

# MAGNIFICENT QUARTERS FOR OUR NAVAL CADETS

It was in accordance with the enlightened sentiment of the age that Congress two years ago made a preliminary appropriation of \$1,000,000 looking toward the complete renovation of the United States Naval academy at Annapolis and the ultimate possibility of \$3,000,000. Aside from the objection that a contemplation of some well up in the future is likely to beget a spirit of extravagance, it is universal knowledge that there is a true economy in laying the foundations of public institutions broad and deep and erecting buildings that shall defy the ravages of time and express architecturally the status of national government.

While the general situation of the Naval academy is considered as an ideal one, viewing its natural features and immediate environment, yet so far as most of its structures are concerned

"Jackies" have or should have received their education and training.

Additions have been made from time to time to the grounds about the fort until at present Uncle Sam owns several hundred acres, and is contemplating an increase of his holdings by dredging out the flats of the river and bay.

Beautifully situated as are the grounds, with the Chesapeake north and east and one side bounded by the Severn river, the buildings to be seen there—about 50 in number—look as if they might have been shaken out of some giant's pepper box and dumped here and there as chance decreed all over the lot.

Take the armory, for instance, as an example of the makeshift which necessity has compelled the academy to adopt. It was built in 1881, is one story high, 250 feet long, 83 feet in width and is one of the most modern buildings here. The committee appointed a

weight of the roof. It required the rigging of ropes and spars before it could with safety be taken down.

Such incidents as these furnish some of the spice of the cadets' shore existence without which the "eternal grind" might become monotonous. It is not known that they have formally complained, for one of the first lessons they learn at Annapolis is discipline and strict obedience; but it is a matter of current comment that the sanitation is bad, that many ordinary conveniences to be found in modern dwellings are conspicuous by their absence and that the present accommodations are so inadequate that instead of there being a sleeping room and a study for each pair of students, as in the average college, one small room has to answer every purpose for two during the four long years of attendance.

But all this is soon to be changed, if the intentions of Congress are to be taken as a criterion. The poor cadet

begin at the bottom and work a radical renovation of the entire institution, so that there will be located at Annapolis in the end not merely an academy for the training of naval men, but a real university with everything that the term implies.

The pictures presented on this page will convey a more correct conception than mere words of the character and magnitude of the vast undertaking. Starting out with most favorable topographical conditions, which lend themselves to beautiful landscape and architectural effects, the results will be as great from the artistic as from the economic point of view. According to the general plans, the key of the scheme will be the magnificent memorial chapel, with its foundations 160 feet square, and a dome rising to the height of 150 feet. The disposition of the various buildings will be such as not only to bring every structure into the place most convenient for it, but also to

buildings, such as the officers' and cadets' quarters, the academic building, the gymnasium, physics and chemistry building, bathhouse and armory.

The fine old trees which now adorn the campus are to be preserved, while the lawns will be extended toward the river, and the broad parade ground will be enlarged by moving the sea wall, which is of immense monolithic blocks, toward the river channel.

When the proposed plan is carried out, the buildings will be in three main groups—on each of three sides of the campus, the other side being bounded by the basin. The cadets' quarters will be on the right entering from the town, the academic buildings on the left, and the officers' quarters, as at present, on a line parallel with and just inside the wall which incloses the grounds on the side toward the town. The cadets' quarters, standing between the campus and the great parade ground, will be flanked on

## HE OBEYED ORDERS.

"When I was traveling for a house in Chicago some years ago," says a commercial traveler, "I put up at a small but excellent hotel. There I made the acquaintance of a gentleman from Chicago who, I learned, was the president of a bank. He talked to me for quite a time and informed me that he was very particular about his room and the service when he stopped at a hotel, and that he made it a point to exact the utmost respect from all the employees from the clerk down.

"About 11 o'clock the same night I was startled to hear loud conversation in the next room to mine, and, listening, soon discovered that one voice was that of my friend the president. Apparently the porter had invaded his privacy.

"What are you going to do, porter?" asked the president.

"I'm going to throw you out," answered the porter.

"How dare you, sir! Leave the room!"

"And with that the porter leaped upon the astonished guest.

"Help! Fire! Murder!" yelled the president.

"Shut yer mouth!" said the porter, and he began to drag my friend out and down the stairs.

"Out went the president yelling for help like a Comanche. When the door was reached, the porter threw him out and returned to the office, where he was accosted by the astonished proprietor.

"What did you throw that man out for?" he demanded.

"'Cause I was told to," said the porter.

"Who told you to?" queried the proprietor.

"This here woman," replied the porter, indicating the housekeeper, who happened to be standing near by.

"Why, sir, I did nothing of the kind," said the indignant woman.

"Yes, she did, sir," said the porter, and here's her orders," pulling out a small scrap of paper.

"Taking the paper, the proprietor read the following words:

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GENERAL VIEW

THE CHAPEL

MAIN ENTRANCE

[From drawings by the architect, Ernest Flagg.]

## PROJECTED BUILDINGS FOR THE NAVAL ACADEMY AT ANNAPOLIS.

is a standing reproach to the American conception of progress.

Without denying that Annapolis, adjacent to which the Naval academy is situated, is a spot to be cherished, with the traditions of Washington and Captain John Smith and its colonial and revolutionary associations, it must be admitted that it looks backward rather than forward and hardly keeps step with the spirit of the times. A glitzy halo of antiquity is a good thing to have in its place, and the chief criticism of European writers has been that the United States lacks that air of antiquity and maturity that goes with the possession of ruins and antiquities. But if the teachings of history mean anything, they show that material ruins and the halo usually indicative of antiquity precede an undesirable condition of decay.

It is now 150 years since the Hon. George Bancroft, the eminent historian, secretary of the navy, waved his hand of authority and brought into being the United States Naval academy. The very best place at that time available was Fort Severn, an army post overlooking the Severn, about nine miles from the city and a windmill. Here the naval school was formally opened in 1819, and here all the naval officers who had it over American

few years ago to examine into conditions here pronounced it actually unsafe and the cadets' lives in danger from a possible collapse. For nearly 200 feet of its length it is shored up on the outside with heavy timbers bolted together, until it looks more like a building in process of construction than one finished years ago, in which, when the weather will not permit of outdoor work, all drills must be performed.

To illustrate the flimsy character of the old buildings, one of the congressional committees, a graduate of the academy, related a story of his own adventures. One night, he said, when he and some of his comrades were hard at work on their studies they suddenly heard a rumbling sound, followed by a terrible crash, and their lights were extinguished by a rush of cold air. One side of the building had fallen out, exposing the rooms on the side toward the water and leaving the young men sitting on a sort of shelf in the open air, staring into space and wondering how in the world they should ever get down. The floor beams held, however, else there might have been great loss of life.

At another time, and more recently, one of the buildings in this same row split in two from top to bottom and seemed to be held together only by the

who hitherto has had to submit to the boast of the West Point that he was lapped in luxury by comparison, may now cherish the hope that nowhere else in the world will be found such accommodations for the student of naval affairs as at Annapolis—assuming that his Uncle Samuel, who is supposed to take care of good boys and punish the bad ones, will do as he has promised and cause Congress to eventually appropriate the full \$5,000,000 which the plans call for. That is what the total will be, it is said, by the time all the schemes of improvement are carried out, and then the United States will be able to truly boast that it has the grandest and most complete school for the training of its sea fighters to be found anywhere in the wide, wide world.

And this time the great American eagle is not indulging in hyperbole, but is proclaiming a concrete and solid fact. Not only have the general plans been approved and adopted by which the entire renovation and rearrangement of the Annapolis buildings are to be worked out, but about \$1,000,000 has already been expended. Convicted at last that the old structures are entirely inadequate and equally sure that the makeshift policy of patching and shoring up is the dearest in the long run, the powers that be have concluded to

group them where they will produce a fine artistic effect and not interfere with the natural beauties of the place. The area of the grounds, says the consulting architect, Mr. Ernest Flagg of New York, who furnished the plans, was thought to be too restricted. To overcome this and at the same time to deepen the water along the sea walls it is proposed to reclaim flats which lie under water on two sides and to obtain the necessary filling by dredging out a part of the area for a basin. In placing the buildings it was thought that as the institution was chiefly for the benefit of the cadets, their quarters ought to occupy the best and most commanding location on the grounds—that is to say, the site of the present superintendent's residence.

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one side by the bathhouse, on the other by the armory and will be connected by covered colonnades.

Work was commenced in accordance with the scheme of improvement a year ago last March and has been in progress ever since. The buildings now in process of erection include only the bathhouse, armory and power house, which are to be completed within a year, when, as the appropriations are made, others will be taken up in sequence of importance. The largest of these structures is the armory, which will contain an immense hall 350 feet long and 150 feet wide, with uninterrupted floor space for drills and dances, and above it a continuous gallery which will serve as a sort of military museum, while in the gallery of the bathhouse opposite will be collections of a naval character.

West Point cadet is exposed, and in general it may be said that, while the rules of the academy and the discipline are as rigid as in the other institution, the lines between the different classes are not quite so strictly drawn. The term of service has been four years, with two years' additional cruising on board ship, and the graduate pledges himself to serve at least eight years after his release from the academy.

It has been proposed to extend the term of study to five years and, perhaps, omit the extra two at sea, and certainly the curriculum calls for intense application in order to grow into four years the amount of study necessary to pass muster and obtain a commission. Every hour of the day is filled from the time the gun is fired at 6 in the morning until "taps" is sounded at 10 at night.

TRUMAN L. ELTON.

good as the American melon, are made superior by being pulled from the vines green and hung up until winter to ripen. Americans have never tried this plan.

The national airs of great countries are short, while those of little countries are long. "God Save the Queen" is 14 bars, the Russian hymn is 16 bars, and "Hail, Columbia!" has 28 bars.

Siam's national hymn has 26 bars, and

that of Uruguay 70, Chile 46, and so on. San Marino has the longest national hymn except China, which is so long that people take half a day off to listen to it.

In Illinois during the last 15 years birds have decreased 35 per cent.

A merino lamb of Vermont lineage sold at the last cattle fair at Montevideo for \$485.

## INTERESTING TO EVERYBODY

The Turkish government has issued a decree prohibiting the importation of apparatus connected with electricity. In every Siberian city the most conspicuous and finest structures are the churches and the government buildings. Medical men in Italy derive so much of their income from foreigners that

most of the students now learn to speak English and German.

A dock capable of accommodating steamers 50 per cent longer and broader than the Oceanic is to be built at Liverpool. It will cost nearly \$2,000,000.

The grand vizier of Turkey gets twice the salary enjoyed by the British pre-

mier and has perquisites amounting to about as much more. No wonder the sultan is perpetually hard up!

Spain has introduced a reform in the carrying out of the death penalty. Executions will be no longer public, and criminals will no longer be exposed to public view in the prison chapel for 24 hours before being put to death, as in the past. The object of this custom

was to enable the criminal to prepare for death and to allow the public to join in praying for his soul.

In Lodz, Russian Poland, the police recently discovered a retreat in which the socialist journal Rabotnik was published. Six people working in the place were arrested; yet the paper came out subsequently despite the confiscation of the press. In this next issue was