

ATHENS OF THE SOUTH.

THE CAPITAL OF TEXAS QUEENING IT AMID LOVELY LANDSCAPES AND NATURAL ADVANTAGES

She Holds Out Hands Filled with Rewards to the Student, Merchant, Manufacturer and Health Seeker.

A correspondent of the New York Morning Journal, whose loiterings through Texas cities during June and July of the current year have been graphically portrayed in the columns of the sprightly paper he represents, writes of none of them as enthusiastically as he does of Austin.

Praise from the pen of a stranger is apt to be more impartial than home-bred description, as well as more elegant, and for these reasons a liberal extract from the same correspondent's letter on Austin is here introduced:

There is an individuality about the beautiful capital of the Lone Star state which is as striking as it is captivating. All the rougher edge of western towns seem long since to have undergone successfully the polishing process until Austin to-day stands forth as one of the most brilliant jewels in the diadem of southern progress and development.

Its citizens represent a model community of intelligent, highly cultured and progressive people; its educational facilities equal and surpass any city of its size in America; its imposing buildings are fitting monuments to the inexhaustible and incomprehensibly vast natural resources directly tributary to it; its business men fully awake to the possibilities of such advantages.

With a foundation resting upon these staunch pillars, which, whenever properly understood, will form powerful magnets in attracting the most desirable accessions of brain, capital and talent, Austin may well look forward to a long reign of bright sunshine of industrial prosperity. Imbued with pardonable modesty, Austin has discontinued every effort toward creating a "boom," and prefers to rest upon its merits, and these only.

Austin, like ancient Rome, is charmingly situated on seven hills, which for a most picturesque background to one of the prettiest bits of scenery found in Texas. These slope gently toward the Colorado river, which gracefully winds through the scene, affording most perfect drainage. The city, with a population of 30,000 people, represents the county seat of Travis and the permanent capital of the state.

In the very heart of this city stands the most imposing structure of the south, the

MAGNIFICENT STATE CAPITOL,

the peer of any edifice of similar character in America. It occupies the site originally set apart by the Republic of Texas for its future capitol. It is located on this beautiful eminence in the center of the city, fronting the south and facing Congress avenue. The material used in its construction is Texas red granite, which, in durability and susceptibility of fine polish, is equal to the red granite of Scotland. Its form approximates that of a Greek cross, having a projecting center and four flanks, with a rotunda and dome at the intersection of the main corridors. Its dimensions are: From east to west, 562 feet; from north to south, 287 feet, and the distance to the apex of the dome is 321 feet. The building covers an area of 2 1/2 acres. The style of architecture is Renaissance, blending Doric, Ionic, Corinthian or Classic with modern designs. The basement comprises sixty-three rooms used for the storage of records and other purposes. The first floor is occupied by the executive departments of the state government; the second floor by the legislative, and the third floor by the judicial; in the fourth story there are a number of rooms which are not yet set apart for any special purpose. The building is lighted by gas and electricity and heated by steam. The special architectural feature is the granite arch at the south front, which spans this entrance, the height being 72 feet. Underneath this architectural triumph, resting on the floor of the vestibule and supporting a granite balcony, are two polished granite columns, their ends being girdled with bands of black and white Texas marble. On the dome stands the Goddess of Liberty. The statue is 14 feet high. In her left hand she holds a large five-pointed star, emblematic of the seal of Texas, while in her right hand she grasps a sword, which rests on the base, indicative of her sovereign determination to protect the liberties of Texas. This magnificent structure, which cost the state 3,050,000 acres of land, is the pride of Texans and the admiration of her visitors.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

is situated north of the new capitol on one of the highest elevations in the city. The buildings, imposing and elegant, are located on the summit of "College Hill," below which the city with its palatial private residences, magnificent public edifices, and Gothic churches, present a view seldom equalled. The campus, comprising forty acres, is planted in hackberry trees, which, in a few years, will make one of the most beautiful groves in the country. The University is supplied with a large library, besides a well furnished laboratory.

The subjects taught are distributed in the schools of Latin, Greek, French, German, Spanish, English, history, chemistry, pure and applied mathematics, the natural sciences and common law.

It is probably the most liberally endowed school in the United States, the state having set apart and appropriated 2,221,400 acres of land for its maintenance and support. Being a state institution, it is open alike to both sexes, without charge for tuition. The number matriculated this year is 248.

The board of regents were fortunate in securing one of the ablest faculties in the United States.

THE STATE DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE is beautifully situated on an eminence in South Austin, about a mile from the new capitol. The buildings are elegantly furnished, lighted by electricity, and the grounds are tastefully laid off in walks, drives and parks and ornamented with shrubbery, making it a most attractive place. There are 155 pupils in attendance, under a most competent corps of teachers.

The educational department is in a most satisfactory condition. The state appropriation last year for the support of this institution was \$41,816.

Table with 2 columns: Description of children and age groups, and corresponding numbers.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

In addition to the University and public schools there are numerous other educational institutions of a high order of merit and proficiency in Austin. Principal among these are: St. Mary's Academy, for young ladies, under the direction of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, by far the leading female seminary in the city; St. Edward's college, for the education of young men and boys; the Texas Business college, and Capital Business college, each of which is written up in a detail manner in another part of the present issue.

THE AUSTIN BOARD OF TRADE

Has a membership of 300. It is composed of business men who co-operate to further the material development of the city. As an evidence of their enterprise, they have inaugurated steps to develop a system of water power

books and stationery, 9 drug stores, 11 fruit stands, 6 harness and saddlery, 3 gunsmiths, 4 merchandise brokers, 1 plumber, 3 clothiers, 1 optical goods manufacturer, 6 millinery, 2 pianos and organs, 8 boots and shoes, 6 restaurants, 6 grain dealers, 3 photographers, 1 art depot, 3 book binderies, 17 hotels, 3 bakeries, 8 livery stables, 13 blacksmith shops, 11 butcheries, 1 refrigerating company, 3 brewing associations, 8 publishing houses and 6 newspapers.

Besides one of the finest systems of waterworks in the world, extensive electric light and gas plants, a street car line over ten miles long, and traversing every part of the city, Austin possesses

OTHER INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES.

Among these are: Seven lumber yards, 3 coal yards, 3 brick yards, 3 planing mills, 2 marble works, 4 foundries, 4 cigar factories, 3 candy factories, 1 pipe organ factory, 6 carriage factories, 1 soap factory, 1 cotton compress, 3 ice factories, 1 lime and cement works and 2 nurseries.

BANKING AND FINANCE.

The city has three national banks and one private bank, with an aggregate paid up capital of \$800,000. These banks are all sound and are conducted

about latitude 30 degs., we have a semi-tropical climate, but the heat of the summer is moderated by an almost constant breeze from the gulf, while nesting in the valley of the Colorado, a clear stream fed by innumerable springs of pure water, it is protected in a large measure from the north winds in winter by the ranges of cedar clad mountains which nearly surround it. Hence, the thermometric range is not very great, and I may say the temperature the year round will average 70 or 74 degs.—about the same as Florida. Of course, some winters are colder than others, but the rigors of real winter are almost unknown here, ice being an exception. During the past winter vegetation was green the entire season, and even roses were in bloom in January.

The atmosphere is dry, as in most parts of west Texas, containing just sufficient moisture to render it compatible with health and comfort, and experience has shown it to be highly beneficial in all stages of consumption, especially in its incipency.

The water supply is inexhaustible. The Colorado river, upon which the city is situated, drains a mountainous country with sandy soil, which acts as a filter, and the water, which is supplied to the city by Holley system of works, is clear, cool and refreshing. Analysis shows that it contains a minimum of organic matter, and some salts, iron, etc., in small quantity. Many persons, however, use rain water, held in underground brick or cement cisterns. Ice is not a necessity, but is abundantly supplied from the factories at Austin.

The soil upon which Austin is situated is sandy and porous, with a surface of lime or limestone, hence drainage is effected naturally. But, in addition, the city is supplied with underground sewers to relieve the more densely populated districts. These facts, together with the remarkable freedom from malaria, render Austin an unusually healthy city. This statement is borne out by the official mortality record, to be referred to presently. Epidemic diseases seldom prevail here. Yellow fever has never obtained a foothold, even during '67 and '78, when other parts of the state suffered from the invasion. Consumption is rarely met with, except in persons who have come from abroad, attracted by the climate and well known salubrious atmosphere.

Amongst our citizens and business men are several who came to Austin in an advanced stage of consumption, who are now well, and are living testimonials to the health-giving air and water of our capital city.

Inasmuch as no record is kept of that class, either of those who, coming here with consumption die or get well, it is impossible to form even an estimate of the per centage. It would be remarkably small, however, of deaths, unless they were in the last stages on arrival. Death rate amongst all classes, on a basis of 25,000 population, which the latest returns give Austin, at the rate per 1,000 per annum, has been in round numbers,

For 1887, 14 per 1,000 population. For 1888, 12 per 1,000 population. For 1889, 10 per 1,000 population.

In 1886-7 the ratio of deaths to population was put down at 16, and last year at 14, but the basis was 20,000 population. The exact ratio for the past twelve months, on a basis of 25,000, has been 10, the number of deaths from all causes, as shown by the official register, being 250. This is a most remarkable showing, and corresponds with an average of human life of about 85 or 90 years. I do not know of any city in the world with an annual death rate of less than 10 per 1,000 of population, and this ratio may even be reduced by deducting still births (which should never figure in mortality statistics) and deaths of transient people and bodies brought here for interment, such, for instance, as are killed by railroad accident or other casualties, who do not belong to our population.

The society of Austin is refined and cultivated; the people are generous and hospitable, and welcome invalids and health-seekers as well as those who come to Austin for business, school or other purposes, with a generous greeting, and make them feel at home and welcomed.

TEXAS JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

HON. O. H. COOPER, Editor Official Department; H. LEE SELLERS, General Editor; THOS. CONYNGTON, Business Manager.

The following will be its salient features:

- 1. It will be edited, controlled and published by teachers and for teachers. 2. No outside interests will influence its policy. 3. In appearance and mechanical execution it will be unsurpassed. 4. Sufficient capital and ability are pledged to insure its success. 5. It will be live, vigorous and in all respects abreast of the times. 6. It will be managed solely in the interests of our schools and teachers. 7. It will be the official organ of the department of education of the State of Texas. 8. It asks your support and subscription because it will merit them. To be published Monthly. Subscription, \$1.50 per annum.

It is gratifying to announce that this movement to establish THE TEXAS JOURNAL OF EDUCATION has been advised and approved by a large number of the leading teachers and educators of the State.

Board of Managers—H. Lee Sellers, Thos. Conyngton, J. M. Fendley, J. L. Long, E. G. Littlejohn, Hugh R. Conyngton.

The fifth annual, and most prosperous session of the San Marcos Chautauque assembly, has just closed, and the sixth session of the assembly will convene June 21, 1890, and continue one month.

ST. EDWARD'S COLLEGE.

WHERE THE MINDS, MORALS AND BODIES OF BOYS AND YOUNG MEN ARE TRAINED.

Under the Direction of the Order of the Holy Cross—The Only School of Journalism in the South.

This prosperous educational institute has met with phenomenal success during the last three years, and furnishes a striking proof, if any were needed, that intrinsic merit can be, and is, as fully appreciated in Texas as elsewhere. Twelve years ago a small commercial school was opened at the old site of St. Edwards' college. This unpretentious school grew and developed. The seed was good, and the little acorn has grown into a large tree whose beneficent shade is sought by the youth, not only of Texas, but of the adjoining states and Mexico. The school buildings were greatly enlarged in 1885, to accommodate the students that pressed for admission, and the college was chartered with power to confer the usual degrees.

The aim of the institution from the start was to give its pupils a thorough education—an education in the full sense of the word; an education of the moral as well as the intellectual faculties; an education that impressed upon the young men intrusted to its care the principles of Christian gentlemen, while developing their faculties and storing their minds with useful knowledge. It was eminently practical. In this consisted the secret of its success and its subsequent popularity.

A SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM,

similar to that at Cornell university and other popular northern colleges—and, like the former, under the guidance of a practical journalist and reporter, who in this case is also an expert shorthand writer—was opened at the beginning of last year, and has since proven its effectiveness by the very practical work shown in

"THE COLLEGE ECHO,"

a large and handsomely printed quarterly of sixteen pages. This paper is an admirable adjunct to the classes in English composition and literature. The essays are of a high order and finished in every detail, showing the effect of the blue pencil or red ink (not unsparingly used, we are told), in the hands of an experienced critic. Besides the essays, the College Echo contains editorial notes, literary criticisms, items of college news, personal notes of the whereabouts and doings of former students—everything of interest, in fact, to those who are or have been connected with the college—all gotten up and presented in a manner that would do credit to an experienced journalist.

THE LOCATION OF THE COLLEGE,

high, dry and healthful, with picturesque surroundings, is all that could be desired. The splendid new buildings, the central part of which is now ready for occupancy, are located about a mile from the old, on College hill, whence a fine view is obtained of the city beneath, the Capitol and St. Mary's academy directly opposite, and the finely wooded valley of the Colorado on either side. The college is about three miles from the city—far enough from the distracting influences of city life, while securing its conveniences and accommodations when necessary. The student is thus afforded the seclusion and repose that conduce so materially to the successful prosecution of his studies.

THE NEW COLLEGE BUILDINGS,

specially designed for the convenience and comfort of students and faculty by a skillful architect, Mr. N. J. Clayton, of Galveston; are constructed of white limestone, in the modern Gothic style, and four stories in height. The central structure, now completed, is 110x50 feet in the clear. To this will be added two wings of the same material, each 80x45 feet, giving a total frontage of 200 feet in the clear.

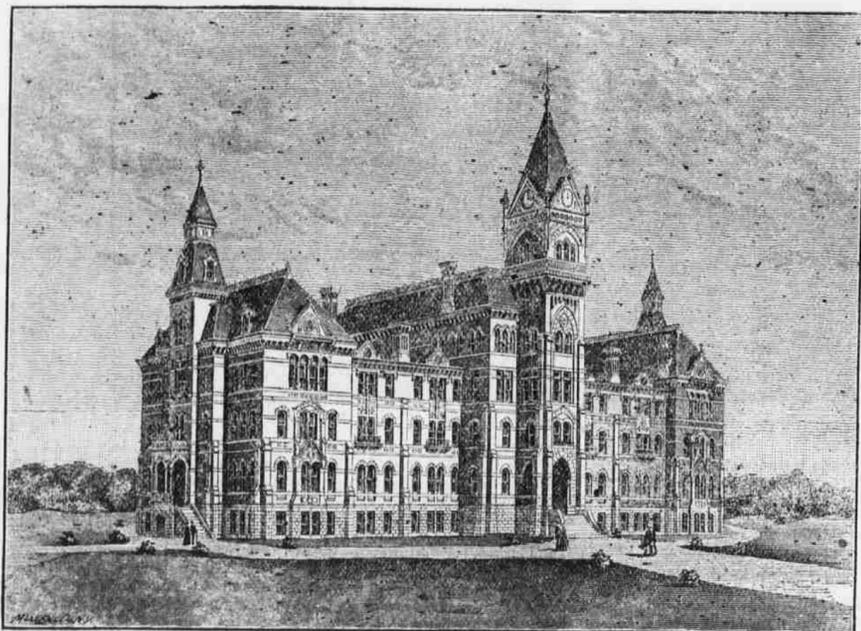
THE EXTENSIVE AND BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS,

as yet untouched by art, afford ample facility for outdoor sports and other recreation, so necessary to the health and happiness of young people who are perforce confined during the greater part of the day to study, hall and class rooms. Athletic sports are measurably encouraged, thus developing a manly physique and securing "a sound mind in a sound body." The college premises cover about 600 acres of wood and fine farm and pasture land, which is chiefly devoted to fruit, vegetable and cereal culture and stock-raising for home provision, as well as play grounds for the students.

THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

at St. Edward's is comprehensive and thoroughly practical. Its aim is to fit the youth for any avocation or calling, whether it be preparation for the University or professional or business life, it can hardly fail of success. One thing it cannot do, however much desired: it cannot put brain into an empty head. In all else it has met with signal success. Besides the collegiate and commercial courses, there are preparatory classes of every grade, from the lowest to the highest, and also special classes for such optional studies as modern languages, music, drawing and painting, shorthand, typewriting and telegraphy, with proficient teachers in each of these branches of study.

The disciplinary government of the college is mild but firm. Perfect order is insisted upon, but the student is generally kept within the line of duty more by a sense of honor than by fear of punishment.



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS.

THE STATE INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND is located in the northwestern portion of the city. During last session 121 pupils were in attendance. They are taught to read in lines and point print the following branches: Orthography, geography, arithmetic, etymology, history, physical geography, physiology, hygiene, English grammar, English literature, rhetoric and natural philosophy. The annual report shows good progress. State appropriation last year, \$48,860.

THE STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM

was located at Austin in 1861. The commodious buildings occupy a beautiful site about two miles north of the court house. The total expenditure last year was \$112,959.81. The average number of inmates under treatment was 581, making the yearly cost of each patient \$189.69. This average is somewhat in excess of previous years, but it is due to the fact that the patients have been supplied with a better and more varied article of food and clothing. Total appropriation, \$113,630.

THE AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

was organized in 1881, since which the enrollment of pupils has doubled, while the scholastic population has trebled. This not only shows a rapid increase of population but that our public schools are growing in efficiency and popularity. Total scholastic population, 2,670.

Distributed in the nineteen school buildings in the various wards, which afford convenient educational facilities for all. A large number of these rooms are elegantly furnished with the latest improved school apparatus.

Prof. J. B. Winn, the superintendent, has inaugurated a new feature in the conduct of the city schools which has proved highly successful. He classifies each department upon the principle of mental strength and ability to do the work of the grade.

The number of teachers employed, 60; the value of city school property, \$68,470; special school tax, 33 1/2 cents on the \$100.

The last school census just completed by the city assessor show the following encouraging condition of the public schools of Austin:

Table with 2 columns: Total number of whites and colored children, and Grand total.

Table with 2 columns: Total number of children 8 years of age, 9 years of age, 10 years of age, 11 years of age, 12 years of age, 13 years of age, 14 years of age, 15 years of age.

Table with 2 columns: Total number of children 8 years of age unable to read, 9 years of age, 10 years of age, 11 years of age, 12 years of age, 13 years of age, 14 years of age, 15 years of age.

capable of running a vast number of factories. They will, in all probability, be prepared, after further investigation, to offer great inducements to manufacturers. It is proposed to convey the water by pipes from an artificial dam in the Colorado, a few miles above the city, and it is further proposed to use the water, after it has been utilized in turning factories, for irrigating purposes. This calculation is based on obtaining a 3,000 horsepower, and irrigating 32,400 acres. The new building to be occupied by the board of trade, when completed will be one of the most attractive and durable structures in this city of magnificent edifices.

INDUCEMENTS TO MANUFACTURERS.

Austin is not only a seat of learning, but it is destined soon to become a great manufacturing center. No better field can be found for the establishment of cotton, woolen and other manufacturing industries. The remarkable success of the enterprises already in operation here are conclusive evidences of the fact that this city offers superior facilities for such industries. Austin reaches out her iron arms in every direction to grasp the raw material of the state, which needs only the motor power of capital to be utilized and converted into manufactured articles. Wool and cotton can be manufactured at less cost here than at almost any other place in the south. Here is both an unlimited supply of raw material and a great demand for the manufactured fabrics. Barriers heretofore operating against her manufacturing interests have been removed. The great inducement offered manufacturers is a good cheap fuel, thereby reducing the cost of production to the minimum. A coal company, with abundant capital, can furnish the best and cheapest coal in any quantities desired from a mine a short distance from the city on the International and Great Northern railroad.

THE THREE ICE FACTORIES

have a combined capacity of freezing 100,000 pounds of ice per day, that being enough to meet the demand of the city. These factories are located on the bank of the Colorado, from which they are supplied with water by systems connected with their respective establishments.

THE AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

consists of an effective force of 172 members, including officers. The total value of engines, horses, towers and other paraphernalia belonging to the department is \$50,000. The efficient service rendered by this well disciplined department has greatly reduced the rates of insurance. No city of its size in America can boast of a better fire department than Austin possesses.

THE BUSINESS HOUSES

of Austin consist of 73 general merchandise stores, 81 retail grocers, 15 hardware, 6 jewelry, 7 merchant tailors, 7 cigars and tobaccos, 15 saloons, 2 wholesale liquor, 5 wholesale grocers, 2 wholesale dry goods, 1 wholesale and retail furniture, 9 furniture, 7

on the most conservative basis, and afford ample banking facilities for all commercial purposes.

THE MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS

of the city are the Austin Greys, membership, 50; Texas Rifles, membership, 48; Capital City Cavalry company, membership, 50; Brush Guards, membership, 50; Nalle Rifles and the Stoddard Guards.

BUILDING MATERIAL.

In the immediate vicinity of Austin, nature has stored immense quantities of limestone of superior quality, susceptible of the highest polish. When first quarried it is soft and easily worked, but after being exposed to atmospheric action it becomes harder. These limestone quarries furnish inexhaustible supplies for building purposes, and constitute a necessary adjunct to the city. In addition to the home demand, it forms an important article of commerce. There is a mill here for sawing these huge limestone slabs into symmetrical blocks preparatory to shipment to various other cities of Texas.

Among the diversified industries of Austin perhaps none is more worthy of special mention than the brick interests. In the city there are three brick yards, whose aggregate output last year was 10,000,000 bricks. The material of which these bricks are made is a clay specially adapted to that purpose. They make both common and pressed brick. The prices of these brick range from \$8 to \$12 per thousand. Austin is rapidly increasing in wealth and population, and the demand for brick is proportionate.

Several miles west and north of Austin are a number of limekilns owned and operated by an Austin company. The aggregate daily output from these kilns is 275 barrels of lime, which is brought here to the warehouses, whence it is furnished to the trade at home and elsewhere. This is one of the large industries of the city.

AMONG THE NOTABLE BUILDINGS

in Austin not yet enumerated are the land office, the temporary capitol, Millet's elegant opera house, with a seating capacity of 1,100, the court house, governor's mansion, the United States court house and twenty-four churches. Many of the last mentioned class of edifices can lay claim to striking proportions and imposing architecture. They attest eloquently the religious proclivities of the citizens.

TAXABLE AND UNTAXABLE VALUES.

The taxable wealth of the city is nearly \$7,000,000, while the public buildings belonging to the state, county and city, churches, school houses, etc., exempt from taxation, represent a valuation of about \$5,000,000, making the real value of city property, at a low estimate, \$11,000,000.

AUSTIN AS A HEALTH RESORT.

Dr. R. S. Graves, an eminent physician, gives the following testimony on the subject of the city's healthfulness: The peculiar situation and surroundings of Austin render its climate mild and nearly uniform. Situated in