

present but the appearance of a business block, that a public building should be surrounded by a park, and that the park should be made the most attractive spot in the city, a spot which all the people, rich and poor alike, may enjoy. The latter ideas prevailed. The county offered the city its half interest in the Eighth ward square, the city accepted the offer and the result is the laying of this corner stone today. Upon that stone will be erected a magnificent structure, whose dome towering into the sky in imitation of yonder mountain will delight the people.

The length of it is 272 feet, in width 140, and in height four stories and a basement. The height of the tower from its base is 250 feet, its base being 40 feet square. In height the basement is 14 feet, the first floor 17, the second floor 18, the third floor 16 and the fourth floor 12 feet. The contract price is \$377,987. All complete, including surroundings, will cost about \$500,000. The city will occupy the north end and the county the south end, each one-half of the building.

In the county's portion the basement will be occupied by the treasurer, sheriff, superintendent of schools, fish commissioner, county surveyor and coroner. Upon the first floor are located the recorder's, collector's and assessor's apartments; upon the second floor the probate court, selectmen, county clerk, county attorney, marshal, witness, and jury rooms; upon the third floor district courts and clerk, and upon the fourth floor jury rooms.

The building will have two elevators and numerous vaults and will be semi-fire proof.

The boiler and engine house will be erected on a lot distant about 300 feet and will be connected with this building by means of a tunnel into which all steam and water pipes necessary for heat, etc., will be placed. This will avoid the danger of casualty by fire and steam so common in public buildings. The size of the building was a matter of much discussion and comment. Many thought the one planned by Architect Apponyi large enough. The gravity of the situation at last induced the county court to send a committee to investigate public buildings elsewhere and report their findings. That committee, after carefully inspecting other buildings, among them the county court house in the city of Denver, and, after conferring with the officials occupying them, reports that the great danger in the erection of a public building lay, not in building it too large, but too small, and advised accordingly.

After much trial and difficulty the work was begun. The foundation, the most important part of the whole structure, is complete. The quicksand, of which so much was said and so little found, has been bridged over and ere long the building will stand superb. Its style of architecture is of the Romanesque order, which is among the most elegant productions which the genius of Roman architects has ever devised. It is a combination of Roman and Byzantine art. Graceful, though somewhat intricate, naturally suggestive of permanence and solidity, with excellent facilities for light, it unquestionably excels the architecture of recent times in the material re-

quisite for a public building. Numerous styles of architecture of modern times, though pleasing to the eye, are complete failures for public edifices, and bear no comparison with that of ancient date.

The ruins of Pompeii, the remains of Greece and Rome—when will they cease to be a marvel and a wonder? Being erected in our advanced stage of civilization, of thought and inquiry, I apprehend that this building will be a handsome and stately structure, the admiration of future generations.

A public building represents the progressiveness and character of the people who built it. If grand and stately, it inspires noble thought and action and cultivates the æsthetic nature of the individual. When such a building shall have crumbled back to earth, when decay shall have obliterated the finest products of the sculptor's and painter's art, its ruins, like the ruins of the great temples of antiquity, will stand in bold relief—a mirror which will reflect the history of the populace. No less than its style of architecture, the site of a public building should be selected with great care. If it be located on a business street, in a business way, it will excite little favorable comment, no matter how costly or unique the design. The sculptor, from the rough block of marble, carves the most beautiful statue, but if this be placed into some remote nook the world will be no better for his skill. The painter's art produces the finest picture, the charming effect of which is lost by being hung into a room without regard to its form, or dimensions, or to the direction of light. Just so with a public building; it may be a masterpiece of art, but we cannot appreciate or respect it, unless it be surrounded by architectural features artistically arranged. Who can study, on the pages of history, the approaches to the halls of antiquity, to the palaces of Athens or Rome or Corinth, without exciting admiration for the delicacy of arrangement and for the profound knowledge of effect? Who can behold the parks and public edifices of our own beautiful Washington without a feeling of awe, inspired by those venerable productions of art and nature? Who will not say as another has said: "Happy the lives of those who so understood and so exquisitely enjoyed the beautiful alliance of art and nature!" Contrast this with Chicago. Its public buildings, the product of great architectural skill—costly, grand, majestic structures lost in the midst of crowded streets.

This site is in perfect harmony with the natural grandeur which surrounds it, being selected in the heart of a metropolis which itself is unsurpassed anywhere in this broad land for the beauty of its location. The awe-inspiring Wasatch on the east, the Oquirrh on the west, nature has done her part. To complete the stately structure which is slowly but surely building, it needs but the skill of the artist and of the horticulturist, the procuring of which has been entrusted to the joint committee. A confiding public has clothed you with power to erect a magnificent edifice, and upon your wisdom and honor and integrity will depend the faithful execution of the trust. You have a grave and important duty to perform. The city council and county

court expect you to be equal to the task. Sixty thousand people have confided in you and look to you for honest returns. May neither the love of fortune, the influence of a friend, nor the power of an adversary avert a single member from the path of duty and rectitude. Royal palaces may crumble, sculptured columns fall, the pyramids themselves show signs of decay, but our deeds and acts will vibrate into eternity.

This structure will be a living memorial of our progressiveness and enterprise, of our character and history, and this is a most fitting day to lay its corner stone. It is commemorative of the day when, forty-five years ago, the Pioneers cast their first hopeful glance over this valley of sagebrush.

It is needless for me to trace the wanderings of that determined band from the time they bade farewell to friend and foe and commenced their perilous journey across the lonely plains and over the rugged mountains, civilization in the rear, unconquered savages in the van. It is needless to refer to the trials, the heart burnings, the tribulations. Most of that fearless and devoted band have gone to sleep, but there are a few among us still who can tell the story.

It is fitting that on this day we should concentrate our thoughts on the scenes enacted during the period of forty-five years which culminated in the laying of the corner-stone of the most magnificent structure, of its kind, that has ever been erected anywhere in this great inter-mountain country. This is a more interesting because of its location.

Standing today where the pioneers stood forty-five years ago, notice the marvelous change—a wilderness then, now a veritable paradise, then the habitation of wild beast and wild men, now the home of thousands of families of our own race; then the land of instinct, now of reason, civilization and refinement, science and art. We may well do honor to those who wrested this lovely valley from the untutored savage, and I predict that when the bitterness of the past shall have been blotted out, when the last ground of groan of discord and dissension shall have been lost in oblivion, when forgive and forget, peace and good will shall have full sway, there will be some inspired hand that will paint the first pitching of tents in this charming vale, and some inspired pen will write, in lofty verse, a truthful history of that eventful period, and me thinks I can see on the pages of that history the names of the pioneers of Utah, and those names will be revered by grateful people who enjoy the blessings resulting from their courage and bravery.

In conclusion and in behalf of Salt Lake county I desire to acknowledge the debt of gratitude which we owe to you, most worshipful grand master, and to your craft who have performed the ceremonies at the laying of this corner stone. You represent that ancient and most honorable order of Free Masons. Your participation adds great dignity and solemnity to these exercises, and as your order is bound together by the most solemn ties of friendship and brotherly love, may not that same spirit be permitted to pervade this entire Territory and unite with that same bond of affection a people dis-