

PART
12

ART WORK

OF

HOUSTON,
TEXAS.

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1904.



SCENE ON PRAIRIE AVENUE.



RESIDENCES ON HARRISBURG ROAD.





SCENE ON MAIN STREET.



SCENES AT THE WATERWORKS.





THE COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK. (From Sketch.)



RESIDENCE OF T. PILLOT.



RESIDENCE OF H. B. RICE.



ON THE PRAIRIE.



SCENES AT HOUSTON HEIGHTS.





SCENE ON THE HARRISBURG ROAD.



THALIAN CLUB.—From Sketch.

141 per cent. over 1890, with an increase of invested capital of 97 per cent., and since 1900 the increase in capital, number of industries, and number of wage earners has been larger in proportion than for the ten years prior to the 1900 census. Ten years earlier, as shown by the census tables, Dallas was in this respect far in advance of Houston, then the second manufacturing city of the state. Now Houston leads Dallas considerably in the amount of capital invested, number of establishments, number of wage earners, cost of materials used, and value of products. The manufacturing industries of Houston pay annually over \$6,000,000 in wages. A long chapter could be written here about Houston's advantage in geographical location for manufacturers and distributors of all kinds, but the object of this sketch is to be historical and descriptive, and it is intended not at all as an advertisement. This matter can be summed up by saying that Houston has the roads and the water outlet; that other aspiring Texas cities, friendly competitors of Houston, have a part of the roads, but are without the water outlet, and that their business must come to and through Houston, because she is the outbound and inbound gateway for all the Texas roads, directly or indirectly. Here is a door which swings both ways, and every time it swings on its hinges it adds to Houston's material wealth and to her ever growing prestige.

The fleecy staple gathered from the thousands of acres of Texas and Indian Territory gravitates to Houston as naturally and as unerringly as the needle turns to the pole. Houston is the home of cotton. In the twenty-ninth annual edition of "Cotton Movement and Fluctuations," a book published by the careful and conservative house of Latham, Alexander & Company, bankers and commission merchants of New York, it is shown that the cotton crop of Texas and the Indian Territory for the year ending August 31, 1901, was 3,809,000 bales, this being the largest ever made and a phenomenal yield; that the crop of the United States was 10,383,000 bales, and that the receipts at Houston were 2,057,355 bales. This cotton book gives the average weight of the Texas cotton bale as 530.53 pounds for the former year, and 522.28 for the latter; 14.15 pounds and 9.01 heavier than the average bale for any other state. The value of the cotton thus received at Houston, including the by-products, may be fairly stated as \$115,000,000 for the respective years mentioned, at Houston prices. This, at the fair value of \$45 a bale, means a daily average of \$252,000 for the cotton alone. While the total crop varies from year to year, because of difference in acreage, etc., there is a general upward tendency in its volume.

For the year 1902 more than one-fifth of the cotton crop of the world was raised within four hundred miles of Houston, and for the same year more than one-quarter of the cotton crop of the United States was raised within three hundred and fifty miles of Houston, not including in either case any part of the state of Louisiana.

Now there is a growing tendency of the cotton manufacturers to bring the mills to the cotton, and with such a foundation Houston looks forward to becoming the metropolis of the manufactured product as she already is of the raw material. With cheap fuel she is now ready for the cotton mills. Heretofore she has not in this respect had so great an advantage, but at no distant day she is destined to become one of the leading cotton manufacturing cities of the world.

While the foregoing sketch of Houston may, at first glance, appear to be historical and statistical, rather than historical and descriptive, the student will doubtless readily concede that it is necessarily so. To present a work of this nature to the public, showing besides the picturesque natural beauties of a city, its magnificent buildings, without describing the sources from which was drawn the wealth that makes such solid magnificence possible, would be to present the public with a work but half finished.