

opposing forces which threatened to distract, if not to destroy, the very system to which he had now pledged his all.

Turning from the actual inauguration of the first President to the commemoration of that event one hundred years afterward, we notice first of all the incipency of the enterprise. As early as March of 1883, a resolution was introduced into the Legislature of Tennessee requesting Congress to make a suitable appropriation for the observance of the Centenary of the American government. The measure is said to have originated with Colonel J. E. Peyton of New Jersey, who, though an Englishman by birth, had for a number of years been prominent as a mover and deviser of Centennial celebrations. It is perhaps true that to him the first movement in favor of the commemorative exercises of 1889 must be attributed.

Practically, however, the celebration originated with the New York Historical Society. In March of 1884 that body passed a resolution to undertake the enterprise. The project was then espoused by the Chamber of Commerce; and Congress and the State of New York were asked to indorse and support the measure. So far as the citizens of New York were concerned, their first public interest was excited by Colonel Peyton and Algernon S. Sullivan. A meeting was held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, on the 1st of September, 1884, and formal steps began to be taken for the celebration. It was not, however, until 1887, and near the close of that year, that a committee of forty-nine citizens, with Mayor Abram S. Hewitt as chairman, was appointed for general supervision of the project. Many prominent citizens of New York, capitalists, military men, merchants, and others espoused the cause, and by the beginning of 1888 the enterprise was well under way.

At an early date it was determined that the commemorative celebration should conform as nearly as practicable to the actual inauguration of Washington. To this end it was decided to invite the President of the United States, whoever he should be, to visit New York, going approximately by the same route which had carried Washington thither one hundred years ago, to be received in like manner, conducted across the harbor in a similar vessel, and to be presented in Wall Street, on the very spot where Washington was inaugurated, and where a Centennial oration commemorative of the progress and glory of the American people was to be delivered. About this central idea all the other features of the celebration were clustered. The event was totally different in character from the great expositions which had been connected with most Centennial celebrations. The Jubilees of France; the great World's Fairs of England; and our own Cen-

tenial Exposition at Philadelphia, in 1876, were of this kind. But in the case of the commemoration of the American government, now undertaken, the feature of exposition was wholly omitted. Every thing was made truly commemorative—designed to point backward to the events of a century ago, and to evoke, through the shadows of several generations, a vivid recollection of the condition of the American people and the American Republic, when the latter was instituted.

During the whole of 1888, and the first months of 1889, the preliminaries were prosecuted with zeal by the Citizens' Committee of New York. Meanwhile the presidential election had been held in which the temporary ascendancy of the Democratic party was replaced by Republican success. Benjamin Harrison, of Indiana, was chosen President. Ex-President Cleveland retired at the close of his administration to New York city, and became a resident of that metropolis. Happily enough, the incoming Chief Magistrate was intimately associated in his family relations with the great events of the Revolution. His great-grandfather, also named Benjamin Harrison, had presided in the Colonial Congress when the Declaration of Independence was adopted, Mr. Hancock being absent from the chair on that ever memorable day. The son of that distinguished statesman had become ninth President of the United States, and now the great-grandson was chosen by the election of the American people to the same high office and dignity.

It was foreseen that the celebration would bring to New York city a vast concourse of people, and the event justified the expectations. It had been decided by the committee to devote two days to the commemorative exercises, namely, the 30th of April, and the 1st of May. For perhaps two weeks before these days the great trains on the many railways centering in the metropolis began to pour out an unusual cargo of human life. They grew longer, and darker with their burden, until, by the 29th of April, the city of New York was a mass of living beings gathered from all parts of the Republic, but principally from the old thirteen States. Next after these, the five great States composing what was a hundred years ago the territory north-west of the river Ohio were best represented. It is probable that at the time of the celebration New York proper held for her own population about 1,750,000 inhabitants, and a fair estimate would perhaps place the strangers then in the city at fully a half million.

For three days before the formal opening of the celebration, the Atlantic coast in the region of New York was visited with a great rain storm, which threatened to mar all that had been attempted, but on the 29th of the month the skies cleared, the air became fresh, and

the sunshine bright. The morning of the Centennial day was ushered in as auspiciously as could be desired, and the metropolis was early astir for the great event.

Meanwhile arrangements had been made for President Harrison, Vice-President Morton, the members of the Cabinet, and other prominent men connected with the government, to go to the city from Washington. To this end a magnificent train was prepared by the managers of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and a little after midnight on the morning of the 29th the President and his companions left Washington. They were received at several points *en route* with much enthusiasm, and as the train drew near New York the stations and towns were crowded with people. At Elizabethtown the real imitation of the Washington inaugural began. Here a committee sent out from New York met the President and prepared to conduct him across the bay. A steamer called the *Despatch* had been prepared for this especial purpose. She was gaily decked with flags and streamers. The upper harbor of New York had been given up to the shipping, which was placed under the command of Admiral Porter. The scene presented from the observatory of the Field Building, erected on the site of Washington's old head quarters at the lower end of the island, was one of the finest ever witnessed. The broad harbor was covered with vessels, and gaily decorated ships of foreign nations vied with the American craft in flinging their streamers to the breeze.

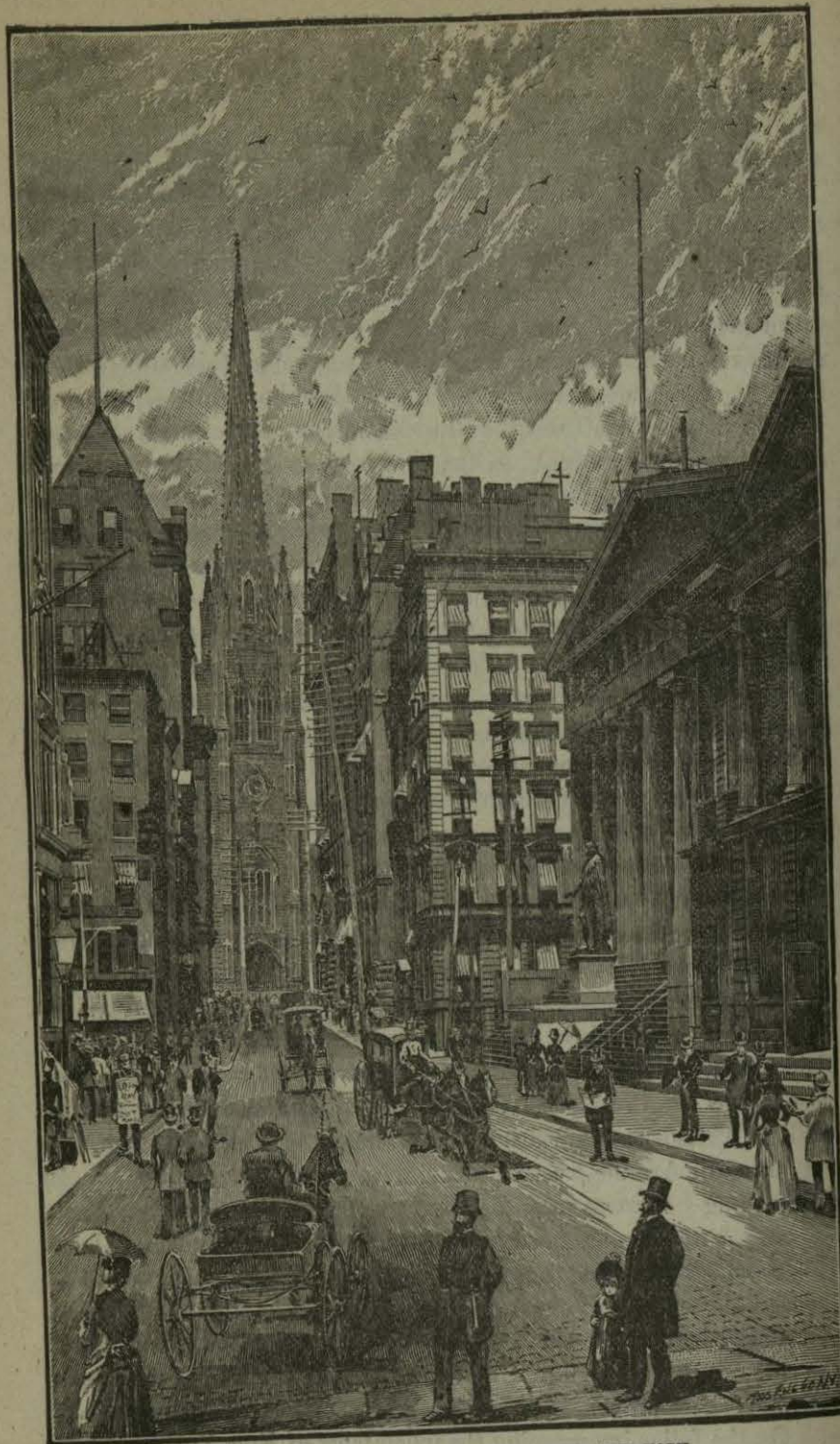
We may here speak of the general appearance of the city. Every pains had been taken to put the metropolis into gala dress and to present to the eye the most inspiring spectacle. Never was a city more completely clad in gay apparel. Every street on both sides as far as the eye could reach was ornamented with flags and streamers, mottoes, and emblems of jubilee. In this respect Broadway and Fifth Avenue were the most elaborately and beautifully adorned. It is doubtful whether in the history of mankind a finer display has been made in the streets of any city. The decorations extended to every variety of public and private edifices. Scarcely a house on Manhattan Island but had its share in the display. Indeed, if one had been lifted in a balloon above old Castle Garden, sweeping northward with his glass he would have seen flags on flags from the Battery to Spuyten Duyvil. Along both sides of the North River and East River and in the islands of the bay the universal emblems were flung to the breeze. And the purest of sunshine glorified the scene with a blaze of morning light. The convoy of the *Despatch*, under command of Captain Ambrose Snow, of the New York Marine Society, was rowed by twelve

venerable retired sea captains. The scene was sufficiently picturesque as they brought the President safely to land in the barge called the *Queen Kapiolani*.

The landing was effected a little after noon-day. The President was received by Mayor Grant, Governor Hill, and Stuyvesant Fish. The procession had been arranged from the foot of Wall Street to the great building of the Equitable Assurance Company in Broadway, where, under the auspices of the Lawyers' Club of New York, the first formal reception of the President occurred. As soon as General Harrison had taken his carriage the procession moved to the Equitable Building, where, on a raised platform, the President, the Vice-President, and Governor Hill were introduced to the invited guests, most of whom had taken part in the procession. In the next place the President lunched in an adjoining private room, the ornamentation of which, for this occasion, is said to have cost nearly \$5,000. At this time the narrow streets in the lower part of the metropolis were packed with eager people. It was with difficulty that the troops, drawn up in a hollow square in front of the Equitable building, were able to keep back the crowds. Meanwhile many bands, especially those of Gilmore and Cappa, discoursed national airs, while in distant parts of the city the hum and roar of the rising excitement could be distinctly heard.

It must be borne in mind that the part assigned to President Harrison in these commemorative exercises was the part of Washington. He was to impersonate the Father of his Country. The next movement of the concourse was from the Equitable Building to the City Hall, where another reception was given. A splendid platform, covered with plush materials, railed in with brass, was erected on the spot where the bodies of Abraham Lincoln and General Grant had lain in state in death, and where the Marquis of Lafayette had stood on his visit to New York in 1824. About 5,000 persons at this place were received by the President. After the close of the exercises at City Hall the President was taken to the residence of Vice-President Morton on Fifth Avenue, whither his wife had already preceded him. In the evening he dined with Mr. Stuyvesant Fish in Gramercy Park, and at a later hour attended the great ball in the Metropolitan Opera House, which had been prepared in imitation and commemoration of the Washingtonian ball given on the occasion of the first inauguration, at which the Father of his Country led the first cotillon. Thus closed the ceremonies of the 29th of April, the day preceding the commemorative exercises proper.

On the following morning the inhabitants of New York, and hun-



SUB-TREASURY, WALL AND NASSAU STREETS, NEW YORK.

dreds of thousands of strangers, poured into the streets to witness the great military parade which was to be the feature of the day. Meanwhile in the lower part of the city the exercises which had been planned in imitation and commemoration of Washington's accession to the presidency were under way. Wall Street and Broad Street were packed with people. A great platform had been erected in front of the Treasury building, now occupying the site of old Federal Hall, and marked by the presence of Ward's colossal statue of Washington. It was here that the oratorical and literary exercises were to take place. These were to consist of a Centennial oration by Hon. Chauncey M. Depew, also of an address by President Harrison, of a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier, and of such religious services as were appropriate to the occasion. Several of the leading clergymen of the metropolis were present on the stand. Archbishop Corrigan, Dr. Richard S. Storrs, and Dr. Henry C. Potter, bishop of New York, were the most distinguished of the group.

The exercises were opened by Mr. Elbridge T. Gerry, who in a few explanatory words introduced Dr. Storrs, who pronounced the invocation. The accessories were all in keeping with the occasion. President Harrison sat in a chair which had been much used by Washington. The table also was Washington's, and the Bible which was laid thereon was that on which the Father of his Country had taken the solemn oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. The Whittier poem was then read by Mr. C. W. Bowen, secretary of the Citizens' Committee, as follows:

THE VOW OF WASHINGTON.

BY JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

The sword was sheathed; in April's sun
Lay green the fields by freedom won;
And severed sections, weary of debates,
Joined hands at last, and were United States.

O, city sitting by the sea!
How proud the day that dawned on thee;
When the New Era, long desired, began,
And in its need the hour had found the Man!

One thought the cannon's salvos spoke;
The resnant bell-tower's vibrant stroke;
The voiceful streets, the plaudit-echoing halls,
And prayer and hymn borne heavenward from St. Paul's.

How felt the land in every part
 The strong throb of a nation's heart
 As its great leader gave, with reverent awe,
 His pledge to Union, Liberty, and Law.

That pledge the heavens above him heard;
 That vow the sleep of centuries stirred;
 In world-wide wonder listening peoples bent
 Their gaze on freedom's great experiment.

Could it succeed? Of honor sold
 And hopes deceived all history told;
 Above the wrecks that strewed the mournful past
 Was the long dream of ages true at last?

Thank God! The people's choice was just;
 The one man equal to his trust;
 Wise beyond lore and without weakness good,
 Calm in the strength of flawless rectitude.

His rule of justice, order, peace,
 Made possible the world's release;
 Taught prince and serf that power is but a trust,
 And rule alone which serves the ruled is just.

That freedom generous is, but strong
 In hate of fraud and selfish wrong—
 Pretense that turns her holy truths to lies,
 And lawless license masking in her guise.

Land of his love! with one glad voice
 Let thy great sisterhood rejoice;
 A century's suns o'er thee have risen and set
 And, God be praised! we are One Nation yet.

And still we trust the years to be
 Shall prove his hope was destiny;
 Leaving our flag with all its added stars
 Unrent by faction and unstained by wars.

Lo! where with patient toil he nursed
 And trained the new set plant at first,
 The widening branches of a stately tree
 Stretch from the sunrise to the sunset sea.

And in its broad and sheltering shade,
 Sitting with none to make afraid,
 Were we now silent through each mighty limb
 The winds of heaven would sing the praise of him.

O'er first and best! his ashes lie
 Beneath his own Virginian sky.
 Forgive, forget, O true and just and brave,
 The storm that swept above thy sacred grave.

Forever in the awful strife
 And dark hours of the nation's life,
 Through the fierce tumult pierced his warning word;
 Their father's voice his erring children heard.

The change for which he prayed and sought
 In that sharp agony was wrought;
 No partial interest draws its alien line
 'Twixt North and South, the cypress and the pine.

One people now, all doubt beyond,
 His name shall be our union bond;
 We lift our hands to heaven, and here and now
 Take on our lips the old Centennial vow.

For rule and trust must need be ours;
 Chooser and chosen both are powers;
 Equal in service as in rights, the claim
 Of duty rests on each and all the same.

Then let the sovereign millions where
 Our banner floats in sun and air,
 From the warm palm-lands to Alaska's cold,
 Repeat with us THE PLEDGE a century old!

The oration of Mr. Depew was of a high order, enlogistic of the present—the voice of a patriot who believes in the past and trusts the future. The address by the President was also able and patriotic. The exercises were closed with a benediction by Archbishop Corrigan, of the archdiocese of New York.

In the meantime the great military parade—the greatest of all such displays in the United States, with the single exception of the review of the soldiers at Washington at the close of the war—was in preparation for the march. The principal streets in the lower part of the city had been assigned for the formation of the various divisions of the parade. At last the procession was ready to move. A number of magnificent carriages bearing the President, the Vice-President, the members of the Cabinet, and other distinguished representatives of the government, swept up to the head of the column and led the way to the great reviewing stand which had been prepared on the west side of Madison Square, looking down into Fifth Avenue. Here the President and his companions took their places to review the column as it passed, and for six hours the chief magistrate stood up to recognize, in his official capacity, the passing squadrons of the greatest parade ever known in a time of peace west of the Atlantic.

It were difficult to describe the great procession. It was admirably

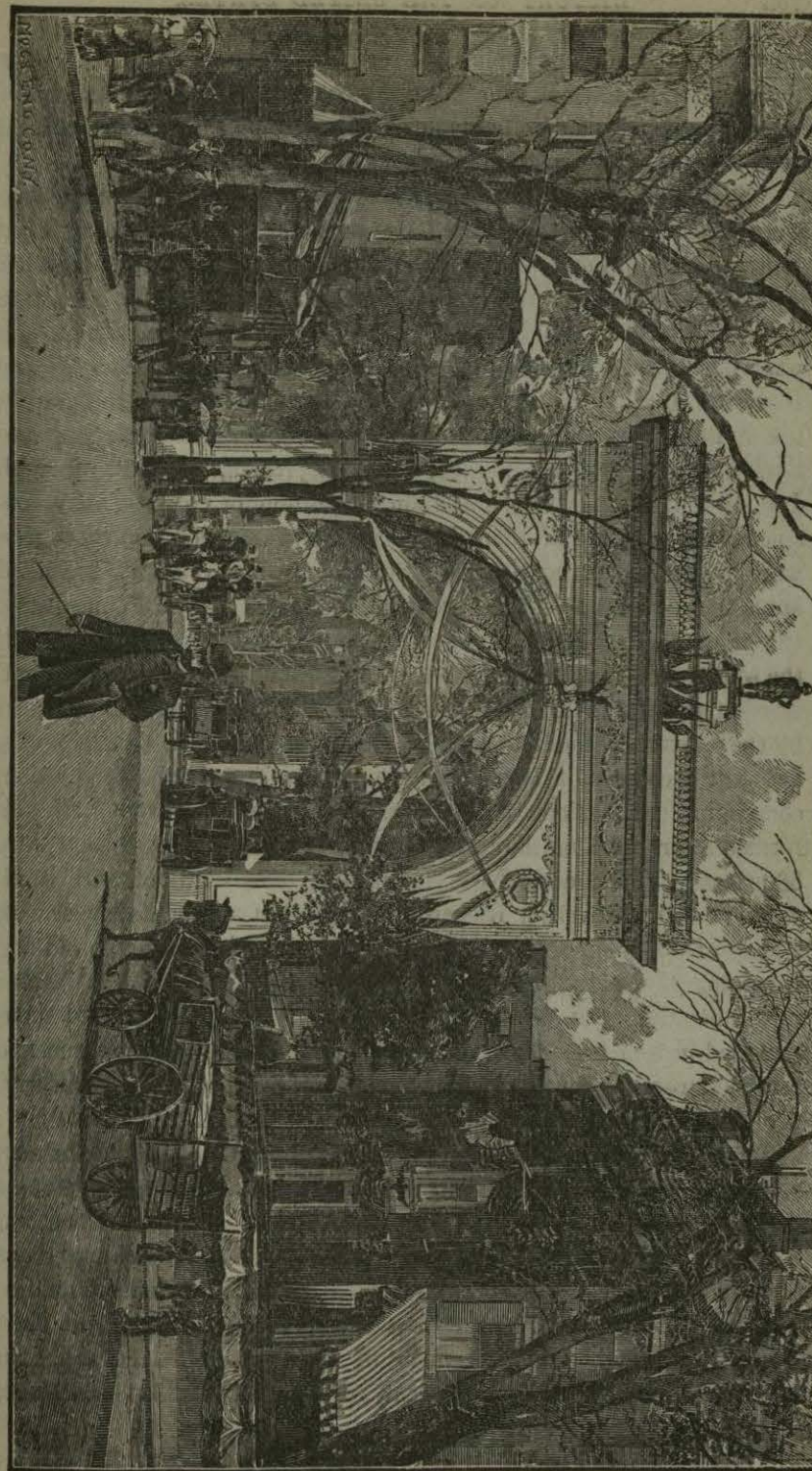
managed—wholly military. The different divisions were arranged in files from eighteen to twenty-two men abreast. In many places the marching was in close rank, so that the knees of those in the rear rank fitted almost geometrically into those of the men in front. The passage was at the rate of more than 9,000 per hour. The best estimates place the number in line at over 52,000. Major General John M. Schofield was commander-in-chief. The course of march was from Wall Street into Broadway; up Broadway to Waverly Place; through Waverly Place into Fifth Avenue; along that magnificent thoroughfare to Fourteenth Street; thence around Union Square, through to Fifth Avenue and thence northward to Central Park.

Through all this distance and on both sides of the street was a solid wall of human beings, rising to the rear by every kind of contrivance which human ingenuity could invent, so as to gain a view of the procession. The mass on the sidewalks was from twenty to fifty persons deep. In every advantageous position scaffolding with ascending seats had been erected for the accommodation of the multitudes, and not a seat was left unoccupied. At the street crossings every variety of vehicle had been drawn up, and the privilege of standing on boxes or sitting in carts, wagons, or hacks was sold at high figures to the eager people who pressed into the crowd. Windows



JOHN M. SCHOFIELD.

and every other available point of view, housetops, balconies, stoops, verandas, were crowded to their utmost capacity. In favorite localities fabulous prices were charged for the privilege of looking from a window upon the passing cavalcade. The latter was, as we have said, preceded by the Presidential company. General Schofield, senior Major-General of the American Army, as chief marshal, rode at the head of the column. After him, and leading the van of the procession proper, were over 2,000 regulars, infantry and cavalry, drawn from the Army; then came the cadets from West Point, whose marching and uniform and bearing were of such excellence as to excite a chorus of cheers from end to end of the long march. Next followed the artillery and batteries of the regular army. Many of the guns and



much of the armor was resplendent for its brilliancy. After these came the marines and naval cadets, a vast column of apprentices, whose march, by its peculiar rolling movement, denoted that the column had been recently gathered from the decks of ships.

Thus closed the first division of the procession—that is, those who were taken from the Army and Navy of the United States. Then followed the militiamen—the National Guard of the different States. At the head was a column of 370 men from Delaware; for Delaware had been first of the old thirteen States to adopt the Constitution, and was thus given a place of honor on the centennial anniversary. The Governor of each State represented in the parade rode at the head of the division from his own Commonwealth. Most of the governors were in civil attire. General Beaver, of Pennsylvania, General Fitzhugh Lee, of Virginia, and General John B. Gordon, of Georgia, were conspicuous at the head of their divisions. It was noticed that those who were present from the Southern States were received with unstinted applause. Governor Beaver rode at the head of the Pennsylvania troops, numbering fully 8,000 men. Then came Governor Green, with the soldiers of New Jersey 3,700 strong; then Georgia, with General Gordon and his staff. The Foot Guards from Connecticut, preceded by the Governor, numbered 600. Governor Ames, of Massachusetts, headed the column of 1,500 from the old Bay State—a noble division, containing the Ancient and Honorable Artillery of Boston, all uniformed after the most antique pattern. The men of Maryland were 500 strong. Then came New Hampshire; then Vermont, with a division of 700. Governor Richardson, of North Carolina, followed with a body of 500 men. This division was fortunate in bearing an old flag belonging to North Carolina in the pre-Revolutionary epoch. After this came the great division of New York. Twelve thousand men, arranged in four brigades of eighteen regiments, one battalion, and five batteries, were the contribution of the Empire State to the great display. At the head of the line rode Governor David B. Hill.

In this column the Seventh Regiment, made up of prominent men of New York city, and numbering over 1,000, was, perhaps, the most conspicuous single body in the whole procession. The Twenty-second Regiment vied with its rival; and it might be difficult to decide whether the palm for marching and other evidences of elegant training should be awarded to the West Point Cadets, the Seventh Regiment of New York, the Twenty-second Regiment of the same State, the squadron from the Michigan Military Academy, or the Twenty-third Regiment, of Brooklyn.

Behind this magnificent display of the military came the veterans of the Civil War, the men of the Grand Army of the Republic, headed by their commander-in-chief, General William Warner. These were arranged column after column to an aggregate of 12,000, according to the locality from which they were gathered, the rear being closed with a magnificent body of old soldiers, numbering nearly 4,000, from Brooklyn and Kings County. It was already nightfall when this extreme left of the column passed the reviewing stand, and the parade for the day was at an end.

The evening of the 30th was occupied with one of the most elaborate and sumptuous banquets ever spread in the United States. For this purpose the Metropolitan Opera House, in Broadway, had been procured and decorated. It was claimed by those experienced in such matters that the floral ornamentation of the hall was far superior in costliness and beauty to any thing of like kind ever before displayed in the country. The boxes of the theater were adorned with the national colors, with the shields and coats-of-arms of the various States of the Union. Over the proscenium arch was a portrait of Washington, arranged in a cluster of evergreens and flowers. The auditorium was brilliantly illuminated, and the scene of splendor on every hand might well dazzle the eye and surprise the imagination of the beholder. The banqueters, embracing many of the chief men of the nation, were seated at a series of tables, the first and principal one being occupied by the President of the United States, the Governor of New York, the Vice-President, the Lieutenant-Governor, Chief-Justice Fuller, Judge Andrews, General Schofield, Admiral Porter, Senator Evarts, Senator Hiscock, Ex-President Hayes, Ex-President Cleveland, Bishop Potter, Speaker Cole, of the New York Assembly, Secretary Proctor, Hon. S. S. Cox, General William T. Sherman, Clarence W. Bowen, and Elbridge T. Gerry, the last two representing the Citizens' Committee. At this table Mayor Grant presided, and read the toasts of the evening.

The feast began at 9 o'clock in the evening. At the close a series of brief addresses were delivered by the Governor of New York, Ex-President Cleveland, Ex-President Hayes, General Sherman, Senator Evarts, President Eliot, of Harvard; James Russell Lowell, Senator Daniel, and others. The closing address was by the President of the United States. Nearly all the speeches were faultless in their subject-matter, eloquent in delivery, and worthy to be regarded as classics of the occasion.

The programme prepared by the Citizens' Committee embraced a general holiday of three days' duration, during which business was sus-

pended throughout the city. On the 29th and 30th of April and on the 1st day of May the restriction was faithfully regarded. One might traverse Broadway and find but few business establishments open to the public. This was true particularly of the two principal days of the festival.

It now remains to notice the great civic parade of the 1st of May, with which the commemorative exercises were concluded. The design was that this should represent the industries, the progress, and in general the civic life of the Metropolis of the Nation and of the country at large, as distinguished from the military display of the preceding day. It was found from the experience of the 30th that the line of march was too lengthy, and the second day's course was made somewhat shorter. It is not intended in this connection to enter into any elaborate account of the civic procession of the third day. It was second only in importance to the great military parade which had preceded it. The procession was composed, in large part, of those various civic orders and brotherhoods with which modern society so much abounds. In these the foreign nationalities which have obtained so large a footing in New York city were largely prevalent. The German societies were out in full force. Companies representing almost every nation of the Old World were in the line, carrying gay banners, keeping step to the music of magnificent bands, and proudly lifting their mottoes and emblems in the May-day morning.

The second general feature of this procession was the historical part. The primitive life of Manhattan Island, the adventures of the early explorers and discoverers along the American coast, the striking incidents in the early annals of the old Thirteen States, were allegorized and mounted in visible form on chariots and drawn through the streets. All the old heroes of American History, from Columbus to Peter Stuyvesant, were seen again in mortal form, received obeisance, and heard the shouts of the multitudes. From ten o'clock in the forenoon till half-past three in the afternoon the procession was under way, the principal line of march being down Fifth Avenue and through the principal squares of the city. With the coming of evening the pyrotechnic display of the preceding night was renewed in many parts of the metropolis, though it could hardly be said that the fireworks were equal in brilliancy, beauty, and impressiveness to the magnificent day pageants of the streets.

One of the striking features of the celebration was the ease and rapidity with which the vast multitudes were breathed into and breathed out of the city. In the principal hotels fully 150,000 strangers were

registered as guests. More than twice this number were distributed in the smaller lodging-houses and private dwellings of New York and Brooklyn. Yet the careful observer abroad in the streets saw neither the coming nor the going. With the appearance of the days of the celebration the throngs were present; on the following days they were gone. The great railways centering in the metropolis had done their work noiselessly, speedily, effectively. It may well be recorded as one of the marvels of modern times that only two persons are said to have lost their lives in this tremendous assemblage, extending through several days, and that at least one of these died suddenly from heart disease, while the manner of the death of the other was unknown. Such is the triumph which the mastery of the human mind over the forces of the material world has easily achieved in our age, under the guidance of that beneficent science by which the world is at once enlightened and protected from danger.

The close of the year 1888 and the beginning of 1889 were marked by a peculiar episode in the history of the country. An unexpected and even dangerous complication arose between the United States and Germany relative to the Samoan Islands. This comparatively unimportant group of the South Pacific lies in a south-westerly direction, at a distance of about five thousand miles from San Francisco and nearly two thousand miles eastward from Australia. The long-standing policy of the government, established under the administration of Washington and ever since maintained, to have no entanglements with foreign nations, seemed in this instance to be strangely at variance with the facts.

During 1888 the civil affairs of the Samoan Islands were thrown into extreme confusion by what was really the progressive disposition of the people, but what appeared in the garb of an insurrection against the established authorities. The government of the islands is a monarchy. The country is ruled by native princes, and is independent of foreign powers. The capital, Apia, lies on a bay of the same name on the northern coast of the principal island. It was here that the insurrection gained greatest headway.

The revolutionary movement was headed by an audacious chieftain called Tamasese. The king of the island was Malietoa, and his chief supporter, Mataafa. At the time the German Empire was represented in Samoa by its Consul-General, Herr Knappe; and the United States was represented by Hon. Harold M. Sewall. A German armed force virtually deposed Malietoa and set up Tamasese on the throne. On the other hand, the representative of the United States, following