built to hold. On this date a levee gave way nine miles north of Memphis and another broke about that distance south. These breaks lowered the river but caused the most disastrous damage ever known in the unfortunate districts back of the crevasses, the water rushing in with a fury that carried destruction to everything before it. The United States local forecaster, Mr. S. C. Emory, said that had the levees not broken, the water would have reached a stage of 48 feet.

The fall was slow even after the breaks, and not until May 22, did the water lower to 33 feet, having been above the danger level for sixty-one days. The flood of 1882 was above flood-stage four days longer. The flood of that year, those of

1844 and 1858 and the one of this year are the greatest deluges of the Mississippi River on record.

Most of Memphis is too high to be reached by flood-waters, but a section of less than forty acres in North Memphis and a few other outlying places are low and they were inundated. North Memphis was more overflowed this year than ever before. About twenty-five blocks suffered from this damage, many residences and business buildings being submerged and some mills stopped. Injury to the Gas Works caused the city to be shut off from that supply for many days, a great inconvenience to people dependent on gas for cooking, heating and lighting purposes. Fortunately the electric lights were serviceable through the whole time.

The worst effect to Memphis was contamination of her water supply. Some of the artesian wells supplying the city were in the overflowed district of North Memphis. As the river rose the sewage-pumping station was put out of service and much of the sewage of the city was discharged into the flood waters. When this fact became known it was not thought that any of the wells could be contaminated, but the unusual appearance of the water coming from the Auction Street pumping station about the first of April caused questions to arise, and as this appearance continued and increased, investigation was made. Examination of the water on April 3, showed it to be polluted and later analyses showed the same condition. Soon after this discovery much intestinal trouble became prevalent, followed by an epidemic of typhoid fever, and people in the down-town district were cautioned not to use the water or to boil it before doing so.

By reducing the pressure of the Auction Avenue station and raising it at all other stations, all the impure water was driven into the business section, for use in case of fires and other emergencies not personal. In the residence districts water-pipes were gated off tightly from the pipes connecting with the North Memphis supply and the street-sprinkling department carried pure water for drinking and cooking purposes, to people living in the business district or bordering it.

It was impossible to find the cause of the contamination

while the flood lasted, and all that could be done was to ascertain by constant analyses which water was polluted and which pure. As soon as the flood receded the Water and Health departments began investigations of all the wells and other openings of the artesian supply in North Memphis, and the Health Department took measures to clean and disinfect all streets and residences that had been lately inundated.

Mr. George W. Fuller, consulting engineer of New York City, was asked by the Water Department to come to Memphis the latter part of April for investigation and to make a report on the conditions he found. He arrived April 27th, and with the coöperation of the Health Department, spent three days making a thorough examination, giving his report to the public, May 1st.

He congratulated the work of investigation already made, and said that the City Board of Health had practically completed all of the inspections when he arrived. This inspection had led to the discovery of an opening in Shaft Number 13 on Third Street, thirteen inches long and from four to eight inches in width, through which polluted water had reached the Auction Avenue pumping station.

This break is supposed to have been made three years ago presumably by a steam roller, when the street level was raised above the shaft to make it part of the bayou levee. This long hidden defect in a shaft of such importance to the city water supply certainly represents great negligence on the part of some one, charged with the vital duty of inspection.

Besides this opening it was found that water entered the tunnel below the cover of the same shaft. Mr. Fuller estimated the total opening to be more than eighty square inches in area. He was assured that this opening was the cause of the direful effects of the pollution that caused so much trouble. This defect is at an elevation 40.5 on the river guage.

Mr. Fuller said that "in all probability water did not immediately enter this opening when the river reached this stage, as it was necessary first for the water to wash a pathway from the gutter to the opening on the opposite side of the shaft."

After finding entrance the contaminated water continued to pour into the well until the flood dropped below that guage, which covered a period of nearly three weeks.

Close investigations disclosed no other defective shafts, but the Auction Avenue pumping station itself showed that seepage had entered the dry well in which the pumps are located. It is thought that some of this seepage reached suction wells and added to the contamination.

Mr. Fuller recommended that strict precautions be taken with North Memphis water until the Health Department was thoroughly satisfied with all analyses. He said: "I see no signs of the water and health department officials being derelict in handling the situation, although it is plain that added precautions must be taken to guard against a similar misfortune in the future."

He also recommended that sewers be carefully inspected and kept in thorough condition, and that there be no more use of vaults and surface wells, so that "there will be absolutely no chance whatever for surface pollution to reach the North Memphis water supply."

Mr. Fuller continued: "Employes should be cautioned to take every step possible to avoid polluting wells, shafts, drifts or tunnels when they are working around and in them."

Of our other wells he said: "There is no evidence whatever to indicate that there has been any contamination whatever of the water from the segregated wells of those at East Memphis or South Memphis. They are located well above the flooded area and every analysis that has been made has shown a pure water which may be used with entire confidence."

On the question of abandoning the North Memphis well this engineer said: "It has been very fortunate for your city that you have had other sources of supply than that at North Memphis, and if you can give ordinary water service from sources other than North Memphis at reasonable cost it would be wise to do so. \* \* \* \*

"On the other hand, I am clearly of the opinion that it is not necessary or advisable to abandon the North Memphis supply. It is highly urgent to watch it with great care, but

even if it is necessary to sterilize the water regularly from that source, as is done in scores of places elsewhere, it is a valuable piece of property which I would not think for a moment of abandoning."

He recommended flushing all pipes, saying: "I consider it highly important to begin at once to flush thoroughly all the water-pipes into which water has been delivered during the past few weeks from the Auction Avenue pumping station. This had best be done by delivering sterilized water from the pumps at their full capacity and opening fire hydrants and plumbing fixtures in different districts, so as to remove all iron deposits and pollution from the bayou water that may have become lodged on the interior surfaces, not only of the street mains, but also the service pipes of the consumers. \* \* \* \* When this district is thoroughly flushed another district adjoining it should be similarly treated and so on until all pipes have been thoroughly flushed to points most remote from the pumping station."

Dissatisfaction has been expressed by some of the citizens, that the city should have been subjected to such an experience as the neglected shaft caused which, for a while looked very serious indeed, when so much of the tax-payers' money goes for salaries of inspectors of various sorts, but after the defective shaft was discovered, work went vigorously forward to rectify all errors and this accident will probably insure all the more caution and thorough inspection in all branches of city work in the future.

The city continues to expand. Our own dailies show general growth and papers of other localities compliment the Bluff City.

Following is a list of the mayors, aldermen, councilmen and commissioners of the City of Memphis from 1827:

March, 1827, to March, 1828:—Mayor, M. B. Winchester. Aldermen, Joseph L. Davis, John Hook, N. B. Atwood, Geo. F. Graham, John R. Dougherty, Wm. A. Hardy, Nathaniel Anderson and Littleton Henderson.

March, 1828 to March, 1829:—Mayor, M. B. Winchester. Aldermen, Samuel Douglass, Wm. A. Hardy, John D. Graham,

Augustus L. Humphrey, Joseph L. Davis and Robert Fearn.

March 1829 to March, 1830:—Mayor, Isaac Rawlings. Aldermen, M. B. Winchester, A. L. Humphrey, J. L. Davis, J. F. Schabell, James L. Vaughn, J. D. Graham and Wyatt Christian.

March, 1830 to March, 1831:—Mayor, Isaac Rawlings. Aldermen, John Kitchell, A. L. Humphrey, D. King, E. Young, J. L. Davis, H. W. Mosely, John Coleman, David W. Wood, Geo. Aldred and J. F. Schabell.

March, 1831 to March, 1832:—Mayor, Seth Wheatley. Aldermen. Geo. Aldred, Martin Swope, Ulysses Spaulding, A. L. Humphrey, L. Henderson and Thomas Phoebe.

March, 1832 to March, 1833:—Mayor, Robert Lawrence. Aldermen, John Kitchell, E. Coffee, C. C. Locke, J. C. Walker, L. Henderson and J. A. H. Cleveland.

March, 1833 to March, 1834:—Mayor, Isaac Rawlings. Aldermen, Littleton Henderson, John F. Schabell, Samuel Runkle, Hezekiah Cobb, John W. Fowler, Elijah Coffee and Joseph Cooper.

March, 1834 to March, 1835:—Mayor, Isaac Rawlings. Aldermen, Jedediah Prescott, H. Cobb, M. B. Winchester, John W. Fowler, Littleton Henderson and John F. Schabell.

March, 1835 to March, 1836:—Mayor, Isaac Rawlings. Aldermen, John F. Schabell, James Rose, Joseph Cooper, H. Cobb, Silas T. Toncray, S. M. Nelson and Hugh Wheatley.

March, 1836 to March, 1837:—Mayor, Enoch Banks. Aldermen, Silas T. Toncray, Hannibal Harris, Seth Wheatley, M. B. Winchester, Hugh Wheatley, James Rose, John Hare, S. M. Nelson, R. G. Hart and Joseph Cooper.

March, 1837 to March, 1838:—Mayor, John H. Morgan. Aldermen, Frank McMahan, S. T. Toncray, A. H. Bowman, L. C. Trezevant, Charles Stuart, Zachariah Edmunds, Joseph Cooper, Barnett Graham, H. Cobb and James D. Currin.

March, 1838 to March, 1839:—Mayor, Enoch Banks. Aldermen, Jedediah Prescott, James D. Currin, Lewis C. Trezevant, Lewis Shanks, A. H. Bowman, Edwin Hickman and Gray Skipwith.

March, 1839 to March, 1840:—Mayor, Thomas Dixon.

Aldermen, Jedediah Prescott, Joseph Wright, Samuel Hayter, E. Hickman, C. Stewart, C. B. Murray, William Spickernagle.

March, 1840 to March, 1841:—Mayor, Thomas Dixon. Aldermen, Michael Leonard, Joseph Wright, C. B. Murray, Jacob M. Moon, T. C. McMakin, E. Hickman, L. C. Trezevant, W. B. Garrison.

March, 1841 to March, 1842:—Mayor, William Spickernagle. Aldermen, Joseph Wright, Michael Leonard, L. C. Trezevant, J. N. Moon, Charles Stewart, F. P. Stanton, J. Prescott, H. Cobb, John Trigg.

March, 1842 to March, 1843:—Mayor, Edwin Hickman. Aldermen, C. C. Mahan, V. Ferguson, C. Bias, C. Lofland, E. H. Porter, Wm. Chase, A. Walker, J. C. Davenport, M. Gabbert, W. B. Waldran, H. Cobb, L. Shanks, W. A. Bickford, W. Test, J. Prescott, John Wood, Eugene Magevney.

March, 1843, to March, 1844:—Mayor, Edwin Hickman. Aldermen, J. Prescott, H. Cobb, William Spickernagle, C. Bias, Wm. Chase, E. H. Porter, John Woods, E. Magevney, W. B. Waldran, Calvin Goodman, L. Shanks, Thomas Whitelaw, L. R. Richard.

March, 1844, to March, 1845:—Mayor, Edwin Hickman. Aldermen, Wm. Spickernagle, J. D. Allen, Lewis Shanks, Joseph Wright, Wm. Connell, Charles A. Leath, E. Magevney, J. B. Outlaw, J. T. N. Bridges, M. B. Sappington, Wm. F. Allen, John A. Allen, Calvin Goodman, W. B. Waldran, Dr. Jephtha Fowlkes, John Trigg, David Looney, L. Shanks.

March, 1845 to March, 1846:—Mayor, J. J. Finley. Aldermen, Jos. D. Allen, William Goodman, Jos. Wright, Daniel Hughes, Jephtha Fowlkes, Wm. Chase, David Looney, J. R. Maltbie, E. F. Watkins, Calvin Goodman, Gardner B. Locke, D. S. Greer, E. M. Apperson, Lewis Shanks, Miles Owen, J. Delafield.

March, 1846 to March, 1847:—Mayor Edwin Hickman. Aldermen, Joseph D. Allen, Michael Leonard, Jephtha Fowlkes, Daniel Hughes, D. O. Dooley, E. H. Porter, E. Magevney, Wm. Carter, Wiley B. Miller, Samuel Mosby, E. Banks, A. O. Harria, V. D. Barry.

March, 1847 to March, 1848:—Mayor, Enoch Banks. Alder-



men, Joseph D. Allen, J. W. A. Pettit, J. Fowlkes, Daniel Hughes, Wm. Connell, V. D. Barry, S. A. Norton, Joseph I. Andrews, Samuel Mosby, W. B. Miller.

March, 1848 to March, 1849:—Mayor, Gardner B. Locke. Aldermen, Benj. Wright, J. W. A. Pettit, Jephtha Fowlkes, Daniel Hughes, James Wright, V. D. Barry, R. L. Kay, E. Magevney, J. M. Patrick, S. B. Williamson.

March, 1849 to July, 1850:—Mayor, E. Hickman. Aldermen, H. Cobb, T. James, L. Shanks, J. Weller, E. H. Porter, H. B. Joyner, V. Rhodes, E. McDavitt, R. A. Parker, H. G. Smith, D. Looney, A. O. Harris, N. B. Holt, S. W. Jefferson, A. B. Taylor, G. W. Murphy, W. Carr, J. L. Webb, H. L. Guion,

July, 1850 to July, 1851:—Mayor, E. Hickman. Aldermen, Thomas Conway, John Kehoe, E. McDavitt, E. H. Porter, S. W. Jefferson, A. D. Henkle, S. P. Walker, D. Looney, A. B. Shaw, J. Waldran, G. W. Smith, A. B. Taylor.

July, 1851 to July, 1852:—Mayor, E. Hickman. Aldermen, F. Titus, T. Conway, E. H. Porter, E. McDavitt, S. W. Jefferson, A. D. Henkle, David Looney, S. P. Walker, J. M. Patrick, A. B. Shaw, Wm. Ruffin, G. W. Smith, W. S. Cockrell, A. Woodruff, J. D. Danbury.

July, 1852 to July, 1853:—Mayor, A. B. Taylor. Aldermen, J. Kehoe, B. Wright, A. Woodruff, R. W. Thompson, A. D. Henkle, M. Eagan, S. P. Walker, J. D. Danbury, A. B. Shaw, T. W. Hunt, A. N. Edmunds, M. Jones, A. P. Merrill, F. Lane, J. M. Patrick, A. G. Underwood.

July, 1853 to July, 1854:—Mayor, A. B. Taylor. Aldermen, Thos. Conway, Dr. L. Shanks, E. McDavitt, W. M. Maddox, E. Magevney, S. W. Jefferson, S. P. Walker, A. Whipple, T. W. Hunt, J. M. Patrick, Marcus Jones, John Wiley, R. W. Thompson, John Park, Charles Jones.

July, 1854 to July, 1855:—Mayor, A. B. Taylor. Aldermen, John L. Saffarans, Dan'l Hughes, S. B. Curtis, John Neal, A. Street, A. M. Hopkins, A. A. Smithwick, J. L. Morgan, J. M. Patrick, James Jenkins, W. E. Milton, A. H. Douglass, A. Woodruff, W. Houston, J. D. Danbury.

July, 1855 to July, 1856:—Mayor, A. H. Douglass. Aldermen, John L. Saffarans, Dan'l Hughes, S. B. Curtis, John Neal,

A. Woodruff, Jas. Elder, W. R. Chandler, J. D. Danbury, James Jenkins, Jno. L. Morgan, W. E. Milton, F. M. Copeland, A. B. Shaw.

July, 1856 to July, 1857:—Mayor, T. B. Carroll. Aldermen, John L. Saffarans, Daniel Hughes, S. B. Curtis, L. J. Dupre, W. F. Barry, James Elder, C. M. Fackler, T. J. Finnie, Jno. Smoot, A. B. Shaw, D. Bogart, F. M. Copeland, A. H. Douglass, R. Wormeley.

July, 1857 to July, 1858:—Mayor, R. D. Baugh. Aldermen, Dan'l Hughes, J. S. Irwin, A. Street, W. O. Lofland, A. Woodruff, R. S. Jones, Thos. J. Finnie, I. M. Hill, F. M. E. Falkner, T. A. Hamilton, John Martin, F. M. Copeland.

July, 1858 to July, 1859:—Mayor, R. D. Baugh. Aldermen, J. O. Drew, Daniel Hughes, A. Street, R. H. Norris, Chas. Kortrecht, N. B. Forrest, James Elder, T. J. Finnie, T. A. Hamilton, A. H. Douglass, G. P. Foute, D. H. Townsend, John B. Robinson, F. M. Copeland, Jno. Neal, S. W. Jefferson, S. T. Morgan.

July, 1859 to July, 1860:—Mayor, R. D. Baugh. Aldermen, Jno. O. Drew, Samuel Tighe, A. Street, N. B. Forrest, James Elder, C. Potter, T. A. Hamilton, A. H. Douglass, W. E. Milton, Marcus Jones, I. N. Barnett, Wm. Farris, J. C. Grifing, W. M. Perkins, D. H. Townsend, S. T. Morgan, W. O. Lofland, C. Kortrecht.

July, 1860 to July, 1861:—Mayor, R. D. Baugh. Aldermen, Daniel Hughes, P. T. O'Mahoney, S. T. Morgan, R. S. Joyner, J. J. Worsham, N. B. Forrest, J. M. Crews, A. P. Merrill, D. B. Malloy, R. M. Kirby, John Martin, C. W. Frazier, J. B. Robinson, D. G. Feger, H. Volentine, W. C. Anderson, W. S. Pickett.

July, 1861 to July, 1862:—Mayor, John Park. Aldermen, Samuel Tighe, G. M. Grant, M. E. Cochran, S. T. Morgan, L. Amis, Jr., C. Kortrecht, A. P. Merrill, L. J. Dupre, J. O. Greenlaw, R. M. Kirby, D. H. Townsend, C. M. Farmer, John B. Robinson, J. M. Patrick, H. Volentine, F. M. Gailor, T. S. Ayres.

July, 1862 to July, 1863:—Mayor, John Park. Aldermen, S. Tighe, J. C. Powers, Paul Schuster, G. D. Johnson, L. Wunderman, B. F. C. Brooks, H. B. Henghold, M. Mulholland, Wm.

Harvey, James Hall, S. Ogden, John Gager, B. Fenton, S. T. Morgan, M. McEncroe, A. P. Merrill, C. M. Farmer, J. O. Drew, H. T. Hulbert, S. A. Moore, C. Deloach.

July, 1863 to July, 1864:—Mayor, John Park. Aldermen, J. Donovan, J. Glaney, G. D. Johnson, S. T. Morgan, L. Amis, L. Wunderman, A. P. Merrill, C. A. Stillman, M. Mulholland, W. W. Jones, G. W. Harver, M. McEncroe, M. Kelley, W. P. Evans, H. T. Hulbert, H. Volentine.

July, 1864 to July, 1865:—Mayors, Lieut.-Colonel Thos. H. Harris and Captain C. Richards. Aldermen, J. P. Foster, A. Renkert, G. D. Johnson, S. T. Morgan, B. F. C. Brooks, A. J. Miller, I. M. Hill, J. G. Owen, W. S. Bruce, W. W. Jones, J. E. Merriman, C. C. Smith, G. P. Ware, Jos. Tagg, Patrick Sherry, H. T. Hulbert, J. B. Wetherill, H. G. Smith, W. R. Moore, W. M. Farrington.

July, 1865 to July, 1866:—Mayor, John Park. Aldermen, John Glancy, E. V. O'Mahoney, S. T. Morgan, J. H. Reany, Louis Wunderman, Thomas Leonard, I. M. Hill, A. P. Burdett, A. Hitzfield, M. Burke, R. K. Beckett, Wm. M. Harvey, John S. Toof, M. Kelly, J. F. Green, G. D. Johnson, D. R. Grace, Thomas O'Donnell, S. P. Walker, R. W. Creighton.

July, 1866 to July, 1868:—Mayor, Wm. O. Lofland. Aldermen, J. J. Powers, John Glancy, G. D. Johnson, M. E. Cochran, E. W. Wickersham, L. Amis, R. P. Bolling, H. J. Lynn, T. W. O'Donnell, J. C. Holst, A. T. Shaw, D. H. Townsend, H. Lemon, T. O. Smith, W. H. Passmore, H. T. Hulbert.

42nd Corporate Year, 1869:—Mayor, John W. Lelfwich. Aldermen, Thos. Foley, E. Marshall, James O. Durff, L. E. Dyer, Thos. W. O'Donnell, James Gallagher, S. Ogden, L. M. Wolcott, L. D. Vincent, J. E. Williams.

43rd Corporate Year, 1870:—Mayor, John Johnson. Aldermen, Owen Dwyer, Phil. J. Mallon, J. O. Durff, I. T. Cartwright, J. C. Holst, Thos. B. Norment, A. J. Roach, Thomas Moffatt, J. P. Prescott, James Rounds. Councilmen, John Glancy, Patrick J. Kelly, William Chase, J. M. Graves, O. F. Prescott, James Birmingham, R. P. Duncan, M. Pepper, Owen Smith, M. Cohen, R. A. Parker, H. M. James, J. B. Signaigo,

Patrick Twohig, John Hallum, William Hewitt, William Miller, M. Doyle, George Dixon, D. F. Boon.

44th Corporate Year, 1871:—Mayor, John Johnson. Aldermen, Owen Dwyer, Phil. J. Mallon, T. F. Mackall, I. T. Cartwright, J. C. Holst, P. A. Cicalla, H. G. Dent, Thos. Moffatt, A. C. Bettis, M. J. Pendergrast. Councilmen, John Zent, John Walsh, William Chase, R. W. Lightburne, Lewis Amis, Jr., Henry Eschman, R. P. Duncan, J. M. Pettigrew, N. Malatesta, James Bachman, J. B. Signaigo, Patrick Twohig, J. D. Ruffin, W. M. Harvey, J. Genette, J. R. Grehan, Gus. Reder, J. F. Schabell, J. H. Smith, M. Boland.

45th Corporate Year, 1872:—Mayor, John Johnson. Aldermen, John Walsh, Phil J. Mallon, T. F. Mackall, J. M. Pettigrew, N. Malatesta, P. A. Cicalla, H. G. Dent, M. Burke, B. F. White, Jr., M. J. Pendergrast. Councilmen, John Zent, Thos. Foley, S. B. Robbins, William Schade, Jacob Steinkuhl, A. D. Gibson, C. A. Beehn, J. L. Norton, James Bachman, W. P. Martin, J. Halstead, W. M. Harvey, A. J. White, A. H. Dickerson, J. Genette, H. Marks, J. F. Schabell, Gus Reder, J. H. Smith, P. Colligan.

46th Corporate Year, 1873:—Mayor, John Johnson. Aldermen, John Walsh, S. B. Robbins, Andrew Davis, J. M. Pettigrew, N. Malatesta, P. A. Cicalla, J. J. Busby, M. Burke, B. F. White, Jr., P. Colligan. Councilmen, John Zent, M. V. Holbrook, William Hewitt, Wm. J. Chase, C. A. Beehn, J. L. Norton, A. R. Droscher, John A. Roush, Edward Shaw, Joseph Clouston, Jr., Benj. Bingham, C. E. Clark, S. C. Toof, Turner Hunt, A. J. White, John P. Hughes, Geo. M. Grant, P. S. Simons, J. H. Smith, Turner Mason.

47th Corporate Year, 1874:—Mayor, John Logue. Aldermen, Owen Dwyer, S. B. Robbin, Andrew Davis, N. Malatesta, H. G. Dent, J. T. Hillsman, H. S. Lee, Mike J. Doyle, P. Culligan. Councilmen, P. J. Kelly, J. Walsh, W. J. Chase, William Hewitt, C. A. Beehn, A. G. Tuther, J. A. Rourke, C. E. Keck, J. Clouston, I. Thomas, W. M. Harvey, J. Happeck, J. S. Carpenter, T. Hunt, J. W. Hagley, B. E. Bounds, J. T. Walters, C. E. Page, G. A. Morti, J. H. Moon.

48th Corporate Year, 1875:—Mayor, John Loague. Alder-

men, Owen Dwyer, S. B. Robbins, C. W. Metcalf, H. G. Dent, J. T. Hillsman, I. Happeck, H. S. Lee, Mike J. Doyle, P. Culligan, G. A. Morti. Councilmen, John Zent, P. J. Kelley, William Hewitt, H. Caso, S. J. Camp, A. G. Tuther, S. W. Green, Henry Luehrmann, R. Dougherty, J. Clouston, Jr., Charles G. Fisher, William Gay, S. Solari, J. S. Carpenter, J. W. Moore, J. W. Cochran, L. D. Grant, J. D. Danbury, T. A. Ryan, Jacob Moon.

49th Corporate Year, 1876:—Mayor, John R. Flippin. Aldermen, John Zent, W. A. McCloy, James Elder, S. W. Green, H. G. Dent, W. O. Harvey, W. N. Brown, J. W. Cochran, L. D. Grant, Thomas Fleming. Councilmen, P. J. Kelly, J. W. Kerns, J. M. Rourke, John Donovan, Thomas Doyle, James Speed, H. M. Neely, J. T. Blaise, R. Dougherty, E. Hardin, Jacob Weller, A. W. Otis, R. C. Wenson, W. H. Bates, H. Seesell, Sr., R. B. Denson, E. J. Karr, W. B. Glisson, W. M. Hill, George Hutchinson.

50th Corporate Year, 1877:—Mayor, John R. Flippin. Aldermen, John Zent, W. A. McCloy, James Elder, S. W. Green, H. G. Dent, W. O. Harvey, W. N. Brown, J. W. Cochran, L. D. Grant, John A. Strehl. Councilmen, John Bohan, P. J. Kelly, J. M. Rourke, E. Worsham, Thomas Doyle, J. B. Dillard, R. Britton, S. T. Carnes, R. Dougherty, G. E. Evans, T. J. Beasley, M. Jones, W. H. Bates, R. C. Williamson, H. Sessell, Sr., J. P. Hughes, A. W. Newsom, John Scheibler, E. W. Clapp, P. Culligan.

51st Corporate Year, 1878:—Mayor, John R. Flippin. Aldermen, W. J. Chase, J. M. Rourke, James Elder, J. B. Faires, H. G. Dent, W. N. Brown, J. W. Moores, William Benjes, John A. Strehl. Councilmen, W. P. Proudfit, P. C. Rogers, James Bohan, A. Renkert, Herman Caro, D. F. Goodyear, C. Quentel, H. L. Brinkley, I. N. Snowden, W. J. Crosbie, C. G. Fischer, Charles Kortrecht, W. H. Bates, R. C. Williamson, M. Selig, J. P. Hughes, L. Lanborn, James Brogan, P. O. Wood, Willis Radford.

52nd Corporate Year, 1879:—Mayor, John R. Flippin. Aldermen, W. J. Chase, William Hewitt, Thomas Doyle, S. W. Green, H. G. Dent, M. Jones, W. N. Brown, W. F. Kennedy,

William Benjes, P. Culligan. Councilmen, James Bohan, J. C. Powers, J. M. Rourke, S. L. Barinds, N. Hooth, C. Geis, P. Twohig, N. N. Speers, G. E. Evans, J. H. White, D. Gensburger, W. H. Bates, S. Solari, M. Selig, W. H. Bunford, J. Pickering, L. Lanborn, J. Sweeney, P. Slogan. (The board of this year had only served a month when the city charter was repealed, a new form of government established and new officers installed.)

Taxing District, 1879:—President, D. T. Porter. Fire and Police Commissioners, John Overton, Jr., Michael Burke. Secretary, L. C. Pullen. Supervisors of Public Works, C. W. Goyer, chairman; John Gunn, W. N. Brown, J. M. Goodbar, Robert Galloway.

Taxing District, 1881 to 1883:—President, John Overton, Jr. Fire and Police Commissioners, Michael Burke, R. C. Graves. Secretary, C. L. Pullen. Supervisors of Public Works, W. N. Brown, chairman; John Green, J. M. Goodbar, Robert Galloway, Henry James.

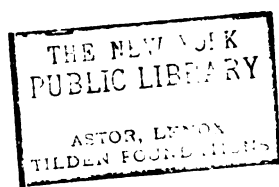
Taxing District, 1883 to 1885:—President, D. P. Hadden. Michael Burke, R. C. Graves. Secretary, C. L. Pullen. Supervisors of Public Works, James Lee, Jr., chairman; Henry James, M. Gavin, Charles Kney, Lymus Wallace.

1885 to 1887:—President, D. P. Hadden. Fire and Police Commissions, James Lee, H. A. Montgomery. Secretary, C. L. Pullen. Supervisors of Public Works, Charles Kney, Lymus Wallace, R. F. Patterson, T. J. Graham, John E. Randle.

1887 to 1889:—President, D. P. Hadden. Fire and Police Commissioners, James Lee, H. A. Montgomery. Secretary, C. L. Pullen. Supervisors of Public Works, Charles Kney, Lymus Wallace, R. F. Patterson, T. J. Graham, John E. Randle.

1889 to 1891:—President, D. P. Hadden. Fire and Police Commissioners, James Lee, Jr., J. T. Pettit. Secretary, C. L. Pullen. Supervisors of Public Works, Charles Kney, Lymus Wallace, Samuel Hirsch, T. J. Graham, John E. Randle.

1891 to 1893:—President, W. D. Bethell. Fire and Police Commissioners, J. T. Pettit, Martin Kelly. Secretary, Henry J. Lynn. Supervisors of Public Works, T. J. Graham, Samuel Hirsch, E. J. Carrington, Geo. Haszinger, Geo. H. Herbers.





George B. Love, 1900

Geo. B. Love



1893 to 1895:—President, W. L. Clapp. Fire and Police Commissioners, R. A. Speed, Martin Kelly. Secretary, J. J. Shea. Supervisors of Public Works:—J. T. Walsh, A. T. Hayden, E. J. Carrington, George Haszinger, G. H. Herbers.

1895 to 1897:—Mayor, W. L. Clapp. Fire and Police Commissioners, J. M. Fowlkes, vice-mayor, Hugh L. Brinkley, J. F. Walker. Supervisors of Public Works, J. T. Walsh, A. T. Hayden, E. J. Carrington, George Haszinger, G. H. Herbers.

1897 to 1898:—Same as preceding.

1898 to 1900:—Mayor, J. J. Williams. Fire and Police Commissioners, D. P. Hadden, vice-mayor, Hugh L. Brinkley, J. F. Walker, secretary in 1898 and W. B. Armour, secretary in 1899. Supervisors of Public Works, J. T. Walsh, E. J. Carrington, Thomas Clark, B. R. Henderson.

1900 to 1902:—Mayor, J. J. Williams. Fire and Police Commissioners, D. P. Hadden, vice-mayor, H. L. Brinkley, W. B. Armour, secretary. Supervisors of Public Works, E. C. Green, W. LaCroix, H. H. Litty, G. D. Raine, P. J. Moran.

1902 to 1904:—Mayor, J. J. Williams. Fire and Police Commissioners, B. R. Henderson, vice-mayor, John Armistead, W. B. Armour, secretary. Supervisors of Public Works, E. C. Green, Wm. LaCroix, H. H. Litty, E. B. LeMaster, G. R. James, W. D. Moon, E. F. Grace, David Gensburger.

1904 to 1906:—Mayor, J. J. Williams. Fire and Police Commissioners, B. R. Henderson, vice-mayor, John T. Walsh, W. B. Armour, secretary. Supervisors of Public Works, D. Gensburger, A. B. Caruthers, G. C. Love, Thomas Dies, E. F. Grace, G. M. Tidwell, W. D. Moon, E. B. LeMaster.

1906 to 1908:—Mayor, James H. Malone. Fire and Police Commissioners, John T. Walsh, vice-mayor, H. T. Bruce, B. G. Henning, D. S. Rice. Supervisors of Public Works, G. C. Love, Thos. Dies, G. M. Tidwell, Louis Sambucetti, E. H. Crump, J. S. Dunscomb, A. H. Frank, F. F. Hill, R. A. Utley, W. T. Winkelman.

1908 to 1910:—Mayor, James H. Malone. Fire and Police Commissioners, J. T. Walsh, vice-mayor, H. T. Bruce, B. G. Henning, E. H. Crump. Supervisors of Public Works, G. C. Love, Thomas Dies, C. W. Edmonds, Louis Sambucetti, P. J.

Moran, J. S. Dunscomb, A. H. Frank, F. F. Hill, R. A. Utley, H. F. Henderson.

Commission Government, 1910 to 1912: Mayor, E. H. Crump. Department Public Affairs, E. H. Crump. Department Accounts, Finances and Revenues, C. W. Edmonds. Department Fire and Police, J. M. Speed. Department Public Utilities, Grounds and Buildings, Thomas Dies. Department Streets, Bridges and Sewers, G. C. Love.

Commission Government, 1912:—Mayor, E. H. Crump. Department Public Affairs and Health, E. H. Crump. Department Accounts, Finances and Revenues, E. R. Parham. Department Fire and Police, R. A. Utley. Department Public Utilities, Grounds and Buildings, Thomas Dies. Department Streets, Bridges and Sewers, G. C. Love.

Memphis has given to the Nation a number of distinguished characters, civil and military. Among these are:

Luke E. Wright, Governor General of the Philippines; Ambassador to Japan; Secretary of War.

United States Senators:—Isham G. Harris, Thomas B. Turley and E. W. Carmack.

Governors:—James C. Jones, Isham G. Harris and M. R. Patterson.

Congressmen:—Frederick P. Stanton, W. T. Avery, W. J. Smith, Wm. R. Moore, Casey Young, Zach Taylor, Josiah Patterson, E. W. Carmack, M. R. Patterson, G. W. Gordon, K. D. McKellar.

Military Men:—Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest, Lieutenant General A. P. Stewart, Major General Marcus J. Wright, Brigadier General Preston Smith, Brigadier General John Adams, Brigadier General John L. T. Sneed and General William H. Carroll.

In addition to the above, were the following distinguished colonels, whose deeds shed luster on Memphis:

Colonels:—Michael Magevney, Charles M. Carroll, Ed. Pickett, Jr., J. Knox Walker, T. W. Preston, Kit Williams, Luke W. Finley, Wm. F. Taylor.

## CHAPTER XIV

### Architecture and Public Buildings.

**T**HE architecture of the city of Memphis, like all other American cities, has passed through various stages, from the log hut and frame dwelling, crude at first and without any claim to distinction, step by step, to the palatial homes of our present day.

Public and business buildings have likewise developed from a mediocre beginning to the beautiful structures which are now erected to house our people in their business and public life. Among the first buildings claiming any distinction whatever were those erected for business houses, mostly in the fifties, a row of three or four stories, with little or no variation, and if any, only in a minor treatment of window and door openings, with a cornice of metal in imitation of a more permanent structure. A number of these buildings still exist on our principal streets and with the exception of perhaps the lower stories, which have been modernized to suit present needs and conditions, they still serve their original purpose.

A departure from this style of building brought about another class of structures overladen with crude, meaningless cornices and ornamental work, claiming no merit except the individuality of the architect or master builders who were responsible for their creation.

To this period of our city's history likewise belongs the early frame dwellings, a few of which are still in existence. The greater number, however, have disappeared as the business center of the city has expanded; but a few homes, although erected in frame, were well designed in Colonial or Neo Greek

style of architectures which prevailed in this country at the times these houses were erected.

At the time Richardson, the architect, was erecting his buildings in a castellated or American adaptation of Romanesque style of architecture, the Cossitt Library was built and this building is an example of the style of architecture prevalent at this time. This style supplanted the so-called Queen Anne, of which there are very few examples in this city; for while it was well adapted to frame dwellings it was but little used here.

The iron front for business buildings, of which various cities in this country contain innumerable examples, was used here in a limited number of cases for such purposes. One of the largest erected in this country at the time, 1858, we claim to have in this city, on Second Street, between Adams and Jefferson Avenues. If they may be classed in any particular style of architecture it belongs to a renaissance period consisting of a superimposed order of architecture with a crowning cornice of classical profile.

Architecture, since the periods enumerated above, has steadily improved in quality, as the conditions justified more expensive and permanent buildings. The Porter Building marked a new epoch in construction, inasmuch as it was the first building erected of steel and skeleton construction in this city. Of later years we have many examples of this same class of construction represented by both public and business or office buildings, among them being the Tennessee Trust, Memphis Trust, Central Bank and Exchange buildings.

During recent years the architecture of the public schools has likewise kept pace with the improvements in other lines of buildings until at the present time our schools are excellent examples of scholastic architecture. The improvement, however, has been most noticeable in our domestic architecture until at present we number among our homes some of the most beautiful residences erected in this section of the country.

It would hardly be permissible to review the architecture of this city without making mention of the churches which have been erected within the past few years and of which we

have some very beautiful examples. These, however, owing to changing conditions, are gradually being removed to the suburbs or residential sections of the city.

To the business and public buildings belong the credit for the most decided change and improvements and the one most likely to impress the visitor to our city, and an historical sketch of Memphis would not be complete without special mention of the beautiful Court House and Municipal Building recently erected, which is treated further on in this chapter.

The office buildings are purely commercial structures but have played a very important part in the architecture of the city. Our business section is rapidly assuming a metropolitan condition as a result of the buildings that have been erected for office and commercial purposes within the past few years.

With the exception of the small bust of Andrew Jackson in Court Square, we were entirely without monuments until the erection of the General Forrest statue in Forrest Park a few years ago. This statue, the work of the sculptor Charles Niehaus, is a beautiful example of his work. Within more recent years a memorial fountain and pergola have been erected in Overton Park; likewise a bust of Captain Harvey Mathes in Confederate Park; but with these exceptions Memphis is unfortunately lacking in works of art of this nature.

Taking an unbiased view of the architecture of the city of Memphis, we feel that we can compare favorably with other cities of our class, that the conditions and continued improvements are most encouraging and that our city will eventually be a city beautiful.\*

The public buildings of Memphis will be treated of only as they exist at present. There are few in the remote past worthy of attention. Indeed, for a period of about thirty years of her existence it was playfully said by Memphians that there was but one building in the city in which they could take a pride and that was their jail.

Beginning with the most important building of the city, the new Shelby County Court House, it is in wonderful con-

\*For the details of this sketch of Memphis architecture the editor is indebted to Mr. M. H. Furbringer, of Jones & Furbringer, prominent local architects.

trast with the little log structure of 1820, costing \$175.00. The present enormous but classic structure occupies the whole square bounded by Adams and Washington Avenues and Second and Third Streets. This court house is surpassed in symmetry of design and convenience of arrangement by no county building in the United States, though several actually cost two or three times as much. The description embodied in the report of the Court House Commission which built it cannot be improved upon and will here be given in part:

"The exterior of the building is classical, a modified Ionic. The southern front presents a lengthy portico with fourteen Ionic columns, the shafts left unfluted, resting on pedestals of the same height as a heavily latticed balustrade. The principal entrances are three, one at each end of the southern front and one at the southern extremity of the western side. These entrances are joined by the front portico; they project slightly from the front and side and rise two stories to pediments, each of which is supported by two columns of the same order as those of the portico. Preserving the architectural unity, there has been introduced a similar entrance at the southern extremity of the eastern side as well as the northern extremities of both sides but on account of the height of the bases, these entrances have been converted into balconies which, but for the additions of balustrades similar to that of the main portico, correspond in every respect with the main entrances. \* \* \* \* All columns are so placed as to come between windows and thus in no way interfere with light or ventilation. \* \* \* \* The sides are severely plain except for the introduction of pilasters the full height of the two stories between the windows and recessed panels between the second and third rows of windows. All the side windows are simple plain openings in the walls but the lower tier in the front has plain mouldings around the tops and sides; the ornaments of the upper tier of windows in the front are formed by the interior frieze of the portico and by sills of plain mouldings. The extremely long lines of the cornice all around the building, with the exception of the parts pertaining to the pediments, have been interrupted by the introduction of lion's heads at

frequent intervals. The plain surface of the frieze except that on the sides between the pediments, has been relieved by the addition of wreathes near the end. The cornice is topped by a comparatively high parapet capped with simple mouldings. All door openings are ornamented with carved mouldings on the lintels and jambs and covered with richly carved canopies. The apex of each pediment supports a colossal head of Minerva from each side of which drops a richly carved cresting entirely to and around the eaves. \* \* \* \*

"On the cornice of the six-column portico of the northern front are placed six figures representing Integrity, Courage, Mercy, Temperance, Prudence and Learning. They are cut from the same kind of stone as that in the building and are more than double life-size.

"Life-size groupes are carved in high relief on the webs of the pediments. They represent Religious Law, Roman Law, Statutory Law, Common Law, Civil Law and Criminal Law.

"The approaches on the east and west side of the main front and that at the south of the west side are imposing flights of granite steps flanked by heavy walls which finish at the tops at the sides of the entrances in massive pedestals on which rest seated figures of heroic size, cut from single stones of Tennessee white marble, representing Wisdom, Justice, Liberty, Authority, Peace and Prosperity. These sculptures are said to be the largest figures in the country cut from single blocks of marble.

"The floors of all corridors and public parts of courtrooms and offices are Tennessee gray marble. The sides of all corridors have base and high wainscoting of beautifully veined Tennessee marble. The courtrooms, entrance halls to offices and public parts of offices have similar bases and wainscoting but not quite so high as that of the corridors. The marble, a variegated grayish red, in addition to veins of undecided coloring carries heavy veins of pronounced dark red. In the panelings the slabs have been so joined as to match the veinings into a variety of surprising beautiful effects.

"The interior woodwork, doors, partitions, rails and general finishings are mahogany, with bronze lock, hinges and

trimmings. Chipped glass is used in all doors opening on the corridors and frosted glass in office partitions. Electric light and gas fixtures are bronze, in heavy ornamental designs. Floors are laid with rubber tile or cork carpet, the former in all the courtrooms and the latter in the private parts of all offices. The beautiful front corridor looks directly on the front portico and receives the southern sun through thirteen windows. The principal decorative effect has been successfully attempted in the design and execution of this really magnificent entrance hall. Seven different marbles from Vermont, Pennsylvania, Alabama and Tennessee have been used in its embellishment. The design satisfies the anticipation excited by the exterior and maintains the architectural unity. A Grecian ceiling is divided into 15 panels, two at the end and 13 corresponding to the front windows. The panels are marked by beautiful cornices with beds ornamented by gilded Grecian borders and rosettes enclosing heavily gilded plain frames. On the cornices one moulding only on the sides and one only on the lower faces are gilded. The ceiling is supported by marble pilasters in pairs corresponding to the cornices of the ceiling panels. These pilasters are a beautiful combination of the various marbles, red sub-base, black-base, green shaft and white capital. White marble with trimmings of the other, completely covers the walls between the pilasters. On the walls opposite the windows and corresponding with them as well at the ends, Alabama white marble, beautifully veined, has been arranged in matched and figured panels of remarkable beauty. The floor is Tennessee marble, gray and light red; squares of gray are arranged diagonally with light wide red borders. Heavy ornamental electric light brackets further adorn the walls.

“The material used in the entire exterior of the building is blue Bedford limestone. This is an even, close grained stone, slightly oily and practically impervious to frost and moisture. The color is a light grayish blue, which under the sun first bleaches to a shade much lighter than when first quarried and finally weathers into a pleasing dark gray. For building purposes it is not excelled by any stone in the coun-



try. The material of the court is a light buff brick with white terra cotta trimmings."

The commission further say of the building that it is an adaptation of a classical design to modern utilities and conveniences. The exterior is intentionally simple; extreme care was exercised to avoid over-ornamentation and painstaking consideration was used in preserving conveniences above designed. The general appearance should prove not only pleasing for the present, but satisfactory for a long time to come. The building is fire-proof, practically indestructable and should endure for ages. It follows a style which has never grown tiresome and one which has survived to satisfy and please through unending and unsuccessful attempts at improvement and innovation. In unity of composition, simplicity of arrangement and combination of design and use, the structure is not believed to be surpassed by any modern building.

This great building, with a frontage of 270 feet and nearly as deep accommodates at present within its luxurious interior the city and county government, the State courts and the various boards of health and other accompaniments of municipal administration.

Historically the scheme to erect this court house was conceived in 1904, when at its October term, the County Court passed a resolution memorializing the General Assembly of the State to grant authority to the county to issue one million dollars of bonds with the proceeds of which a site might be procured and the building erected. This authority was granted by an act passed on February 2, 1905, authorizing the issuance of \$1,000,000 of fifty year bonds and containing other powers including the right of condemnation of lands for its site. Other amendatory acts were passed on April 13, 1905 and on March 15, 1907, changing the details of the original act in several respects and authorizing additional issues of bonds to the amount of half a million dollars. The court appointed on April 17, 1905, the Building Commission, composed of N. C. Perkins, W. G. Allen, John Colbert, John T. Walsh and Levi Joy, of which the first named three were then members of the County Court.

These were all well known Memphis citizens of large ability and earnestly set about the performance of their great work. N. C. Perkins was elected chairman and Levi Joy, secretary. This organization continued until May 13, 1907, when John Colbert was elected secretary.

The site for the construction of the building was obtained by purchase and condemnation for the sum of \$323,882.78, which was reduced by rents received, etc., to \$319,361.91. Hale and Rogers, architects of the highest skill and character of New York City, were employed to design the building and the contract for general construction was awarded to the John Pierce Company for \$792,820.00. The laborious work of construction will not be narrated here. It is sufficient to say that the entire work was finally completed and equipped and the building occupied by the public offices and courts by December, 1909.

The entire expense of the building amounted to \$1,588,871.71, of which the ground cost \$319,361.91. The construction, including sculptures and decorating, amounted to \$1,119,208.84 and the furniture and fixtures \$118,406.41, while the salaries and incidental expenses were \$30,863.50. After completing the building the commission had on hand a cash balance of \$1,924.98. The excess of this cost over the million and a half dollars in bonds was made up of premiums and accrued interest on the bonds and interest on the deposits of the funds in bank during the construction, with some additional minor items.

It may be added to this statement that the entire furniture equipment of the building is made of solid mahogany.

The new building for the Memphis Central Police Headquarters designed by Mr. G. M. Shaw, a prominent local architect, located at the corner of Adams Avenue and Second Street, is now completed.

Built of white Carthage marble and reinforced concrete, with fire-proof floors and construction, it will endure as a monument to the civic pride of Memphis for the remainder of the century.

Not only is it a creation of masterly architectural design

from the standpoint of beauty, but it contains every modern equipment which could be devised to make it adequate to the needs of the department for all time.

The first impression one gathers on approaching the building is its appearance of strength, durability and simplicity; upon entering the main rotunda however, the observer discovers there is ample consideration given to the artistic side of the construction. The oval rotunda, with its green marble columns and mosaic relief work, is indeed a thing of beauty. The offices throughout are tastefully decorated and furnished complete with the latest design of imperishable furniture of metal; but it is upon entering the courtroom that the crowning impression is given; finished throughout in English oak, with panels of immense size and magnificent arched, ribbed and decorated ceiling, it gives one the impression of dignity, simplicity and taste.

In the construction of this building reinforced concrete played an important part; the floors, foundation walls and footings are all reinforced concrete; while the columns and girders are of steel. The cell rooms are equipped with tool proof steel cells, similar in material and workmanship to those in use in the most modern penitentiaries. So hard is the steel in these cells that the finest steel saws have no effect upon them.

The arrangement of the building sets a new standard of design for central stations, being settled upon after an extended trip by the commissioners and architects throughout the principal cities of the United States. In addition to offices for all the officials there are club and sleeping rooms for the policemen; charity rooms for the unfortunate; a room for the convenience of visiting officials from other cities; a gymnasium; a shooting gallery in the basement, and a lavish supply of shower baths for the inmates of the building.

Taking into consideration the cost of this building, which was less than \$308,000, the city has a right to be proud of the magnificent structure, which will stand as a monument for many years to come.

Memphis has been the recipient of several noble benefac-

tions donated by as many of her sterling citizens who loved and were loyal to their city. Among the most valuable of these was the founding of the Cossitt Library by the heirs of Mr. Frederick H. Cossitt, a philanthropic man from Granby, Connecticut, who adopted Memphis as his home in 1842 and remained here engaged in successful business pursuits for eighteen years. After his death, September 23, 1887, at New York where he was then residing, there was found among his private papers an informal memorandum expressing his intention to give the city of Memphis the munificent sum of \$75,000 for the purpose of founding the nucleus of a public library. This memorandum was not in any sense a will but merely expressed an intention. But that intention was held sacred by his children and his three daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth R. Stokes, Mrs. Helen C. Juilliard and Mrs. Mary C. Dodge, who soon after his death took steps to carry it into effect. When a board of trustees had been appointed and incorporated as a library commission two of these noble women, Mrs. Juilliard and Mrs. Dodge, and Mr. Stokes, the husband of the third who had died, each gave to the trustees a check for the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of carrying into effect the contemplated bequest of their father.

The city contributed a part of the promenade, a lot 162 by 300 feet on the bluff south of the United States Custom House, with the approbation of the Legislature of the State, as a site for the building. The Cossitt Library was incorporated by charter, dated April 6, 1888, the Board of Trustees having been suggested by Mr. Cossitt prior to his death being as follows: Carrington Mason, David P. Hadden, Wm. M. Randolph, Samuel P. Read, Wm. M. Farrington, J. T. Fargason, J. C. Neely, Napoleon Hill and Elliston Mason. The officers of the board elected were Wm. M. Farrington, president; D. P. Hadden, vice-president; S. P. Read, treasurer, and Carrington Mason, secretary.

To the donation given by the Cossitt family there was added \$1,000 to the building fund by the estate of W. H. Wood of Memphis, \$75.00 by the Union & Planter's Bank of Memphis; \$500 by E. W. Barnes of New York; \$20.00 by Jacob

Schaaf of Memphis; and \$550.00 by the Portage Red Sandstone Company of Cleveland, Ohio.

The declared purposes of the corporation in its charter are:

1—To establish and maintain a free public library within the city of Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee.

2—To establish and maintain a free public art-gallery within said city.

3—To establish and maintain a free public music-hall within said city.

4—To establish and maintain a free public lecture-room within the said city.

5—To establish and maintain a free public museum within the said city.

Subsequently to the incorporation the sum of \$5,000 was bequeathed by the late Mr. Philip R. Bohlen, to be used for the purchase of books for the library. The library building is a beautiful structure of red sandstone, the style being a castellated or American adaptation of Romanesque architecture and the building is skillfully arranged for the storage and convenient use of books with splendidly ventilated and lighted reading-rooms, while the nucleus of a fine museum has been installed on the second floor.

Among the buildings devoted to the public welfare, the Goodwyn Institute is notable not only for the munificence of the donor who conceived and provided for its construction and equipment, but for the great benefit it has proved to be to the citizens of Memphis of all classes.

This institute was formally dedicated to the public use on September 30, 1907, the address being delivered by Gen. Luke E. Wright, one of the illustrious citizens of Memphis. The institute was the gift of Mr. Wm. A. Goodwyn of Nashville, Tennessee, formerly a citizen of Memphis, who in his will, after making sundry provisions for his family, declared that after the death of his wife his property should vest in the State of Tennessee, as Trustee, for the uses pertinent to said institute. The will provided further that the Governor and State Senate should nominate and appoint three commission-

ers to be known as Commissioners of Goodwyn Institute, their tenure of office to be four years. The commissioners were to purchase a suitable lot in Memphis and erect suitable buildings thereon, expending part of the funds derived from his estate for this purpose and applying the balance for the purchase of a library and apparatus and making provision for an endowment fund. The whole scheme was to be subject to the supervision of the State Legislature at all times and the title to the property should be in the name of the State of Tennessee.

It was further provided that a portion of the building should be rented for the purpose of providing a maintenance revenue for the library and public lectures; another part should be devoted to lectures and still another part to library purposes, the use of the library to be free to all, as should also the lectures which, however should be for instruction and not for entertainment merely. It was further provided that no part of the building should be used for political gatherings, but the lecture hall, when not in use otherwise, might be rented for musical concerts, art exhibitions or other purposes likely to elevate public morals and taste. The first Board of Commissioners were suggested to the Governor by the testator and was composed of Samuel P. Read, Bedford M. Estes and Rufus Lawrence Coffin.

Mr. Goodwyn at the conclusion of his will, thus stated his reasons and wishes as to the splendid institute which was to bear his name:

“My whole wish and desire as respects this Goodwyn Institute is to afford to future youths, who may desire it, information upon such practical and useful subjects as will be beneficial in life. My reason for locating it in Memphis is, it was there I spent much of my life in the happy circle of my wife and children. The latter sleep near her borders as I and my wife expect to do when we die. Here I made the first friends of my early life; many of them are dead, but their descendants, many of them, remain, in Memphis and were playmates of my children, and to them or their descendants I hope this may be of great benefit. This legacy for the benefit

of my old home has long been thought of by myself and wife, and took shape in a will written by me in November, 1887 and now repeated. It became necessary to write this will on account of necessary changes and to destroy that of 1887. And I mention this fact in order that my old friends at Memphis may know that I have long cherished this idea."

The institute as finally constructed, is on the southwest corner of Madison Avenue and Third Street in Memphis. The lot was purchased on July 21, 1903 for \$75,000. The building fronts on Madison Avenue and is seventy-five feet wide and one hundred and seventeen feet deep. It is a modern, fire-proof construction of steel, stone, brick and terra cotta, seven stories high with a basement of 5,768 square feet. The auditorium or lecture hall occupies the second and third floors, and will seat nearly one thousand people. The library occupies the seventh floor, while the basement, first, fourth, fifth and sixth floors are used for different business offices and other rental purposes. The cost of the building and equipment was more than \$300,000. The exterior construction is of stone up to the second floor and above that of "Harvard Gate Brick" being of the same type as that first used at Harvard University. The brick work makes an artistic mosaic appearing old and weather-stained, which effect is secured by the varied colorings of the bricks. The trimmings are of white terra cotta. The building possesses a spacious lobby forty-five feet wide, fifty feet deep and fifty feet high, adorned with beautifully tiled floors, lofty pillars, wide marble steps and artistic marble newels. The institute has been self-sustaining from the beginning and has paid all expenses for lectures, besides providing for the purchase of necessary books for the splendid library which, by the order of the trustees, is limited to the purposes of a reference library only. The trustees at present are Messrs. S. P. Read, John R. Pepper and J. M. Goodbar and the superintendent is Mr. C. C. Ogilvie, all of Memphis. One of the principle and most beneficent features of the institute are the lectures and lecture recitals which "cover a wide range of subjects and relate to art, science, literature, music, travel, history, biography, philosophy, soci-

ology, economics, education, commercial, municipal and governmental affairs. The highest grade of lecturers obtainable in the land are annually secured for these purposes, and, it has been remarked, afford interest, amusement and instruction for a more varied class of citizens than seem to attend upon other benefactions in the city.

The city has a new Union Station on Calhoun Street, completed and opened to traffic April 1, 1912. It is owned and operated by five railroads, namely, the Southern Railway Company, the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway Company, the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway and the St. Louis, Southwestern Railway Company.

It was at first planned to have all the trunk lines centering at Memphis construct and occupy one building at the corner of Main and Calhoun Streets, but differences arose among the several companies, growing out of the nature of the transportation service and that plan fell through, the other railroad systems undertaking to build independently a station at Main and Calhoun Streets. The Memphis Union Station Company, composed of the above five mentioned railroads, was organized and incorporated on the 30th of September, 1909, and the work of construction on the present station was begun April 1, 1910. Its incorporators and the first board of directors were M. H. Smith, Fairfax Harrison, J. W. Thomas, Jr., C. W. Nelson and J. L. Lancaster.

The new depot of the Memphis Union Station Company, which cost something like \$3,000,000, was built on Calhoun Avenue and Fourth Street, about three blocks east of Main Street. The building is of gray stone, the architecture presenting old colonial lines, and is three stories in height. Grand stairway approaches of stone spring from the avenue to the general entrance on the second floor, this entrance being embellished with six stone columns about fifty feet in height. The waiting room for white passengers is in the center of the building on the second floor and is one hundred feet by fifty-one feet eight inches in dimensions. The colored waiting-room, more than half as large, is to the east of the general waiting-



room, while the ladies' waiting-room is on the west side of it and surrounded by the dining-room, lunch-room and other arrangements for personal comfort.

Over the general waiting-room the ceiling springs to a height of forty-six feet and is exquisitely ornamented with buff terra cotta, in which are myriads of artistic electric lights arranged in rosettes. The wainscoting is finished in terra cotta, with a solid marble base extending around the entire room and the floor is of vari-colored marble tiling in beautiful natural tints. The woodwork is mahogany on the second floor and quarter-sawed oak on the ground floor. The terra cotta finish is something new in depot construction, and the coloring is soft and restful to the eyes.

The whole arrangement of the station building from ground-floor to attic is very convenient, adding vastly to the comfort of the traveling public. In the rear of the main building on the second floor is a grand concourse, seventy-five by two hundred forty feet in dimensions, from which passengers enter trains, twenty tracks being provided for this service. The concourse may also be used for a promenade, a thing much needed in all large passenger stations, but rarely provided. The station has its own light, heat and water plant, the water being derived from artesian well three hundred feet deep. The architect of the station was J. A. Galvin and chief engineer, J. Weiness.

Most extensive provisions have been made for the care of baggage and express, numerous elevators being provided for lifting it from the ground to the second floor. Beside the rooms on the second floor and the baggage and express rooms on the ground floor, the latter floor is provided with numerous capacious apartments for special purposes necessary to a complete Union Station, such as a drug-store, barber shop, billiard-room, mail-room and rest-room for employes, besides numerous smaller quarters for other purposes. The upper floor is taken up almost exclusively with offices and file-rooms. It is conceded that no more commodious, comfortable or handsome Union Station can be found in the entire South and it is hoped that it may be sur-

passed by the other Union Station nearby, now about to be put under construction.

In January, 1877, the State of Tennessee passed an Act ceding to the United States for the purpose of having erected thereon a United States Custom House, a large lot of land on the promenade or bluff overhanging the Mississippi River, having a frontage on the west line of Front Street of three hundred sixty-four and one-fourth feet, extending from the north line of the first alley south of Madison Street to the south line of the first alley north of Madison Street and extending thence westward between parallel lines three hundred feet.

On this lot was erected a stone building, the basement being of pink granite and the superstructure of white Tennessee marble and large enough to accommodate all the offices of the United States government, including a post-office, Custom's offices, the United States court-rooms, inspectors' offices, etc. The architecture is of modified Italian design and the finish is of cherry. The floors of the public parts of the building are tessellated. The windows are of heavy plate glass, the stairways of iron, with slabs of slate. The building is thoroughly fire-proof and has an independent sewer system. The grounds surrounding the building are adorned with lawns and trees and are supported with a heavy retaining wall constructed of great blocks of stone.

The original cost of the building was approximately \$500,000, but it has been recently greatly enlarged on the west side, as the demands of the Government service in Memphis have quickly outgrown the structure first devised and it was found imperatively necessary to nearly double the size of the building.

## CHAPTER XV

### Parks and Promenades.

**W**HEN the proprietors of Memphis conceived the plan of the infant city on January 6, 1819, as mentioned in the agreement of that date, as recorded in the Register's office, and caused William Lawrence to prepare a plan and map of the town, they also had a vision. These shrewd men foresaw that the little town which they had planted would at some future day become a great metropolis in the nation and emphatically declared that it would rival its ancient namesake on the Nile in beauty and grandeur. They also foresaw that reservation must be made in advance for the civic adornment of the future queen city so that a landscape unsurpassed in the great southwest should be rescued from commercial obstacles on the river front and be reserved forever to the dwellers in this great metropolis of their dream. So they made generous provision, not only for the future commercial convenience of its inhabitants, but for their comfort and enjoyment as well.

Hence on this plan and map, as will be seen on inspection, they provided not only four handsome squares called Auction, Market Exchange and Court Squares, but they provided also a grand promenade or river-front park from Jackson Avenue to Union Avenue, a distance of 4,197 feet, and extended it east and west so as to embrace all the land between the west line of Front Street, then Mississippi Row, and the then edge of the bluff overhanging the river, except a roadway along the edge, the dedicated promenade being 572 feet wide at the south end and 180 feet at the north end of the plat and containing something like thirty-six acres. They also dedicated the streets and alleys of the new town and a splendid landing extending

along the Mississippi and Wolf River front, from Jackson Street north to Bayou Gayoso and from the then water's edge, as shown on the map, eastward to Chickasaw Street, the northern extension of Mississippi Row. And they were so particular in preserving these civic dedications for park and promenade purposes to the future people of Memphis that on September 18, 1828, they executed a carefully drawn deed of confirmation, which is here given in full.

"The undersigned proprietors of the land on which the town of Memphis has been laid off, having been informed that doubts have arisen in relation to their original intention concerning the same, for the purpose of removing such doubts, do hereby make known and declare the following as their original and unequivocal designs and intentions in relation thereto:

"First. All the ground laid off in said town as streets or alleys, we do say that it was always our intention that the same should forever remain as public streets and alleys, subject to the same rules and regulations as all streets and alleys in towns or cities, forever obligating ourselves, our heirs, or assigns, and by these presents, we do bind ourselves, our heirs, etc., that the above streets and alleys shall continue eastwardly as far as lots are laid off, and the streets, though not the alleys, as far east as Bayou Gayoso, agreeably to the last survey and sale.

"Second. In relation to the ground laid off in said town as public squares, viz: Court, Exchange, Market and Auction Squares, it was the intention of the proprietors that they should forever remain as public grounds, not subject to private appropriation, but public uses only, according to the import of the above expressions, Court, Exchange, Market and Auction Squares.

"Third. In relation to the piece of ground laid off and called the 'Promenade,' said proprietors say that it was their original intention, is now, and forever will be, that the same should be public ground for such use only as the word imports, to which heretofore, by their acts, for that purpose it was conceived, all right was relinquished for themselves, their heirs, etc., and it is hereby expressly declared, in conformity with

such intention, that we, for ourselves, heirs and assigns, forever relinquish all claims to the same piece of ground called the "Promenade," for the purpose above mentioned. But nothing herein contained as to the promenade shall bar the town from authorizing one or more ferries to be kept by the proprietors, their heirs or assigns, opposite said promenade and the mouth of any of the cross streets on Mississippi Row.

"Fourth. In relation to the ground lying between the western boundary of the lots from No. 1 to 24 inclusive, and the same line continued in a direct course to the south bank of the Bayou Gayoso and eastern margin of Wolf and Mississippi Rivers, and between Jackson Street extended to the river and the said south bank of the bayou, it was the original intention of the proprietors that there should, on said ground, forever be a landing or landings for public purposes of navigation or trade, and that the same should be forever enjoyed for these purposes, obligatory on ourselves, heirs and assigns; but all other rights not inconsistent with the above public rights incident to the soil, it never was the intention of the proprietors to part with, such as keeping a ferry or ferries on any of the public ground, an exclusive right which they always held sacred, and never intend to part with in whole or in part."

The two succeeding sections numbered 5 and 6, relate to a gift to the city of a block at northwest corner of Poplar and Third Streets, theretofore used for a burying ground, which was to be discontinued, and the dedication of another site for a burying ground on what was known then as Second Bayou, since known as Winchester Cemetery.

This conveyance was dated September 18, 1828, and was signed by John Overton, John C. McLemore, George Winchester and William Winchester, surviving owner, by M. B. Winchester, attorney in fact.

This deed of dedication and confirmation apparently vested in the people of Memphis the perpetual right to the use and enjoyment of the squares and promenade as far as legal skill and the agency of human language could accomplish the purpose of the founders. But as the town and later, the city, grew, human ingenuity was employed successfully to undo

the plans of those wise promoters of civic beauty and enjoyment and to rob the luckless people of Memphis of their birth-right. And these schemes always came in the guise of an alleged blessing.

In 1844, as we have seen above, the city government conveyed to the United States the splendid navy-yard property, embracing for two blocks the north end of the original promenade. This cession covered all the land between Market and Auction Streets and from Chickasaw Street to the river. But the navy yard was receded by the United States to Memphis in 1853.

In 1847 the city made a lease to W. A. Bickford, of Exchange Square, for 99 years, the consideration being \$10,000 of city bonds and provision for a city hall and offices during that period in the building to be erected thereon. This lease has yet 34 years to run.

Before this date the city had extended the public landing from its original location above Jackson Street steadily down the river front, by cutting away the face of the bluff and thus reducing the public promenade one-half or more from Jackson Street ultimately to Union Street. This appropriation of the west part of the promenade, however, though reducing greatly the privileges of the people as to the extent of their splendid pleasure grounds, yet cannot be assailed as a mistaken exercise of clear business judgment, as the traffic privileges thus given to steamboats and river commerce undoubtedly made Memphis what it became before the railroads came to supplant the steamboats.

In 1876 the city and state ceded to the United States as a site for a Custom House that section of the bluff promenade fronting the western terminus of Madison Street and embracing a lot  $364\frac{1}{4}$  by 300 feet, which was also originally part of the ground dedicated by the founders of Memphis.

Later, in 1888, the city donated a lot 162 by 300 feet adjoining the Custom House grounds on the south and extending to Monroe Street for the use of the Cossitt Library. This was a splendidly endowed institution founded by the generosity of Mr. Frederick H. Cossitt, a former citizen of Memphis. As

the surrounding grounds of both the Custom House and Library have been handsomely parked and opened to the people, the loss is not great to the public.

At a later period still, the city appropriated a part of the promenade lying between Union and Monroe Streets for the erection of a central fire-station.

The city also, on October 1, 1881, leased for 25 years to the L. & N. Railroad Co., the north half of Auction Square, for \$500 per annum, the railroad company undertaking to defend itself against all efforts to set aside the lease by the public without cost to the city.

Besides granting track privileges, over the whole length of the levee embraced in the promenade limits, to several railroads, the city on April 26, 1881, leased to the Memphis, Paducah & Northern Railroad Company for 55 years that part of the public promenade between Poplar and Market Streets and Front and Promenade Streets for an annual rental of \$500, and on which grounds are now located the depot buildings used by the Illinois Central Railroad.

So also on August 3, 1899, the city leased to the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf Railroad Co., for \$1500 per annum, that part of the public promenade from Washington to Jefferson Streets and between Front Street and the line of the Illinois Central Railroad right-of-way, for a period of 50 years to be used for depots, yards, etc.

These contracts are set out here in brief abstract form for the purpose of illustrating the extent of the inroads made thus far upon the original splendid park and promenade system of the founders of Memphis by the succeeding city governments. The courts have in some instances sustained the rights of the city to thus lease these grounds and the present lessees feel no uneasiness about their right to retain the leases and licenses to occupy the ground and have erected splendid improvements thereon in some cases.

However, the Park Commissioners have rescued such bits as are still left of the once magnificent domain and have taken charge of one-half of Auction and all of Market and Court Squares and that part of the promenade still unused, which

lies south of Jefferson Avenue and have created out of the latter beautiful Confederate Park, and the little plat called Chickasaw Park, adjoining the engine house between Monroe and Union Avenues. The people may yet by alert action, come into their own again at the termination of these leases.

But after this grewsome review of the disintegration of the beautiful park and promenade system of our founders and the repeated sacrifice of the civic pride and comfort of the people to the utilities of commerce, we are now about to tell of a brighter day for Memphis and her splendid park system. On March 31, 1899, the Legislature of Tennessee passed an act amending the Taxing District Act of 1879 so as to empower cities organized under said act to acquire, improve and maintain parks for the benefit of the public, and also authorizing such taxing districts or cities to establish by ordinance a park commission composed of three members to be elected by the Legislative Council. By the terms of the act the commissioners were to "have the entire control of the parks, park-lands and parkways acquired by such Taxing District or city under the provisions of this act. It shall be their duty to direct the laying out, improvement and maintenance of said parks." They were also empowered to open or close up any streets, alleys or roadways running across such park or parkland, and this power was to extend as well without as within the limits of such city.

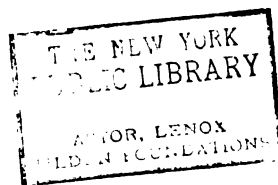
Under this act Judge L. B. McFarland, John R. Godwin and Robert Galloway were appointed the first Board of Park Commissioners. These gentlemen organized the Board in September, 1900, by electing L. B. McFarland, chairman, and on November 14 of the following year they had succeeded in floating \$250,000 of four per cent bonds with which to begin the acquisition of the beautiful grounds now composing the Memphis Park system.

When the board was organized there came under its control by direction of the city government certain remnants left from the original park system of the founders of Memphis, as well as the several donations mentioned below, the whole constituting the following properties:





*L. B. McFarland,*



	Acres
Market Square, now called Brinkley Square .....	1
Auction Square, Remnant .....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Court Square .....	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Confederate Park, part of Promenade .....	5
Chickasaw Park, part of Promenade .....	$1\frac{3}{4}$

The tracts donated or acquired by the city since the original dedication by the founders of Memphis, were:

	Acres
Old Hospital ground, now Forrest Park .....	10
Gaston Park, donated by John Gaston .....	5
Bickford Park, donated by W. A. Bickford .....	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Annesdale Park, donated by R. Brinkley Snowden .....	1
Belvidere Park .....	1-6

Forrest Park was originally the ground of the old Memphis City Hospital and was kindly donated by the city for park purposes at the instance of the Confederate Historical Association of Memphis, which desired to and subsequently did erect a splendid bronze monument to General Nathan Bedford Forrest, costing \$30,000, on the grounds when the park had been laid out. The suggestion to obtain from the city this ground for a park, to be called Forrest Park, first came from Captain R. J. Black of the Historical Association.

With this nucleus the Park Commissioners began with great enthusiasm to plan for the acquisition of far larger bodies of beautiful lands in the suburbs of Memphis in order to complete a system of parks and parkways which for beauty and artistic design is probably surpassed by only three other systems in the United States and very slightly, if at all, by these.

The first purchase of the Park Commissioners was a tract of 335 acres then known as Lea's Woods, which lies on the east limits of the city at the northwestern intersection of Poplar Boulevard and Trezevant Avenue, now the Parkway. This tract, an exquisite greenery, slightly broken and with several running streams, was purchased for \$110,000, or about \$330 per acre on November 14, 1901. There was a competition organized by a city newspaper, the *Evening Scimitar*, for the purpose of selecting a name for the new park, which finally

resulted in giving it the name of Overton Park, in honor of Judge Overton, one of the founders of Memphis.

The Park Commissioners also acquired a tract of 367 acres of land adjoining the city limits on the south and fronting on the Mississippi River on a high bluff overhanging the water. Soon after the County of Shelby donated 60 acres more, the two tracts constituting a body of land with a river-front 50 or 60 feet high, and about 4800 feet in length, called Riverside Park. This tract is more broken than Overton Park and intersected with deep dells, affording sites for winding driveways of exquisite beauty. In some respects it surpasses Overton Park in natural beauty and scenic effect, besides containing nearly 100 acres more of land, the whole body covering 427 acres.

The next enterprise of the Park Commissioners was to obtain by purchase and condemnation a magnificent parkway varying from 100 to 250 feet in width and containing 11.11 miles of roadway and 182.23 acres of land. Including the double drives there are in this parkway 19.35 miles of roadway. The embellishment of the parkway, which encircles the entire city and connects Overton and Riverside Parks, is exquisite in character, the highest effects of landscape architecture having been brought to bear in its construction, and it is believed that no city in our nation can surpass it in comfort and scenic beauty as a pleasure drive of that length.

The commissioners now have completed negotiations with the owners for the purchase of a new park-site to be known as DeSoto Park, in honor of the daring Spanish soldier who first saw the Mississippi River at the present site of the city of Memphis and whose discovery has been treated fully in the initial pages of this history. This tract embraces some thirteen acres of land and includes Chisca's Mound or fortress, from which that doughty Indian chief hurled defiance at the Spanish invaders, and another or smaller mound, probably of more recent construction.

The opening of this historic spot as a public park will prove a notable achievement for Memphis, through her present park commissioners Robert Galloway, J. T. Willingham and

B. F. Turner and it is contemplated making the new park a place worthy of its historic importance and ultimately it is believed that a magnificent bronze monument will be erected to the wonderful Spaniard who first brought the great bluff on which Memphis stands under the searchlight of history.

It is believed that no rivals can be found among the parks of the United States to contest with Overton and Riverside in elements of natural beauty. Throughout a large part of Overton Park nature has been left undisturbed, except by minute footpaths, to develop its trees, plants, and shrubs and its infinite wild flowers, each after its own kind. More than thirty kinds of native timber are to be found here. Rare wild plants, vines, grasses and flowers spring up in bewildering luxuriance and infinite variety to attract the scientist and lover of nature and where children can roam next to Mother Earth and her own immediate handiwork, as in the days of our first parents. It has been observed that plants and wild flowers, which had long since disappeared from the environs of the city, have reappeared in lavish abundance and brought with them numberless new species. It is in spring and summer a paradise for the botanist. Trees that were here when DeSoto came rear their mighty heads at intervals, and one buried in the green wilderness can discern no evidence that despoiling civilization exists anywhere near.

This park of 335 acres is nearly an equilateral parallelogram, its western side being embellished with driveways, lakes, flower-beds, lawns and pavilions, with a splendid zoological garden in the forest at the northwest corner. This zoo contains 405 selected animals, birds and reptiles installed with their buildings, dens, etc., at a cost of \$31,726.58.

Riverside Park differs materially from Overton in several respects. It fronts about 4,800 feet along the high bluff overhanging the Mississippi River, giving a water view of exquisite beauty, the mighty river with its hazy veil unfolding for miles to the enchanted eye. This tract of land containing 427 acres, is broken into deep, winding dells at frequent intervals, heavily wooded throughout, with wide expanses of almost level plateaus along the river bank, here more than 60 feet high,

and between the dells to the eastward. These high levels have been exquisitely improved with plants, shrubs and flowers, and from them the white driveways dip at intervals into and thread the shady dells, affording natural scenery of wierd and strange beauty. This park is off of the highways of travel and overlooks the ever silent river, so majestic in its grandeur as to evoke from its awed Spanish discoverers the impressive name of Rio Espiritu Santo, or River of the Holy Spirit. No more restful place of retreat for the city-tired man or woman can be imagined than quiet, beautiful Riverside, where the flowers bloom and the mocking birds sing and nature seems "in silent contemplation to adore" one of the mightiest handiworks of the Creator, the great inland river of America.

#### RIVERSIDE PARK.

By tawny tide,  
At Riverside,  
We walk and dream and softly bide,  
While far below,  
Deep, stately, slow,  
The yellow waters swirl and flow.

Around us nods  
The golden-rods  
And purple in its feathery bloom,  
The giant grass,  
On stems of brass,  
Like banners, flaunts its glossy plume.

The sumac burns  
In leavy urns  
Fired by the torch of Autumn's sun;  
And by the woods  
Its scarlet hoods  
Tell of the summer's battle won.

In Riverside,  
At eventide,

We wander through the deep, brown dells,  
Where leaves unfold,  
In tints of gold,  
Sun-painted groups of fronded bells.

About the balks  
Of tangled walks  
The autumn creeper twines its spray,  
And nestling there,  
In tiny lair,  
The sylvan locust trills its lay.

Far o'er the dell  
The broad hills swell  
And giant poplars crown their crests,  
Where mocking-birds,  
In wondrous words,  
Talk love to mates in swinging nests.

High on the vine  
The muscadine  
Suspends its globes of honied wine,  
And festooned grapes  
In purpling shapes,  
About the massive oaks entwine.

Oh dells, deep, wide,  
At Riverside,  
We would in thy sweet peace abide,  
Far from the throngs,  
The rush, the wrongs,  
That stifle life on urban tide.

For 'mid thy peace,  
The pulses cease  
To beat the fevered life's quick blow,  
And love and truth  
Renew their youth  
Beneath the autumn afterglow.

The smaller of the town parks are scarcely less beautiful than their larger sisters, especially Forrest Park, where the grand equestrian statue of the South's mightiest cavalry leader, Nathan Bedford Forrest, towers amidst the trees.

All these splendid pleasure grounds are the creations of the distinguished landscape architect and scenic artist, George E. Kessler, of Kansas City, Missouri, than whom no one has done more to beautify Memphis. In little Confederate Park on the riverfront north of the Custom House, a touch of wartime is added in the monster but now obsolete cannon and mortars, relics of the great strife between the States. These guns point over the waters as they did fifty years ago, but the birds are nesting and the spiders are weaving their webs in the black cavities whence issued at that time sounds transcending thunder and missiles of awful destruction.

Beside these parks there are other small plats of ground ranging from five acres down to one or less. Among these are Gaston Park, the donation of John Gaston, long a citizen of Memphis, and holding her in grateful remembrance; Bickford Park, of two and one-half acres, generous donation of W. A. Bickford; Chickasaw Park of one and three-fourth acres; Annesdale, Belvidere and Astor Parks, all of them oases in the deserts of buildings and homes, and jewels in the order of park construction.

It has been proposed by Mrs. S. H. Brooks, widow of the late S. H. Brooks, prominent merchant of Memphis, to build in Overton Park a Memorial Art Gallery to the memory of her husband, to cost \$100,000. The proposal has been accepted by the Park Commission and the site designated. This will perhaps be the beginning of the great scheme for an Art Museum for Memphis planned by the late Carl Guthertz.

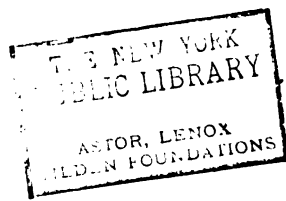
The several boards of park commissioners, since the first one was organized in September, 1900, have been by years, as follows:

1901:—L. B. McFarland, chairman, J. R. Godwin, Robert Galloway. 1902:—L. B. McFarland, chairman, John R. Godwin, Robert Galloway. 1903:—Robert Galloway, chairman, L. B. McFarland, John R. Godwin. 1904:—Robert Galloway,





*R. G. Stolloray*



chairman, L. B. McFarland, John R. Godwin. 1905:—John R. Godwin, chairman, L. B. McFarland, Robert Galloway. 1906:—John R. Godwin, chairman, Robert Galloway, L. B. McFarland. 1907:—Robert Galloway, chairman, J. T. Willingham, John R. Godwin. 1908:—Robert Galloway, chairman, J. T. Willingham, John R. Godwin. 1909:—Robt. Galloway, chairman, J. T. Willingham, Dr. B. F. Turner. 1910:—Robert Galloway, chairman, J. T. Willingham, Dr. B. F. Turner. 1911:—Robert Galloway, chairman, J. T. Willingham, Dr. B. F. Turner. 1912:—Robert Galloway, chairman, J. T. Willingham, Dr. B. F. Turner.

## CHAPTER XVI

### Military History

**T**HE military history of Memphis presents some quite graphic as well as tragic features, as it was a sort of storm center during the War Between the States. The early military career of the city began with the Mexican War, 1846. The various military operations which took place on the Chickasaw Bluffs before the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, under DeSoto, Bienville, Gayoso, Captain Guion and others are given fully in the preliminary chapters of this work.

When the Mexican War broke out in 1846 the fires of patriotism were fiercely lighted in the little city on the bluffs and six military companies were organized here for service in that conflict but only three were accepted and went to Mexico. These were the Gaines Guards under Captain M. B. Cook; the Memphis Rifle Guards under Captain E. F. Ruth and the Eagle Guards under Captain W. N. Porter. The two first named companies became part of the Second Tennessee Infantry, the Rifle Guards, as Company D, and the Gaines Guards as Company E. The Eagle Guards was organized as a cavalry company. The two infantry companies were engaged at Monterey and Vera Cruz and at Cerro Gordo, April 18, 1847, lost several men, the Rifle Guards losing their first lieutenant, F. B. Nelson and Private C. A. Sampson killed and Ben O'Haver, Isaiah Prescott and C. C. Ross, wounded. The Gaines Guards lost Lieut. C. G. Hill, Sergeant A. L. Bynum, J. J. Gunter, E. Y. Robinson and R. L. Bohannon, killed, and Burton Plunkett, Abram Gregory, John Gregory and John P. Isler, wounded.

Between 1852 and 1859 there were nine military companies organized, several of which subsequently became famous in the

Civil War. These companies were the Clay Guards, Captain Charles M. Carroll, 1852; the Washington Rifles, Captain Ringwald, 1853; Young American Invincibles, Captain S. H. Whittitt, 1855; the Steuben Artillery, Captain William Miller, 1858; Memphis Light Guards, Captain Jones Gennette, 1859; Jackson Guards, Captain M. McGeveney, Jr., 1859; Harris Zouave Cadets, Captain Sherwin, 1859; Memphis Southern Guards, Captain James W. Hambleton, 1859; and a cavalry company, the Memphis Light Dragoons, Captain T. H. Logwood, chartered by the Legislature in 1860. Nearly all of these organizations which survived became noted companies in famous Memphis regiments during the War Between the States.

After the establishment of the Confederate States in February, 1861, the city became rapidly a great military camp. The tramp of armed men was heard on the streets and the people, intensely Southern and quickly imbued with the war spirit then burning fiercely throughout the whole South, sprang to arms almost as one man. No city of its size, then containing only 22,600 population, white and black, furnished so large a proportion of the adult male inhabitants to the armies of the South. More than fifty companies of infantry, cavalry and artillery were enlisted, the minimum number for each company being eighty-three and the maximum one hundred and three.

The ladies also caught the spirit of the hour and at a meeting by resolution declared to her warlike sons: "Though we cannot bear arms, yet our hearts are with you and our hands are at your service to make clothing, flags or anything that a patriotic woman can do for Southern men and Southern independence." The Board of Mayor and Aldermen at the same time voted \$59,000 "for the defense and the protection of the city of Memphis."

It would be interesting if the historian could give all of the details of this period of excitement and preparation for war in the little city on the Mississippi River, but that would require a space not warranted in the chapter on the Military History of Memphis. As far as possible the military organizations, regiments, battalions, companies and batteries will be here compiled, the names of many of the companies being indi-

cative of the spirit of young Memphis men of 1861, though oftentimes fantastic. Among the infantry companies of that day which sprang into being in response to the first ominous gun fired at Fort Sumter on May 12, 1861, were the Shelby Grays, the Bluff City Grays, the Crockett Rangers, the Jeff Davis Invincibles, the Garibaldi Guards, the Memphis Marine Guards and the Memphis Light Dragoons. Some of the old companies were the Memphis Southern Guards, the Harris Zouave Cadets, the Washington Rifles, the Jackson Guards and the Memphis Light Guards of infantry, and the Steuben artillery, which were at once sworn into service. Following these were the Greenwood Rangers, Tennessee Mounted Rifles, Shelby Mounted Rifles, Hickory Rifles, Tennessee Guards, Tennessee Star Grays, Emerald Guards, Carroll Guards, May's Dragoons, The Beauregards, and Capt. W. D. Pickett's Sappers and Miners.

Memphis furnished the Confederate service several regiments and representative companies to several other regiments in that service. Indeed, almost her entire voting population joined the ranks and boys of from fifteen to men of fifty-five were common in the lines. Those regiments made up in whole or in part of Memphis men were chiefly the Second, Fourth, Ninth, Fifteenth, Twenty-first and One Hundred Fifty-fourth Tennessee Infantry and two companies of the Seventh Tennessee Cavalry and one company of McDonald's battalion of Forrest's old regiment. A roster of the Memphis companies in these regiments, as complete as possible to make it at this date, follows:

*Second Tennessee*—Colonel Knox Walker. Company A, Capt. F. A. Strocky. Company B, Capt. W. B. Triplett. Company C, Capt. Chas. E. Cossitt. Company D, Capt. E. Marshall. Company E, Capt. John Wilkerson and E. C. Porter. Company F, Capt. Sam Vance. Company G, Capts. J. Welby Armstrong and R. A. Hart. Company H, Capt. R. E. Chew.

*Fourth Tennessee*—Lieutenant Colonel Luke W. Finlay. Company A, Shelby Grays, Capt. James Somerville. Company H, Tennessee Guards, Capt. B. F. White.

*Ninth Tennessee Regiment*—Company I, Capt. Hal Rogers.

*Fifteenth Tennessee*—Colonel Charles M. Carroll. Company A, Capt. A. C. Ketchum. Company B, Capt. Frank Rice. Company C, Capt. Charles E. Rose. Company D, Capt. Ed. S. Pickett. Company E, Young Guards, Capt. John F. Cameron, later in 3rd Confed. Company F, Capt. E. M. Cleary. Company G, Capt. O'Carroll. Company H, Capt. Jos. Keller. Company I, Washington Rifles, Capt. Nick Frick.

*Twenty-First Tennessee*—Colonel Ed. Pickett, Jr. Consolidated with Second Tennessee to constitute Fifth Confederate, as follows:—

*Fifth Confederate*—Major R. J. Person. Company A, Capt. Thomas Stokes. Company B, Capt. Chas. W. Frayser. Company C, Capt. W. H. Brown. Company D, Capt. L. D. Greenlaw. Company E, Capt. J. H. Beard. Company F, Capt. John Fitzgerald. Company G, Capt. W. H. Carvell. Company H, Capt. A. A. Cox.

*One Hundred Fifty-Fourth*—Colonel Preston Smith. Company A, Light Guards, Capt. Jones Gennette. Company B, Bluff City Grays, Capt. J. H. Edmondson. Company C, Hickory Rifles, Capt. J. D. Martin. Company D, Southern Guards, Capt. J. W. Hambleton. Company D, (2nd), Beauregard's, Capt. Moreland. Company E, Harris Zouave Cadets, Capt. Sterling Fowlkes. Company F, Crockett Rangers, Capt. M. Patrick. Company I, Maynard Rifles, Capt. E. A. Cole.

*Cavalry:*

*Seventh Tennessee Cavalry*—Company A, Memphis Light Dragoons, Capt. T. H. Logwood. Company C, Shelby Light Dragoons, Capt. S. P. Bassett. Company D, (Battalion) Tennessee Mounted Rifles, Capt. Josiah White.

*Forrest's Old Regiment*—Colonel N. B. Forrest. Company C, Forrest Rangers, Capt. Charles May.

*Artillery*—Bankhead's Battery, Capt. Smith P. Bankhead, Capt. W. Y. C. Humes, Capt. J. C. McDavitt. Steuben Artillery, Capt. Wm. Miller, Capt. W. H. Jackson, Capt. W. W. Carnes, Capt. Louis G. Marshall. Rice's Battery, Capt. T. W. Rice, Lieut. B. F. Haller, Lieut. D. C. Jones.

It is not the intention of the editor, nor would it be practi-

cable to follow and narrate the careers of these companies and regiments through the Civil War. To do so would be practically to write the history of the Army of Tennessee and Forrest Cavalry. It is sufficient to say that these commands each and all acquitted themselves gloriously on almost every battle-field of the West, and they were cut down by hundreds until only the merest fragments remained to reach home at the close of the great conflict. Many of them still survive, 1912, battle-scarred and bent with age, but still men of heroic mould and unquenchable love of country. Only the military operations and engagements which have a strictly local coloring will be recorded in this narrative.

The first active demonstration of warlike activity was an incident which occurred in Memphis on March 28, 1861, when several companies of Mississippi volunteers passed through the city, bound for Pensacola, Florida, to become part of Col. James R. Chalmers' 9th Mississippi Regiment in the Confederate Army. These troops were handsomely uniformed and carried Mississippi State and Confederate flags. They were escorted from the old Mississippi & Tennessee depot to the Memphis & Charleston depot by two Memphis militia companies, the Memphis Southern Guards, Capt. J. W. Hambleton and the Harris Zouave Cadets, Capt. Sherwin, the latter companies wearing the uniform and bearing the flag of the United States.

On April 28, 1861 the Southern Mothers, a patriotic band of women were organized for the purpose of nursing the sick and wounded soldiers. Their work was notable and continuous until the city was captured by the Federal forces in 1862, when they turned their attention, as far as permitted, to aid the Confederate prisoners in the Federal prisons. Some of these noble women yet survive, true Mothers in Israel, revered of all men.

Louisiana sent April 28, in response to an appeal through W. G. Ford, a prominent citizen of Memphis, a battery of 32-pound guns, 3,000 Mississippi rifles and 500,000 cartridges to aid in the defense of Memphis.

The old Quimby & Robinson foundry on the river-front where the sand bar now extends at the foot of Adams Street



and the Memphis & Charleston Railway shops on Adams Street now the Southern yards, were utilized for the casting of brass and iron cannon, shell and grape-shot, and laboratories were improvised at various places for the manufacture of cartridges and fixed ammunition, many women and girls being employed in this business, whose nimble fingers were especially useful.

General S. R. Anderson had been sent in April by Governor Harris to command the post here and he was succeeded on May 3, by General John L. T. Sneed. On July 13, Major-General Leonidas K. Polk, the soldier bishop of Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas, who had been commissioned by President Davis, arrived and took command of the military department in the name of the Confederate States.

On November 7, 1861, the first battle was fought in Memphis territory at Belmont, Missouri, opposite Columbus, Kentucky. Many Memphis soldiers were killed or wounded here, three of the Memphis regiments, the 2nd, 21st and 154th Tennessee losing an aggregate of 31 killed and 138 wounded. This loss of their own flesh and blood brought great grief to the people of the devoted city, which was not relieved by the sight of the large detachment of crest-fallen Federal prisoners marching up Main Street a few days after the battle. The hospitals, under the care of the Southern Mothers and sisters of St. Agnes Academy, largely took care of the Confederate wounded.

After the fall of Fort Donelson and Nashville the state government was removed to Memphis and was located in a building at the northeast corner of Second and Madison Streets, the State Legislature was convened here and preparations were at once made for the defense of the state and city. In April, 1862, fearing the capture of incomplete boats by the Union fleet, then endeavoring to force a passage down the Mississippi River, the Confederate government ordered the removal of the iron-clad gunboat and ram Arkansas, which had been constructed under the bluff at Fort Pickering at the debouchment of the Kansas City railroad incline, to New Orleans, but her commander, finding New Orleans occupied by

the Federal fleet, carried the boat up the Yazoo River where she was completed and put in commission.

But the dreadful front of war was drawing nearer to Memphis. For several weeks in May, 1862, the deep bellowing of the big guns on the Federal mortar fleet, engaged in shelling Fort Pillow, forty miles north of Memphis on the river, could be counted by the citizen all through the night, as his head rested on his pillow, and then there was a pause at Fort Pillow and suddenly, on the morning of June 6, 1861 the Federal ironclad and ram fleet appeared at the very doors of the city and the war-cloud burst in uncontrolled fury over the homes of her devoted people.

This being the first naval engagement, or other deadly operation of war, which had ever occurred here, a careful narrative will be here given of the gunboat battle, in all its tragic details.

Before describing this most notable of gunboat battles on the inland waters of the continent it is proper to narrate something of the invention and necessity for what were then called steam rams, or gunboats with prows of wood or metal, so constructed as to be used for sinking an enemy's vessel by deliberate collision or raming its hull.

The Confederates were the first inventors of these novel craft and had by means of the first completed one, the *Virginia*, constructed of the old U. S. frigate *Merrimac*, attacked on the 8th of March, 1862, the Union fleet lying at anchor in Hampton Roads, Virginia, and destroyed the *Congress* and *Cumberland*, two famous war vessels of the olden type. This disaster called forth from Mr. Charles Ellet, Jr., a civil engineer, a pamphlet on the 6th of February, 1862, in which he called attention to the fact that the Confederates possessed five of these powerful engines of destruction, including the *Merrimac* at Norfolk, the other four being at Mobile and on the lower Mississippi River. He predicted that if these vessels got at large on the high seas they would prove a very dangerous factor in the Civil War, as well as very destructive to the Commerce of the United States. This pamphlet called attention to Colonel Ellet's scheme and he was called to Washing-

ton and soon after authorized to construct an unarmored ram fleet for use upon the Mississippi River and tributaries and at once, by authority of the Government, purchased a number of steamboats and by reinforcing the hulls and prows and building a bulkhead of heavy timber around the boilers, made of them very efficient naval monsters, able to destroy the most powerful gunboat, if it could be reached without first subjecting the ram to destruction by its gunfire.

Colonel Ellet, with the rank of Colonel of Marines, was in command of these improvised rams, viz: the Dick Fulton, Lancaster, Lioness, Mingo, Monarch, Queen of the West, Sampson, Switzerland and Horner. These were assembled by May 25, at Fort Pillow, forty or fifty miles north of Memphis and which was then being besieged by the Federal gunboat fleet.

In the meantime the Confederates had been busy along the same lines and on the 16th of January, 1862, Captain J. E. Montgomery selected at New Orleans twelve large tow boats and two ocean steamers then lying in the river and proceeded to fit them out as steam-rams and gunboats.

The eight boats designed for service on the upper Mississippi were the General Bragg, the General Price, the General Van Dorn, the General Lovell, the General Beauregard, the General M. Jeff Thompson, the Little Rebel and the Sumter. These boats were completed between March 25, and April 17, 1862, and were ordered to Fort Pillow as completed. When they left New Orleans they only carried two guns, a thirty-two and twenty-four pounder smoothbore, on the whole fleet, but at Fort Pillow each boat received a thirty-two pounder smoothbore and later four eight-inch guns were added.

On the morning of the battle, June 6, 1862, Fort Pillow having been evacuated June 4, the Federal gunboat fleet, consisting of six heavily iron-plated gunboats, namely, the Benton, Essex, Cairo, Carondelet, St. Louis and Louisville, and the above named Federal ram-fleet, were assembled in the bend a couple of miles north of the city and the Confederate ram and gunboat fleet above named, were lying in front of the city at daylight, each busily engaged in clearing ship for action.

Captain Montgomery, in command of the Confederate

fleet, not having coal enough to enable his boats to proceed as far as the next Confederate stronghold at Vicksburg, but having enough for the purpose of maneuvering through a gunboat battle, determined to try conclusions with the enemy and bring on a spectacular engagement, in front of the city of Memphis, with almost the entire population of the city on the bluffs as spectators. With this purpose a bit before sunrise, on the morning of June 6, 1862, the gunboat General M. Jeff Thompson, Captain J. H. Burke, and the gunboat General Lovell, Captain J. C. Delancy, had taken positions at the foot of the bend above the city as an advance guard of his fleet. The Federal ironclad gunboat fleet was at once observed in battle formation across the bend, with four of the Federal rams, viz., the Queen of the West, Monarch, Lancaster and Switzerland in the act of making a landing at the bank above. Just at sunrise a few minutes before five o'clock, Captain Burke of the Jeff Thompson being within easy range, fired on the Federal fleet with his eight-inch gun, which replied ere the reverberation of the great gun ceased to repeat itself along the bends of the river. The action at once became furious. The Confederate fleet, as stated above, only had fourteen guns in the entire fleet, while the Federal ironclad fleet carried 84 guns of the heaviest calibre. The noise of the engagement exceeded anything in volume ever dreamed of theretofore in the little city by the riverside. The sound of the cannon was almost continuous and the belching of smoke soon formed a wall of haze across the river, obscuring the embattled gunboats from each other. It was the purpose of Commodore Montgomery, as he was then called, to use his boats as rams and thus destroy the Federal gunboat fleet by attacking their six ironclads with his eight rams. But he made the fatal mistake, or perhaps his subordinate commanders did, of stopping to fire their guns. At the sound of the first Confederate gun Colonel Ellet instantly gave orders to his ram fleet, calling out, "It is a gun from the enemy! Round out and follow me! Now is our chance!" The Queen of the West swung around, followed by the Monarch, in obedience to this order, and glided rapidly towards the openings between the Federal ironclads for the purpose of

getting to the front. "Some of the officers of the Lancaster, the next boat in the line, became excited and confused and the pilot erred in signals, and backed the boat ashore and disabled her rudder. The captain of the Switzerland construed the general signal order to keep half a mile in rear of Lancaster to mean that he was to keep half a mile behind her in the engagement and therefore failed to participate; hence the whole brunt of the fight fell upon the Queen and the Monarch."\*

These two steamers gallantly passed through the blazing line of Federal ironclads and through the belt of smoke in which only the tall chimneys of the Queen could be seen and came out in front of the entire Confederate fleet. Selecting the General Lovell, Captain Delancey as the nearest Confederate craft on which to try the power of his ran, Colonel Ellet signalled his brother, Captain Alfred W. Ellet, of the Monarch, to ram the General Price, Capt. J. E. Henthorne, which was at the extreme right of the Confederate line, and steamed swiftly toward the General Lovell. The Lovell accepted the challenge bravely and moved forward head on for the prow of the Queen of the West. But here the first accident of the battle occurred. The engines of the General Lovell got out of order and the boat became unmanageable, drifting half way round and exposing her side, which the Queen of the West struck amidships, crushing in her hull. For a few minutes the Queen of the West and the Lovell were entangled, and as the Queen of the West withdrew her prow the General Lovell, with a lurch, sank quickly beneath the muddy waters. A striking incident was witnessed from the shore at this moment by the cheering crowds of citizens. As the Lovell went down the bow gunners were loading the big eight-inch gun and unwilling to be denied, attached the lanyard and fired the gun for the last time at the enemy, while standing waist-deep in the water on the deck of the sinking vessel. The crew of the Lovell all escaped by swimming to the landing at the old Navy Yard.

As the Queen of the West stood by to see the Lovell sink

\*Report of Secretary, Capt. A. B. Hill.

she was attacked by the Sumter from the east side, which struck her a heavy blow and disabled her wheel, leaving her helpless in the battle. Just at the moment of collision Colonel Ellet was shot in the knee with a pistol by Signal Quartermaster J. Sullivan on the Confederate vessel, receiving a wound which at once disabled him and a short while later resulted in his death. Lying helpless on the hurricane deck Colonel Ellet gave the order to run his boat on one wheel to the Arkansas shore, where she was grounded and took no further part in the combat.

The Monarch had in pursuance of her first order from Colonel Ellet singled out the General Price for ramming and was met by the Price in the onset with the like purpose of ramming the Monarch. They struck each other glancing blows which resulted in injury to neither. The Monarch then proceeded to attack the Beauregard which had turned and was coming down the river and was herself assailed by the General Price, but the Monarch being much the swifter of the boats moved past the Beauregard and Price and the Beauregard struck the Price, cutting off her wheel. The Price then crossed over to her and was run aground near the disabled Queen of the West and her unarmed crew was captured by the armed marines from the Queen, who had gone ashore for that purpose.

The Beauregard then endeavored to escape downstream and rejoin the remaining boats, but was intercepted by the Monarch and struck a heavy blow which wrought serious damage to her hull. The Beauregard was immediately hit by a big Federal shell in her waist, which completely disabled and almost wrecked her and she signalled to the Monarch her purpose to surrender. But the Monarch, which actually did most of the ram fighting and inflicted the greatest amount of injury or damage upon the Confederate boats sighted the Little Rebel, the flagship of Captain Montgomery, and headed for her. The Little Rebel was then endeavoring to ram a gunboat and was struck by a shell below the water-line, which passed through her boilers, completely wrecking her. The crew sprang into the river to swim ashore on the Arkansas side and

the boat being near the shore, the *Monarch* attempted to ram her, but having only slight headway pushed her hard aground in shallow water. The crew of the *Little Rebel* escaped by swimming to the shore. The *Monarch* then returned to the *Beauregard* and towed her ashore with the hope of saving her, but she sunk to her boiler deck and later proved a total loss.

The *Sumter* and *Bragg*, like the other vessels of the Confederate fleet, had relied rather upon their guns than their prows, except when the *Sumter* assailed the *Queen of the West* near the beginning of the battle, with disastrous results to the latter, and being much cut up by the shot and shell of the Federal fleet, and manoeuvring to escape, both got aground in the shallow water of the bar on the Arkansas shore, and were soon after captured.

The *Jeff Thompson* fighting gallantly and assailed now from every side by an overwhelming force, was run ashore around the bend by Capt. Burke and set on fire, his men escaping to the shore, and soon blew up with a tremendous explosion.

The *Van Dorn*, the last of the Confederate vessels, having a good supply of coal and being uninjured in the fight, showed a clean pair of heels and escaped down the river. The store-boat *Paul Jones* also escaped in company with the *Van Dorn*, both going up the Yazoo River. This left the hapless city on the bluff at the mercy of the enemy's fleet and the crowds extending from Poplar to Union Streets along the river front sorrowfully waited in silence and humiliation to see what next would happen.

They did not have to wait long. Towards the close of the engagement Colonel Ellet was informed that a white flag had been raised in Memphis and sent his young son, Medical Cadet Chas. R. Ellet, ashore to demand the surrender of the city. It is curiously enough stated by Capt. Alfred W. Ellet, brother of Colonel Ellet, and in command of the ram *Monarch* during the battle, that Cadet Charles R. Ellet, was sent ashore in a rowboat with a party of three and a flag of truce and demanded the surrender of the city. The editor, then a boy of fifteen years, was a spectator on the bluff at the close of the engage-

ment and, tumbling down from the face of the bluff as a Federal ram approached the shore about the foot of Court Street, ran down the levee and reached the edge of the river just as the ram touched the shore and ran out a stage plank. The ram carried a small flag of truce, not larger than a pocket handkerchief on her jack-staff peak, and a number of marines were on duty in front of the bulkhead about the bow of the boat. Some other small boys threw pebbles at these marines, calling them blue-bellies, which only provoked a smile and a warning. The editor's recollection is that this boat bore the name *Monarch* on a board at the top of the front cabin deck. A moment later a young man, who appeared to be eighteen or twenty years of age, came out on the gang-plank, not with a flag of truce, but with a United States flag tightly rolled up and tucked under his left arm with the staff extending behind him and without any escort of any sort, commenced to ascend the levee, followed first by the writer and perhaps two dozen small boys and three or four men, and proceeded rapidly up the bluff across Front Street to the then Federal Building or Post Office, now the Woman's Building, at the northeast corner of Jefferson and Third Streets, on reaching which the young man ascended the stairways and attic ladder to the top of the building, where he unfurled the United States flag. In the meantime the crowd accompanying him grew to several hundred in numbers but were perfectly orderly until the flag was unfurled. The mayor met the young cadet at the postoffice building and accompanied him to the roof with one or two policemen. When the Stars and Stripes were unfurled on the building the crowd below became noisy and attempted to reach the roof with a view to throwing the bold intruder off the building. A Confederate flag was soon obtained with a strong new, ashen staff and was carried up by a young man to replace the Federal flag, but the trap-door at the roof of the building was fastened down with a big policeman standing upon it, and all the efforts of the muscular young man to break the door with the aid of his ash flag-pole, proved unavailing. The crowd or mob then returned to the street and Mr. George W. L. Crook, then a young man, but afterwards quite a prominent



citizen of Memphis, ran over to the southwest corner of Jefferson and Third Streets and ascending the steps at the front wall to the elevated yard of the Cummings Johnson residence, fired two or three shots with a revolver at the bold young cadet on the building. These proved ineffective and did not seem even to startle the cadet, who stood imperturbably by his flag, and the crowd left hurriedly to return to Front Street and see what further might be going on there. These are the personal recollections of the editor after fifty years and are still very vivid in his memory.

The young cadet Ellet bore with him a written message from Col. Charles Ellet to the mayor and civil authorities of Memphis, which was as follows:

“Opposite Memphis, June 6, 1862.

“To the Civic or Military Authorities of Memphis:

“Gentlemen: I understand that the city of Memphis has surrendered. I therefore send my son with two United States flags, with instructions to raise one upon your Custom House and the other upon the Court House, as evidence of the return of your city to the care and protection of the Constitution.

Chas. Ellet, Jr., Colonel Commanding.”

The Mayor's reply was as follows:

“Mayor's Office, Memphis, Tenn., June 6, 1862.

“Col. Charles Ellet, Jr., Commanding, &c.

“Sir:—Your note of this date is received and contents noted. The civil authorities of this city are not advised of its surrender to the forces of the United States government, and our reply to you is simply to state respectfully that we have no forces to oppose the raising of the flag you have directed to be raised over the Custom House and post-office.

Respectfully,

Jno. Park, Mayor.”

Later in the morning Flag Officer C. H. Davis, commanding the Federal fleet, also sent the following communication to the Mayor of the city:

“U. S. Flag-steamers Benton,

Off Memphis, June 6, 1862.

"To His Honor, the Mayor of the City of Memphis:

"Sir: I have respectfully to request that you will surrender the city of Memphis to the authority of the United States, which I have the honor to represent.

"I am, Mr. Mayor, with high respect, your most obedient servant,

C. H. Davis,  
Flag-officer, Commanding, &c."

To this the Mayor replied:

"Mayor's Office, Memphis, June 6, 1862.

"C. H. Davis, Flag-officer, Commanding, &c.

"Sir: Your note of this day is received and contents noted. In reply I have only to say that as the civil authorities have no means of defense, by the force of circumstances the city is in your hands.

Respectfully,  
John Park, Mayor "

Later in the day another communication was sent ashore to the Mayor as follows:

"U. S. Flagsteamer Benton, Off Memphis,  
June 6, 1862.

"To His Honor, the Mayor of the City of Memphis,

"Sir: The undersigned, commanding the military and naval forces in front of Memphis, have the honor to say to the Mayor of the city, that Colonel Fitch, commanding the Indiana brigade, will take military possession of the city immediately.

"Colonel Fitch will be happy to receive the coopération of his honor the mayor and the city authorities in maintaining peace and order, and to this end he will be pleased to confer with his honor at the military headquarters at three o'clock this afternoon.

"The undersigned have the honor to be, with high respect, your most obedient servants,

C. H. Davis, Commanding Afloat,  
G. N. Fitch, Colonel, commanding Indiana brigade."

To this the Mayor replied:

"Mayor's Office, June 6, 1862.

"To Flag-officer C. H. Davis and Col. G. N. Fitch,

"Sirs: Your communication is received and I shall be

happy to coöperate with the colonel commanding in providing measures for maintaining peace and order in the city.

Your most obedient servant,

Jno. Park, Mayor."

And thus the possession of the city of Memphis was transferred forever from the control of the Confederate Government to that of the United States.

After the naval battle at Memphis the city remained quietly, as a garrison town of the Federal army, frequently congested with large bodies of troops assembled here preliminary to some important movement on the chess-board of war and at all times occupied by Federal officers pertaining to the garrison and to transient armies and who in many instances, fortunately not in all, caused great annoyance to the people of the town by petty persecutions and sometimes by wanton outrage.

The citizens of Memphis as a whole were unquestionably loyal to the cause of the South and did all in their power to aid it. They would go to great extremes, especially the devoted women of the town, to smuggle through the lines salt, medicine, clothing and other indispensables for their families in the Southern Army and this fact called down upon their heads the frequent wrath of the Federal officers. This wrath was exhibited in various ways. Sometimes refined women of prominent families were arrested and confined in the Irving Block prison, a place so horrible in its appointments that it subsequently abated by order of President Lincoln; the Commandant, Capt. Geo. A. Williams, being cashiered, but subsequently restored to duty as not being mainly responsible for the condition of the prison. An excerpt is here made as part of the history of the city, from a report made by Judge Advocate General J. Holt to President Lincoln, by whom the matter of the condition of the prison had been referred to him for report. General Holt says:

"According to a report of inspection made to Colonel Hardie by Lieut. Colonel John F. Marsh, 24th regiment Veteran Reserve corps, under date of April 28, 1864, the prison which is used for the detention of citizens, prisoners of war on their

way to the North and the United States soldiers awaiting trial and which is located in a large block of stores is represented as the filthiest place the inspector ever saw occupied by human beings. The report proceeds thus:

“‘The whole management and government of the prison could not be worse! Discipline and order are unknown. Food sufficient but badly served. In a dark wet cellar I found twenty-eight prisoners chained to a wet floor, where they had been constantly confined, many of them for several months, one since November 16, 1863, and are not for a moment released, even to relieve the calls of nature. With a single exception these men have had no trial.’

“‘The hospital is described as having a shiftless appearance and the guard dirty and inefficient. It is also stated that there was no book or memorandum showing the distribution of the prison fund.’”

If the curtain of forgetfulness could be drawn back and all the stories, romantic, pathetic, pitiful, which originated in that dire dungeon during the several years in which it was occupied as a military prison by the Federal authorities disclosed, humanity would be shocked by the tragic narration. A few years ago when the building was being repaired and the kalsomining scraped from the walls in the upper stories the walls were found to be covered with legends written there by the victims of military oppression, giving their names and dates and sometimes details of their experiences. All this makes a dark chapter in the story of the Federal occupation of the city. The officer of the guard, a man named Lewis, wantonly shot a prisoner, Lieutenant Colonel Wood, of an Arkansas regiment, while asleep in bed. Lewis was arrested and ordered to be shot but escaped and disappeared. This is the only known or recorded instance of an attempt to punish any of those petty military tyrants for their crimes committed in connection with the Irving Block prison.

Sometimes ladies were sent to the state penitentiary at Alton, Illinois, and sometimes they were transported through the Federal lines and set adrift without protection. When the Confederate troops undertook to prevent the operation of

trains on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad by attacking and capturing the trains and guard, groups of prominent citizens were arrested by orders of General Sherman and confined in passenger coaches on the trains, that they might receive the fire of their Southern friends in case the train was attacked. Occasionally, when scouts were fired on in the vicinity of Memphis, General Sherman would send a detachment with orders to burn all the houses in the vicinity and to shoot the male inhabitants. When steamboats were fired on, while engaged in military duties in the vicinity of Memphis, the nearest town was burned in retaliation and in this way Hopefield, opposite Memphis, and Randolph some forty miles above Memphis, met with a fiery doom. These are not merely baseless charges, growing out of legends or rumors which have survived the war, but the facts in these several cases are fully set out in the reports of the Federal commanders, printed in the Records of the Rebellion now to be found in every public library.

In order to make the town impregnable a great fortress was built in the southern part of the city on the river-bank known as Fort Pickering, probably named for the old fort built in that quarter about 1803, by General Wilkinson. This fortress was built in a broken line beginning at or about the foot of Vance Street and running somewhat southeastward and turning in towards the river again below the site of the Marine hospital, as at present located. The greatest distance from the river reached by the eastward extension of the fort, was at an angle about or near the corner of Railroad and Pennsylvania Avenues, some fifteen hundred feet from the river-bank.

Brig. General Z. B. Tower, in a report made of this fortification, on May 25, 1865, says among other things:

"Fort Pickering, with its keep, has a crest of about two miles and a half in length. If we except Washington, upon which immense labor has been expended, no city has been so thoroughly defended with redoubts and infantry lines upon a development of six miles as indicated above. \* \* \* This fort is mostly a broken line. Its ditches are therefore swept. It is fairly constructed, has a good command, so that the parapet gives excellent cover to the defenders; some traverses along

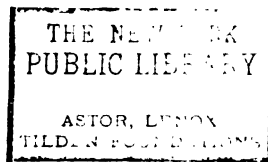
the crest and some within the work would have been judicious, furnishing excellent resting places for portions of a garrison not on duty. The ditches are from six to seven feet deep and excavated on so steep a slope (which the tenacious soil permits) that it would be difficult to get over the parapet without ladders, and especially so under canister and musketry fire. The work therefore may be pronounced strong as an obstacle, which obstacle has been increased in portions of the contour lines by inclined palisades placed in advance. It would be difficult to assault Fort Pickering. \* \* \* \* There are some magazines near the parapet and under its cover. At the south end of the fort two ancient mounds are used as barbette batteries, which have a fine command over the country."

These mounds, it will readily be seen, are the Chisca Mounds, remaining just as they were discovered by DeSoto, as stated in the early part of this narrative, and the magazines referred to by General Tower are constructed of brick and cement and are still to be seen deep in the bodies of the mound.

This great fort which, next to Fortress Rosecrans at Murfreesboro, was the most powerful fortress constructed by the Federal armies in the South during the Civil War, was armed with 97 pieces of artillery ranging from six pounder field-batteries to thirty-two-pounder rifle cannon and eight-inch columbiads and siege-mortars.

And so, as the war went on from year to year, the people were more and more antagonized by their conquerers and became more and more resentful, but with the exception of some skirmishes on the outposts, or an occasional alarm caused by a rumor of a descent of Forrest, there was no real fighting or bloody drama of war enacted within the limits of the city until the 21st of August, 1864.

At this time General Forrest, who had been engaged for several months in conducting formidable raids into West Tennessee, or in defending the great grain section in the prairie regions of Mississippi from repeated Federal endeavors to destroy it and being confronted with a large army of infantry and cavalry which was rapidly forcing his small command of about 3,500 men southward in the vicinity of Oxford, Missis-





*M. B. J. J. J. J.*



issippi, conceived the idea of riding past the Federal column commanded by General A. J. Smith, attaining his rear and making a rapid descent on Memphis, his great base of operations, and by capturing it with an irresistible charge at day-break, force his overwhelming competitor to withdraw from Mississippi. This scheme once conceived by Forrest, was carried out with lightning-like rapidity and the troopers of the famous Confederate cavalry commander were actually dashing through the streets of the city of Memphis a hundred miles to Smith's rear, shouting, shooting and riding down their terrified enemies before General Smith had discovered his adversary's absence from his front.

Forrest, in order to carry out his brilliant conception, had taken about 1500 of the 3500 men under his command at Oxford, the detachment being of picked men and horses of Bell's, McCulloch's and Neely's brigades, and a section of Morton's battery, and left Oxford at five o'clock on the afternoon of August 18, 1864, in a pouring rain and started to Memphis, being compelled to make a circuitous route by Panola in order to make a crossing of the swollen Tallahatchie River. The march was made with tremendous speed in mud and rain, Panola being reached at seven o'clock on the morning of the 19th, and Senatobia on the same afternoon, where he stayed all night. Stopping next morning at Hickahala Creek and then at Cold Water, over which formidable streams he was compelled to improvise bridges constructed of logs, telegraph poles, grape-vines and the floors of gin-houses, by nightfall Forrest was at Hernando and after stopping to feed and water his tired horses took the direct road for Memphis in a drizzling rain with a great fog prevailing.

The command approached the city by way of the Hernando Road and was at Cane Creek about four miles from Court Square, by three o'clock in the morning. Meantime Forrest had, with his usual foresight, ascertained through trusted scouts and spies the exact condition of things in the menaced city, the number of troops there, the location of the encampment, the positions of the picket posts and, more important than all, the exact locations of the places of abode

of the three Federal commanders, Generals C. C. Washburn, S. A. Hurlbut and R. P. Buckland. Calling his brigade and detachment commanders together Forrest gave detailed and explicit instructions as to the part each one was assigned to perform in the approaching drama and distributed among them the necessary guides. His brother, Captain Wm. H. Forrest, was directed to surprise the picket on the Hernando Road, if possible, and then to dash forward into the city without being diverted for any other purpose, and following the most direct route to the Gayoso House, to capture Major General Hurlbut and other Federal officers known to be quartered there. Colonel Neely was directed to charge impetuously the big encampment of one hundred days' men bivouached across the Hernando Road in the southern outskirts of the city and to use for this purpose his command composed of the Second Missouri, Lieut. Col. Bob McCulloch, 14th Tennessee, Lieut. Col. R. R. White and 18th Mississippi, Lieut. Col. Ham Chalmers. Col. Thomas H. Logwood was to follow rapidly after Captain Forrest with the 12th and 15th Tennessee regiments, leaving detachments for observation at Main and Beale and Shelby and Beale Streets, and to establish another at the steamboat landing at the foot of Union Street. Lieut. Col. Jesse Forrest was ordered to move rapidly down DeSoto Street to Union and thence westward along that street to the residence of Major-General C. C. Washburn, then in command of Memphis, on the north side of Union at the alley east of Third Street in the building now known as the Blood residence, 206-8 Union Avenue, the General's headquarters being then in the residence of Gen. Joseph R. Williams, later the Y. M. C. A. building and now the University of Tennessee building on the south side of Union Avenue opposite the intersection of Third Street. Colonel Forrest's orders were to surround the residence and capture General Washburn at all hazards.

General Forrest ordered to be held in reserve Newsom's and Russell's regiment and the Second Tennessee under Lieut. Colonel Morton, with Sale's section of artillery, which force was designed to cover the movement and keep the highway open for retreat, when the troopers who had entered the city

had accomplished their purpose. Everything being ready the command was formed into column of fours and moved forward at a quarter past three a. m., Captain William H. Forrest, brother of the General, being in command of the vanguard, a picked body of forty men.

It was still dark, a heavy fog having settled over the environs of Memphis following the three days of rain and this fog was so dense that neither man nor horse could be distinguished at more than thirty paces, as the column headed by Captain Forrest filed noiselessly across the Cane Creek bridge. General Forrest, who left nothing to chance, after a half-mile march, halted his column and sent his accomplished aide-de-camp, Captain C. W. Anderson, to see that each officer "understood precisely and clearly the duty that had been specially entrusted to his execution." When Captain C. W. Anderson reported, showing that all was clearly understood by the commanders, General Forrest put the column in motion again at a slow walk. He had enjoined upon all commanders and soldiers the necessity of the most perfect silence until the heart of the town was reached and the surprise was complete.

Captain Forrest, with ten picked men rode some sixty paces ahead of his command until the first picket was reached, about two miles from Court Square on the Hernando Road. When the challenge of the picket came in the stillness of the morning calling out, "Halt! Who comes there!" Captain Forrest was ready with an answer and quietly replied, "A detachment of the 12th Missouri cavalry with rebel prisoners." Instantly came the usual response of the picket, "Advance one!" Captain Forrest rode forward, telling his men to follow silently but closely behind. When he reached the picket mounted in the middle of the road Captain Forrest rode up familiarly beside him as if to explain who he was but suddenly, with his heavy revolver, struck the unsuspecting picket such a crushing blow on the head that he reeled from his saddle to the ground. His men sprang forward and captured the picket-post a few steps rearward to the left of the highway with scarcely a sound above their voices. One of the pickets, however, a little apart from the others, fired his gun, which was

heard with no little concern by General Forrest, who was riding at the head of his column one hundred yards to the rear of his brother. Captain Forrest instantly pressed forward with his detachment and a quarter of a mile rearward was received with a volley by the next picket-post which had been given the alarm by the firing of the single gun. Captain Forrest instantly charged this post, scattering the pickets in every direction and, without waiting to secure them as prisoners, and knowing that he was now past the picket lines, dashed forward with his little squadron towards the city. But the boyish troopers in their enthusiasm forgot the injunction of silence and when within, as they soon were, the suburbs of the city they began shouting in the wildest fashion and the contagion spreading, the whole column was soon madly riding forward on the Hernando Road at full cry like a pack of eager hounds.

The day was just breaking when a long line of tents stretching across the highway in front and occupied by sleeping Federal soldiers became visible through the fog. The alarm having been given by the shouting against the express orders of General Forrest, nothing could be gained by further silence, and calling to his favorite bugler, Gauze, always at his elbow in battle, Forrest directed the charge to be blown and instantly every regimental bugle took up and repeated again and again the inspiring notes. Captain Forrest's detachment discovered just short of the encampment the Federal battery in bivouac besides the road to the left and immediately left the highway and charged the sleeping artillerists, shooting some 15 or 20 of them as they sprang from their blankets, and without stopping to secure the guns, galloped on in their mad rush for the heart of the city, not drawing rein until they had reached the Gayoso Hotel, the place of abode of Major General S. A. Hurlbut. Meantime Col. Thos. H. Logwood, who had been ordered to take two regiments, the 12th and 15th Tennessee and dash for the heart of the city, deploying his men when he reached the position on Beale Street, from DeSoto to the river in order to present a barrier to any Federal force attempting to drive the two detachments away which were

hunting for the Federal generals in their residences, had succeeded in reaching his goal, but passed en route, through a column of infantry, formed across the Hernando road in haste following the alarm of the attack, and finally galloped down Hernando Street to the market-house and up Beale across to the Gayoso Hotel. The men, wild with excitement, and many of them for the first time since the war in their native town again, shouted like demons as they rode and thousands of citizens, aroused from their slumbers by the unwonted din, and finding their streets occupied by gray-coated troopers, threw off all timidity and men and women in their night-clothes filled the galleries and windows of residences, waving handkerchiefs or pillow-slips and shouting in unrestrained glee, "It's Forrest! It's Forrest!" As narrated by an eye-witness soon after, "Memphis was the home of many of those gray-coated young riders who suddenly burst into the heart of the city that August morning; and the women, young and old, forgetting the costume of the hour, throwing open their window blinds and doors, welcomed their dear countrymen by voice and smiles and every possible manifestation of delight inspired by such an advent."

In the meantime Lieut. Colonel Jesse Forrest, another brother of the General's, had with a detachment by direction of the General, ridden rapidly and silently through the streets to the residence and headquarters of General C. C. Washburn, the residence being now known as the Blood House, No. 206 Union Avenue, but at that time the home of Mr. W. B. Greenlaw, a prominent citizen, which had been seized by General Washburn in the absence of Mr. Greenlaw for his own domicile and that of his family. The building is the large two-story brick structure on the north side of Union Avenue nearly a block east of Third Street and the headquarters was at the residence of General Joseph Williams, which was subsequently known as the Y. M. C. A. Building and later the University of Memphis Building, No. 177 on the south side of Union Avenue, nearly opposite the intersection of Third Street. Col. Jesse Forrest's detachment, including some Memphis boys familiar with the premises, reached and surrounded the build-

ing, but the bird had flown. General Washburn had been notified by a courier sent by Col. M. H. Starr of the 6th Illinois cavalry, of his danger, and being warned by the courier that the firing nearby was by Forrest's men, had slipped down the interior basement stairs in his night-clothes and going into the alley between Monroe and Union Streets, had fled bare-footed to the river bluffs at the foot of Union Street and thence along under the bluffs to the Federal fortress, the north end of which touched the river-bank about the foot of Vance Street. The General escaped from his residence while or just before the gray-clad troopers under Col. Jesse Forrest were climbing the front and rear steps of the building, leaving his uniform, boots, hat and sword in his bed-room where his wife was also found, and these articles of attire, together with his private papers, were secured by the Confederate troopers. The dramatic incident and narrow escape caused General Hurlbut to remark next morning, when he heard of it, as narrated by General Chalmers, "There it goes again! They superseded me with Washburn because I could not keep Forrest out of West Tennessee, and Washburn cannot keep him out of his bed-room!"

General Forrest, later in the day, courteously returned by flag of truce, the uniform and sword of General Washburn to that doughty commander with the message that he, a Federal Major-general, would probably have more need of them than Forrest had and incidentally another message, that he had 600 Federal prisoners barefooted and hatless down on the Hernando road and would like to have some clothing and provisions for them, which request was promptly granted by General Washburn, the supplies sent being so lavish that after feeding his prisoners General Forrest was enabled to give a full meal to each of his own men.

In the meantime Captain Forrest, with his detachment of forty bold riders, had reached and surrounded the Gayoso Hotel with the hope of capturing General Hurlbut and staff, as before stated. Captain Forrest, with the instinctive individuality of the Forrest family, rode with several of his companions mounted into the rotunda of the hotel from Shelby

Street and calling for the hotel register and a cigar, both of which were promptly furnished by the frightened clerk, he registered his name as a guest. He then began a systematic search of all the rooms for Federal officers and found and put under guard a number but failed to find General Hurlbut, that officer lodging that night as reported by General Washburn, with Col. A. R. Eddy, assistant quarter-master. A Federal officer, hearing the disturbance in the rotunda and supposing it to be caused by some drunken Federal soldiers leaned over the balcony and called out to know what the trouble was. Captain Forrest startlingly made him aware of the nature of the trouble by a pistol-ball which caused the untimely death of the Federal officer.

While these dramatic occurrences were happening in the city, General Forrest, who had remained behind with the remainder of his force in the suburbs to look after the Federal forces in that quarter and to prevent his daring columns, then in the heart of the city, from being cut off in their effort to rejoin him, had found much to do along the line of the Hernando road and eastward on McLemore Avenue in subduing the now thoroughly aroused Federal troops in that quarter. Neely's men after Colonels Logwood and Forrest, had broken through the line of Federal encampment reaching across the Hernando Road, had charged eastward of that road into that part of the encampment and met with serious resistance after the Federal soldiers had recovered from their first alarm. The two regiments of one hundred day men and some other troops in that quarter, about a thousand strong, had succeeded in deploying and received Colonel Neely's men from the rear of their tents with a hot fire. Upon observing this General Forrest led the other column of reserves under Colonel Bell to Neely's aid, intending to attack the Federals on their left flank; but he here unexpectedly came across a cavalry camp from which he received a withering fire. This command was extended along in the grove just north of McLemore Avenue, General Forrest, without waiting for the reserves still to his rearward, instantly charged this encampment with his escort, dispersing the Federals and capturing all their horses with

many prisoners. Neely at the same time charged dismounted upon the hundred-day men in his front, driving them pell mell northward. Many of these and most of the cavalry detachment took refuge in the State Female College buildings, several hundred yards eastward, the strong brick walls of which afforded them perfect shelter. Unable to dislodge them General Forrest directed Lieutenant Sale to bring up this section of artillery and shell the enemy out of the buildings which were then vacant. A number of shells were fired and several exploded in the main building. But finding the place very strong and not worth the loss it would cost to capture it General Forrest withdrew his reserves back to the Hernando road so as to prevent the reassembling there of Federal troops who might cut off the retreat of his men from the city.

In the meantime, having accomplished the objects for which they had been sent into the uptown districts, the Confederates in that quarter had been ordered to retire and rejoin General Forrest on the Hernando Road. The detachments uptown had become much scattered in their enthusiastic rushes about the city and it required some little time to collect them, but having at length rejoined their respective columns, Colonels Logwood and Forrest effected a junction on DeSoto Street and moved out together. When they had reached the vicinity of the Provine house on the Hernando Road they found a strong line of infantry formed across that highway as a support for the batteries there, the same whose gunners had been twice dispersed in the rush into the town, but had once more rallied and taken position commanding the road. When this force was reached it was instantly charged mounted by Capt. Peter Williams, Company I, 15th Tennessee, who received a check, but being reinforced by Company H, Lieutenant Witherspoon of the same regiment, another charge was made, and this time the brave gunners were again driven away and the guns captured, but for want of teams could not be brought away. All the Confederates were now out of the city except the small number which had been killed, wounded or captured and a few stragglers who were soon chased out by a body of several hundred Federal cavalry. This force found some other



of Forrest's men still in the infantry camp, engaged in equipping or feeding themselves on the abandoned rations, and these endeavored to mount and get away. Finding them in peril General Forrest, taking a small detachment of the 2nd Missouri Cavalry nearby charged in turn and drove the Federal detachment back. An incident strikingly characteristic of Forrest occurred here. Col. M. H. Starr, of the 6th Illinois cavalry headed this detachment and bravely confronted Forrest in the charge. Colonel Starr rode out in front of his command as if to challenge General Forrest, whom he recognized, to personal combat between the lines. Forrest instantly accepted the challenge and leaving his detachment halted, turned the head of King Philip, his famous war horse, toward the brave Federal commander and rushed forward alone. At this juncture however, a detachment of the 15th Tennessee, under Col. Hugh D. Greer of Memphis, which was nearby, observed the apparent rashness of their General and fearing that he would be himself killed by the Federal line after disposing of Colonel Starr, which none doubted he would do, were ordered by Colonel Greer to end the strange combat by firing on Colonel Starr. This was promptly done by several dismounted riflemen and Colonel Starr was mortally wounded. Forrest, enraged at being thus deprived of his opportunity as a swordsman, galloped rapidly to the front of the 15th Tennessee detachment and denounced them vehemently in no choice language for shooting Colonel Starr, saying that the latter was a brave man and that he intended to meet him as a soldier and give him every chance to defend himself.

The Confederate troops were then withdrawn quietly and deliberately to Cane Creek, a mile from the scene of this last fighting, and halted there, where they were not further molested by Federal soldiers. There were many interesting incidents which occurred uptown during the wild ride of these boyish troopers through the heart of the city. Several endeavored to release the Confederate prisoners in the Irving Block, still standing near the northeast corner of Court Square, but found it strongly guarded and barricaded. Private James Stokes of the Bluff City Grays, a Memphis company in Forrest's old reg-

iment, went as far as the Federal building or post-office, now the Woman's Building, at the northeast corner of Jefferson and Third Streets, and was killed by a shot from the Federal barracks just eastward on Jefferson Street. His gun, a breech-loading carbine, was picked up by a citizen and preserved, and is now a valued relic in the hall of the Confederate Historic Association, recalling as a souvenir of those bloody days the death of a brave son of Memphis fighting for her release from captivity on one of her prominent streets. Many Federal horses and equipments were gathered up by the bold riders as well as several hundred prisoners, the latter being largely taken in the charge upon the encampment south of the city. When the Federal battery was first charged in the onset into the city the guns were abandoned by the frightened gunners but a colored sergeant, Benjamin F. Thacker, who was detailed as a recruiting officer of Company I, Second U. S. Colored artillery, with Lieutenant B. Halley of Company K, 61st U. S. colored infantry, boldly ran among the guns, charging one with canister shot and fired it at thirty paces into the flank of Forrest's escort just then passing, Private Tom McCord, of the escort, with his horse receiving the entire charge of thirteen canister shots, by reason of which he lost his leg. Mr. McCord was living until recently in Bedford County, Tennessee, wearing a wooden leg as a souvenir of this terrible experience. His horse was literally torn to pieces. This brave negro sergeant, Thacker, was a half hour later seriously wounded in the fighting in front of the State Female College and at a barricade across College Avenue, between the college and Elmwood Cemetery.

It is proper now to give some statements of the Federal side of this unique conflict and to this end excerpts will be made from the reports of several of the Federal commanders. General C. C. Washburn, commanding the district of Tennessee and whose capture was one of the main purposes of this dash into the city, after stating that General Forrest had attacked the city on the morning of August 21, with 2,500 or 3,000 men, adds:

"A force consisting of about one-third of Forrest's command was detached by him and ordered to dash over the pick-

ets and into the city, while the remainder engaged our forces outside. This detachment came in on the Hernando Road, driving in the pickets and riding past a regiment of 100-days troops that was there stationed, and rode with the utmost rapidity to my headquarters, which they at once thoroughly invested, giving me barely a moment's time to escape. Another party rode to the Gayoso House, where they expected to find Major-General Hurlbut, but in this they were disappointed, he lodging that night with Col. A. R. Eddy, assistant quartermaster. Another part went to attack General Buckland's headquarters, but making a mistake in the street gave him also time to escape."

Col. W. H. Thurston, assistant-inspector general of the 16th army corps, thus reports:

"Memphis was entered about 5 a. m. by about 400 of Major General Forrest's command. They moved on Memphis by the Hernando Road, and drove in the pickets on that road, One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Illinois (100 days) volunteers, and easily broke their lines and entered the city, dividing into two squads of about 200 each, one under the command of Lieut. Colonel Logwood, the other under Jesse Forrest, or Bill Forrest (reports conflict); one squad surrounded the Gayoso House, the other occupied Union Street, on which Major General Washburn has his headquarters and resides. Major General Washburn, having been notified by Colonel Starr, 6th Illinois cavalry, of their approach, left his residence as early as possible, and made his way to Fort Pickering, without having given any command as to what should be done by our troops. He could much more easily have retired to headquarters of provost guard than to have gone to the fort, as the fort is full one-half mile from his house, and but three squares to the provost marshal's office. On the 23rd the whole town was stampeded at about ten a. m. by a report being circulated that Forrest had returned in force and was again in town. It was the most disgraceful affair I have ever seen, and proves that there is demoralization and want of confidence by the people in our army and our army in some of its officers. No blame can be attached to Brig. General Buckland that I can

hear of. On the 23rd, so far as I can learn, no Confederate troops were nearer than Forrest's rear, which was probably not less than twenty-five to thirty miles distant, and the alarm was probably caused by some of the troops firing off their guns which had been loaded since Sunday."

The result of this daring venture was that General Forrest, after entering the city and demoralizing the large Federal army stationed here, almost to the point of panic and scaring their generals out of their rests at daylight, had prudently left the telegraph wires untouched until General A. J. Smith, with his army of 13,000 men, whom he had left at Oxford, Mississippi, could be thoroughly informed that he had captured Memphis, and then had them cut. General Smith, alarmed by this information, immediately began a rapid retreat to Memphis with his whole army, which was exactly what General Forrest had planned by this daring movement to compel him to do and which result he had completely accomplished. And so it was that General Forrest, unable to obstruct Smith's great army in any way on its movement into the heart of Mississippi, by stratagem had compelled his retreat to its starting point.

When we consider the immense odds against Forrest it will be realized that this was one of the most brilliant moves of his career. Only Forrest could have conceived and executed it. As to the forces engaged, the report of Major General O. O. Howard, inspector-general of that military department, shows that the Federal force in Memphis from the return of August 24, exceeded eighteen thousand men, including those with General A. J. Smith at Oxford. This report was made to General Halleck by General Howard on August 24, 1864. The field returns for September 1, 1864, shows that General Smith had with him present for duty 8,427 infantry, rank and file, and the report of General Washburn, dated September 22, shows that he had in addition to this 4,800 cavalry, making a total force of 13,227 in Smith's army at Oxford when Forrest left the front of it to attack Memphis. Deducting this from the eighteen thousand and odd hundred men reported by General Howard, as stated above, we find that on August 24, there was a force of 5,000 infantry encamped in Memphis,

besides cavalry, reported by Lieutenant Colonel George Duffield, commanding the Second brigade, as 650 troopers. There were also 2,000 armed and equipped militia present for duty as shown by the report of Brig. General C. W. Dustan, their commander, the report also being signed by Captain Alfred G. Tuther, A. A. A. G., our late prominent citizen. This gave a total Federal force in the city of 7,650 infantry and cavalry, besides numerous batteries of artillery and the garrison of the great fort or fortress at Fort Pickering.

As above stated, the troops brought to Memphis by General Forrest were detachments of the Second Missouri and Eighteenth Mississippi regiments of McCulloch's brigade; the 12th, 14th and 15th Tennessee cavalry regiment of Neely's brigade and Russell's and Newsom's regiments of Bell's brigade. These detachments from said regiments were of picked men, having serviceable horses, deemed able to stand the fatigues of the long ride in the rain and numbered all told, about 1,475 effective men, of which not exceeding 500 entered the city, the remainder staying with General Forrest to cover the retreat. The operation against Memphis was brilliantly conceived by her great cavalry commander Forrest and brilliantly carried out, the exploit costing him a total of nine killed and twenty-six wounded. The losses of the Federal forces were reported by General Washburn as fifteen killed, sixty-five wounded and one hundred sixteen captured. But the detailed report of the several commanders show the total losses to have been two hundred and seventy-three killed, wounded and missing. Of these one battery alone, the 7th Wisconsin, which was run over at the outset in the charge, lost four killed, two wounded and nine prisoners, besides 64 artillery horses. General Forrest, after the fighting was over, retired leisurely to Hernando, Mississippi and thence to his command at Oxford. In return for courtesies extended him by General Forrest, through Adjutant General J. P. Strange, in sending back his uniform and sword, General Washburn had made a beautifully engraved sword of the highest finish and sent it as a present to Major Strange. This sword is now in the possession of the daughter of Major Strange, Mrs. W. R. Barksdale, of this city.

The subsequent military history of Memphis during the remainder of the War Between the States has been fully treated in the chapters on municipal history in previous pages of this book. After the close of the war the military history of Memphis is continued in the achievement of her celebrated militia companies, the Chickasaw Guards and Bluff City Grays and later organizations, which will now be briefly described.

The Chickasaw Guards became, possibly, the most famous militia organization in the United States, owing to its wonderful efficiency in drill and discipline, they having in their career overcome in competitive drill and inspection nearly all the most noted bodies of citizen soldiery in the land.

This company was organized on the 30th day of June, 1874. Its officers were R. P. Duncan, captain; W. P. Martin, first-lieutenant; James R. Wright, second-lieutenant; P. A. Ralston, third-lieutenant; John Poston, ensign; and L. Mix, sergeant. The company was unfortunate in its first competitive drill and was defeated by the Porter Rifles of Nashville in May, 1875, but being reorganized in October of the same year and with R. P. Duncan as captain; S. T. Carnes, first lieutenant; T. A. Lamb, second lieutenant; and J. S. Richardson, third lieutenant, they retrieved their reputation and easily defeated their late antagonists.

In May, 1878, S. T. Carnes became captain and the Chickasaws in the same month defeated the Bluff City Grays of Memphis, a noted company of that day. In September of the same year, when they drilled at St. Louis, against the best ten companies in the United States, they were overcome by but one point in a possible 300 by Company C of Chicago. After exhibition drills at Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Columbus, Chicago and Louisville to raise money to aid the yellow-fever sufferers in Memphis, they took first prize at a great drill at Chattanooga, Carnes still being captain and N. B. Camp, Harry Allen and W. L. Clapp, lieutenants. In October, 1879, the Chickasaws were pitted against a field of eight companies at St. Louis and won first prize over all. A few days later they were first in another prize competition at Columbus, Ohio, and on May 19, 1880 defeated the Rock City Guards and Porter

Rifles of Nashville and Company K of St. Louis, at the former city. At New Orleans in 1881, the Chickasaws defeated the Crescent Rifles, League Guards and Nichols Rifles of New Orleans, the Mobile Rifles and the Houston Light Guards. *Harper's Weekly* of July 2, 1881 published a cut of the Chickasaw Guards in line, with this legend: "The Chickasaw Guards of Memphis have now the reputation by decision of West Point officers of being the most perfectly drilled company of citizen soldiery in the United States. In 1879 General Sherman witnessed their drill at the contest in St. Louis and pronounced them superior to anything in or out of West Point."

The Drill Teams of 1878 and 1879 were taken from the following list:

Sam T. Carnes, captain; N. B. Camp, 1st lieutenant; Harry Allen, 2nd lieutenant; W. L. Clapp, 3rd lieutenant; Richard Wright, 1st sargeant; T. A. Lamb, 2nd sargeant; A. R. Taylor, 3rd sargeant; R. W. Harris, 4th sargeant; S. A. Pepper, 5th sargeant; W. W. Talbot, 1st corporal; Jno. C. Henderson, 2nd corporal; Sam J. Hayes, 3rd corporal; A. H. Proudft, 4th corporal. Privates: Allen Asher, Richard H. Allen, Jno. Bradley, Henry J. Bailey, J. W. Clapp, Jr., Walter C. Chidester, A. L. Duval, L. R. Donelson, Howard Edmonds, J. B. Jones, Pete Jones, Chas. Joseph, Walter M. Johnson, Tom Johnson, C. H. Raine, John Sanoner, Ralph Semmes, John S. Speed, W. J. Steel, W. A. Sneed, T. H. Allen, Jr., B. I. Busby, Lamar Chappell, Haze Chiles, Geo. W. Crook, C. Q. Harris, Harry A. Hunter, Joe B. Houchens, Fred Hessig, James Kirkland, John Kirtland, I. F. Peters, James Proudft, S. H. Phillips, H. J. Parrish, Chas. Patton, P. C. Smith, John W. Tyler, Will Warren, Chas. M. Waldran, John D. Waldran, L. B. Wright, T. A. Wright, Tom A. White, J. A. Wooldridge, R. T. Cooper, Jefferson Davis, Jr., Sam I. McDowell, Branch Martin, John Newsom.

On June 28, 1882, however, the Chickasaws were defeated by the Crescent Rifles of New Orleans, but in the same drill defeated the Porters of Nashville and the Quapaw Guards of Little Rock. At Indianapolis on July 5, 1882, the Chickasaws defeated the Crescent Rifles, Porter Rifles, Quapaw Guards,

Asbury Cadets of Indiana, Indianapolis Light Infantry, Company K, of St. Louis and McKean Cadets of Terra Haute, Indiana. In the drill at Louisville the Chickasaws won the championship of Tennessee by defeating the Porter Rifles and at Indianapolis the championship of the United States. Owing to weather conditions the Chickasaws met with bad luck in 1885 at Mobile and New Orleans.

Among the noted militia companies of Memphis of that day were the Bluff City Grays, organized October 1, 1876, with J. F. Cameron, captain; F. T. Edmondson, first-lieutenant; T. C. Rogers, second-lieutenant. In 1879 J. F. Cameron was still captain; Herbert Rhett, first-lieutenant; Hugh Pettit, second lieutenant; and R. B. Armour, second lieutenant. In 1880 T. A. Lamb was elected captain and was followed by Herbert Rhett in 1881.

The Memphis Light Guards, thirty-eight strong, were organized July, 1877. The officers were E. B. Moseley, captain; E. M. Apperson, Jr., first lieutenant; and H. S. Trezevant, second lieutenant. This company was consolidated with the Bluff City Grays in 1882 and became the Porter Guards with J. D. Waldran, captain; Kellar Anderson, first lieutenant; H. G. Getchell, second lieutenant; M. T. Cooper, third lieutenant.

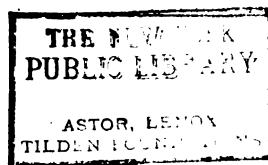
Another company called the Porter Reserves, was organized in 1879 during the epidemic, with Frank Lamont, captain and W. J. Freeman, G. M. Guarrant and W. J. Jones, lieutenants. It disbanded in about two years.

In June, 1882, the Waldran Guards were organized with L. V. Dixon, captain, and E. C. Campbell, T. Hawkins and C. Kellar, Jr., lieutenants. This company was disbanded after a year or two's service. Another company called the Memphis Light Infantry was organized in May, 1885, with B. F. Hollenberg, captain, but was disbanded soon after.

In September, 1886, the Memphis Zouaves were organized with F. K. Deffry as captain; Charles J. Rauch, James D. Proudft and B. C. Sawtelle, as lieutenants.

These companies were organized and fostered with little or no authority of law, Tennessee having no settled militia laws at that time, but in 1887 an act was passed providing for







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a thorough organization of the militia and the Second Regiment of State militia was organized, in which there were four Memphis companies. Of this regiment S. T. Carnes was elected Colonel, and when he was elected Brigadier General of the State Militia in 1889, Hugh Pettit was elected Colonel and A. R. Taylor became Lieut. Colonel of the regiment and I. F. Peters, Major. In this regiment were four Memphis companies, namely, Company A, the Chickasaw Guards, Junior, Captain W. A. Kyle; Company B, Neeley Zouaves, F. K. Deffrey, captain; Company F, the Forrest Rifles, Wright Smith, captain; Company G, Kellar Anderson, captain, was nominally attached to this regiment but was on detached service during the Coal Creek troubles in 1891 and 1892. During the insurrection of the miners at Coal Creek, Captain Kellar Anderson was appointed to command the forces there after the return of the main body of the militia which had been present there under the command of General S. T. Carnes and Colonel A. R. Taylor and was in command of the fort or redoubt overlooking Coal Creek during the skirmishing with the miners in the vicinity of the fort. Two boys were killed in these disturbances, namely, Lee Waterman, Junior, killed by the premature discharge of a howitzer, and Private Smith, who was waylaid and shot by the insurgents while on post as a picket. In 1894 Colonel A. R. Taylor was elected Brigadier General, the term of Brig. General S. T. Carnes, having expired. All of the officers of the Second regiment resigned and the regiment and companies led an anomalous existence for several years without regular organization.

At the beginning of the Cuban War in 1898 the Second regiment was reorganized, with Kellar Anderson as Colonel, T. E. Patterson, Lieutenant Colonel and M. E. Walker and F. K. Deffrey, Majors.

The Memphis companies in the regiment at this time numbered three, commanded respectively by George A. Chighizola, W. R. Derrick and John Hampton as captains. The regiment, however, never reached the front, being kept on garrison or post duty during the remainder of the war, but Colonel Kellar Anderson, its commander, was transferred to the Forty-seventh

United States infantry as major, and served through the remainder of the Spanish War in the Philippines.

After the Cuban War the Fifth Tennessee regiment was disbanded and the Second regiment was reorganized, taking part of the Fifth regiment, and Captain J. W. Canada of the latter regiment was made colonel. In the Second regiment after reorganization there were three Memphis companies, namely, A, the Neely Zouaves, Captain Kit Deffrey; E. Frazier Rifles, Captain John Hampton; 1, Forrest Rifles, Captain Singleton; and M, Governor's Guards, formerly commanded by Captain Canada.

About 1906 Company G, the Patterson Guards, were organized by Captain Hearn Tidwell, of Memphis, giving Memphis five companies in the regiment.

In 1908 the Second regiment was again reorganized, being consolidated with the First regiment and taking the name of the latter. This regiment now contains all the Middle and West Tennessee companies, the companies retaining the same letter designation. The first colonel of the new regiment was W. C. Tatum of Nashville, the lieutenant colonel R. L. Beare and the majors, C. P. Simonton of Covington, J. B. Horton of Memphis and R. E. Martin.

During the Reel Foot Lake disturbances, growing out of the night riding of people living on the banks of Reel Foot Lake, two Memphis companies were detached for special service under Major Horton; Company E, Frazier Light Guards, under Captain B. L. Capell, and Lieutenants Ike Rosser and Jack Starr; and Company L, Captain James W. Hunt, with Lieutenants Allen H. Miller and George W. Peters. Captain Ed. W. Kinney was on special duty for these companies. Major Horton's staff was composed of Lieutenant W. L. Terry, Adjutant, and Second Lieutenant, Arch Well, Quartermaster. While at Reelfoot Lake the battalion was engaged in post and picket duty, scouting and arresting night-riders, in aid of the civil authorities. Colonel Tatum, commander of the regiment, died and was succeeded by Col. Tom C. Halbert, and Major Horton resigned in 1909. Capt. Roane Waring, regimental quartermaster, was promoted to Lieut. Colonel, taking the

place of Colonel Beare. W. L. Terry of Memphis, Otto Robinson of Clarksville and John Samuels of Nashville were commissioned as majors, the latter taking the position of Major R. E. Martin, resigned. Captain Tidwell resigned and was succeeded by John D. Martin as commander of Company G, and Captain Martin resigning, was succeeded by Captain George Hoppe. In Company E, Capt. Ben Capell resigned and was succeeded by Capt. M. L. Rawitzer. The regiment and companies still retain this organization.