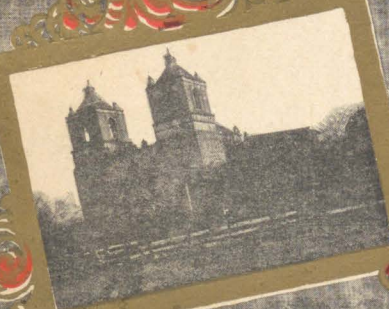


SOUVENIR OF THE
PICTURESQUE ALAMO CITY

SAN ANTONIO
TEXAS



SOUVENIR

OF

The Picturesque Alamo City

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

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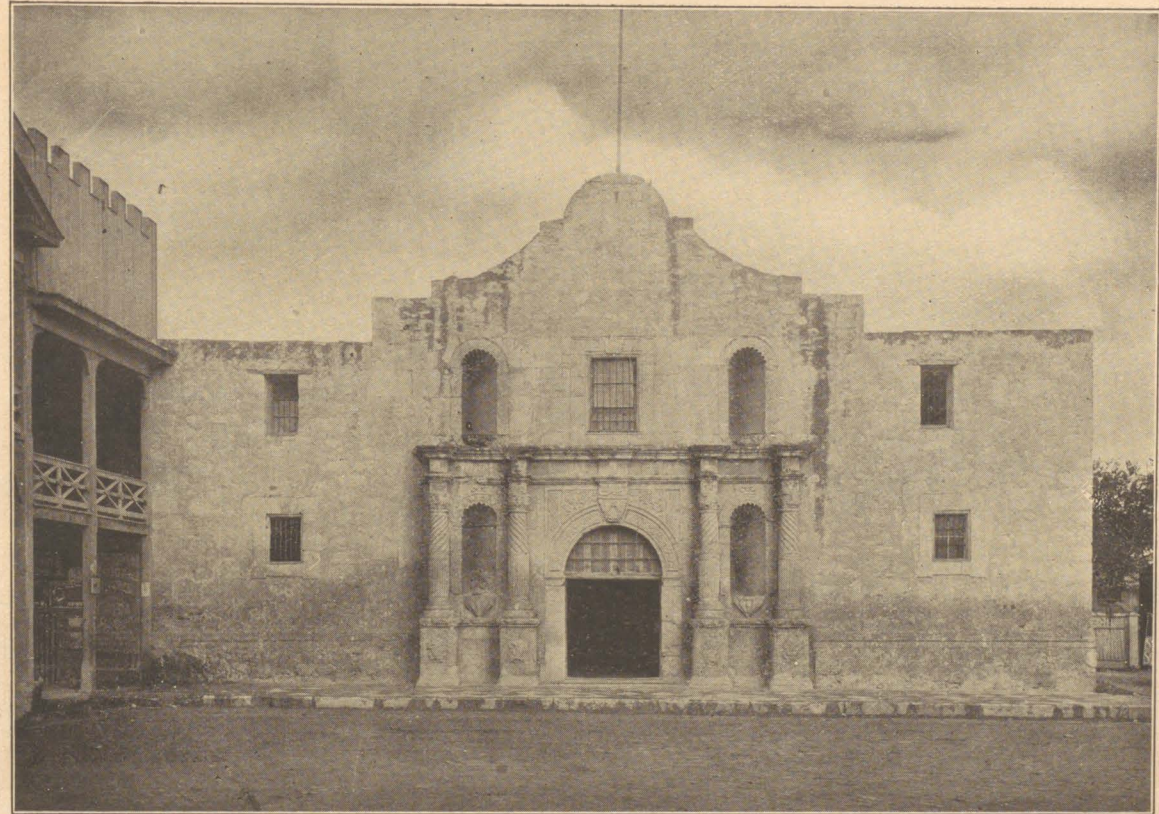
EBERS & WURTZ, Publishers

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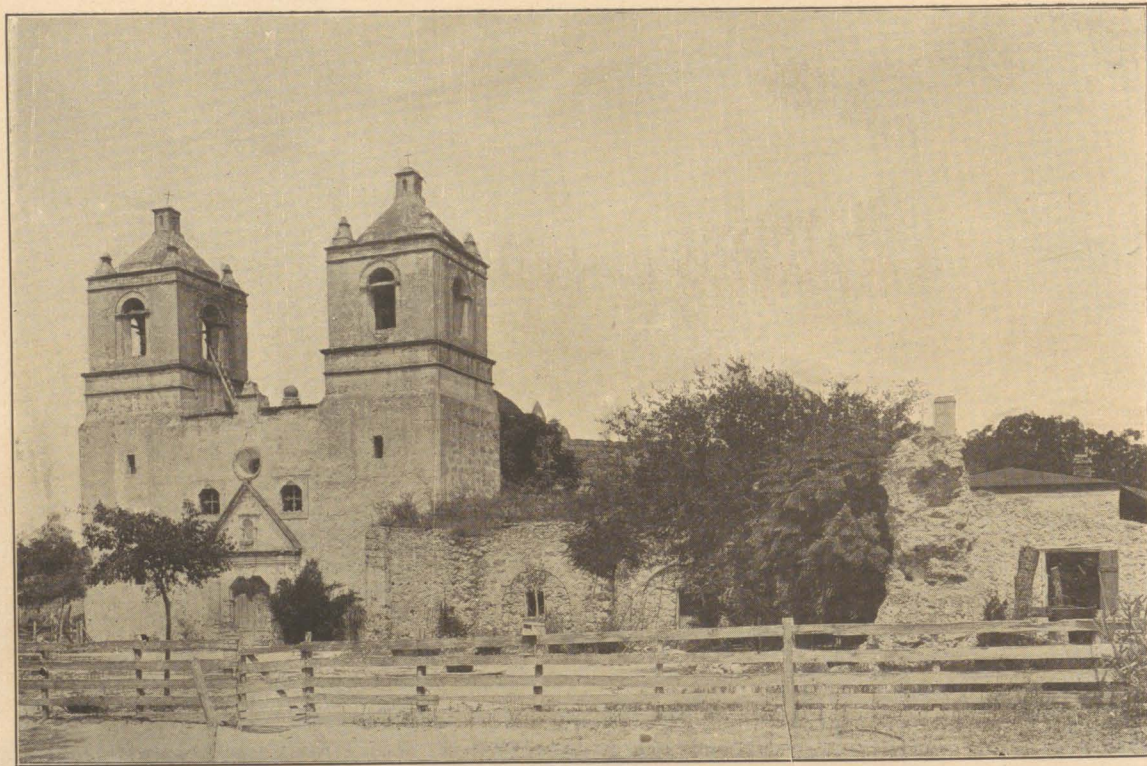
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



Pictureque Corner of Alamo Plaza, Showing Palms and Roses in Mid-Winter.



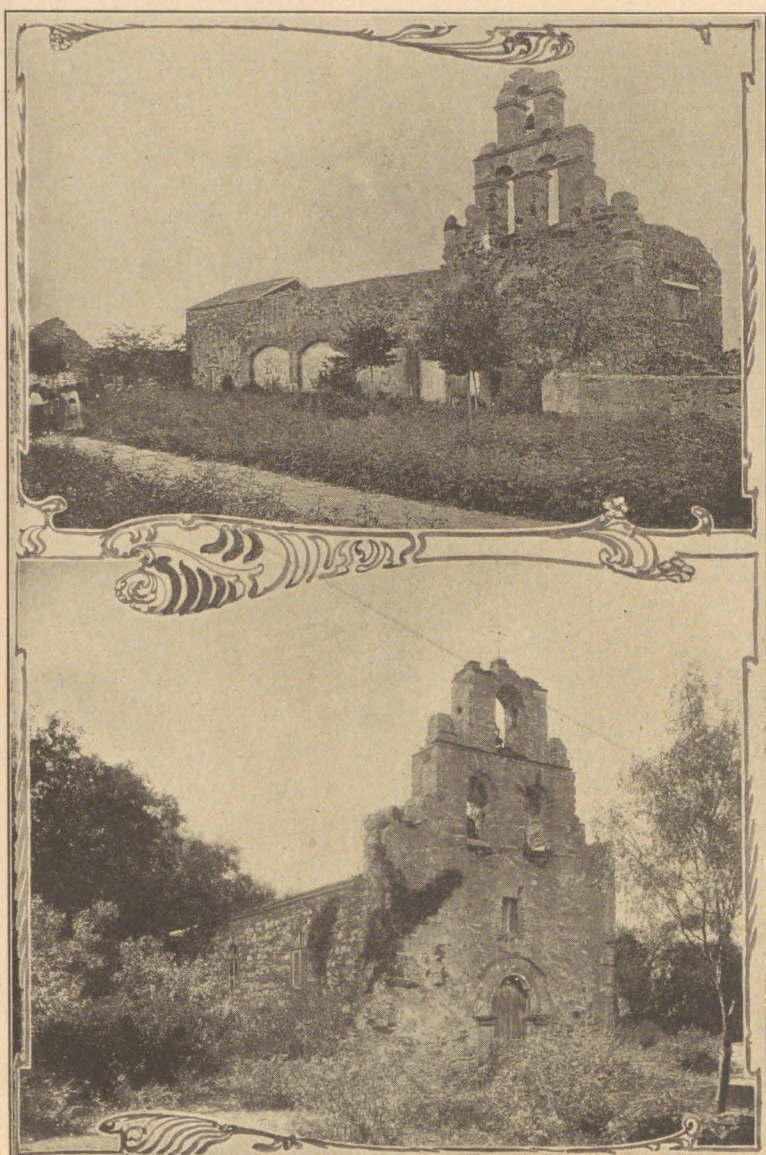
The Alamo. (The Cradle of Texas Liberty.) Built 1718.



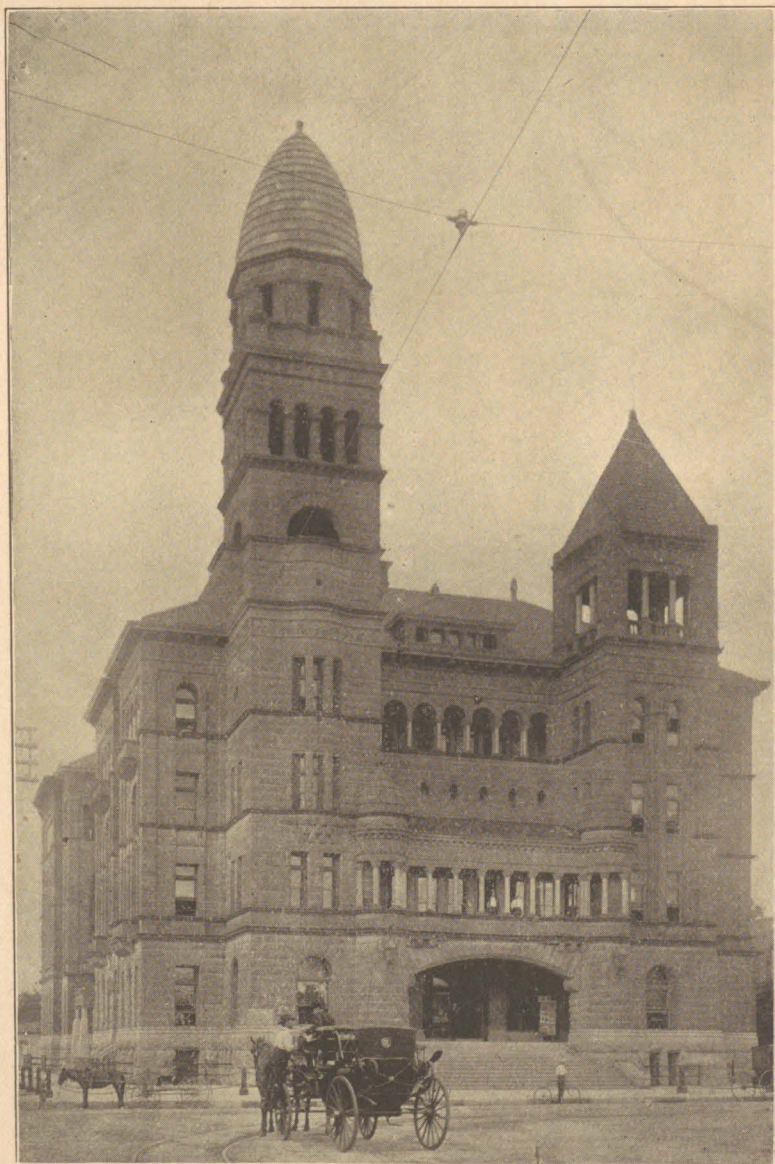
1st Mission—La Purisima Concepcion, Built 1731.



2nd Mission—San Jose, Built 1718.



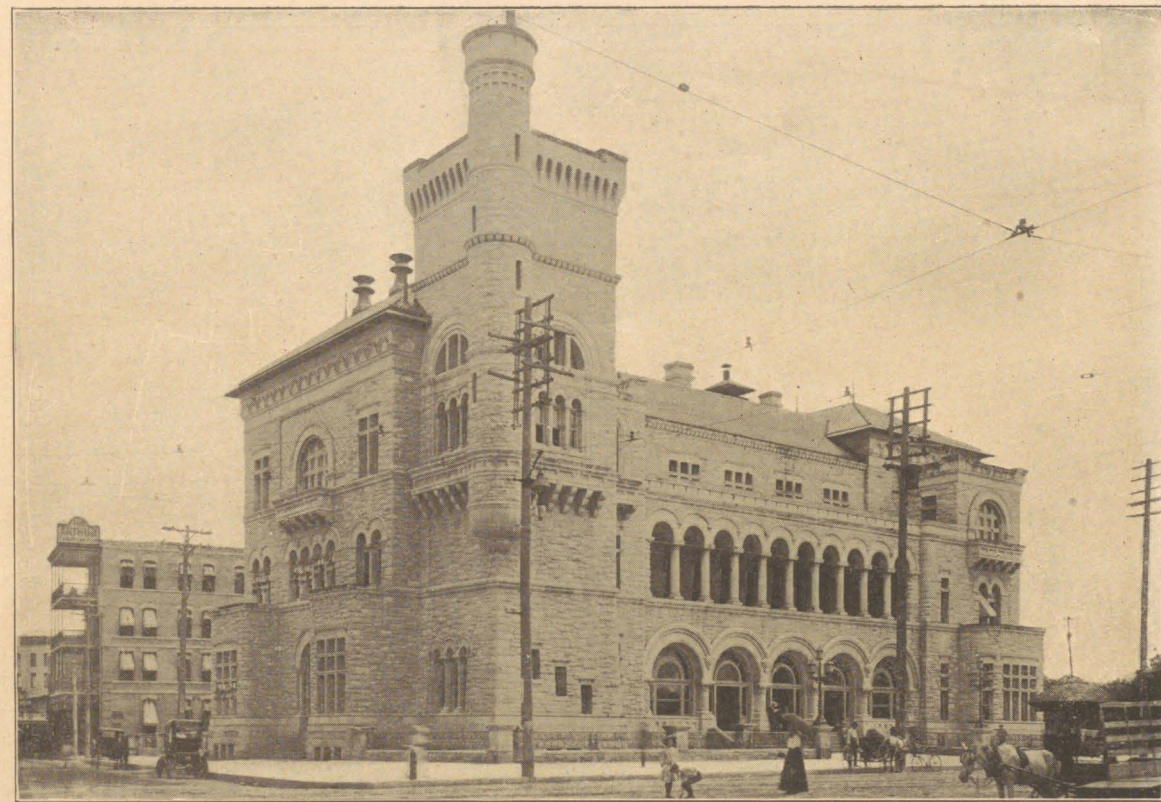
3d Mission—San Juan, Built 1716. 4th Mission—San Francisco, also called Espada. Built 1730



Court Hous: (Bexar County.)



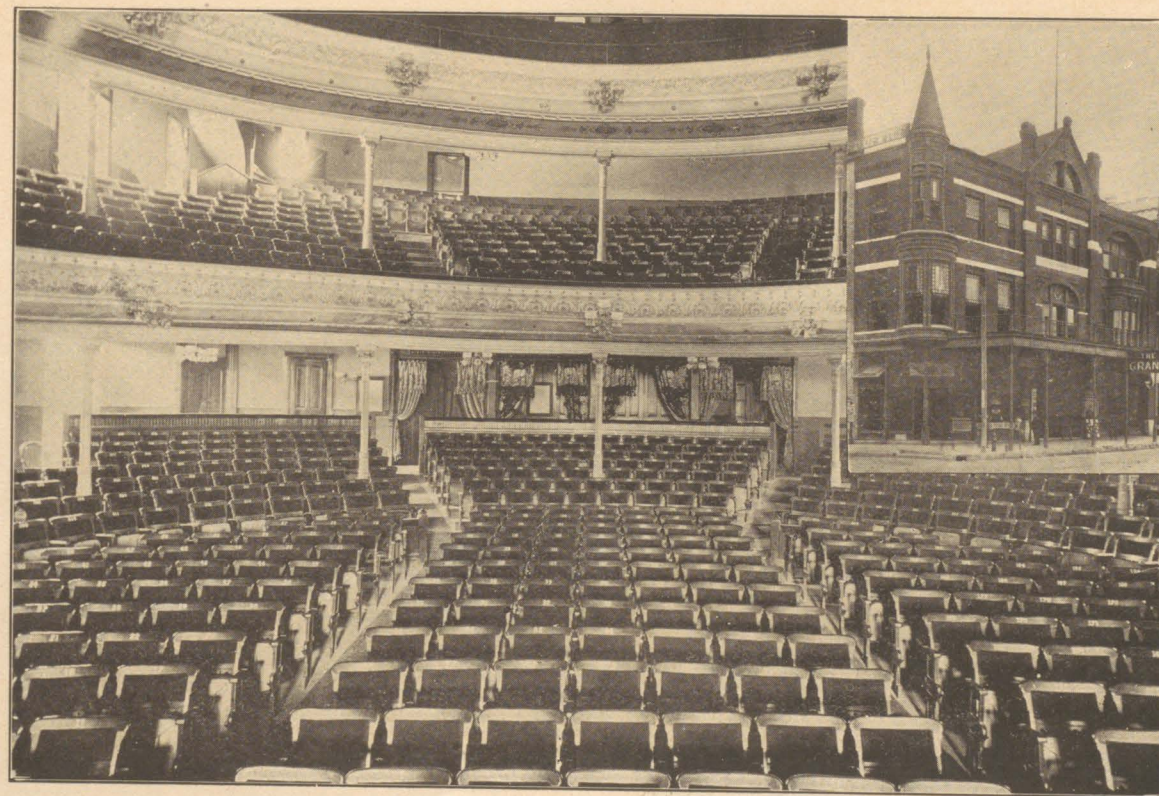
Alamo Plaza.



Federal Building and Postoffice.



Chili Stand on Alamo Plaza.



Grand Opera House, Sidney Weis, Mgr. Home of San Antonio Club. So. Pac. Ticket Office and American Bank and Trust Co.



Main Plaza (Showing San Fernando Cathedral, Built 1734.)



City Hall.



City Market.



Southern Pacific Depot. Also Terminal of M. K. & T.



The Moore Building and Roof Garden. Home of the West Texas Bank and Trust Co.



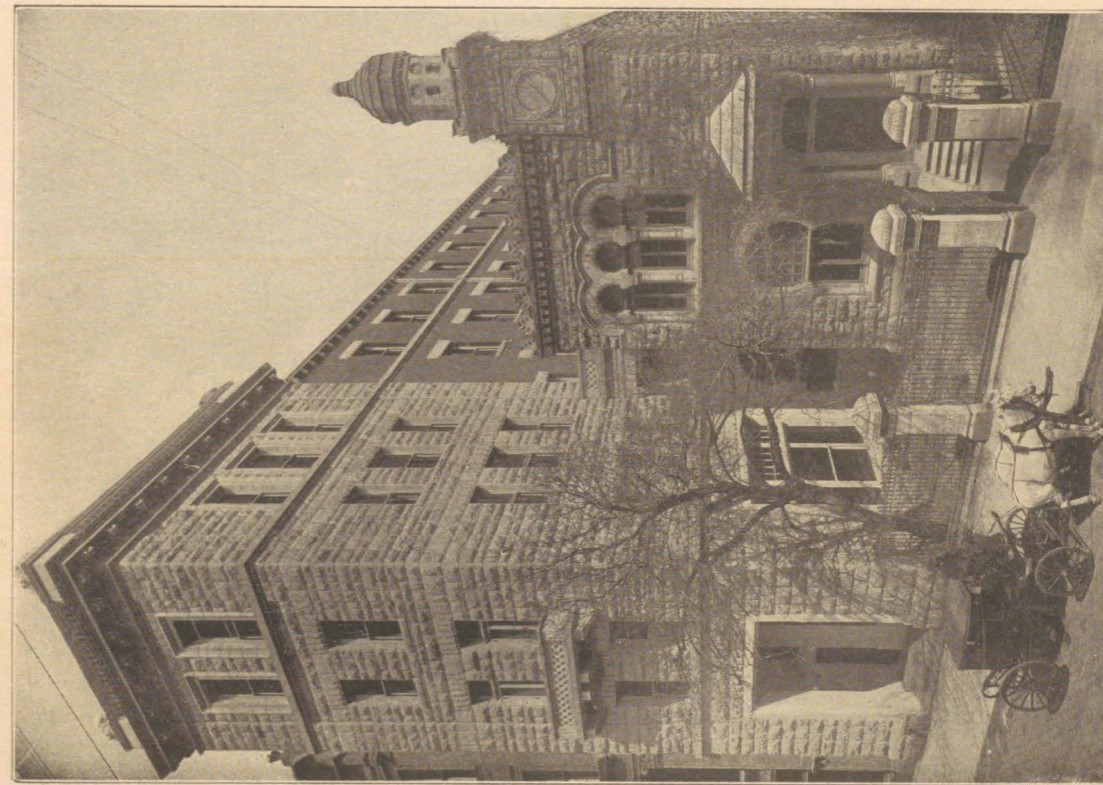
Hicks Building—Home of the Woods National Bank and the Adams-Kirkpatrick Co.



Alamo National Bank Building, corner Commerce and Presa Streets.



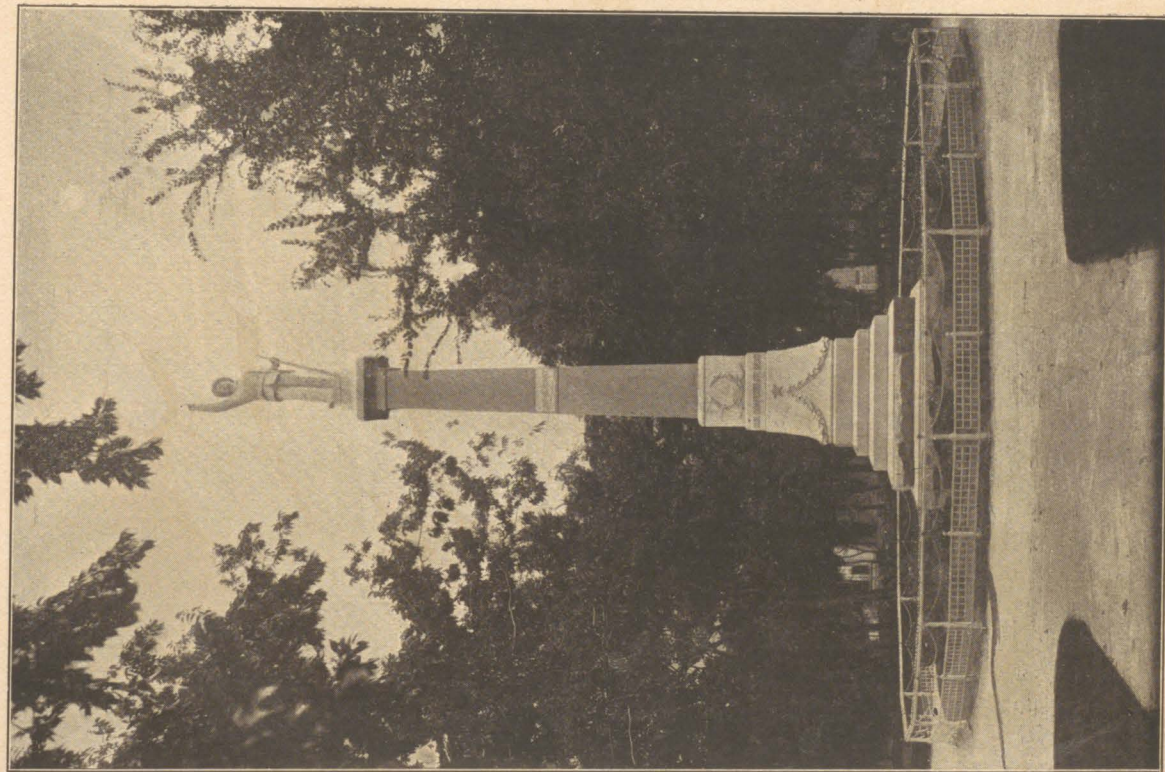
Kampmann Building, Home of the National Bank of Commerce.



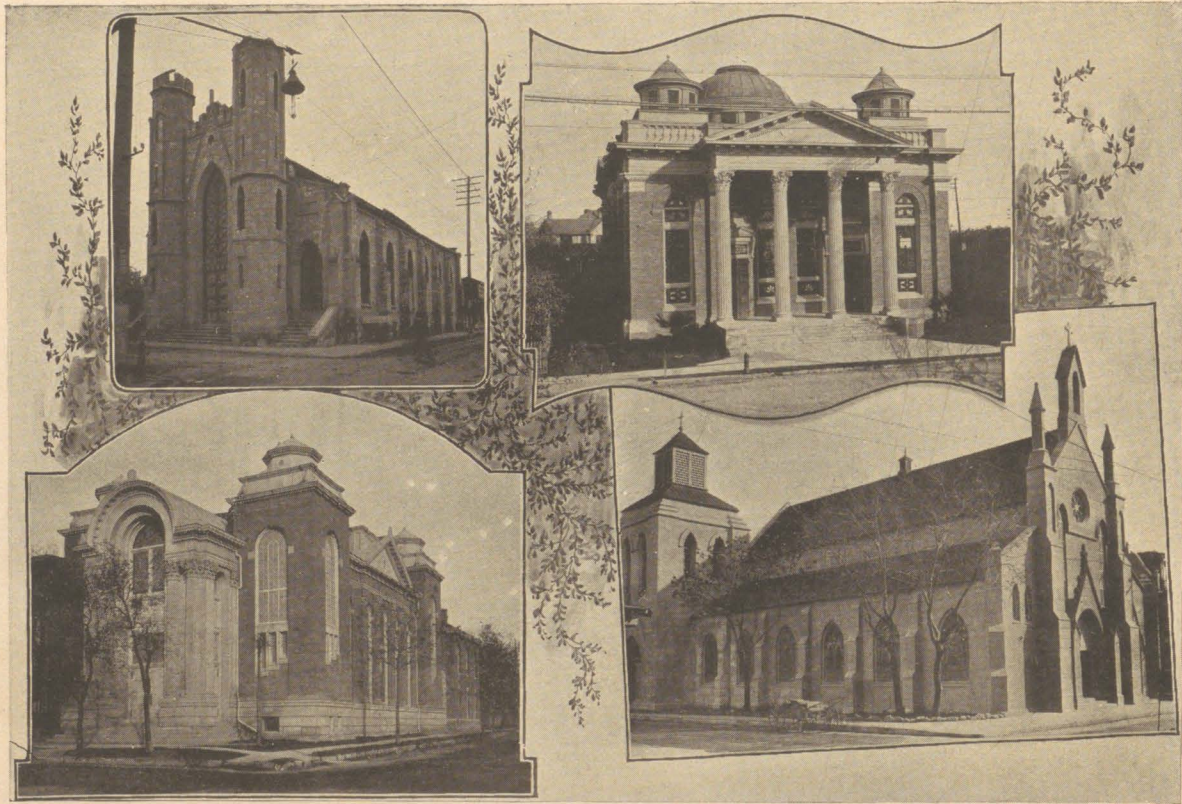
San Antonio Loan and Trust Building, and San Antonio National Bank.



Carnegie Library.



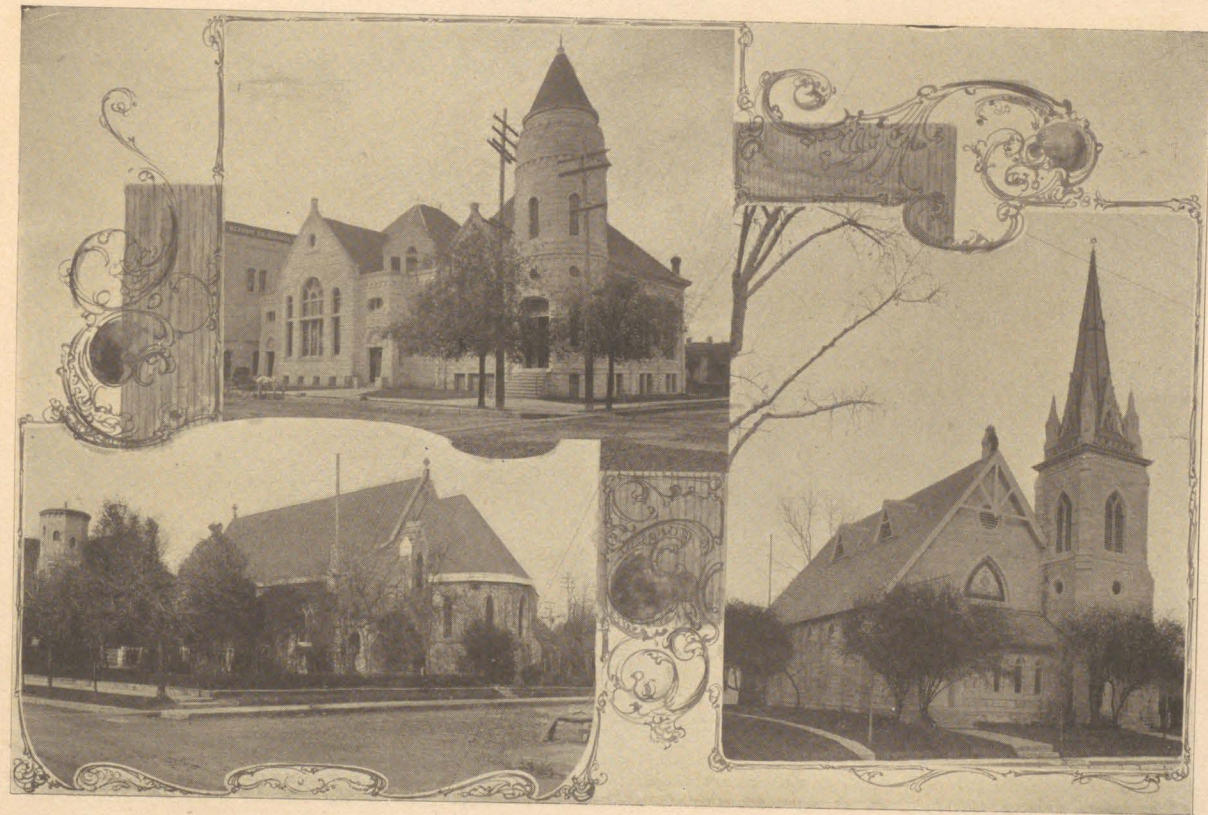
Confederate Monument in Travis Park.



First Presbyterian Church.
The Synagogue.

A few places of worship.

Central Christian Church.
St. Mary's Catholic Church.



Group of Churches—Travis Park Methodist, St. Paul Episcopal, Madison Square Presbyterian.

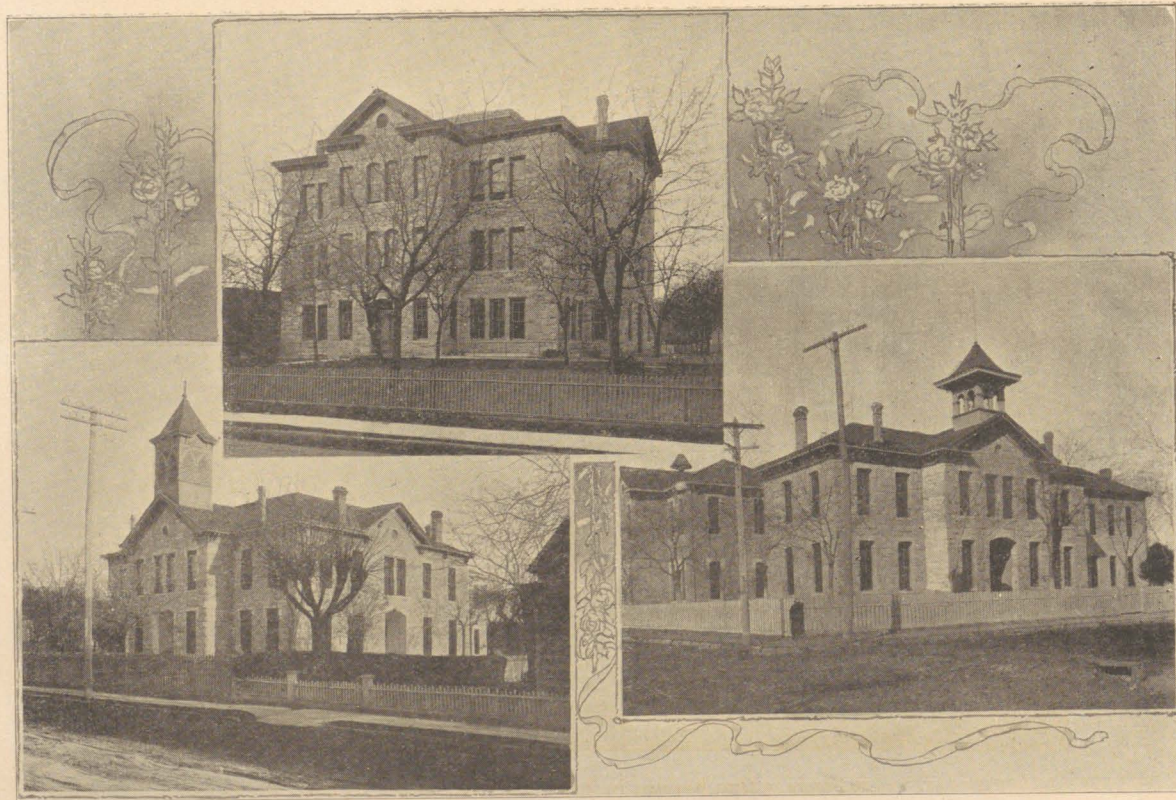


HOT SULPHUR WELLS BATH HOUSE.

The fame that the Hot Sulphur Wells Baths of San Antonio are gaining is widespread throughout the United States. The fame of the Alamo City to the tourist and invalid world has long been recognized. Its dry anti-malarial southern climate, its clear weather, equable temperature, where snow is practically unknown, and the Frost King seldom penetrates, its historic ruins and memories, and quaint picturesque surroundings have been the attractive magnet to draw here every year thousands of visitors seeking health or pleasure. The discovery of and the publicity given the marvelous curative properties of the natural Hot Sulphur Mineral Water, with the additional advantage of a climate where baths can be taken with absolute safety, and good results every day in the year, accounts largely for the popularity of this resort. Write for particulars.



Ford of San Antonio River, showing Court House in distance.



A few of San Antonio's Public Schools—High School, Main Ave. No. 2, (Austin) Marshall St. No. 8, (Navarro) San Fernando St.



Residence of Otto Koehler, N. San Pedro Place, Laurel Heights.



The Idaho Building, moved from World's Fair, St. Louis, by Jay E. Adams, showing his residence on Beacon Hill, in corner.



Residence of D. J. Woodward, corner San Pedro and Woodlawn Avenues. W. N. Hagy, architect and builder.



Residence of Max B. Mayer, 101 King William Street, corner Garden. Harvey L. Page, architect.



Residence of John H. Kirkpatrick, 328 Magnolia Avenue, Laurel Heights.



San Pedro Springs Lake.



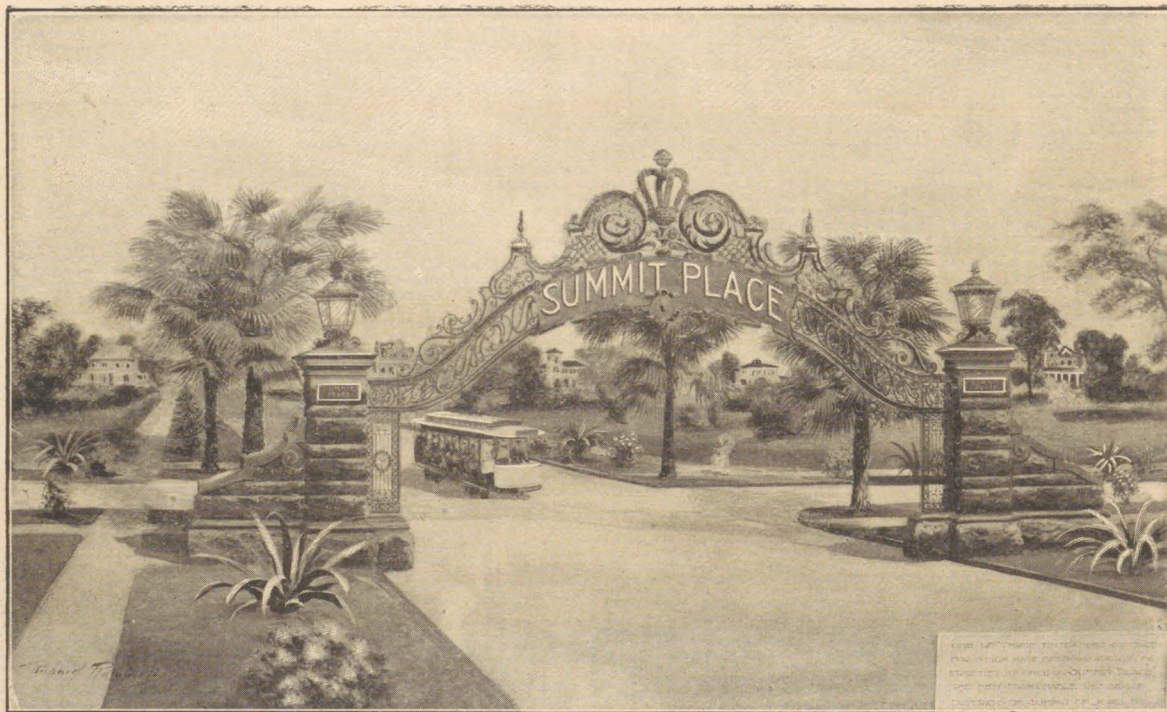
A Scene at Beautiful Alamo Heights, showing one of the many Large Oak Trees to be seen there.



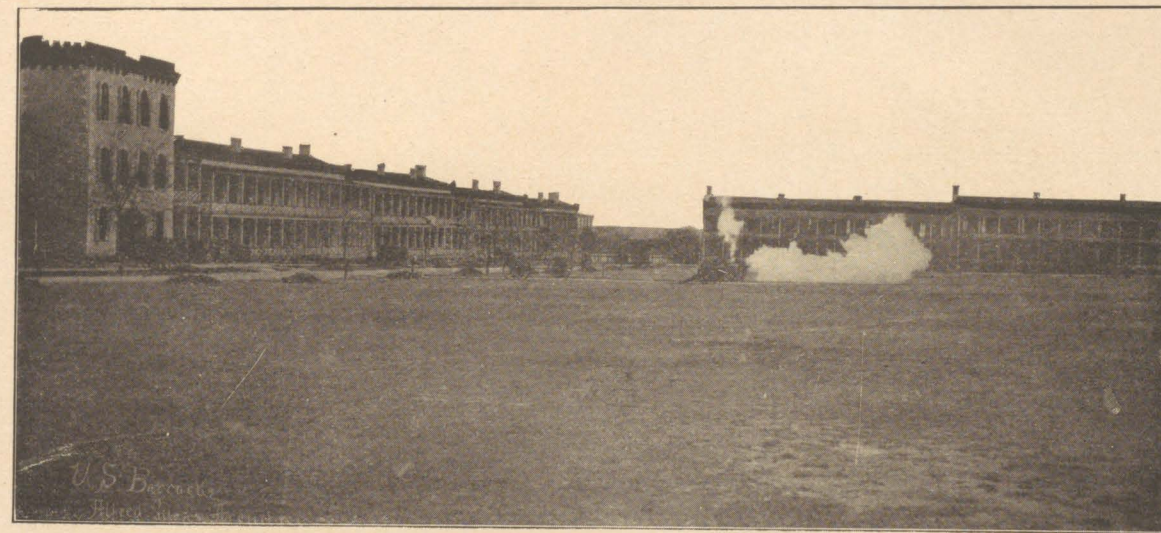
Brackenridge Park, showing Buffalos, Elk and Deer. This Park also contains many other specimens of the Animal and Bird Kingdoms.



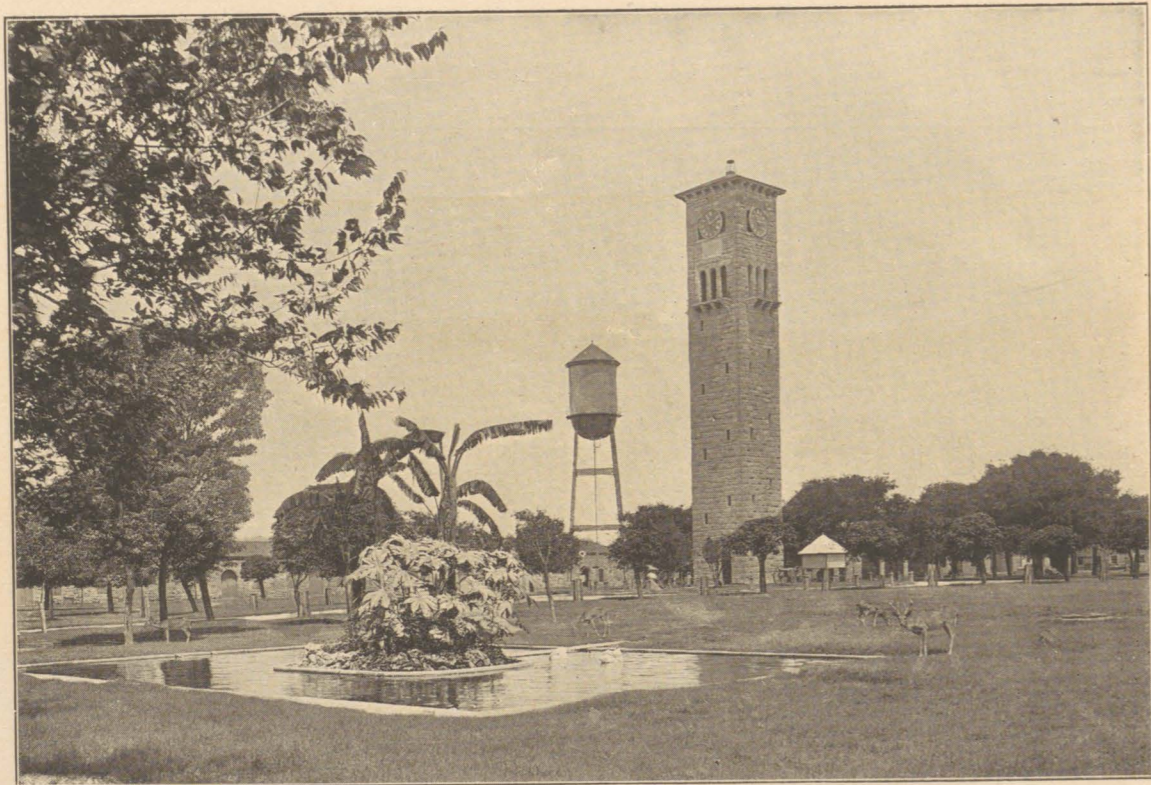
One of the Beautiful Driveways in Brackenridge Park—the largest Park in the South—the gift of Col. Geo. W. Brackenridge to the City of San Antonio.



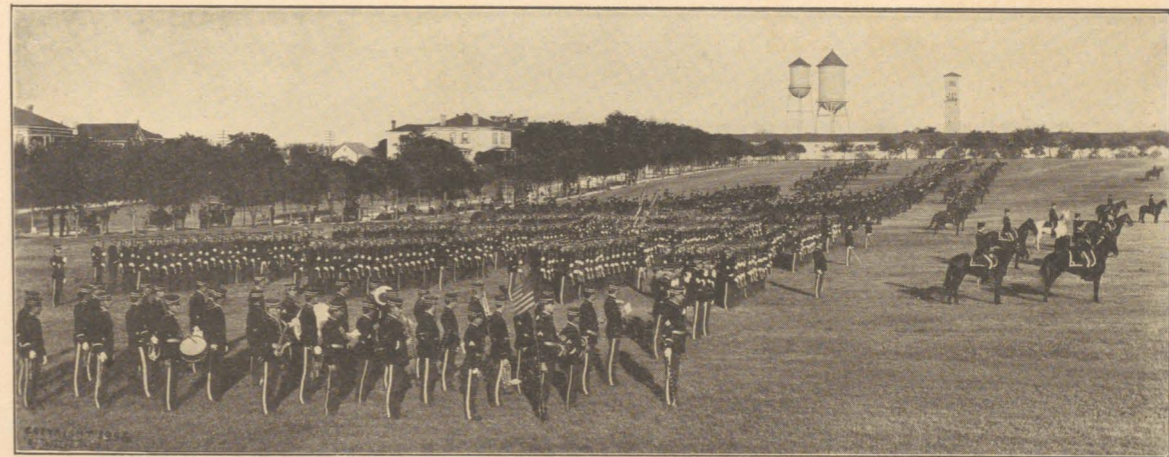
One of the three entrances made of bronze, brass, ornamental iron and red Pecos stone, now being erected on "Summit Place," the new fashionable restricted residence district on the summit of Laurel Heights.



"Evening Salute"—Greater Fort Sam Houston. (The Barracks.) By permission of Alfred Giles, architect



Greater Fort Sam Houston. Inside of Quadrangle, showing Park.



Greater Fort Sam Houston. "Present Arms." Garrison Review in Dress Uniform.
Photo by Chaplin Dickson, U. S. Army, (Copyrighted.)



Greater Fort Sam Houston. Photo made by Chaplain Dickson, U. S. A., in $\frac{1}{825}$ second, (Copyright applied for.)



Greater Fort Sam Houston. Light Artillery Drill. (Photo made in $\frac{1}{1000}$ second by Chaplain Dickson, U. S. A.)
(Copyright applied for.)



Greater Fort Sam Houston. Infantry Machine Guns masked. (Photo by Chaplain Dickson, U. S. Army.) (Copyrighted.)

The Picturesque Alamo City.



AN ANTONIO is the oldest, the most historic, the most beautiful, the most cosmopolitan, and the most unique city in the Southwest. It is the metropolis of Texas, having a population of nearly 100,000, and is the leading city in commerce and other industries.

In addition to being one of the most beautiful cities, it is blessed with an unusually mild climate, which is a source of never ending delight to the tourist from the frozen north. The temperature in winter seldom ever reaches the freezing point and snow is almost as strange a phenomenon here as it would be to the inhabitants of Egypt. The summer days are never excessively hot, as they are cooled by the healthful and invigorating Gulf breeze. The nights are always cool and pleasant, and refreshing sleep can always be enjoyed.

That San Antonio is one of the most cosmopolitan cities of the world, is easily demonstrated during an afternoon spent upon its streets. Every nationality of the world is represented.

In strolling about the city in the evening, the Mexican peon in his picturesque blanket costume and stupendous sombrero can be seen enjoying chili con carne, enchiladas, tamales, frijoles and other Mexican delicacies at the open air restaurants along the plazas; the jovial Germans with their large families can be seen spending a pleasant evening beneath the trees of some delightful beer garden that has a touch of the beauty of those to be found along the Rhine; in the cafés the French are enjoying their wines and fancy dishes while their chatter can be heard and their gestures seen at a great distance, reminding the seasoned traveler of similar scenes along the Grand Boulevards

in Paris; the Italians have their own clubs and resorts where spaghetti and macaroni are served in true Italian style; the Chinese have their joss house and tong societies where they gather to enjoy the opium pipe and to discuss the greatness of the Celestial Empire; the negroes also have their social gatherings and places where "possum and taters," fried chicken and other toothsome delicacies so dear to the negro heart are served, and where they can discuss unmolested the great problem that confronts that race in its upward progress; and finally in the city are the Japs, who though few in numbers as yet, add another element to the already picturesque population.

In age, San Antonio is one of the oldest of American municipalities that can claim the distinction of still being a great city. Eight flags representing eight distinct governments have floated from the Alamo. The first was the tri-colored banner of the Spanish; later that of the French; then the flag of the Mexican Republic; followed by the Mexican state flag; the Texas Republic; the United States flag; the Confederate stars and bars; and again the United States flag.

The history of the progress of civilization is tested by the archæologists by excavations in the earth's surface. Each layer of soil is to him a page of history. Such labors are not necessary in San Antonio. The streets which parallel each other can be readily compared to the strata of the earth which it took millions of years to form. The main business thoroughfares of the city are flanked by buildings which in size, beauty of architecture, and cost represent the latest and best examples of the builders art. One street back will be found buildings representing the achievements of the generation preceding, and by faithfully exploring the city street bystreet one can find the mud-brick hovel, the log cabin, the hand-sawed lumber cottage, the stone house, the brick mansion and on up to the magnificent modern fire proof structure. In no other city of the world is such progress more clearly defined than in San Antonio.

SUMMARIZED, the following interesting facts about San Antonio may be noted: Assessed valuations, \$34,639,481; miles of street, 425, of which 71 miles are macademized and 14 paved with asphalt or brick; population 93,035; area 36 square miles. Within the city limits are 22 parks and plazas, embracing 377½ acres; there are 55 churches, representing every denomination; there are 26 public schools giving employment to 198 teachers; in addition to these there are nearly as many private schools employing even a greater number of teachers; there are 7 national banks, 4 private banks and 2 state banks with a total deposit of over \$15,000,000.

The San Antonio River meanders through the city a total distance of 25 miles, and is spanned by 17 large iron bridges and other smaller structures, making the number of bridges all told in the city total 2,488.

San Antonio a Reserve City.

The comptroller of currency has within the last few weeks designated San Antonio a reserve city and the local national and state banks have established a clearing house. Nearly every bank in the city is affiliated with it.

The designation of San Antonio as a reserve city will probably double the deposits; for the bankers from all the smaller cities in this territory will select some San Antonio bank as their reserve agent. This will also have the effect of bringing much more trade here.

When the last quarterly report was made, the bankers stated that in point of the number of individual depositors the banks were carrying the largest number in their history. This shows that the unequalled prosperity which has been experienced in this section for the past three years has been pretty evenly divided.

The following banks are members of the clearing house: Alamo National Bank, City National Bank, Frost National Bank, Lockwood National Bank, National Bank of Commerce, Woods National Bank, Groos and Company, D. & A. Oppenheimer, D. Sullivan and Co., American Bank and Trust Co., and West Texas Bank and Trust Co.

Alamo Beach

The completion of the G. H. & S. A. Railway from San Antonio to Port Lavaca gives our city double train service to this sea post and has filled along felt necessity, as it also puts our city in direct connection with *Alamo Beach*, our natural bathing, boating and hunting grounds.



Points of Interest.



ALAMO PLAZA: There is no more delightful introduction to San Antonio than is given by the first view of Alamo Plaza. Its semi-tropical verdure, always green and luxuriant, both in winter and summer, at once gives a favorable impression of the city and its really delightful climate. All of Alamo Plaza and the surrounding ground is historic. Across it the Mexican army under Santa Anna marched in making their final assault on the Alamo, which resulted in the annihilation of the brave Travis and his martyred comrades. It is really a portion of the original Alamo the walls of that mission having formerly included it. Facing on Alamo Plaza are the Menger Hotel; the city ticket offices of the I. & G. N., the M. K. & T., the Rock Island-Frisco, and the

Sunset; the Grand Opera House, over which is the San Antonio Club, one of the most exclusive social clubs in the city; and the general offices of the S. A. & A. P. Just after passing the plaza park, to the right can be seen the Alamo and the Mission San Antonio de Valero.

THE FEDERAL BUILDING is at the northern end of this plaza. Its handsome Moorish architecture is especially striking and in keeping with the history of its surroundings. Its arcades are duplicates of those which once adorned the Mission San Antonio de Valero, the building standing on the old burial ground of that mission, wherein were interred for nearly two hundred years the remains of the priests and nuns who were stationed at the Alamo and at San Antonio de Valero. When the ground was excavated for the foundations of the Federal building, the remains of many bodies were removed.

The one story structure on the corner of Houston Street and Alamo Plaza just west of the Federal Building is erected on a foundation of a most unique character. Instead of using bricks to support the corners of this building the old brass cannons which did such valient service in the defense of the Alamo were sunk in the ground for that purpose, four cannons at each corner. When this building is torn down these relics will be moved and will probably command a fancy price, as there is no question whatever as to their genuineness.

HOUSTON STREET, along its entire length, was at one time but a straggling cattle trail, along which a number of small buildings sprung up. At the corner of Houston and St. Mary Streets is the Mahneke Hotel, in the rear of which is the original site of Fort Sam Houston. The old barracks are still standing, being now in use as a livery stable. The hotel itself was utilized for officers' quarters. General Robert E. Lee and General Albert Sidney Johnston were both, previous to the Civil War, in command of

these barracks. They resided on St. Mary Street. It was in San Antonio that both these famous and much loved Southern soldiers decided to cast their fate with the Confederacy.

St. Mary's Church, in which have been celebrated some of the most fashionable weddings in the city, is on St. Mary's Street, about half a block from Houston. St. Mary's College for boys and the home of the Oblate Fathers adjoin St. Mary's Church.

The old Mahneke hotel and the old barracks are soon to be razed to make place for a modern ten-story fire-proof hotel to cost more than \$1,000,000. Opposite the hotel, on the same side of Houston Street is the Odd Fellow's Hall which contains the Mahneke Apartments, besides a spacious lodge room used for the regular meetings of the Lodge and for numerous social functions. Opposite this hotel will be found the Majestic theater, devoted exclusively to vaudeville. The theater they occupy is the oldest place of amusement in the city, it having been San Antonio's first theater. This, however, is to be torn down to make room for a new modern theater building,

SOLEDAD STREET marks the beginning of the boundary of a territory as fruitful in historical incidents and stirring scenes of war as those which occurred in the immediate neighborhood of the Alamo. From the corner of Houston and Soledad Streets on around the loop which takes the car into Main Avenue and back into Houston Street is a small area of territory, every foot of which was desperately fought for on several occasions by the patriotic Texans. It was in this space that Ben Milam's troops fought inch by inch their final contest with the Mexicans, which resulted in the capture of San Antonio by the Texans, although it cost the life of the brave Ben Milam.

MAIN PLAZA was originally laid out by the Spaniards in 1731 for the residences of colonists, and was named "La Plaza de la Constitucion," afterwards changed to "La

Plaza de los Istas." Around it was allotted ground for the homes of the Spanish colonists who were sent over from the Canary Islands in 1730 to settle in Texas. The presidio, or garrison town, which sprang up around this plaza was called Bexar, and later formed the city known as San Antonio de Bexar. This plaza was the favored camping ground of the Mexican soldiers. Their tents were pitched here when the city was captured by Milam, and also during the siege of the Alamo by Santa Anna.

SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL was originally the parish church and still continues to be so. It is the oldest of all the Spanish mission churches, and was erected by public subscription in 1732. It was on the roof of this building that Santa Anna mounted his cannon to besiege the Alamo.

The foundations for a new church was laid in 1868. On the creation of the diocese of San Antonio it was raised to the dignity of a cathedral. A part of the original church remains. It is in the rear of the present edifice, having a dome-shaped roof which has withstood the vicissitudes of wear and weather for nearly three hundred years.

THE SOUTHERN HOTEL is just south of the cathedral. It was once the home of one of the Spanish colonists, Don Cassiano, and is the site of one of the oldest hotels. It has for years been the favorite resort of the ranchmen, many of whose landed estates cover areas equal to those of many of the smaller kingdoms of Europe.

THE BEXAR COUNTY COURT HOUSE is the palatial structure that rears its stately head on the southwest corner of Main Plaza. It is the largest, the most imposing, and the most unique building of its kind in the state. It is built of red Pecos sandstone and red Texas granite.

VERAMENDI PALACE.—On the left hand side of Soledad street between Commerce street and Houston is to be seen a small one-story adobe building. This is the old palace of Governor Veramendi, one of the early Mexican governors of Texas. This

building is as historic as the Alamo. It was the center of social life during the Mexican rule, and has had beneath its hospitable roof all the famous men of the time. Santa Anna was a frequent visitor here, with his officers and men. Beneath its low ceiling and beside its large open hearth the noted Indian fighter and Texas patriot Bowie wooed and won the Governor's daughter and the wedding which followed was attended by the gallant Dons and languishing Señoritas from all over the entire colony. It was here that Ben Milam met his death while driving the Mexican troops out of the city.

The massive cedar doors which are still in use, were the work of a skilled Mexican artist who carved them out by hand. They have swung on their hinges for over one hundred years and are good for many more. This historical landmark will soon be razed to widen Soledad street in accordance with the demands of modern traffic.

OBJECTS OF INTEREST: Soledad street from the junction of Houston to where it joins San Pedro avenue is lined on both sides with some of the old residences which were built in the early days of San Antonio. These houses were then considered palatial homes and were occupied by the leading citizens of San Antonio. On San Pedro Avenue are to be seen the magnificent Christian church on the right; on the left is the long-used High School building and the new Electric Park. The latter is one of the largest open air amusement places in the South, being equipped with all the latest pleasure devices to be found at Coney Island or any other of the great pleasure resorts.

LAUREL HEIGHTS LOOP carries the visitor through the modern aristocratic residence districts in the city. Less than five years ago this entire section was simply a thicket of mesquite clad hills. Its magnificence today is one of the best testimonials to the rapid growth of San Antonio. It will be noted that the mission, Spanish and Moorish styles of architecture prevail, showing that the fascinating history of this old town has left its impress indelibly upon the minds of the present generation. In the

last three years more than \$7,000,000 have been spent for improvements in this section.

From the crest of the hill towards the north lie the golf links and the country club. Adjoining the golf links, land is now being laid out for a magnificent residence park which will be known as San Antonio's millionaire residence district.

SAN PEDRO PARK AND SPRINGS.—As far back as the traditions of the Indians go, San Pedro Springs and their pure crystal waters were famed as a resting place for the tired traveler. For the possession of the springs hostile Indian tribes battled fiercely long before the white man invaded Texas. Around them settled the first agriculturists who came to profit by the bounteous crops which Texas alone produces. Under the direction of the monks, irrigation ditches were dug, which led the water to the places where it was most needed. These ditches are still used for irrigation purposes. On the banks of the spring have camped at various times Milam's Texas army, Santa Anna and his troops, the United States army on its way to invade Mexico, and it was here that the Confederates gathered previous to the surrender of the United States troops at Fort Sam Houston. The magnificent park now surrounding the springs is owned by the city and is open free to all. "Keep off the grass" signs are not respected and it is the great playground of the younger children of the city. The stone building which can be seen from the car line is known as the powder house. In the days when the Indians were troublesome it was used as a block house, the port holes through which the colonists fired on the red men can be seen in the tower walls.

BRACKENRIDGE PARK.—San Antonio is a city of parks and plazas. The people take great pride in these many tropical spots scattered throughout the city; but none of them and few in the United States can compare in acreage with Brackenridge Park. It comprises 260 acres and is the gift of Col. George W. Brackenridge. It remains practically in its natural state and persons wandering through its shaded drive-

ways can easily imagine themselves surrounded by the virgin wilderness which once covered this entire section, The San Antonio river winds its serpentine way through its magnificent groves. No hunter with dog or gun is allowed within its confines, and the visitor will find the trees filled with birds of brilliant plumage, who saucily sing their airy songs in his very face without fear of molestation. Squirrels scamper in the trees, rabbits hop unmolested through the underbrush, and the naturalist who is interested in either the flora or the fauna of Texas may spend days and weeks in the park and still not exhaust its treasures. In separate preserves are to be found one of the few herds of buffalo which still exist in the United States; more than one hundred deer; and the largest herd of elk in the South. Water birds of all kinds thrive on the banks of the river.

This park is dedicated for a family resort, and the deed giving it to the city provides that no intoxicating liquors shall be brought into, consumed or sold in any portion of the park.

The magnificent red brick building to be seen some distance north of the park is the Brackenridge Villa, a college conducted by the Catholic Sisters of the Incarnate Word. About a half a mile to the east of Brackenridge Park is Mahneke Park of 94 acres, also the gift of Col. Brackenridge. Beyond the Brackenridge Villa is located one of San Antonio's select suburban residence districts, beautiful Alamo Heights.

THE BREWERIES.—To the right of River Avenue, returning from Brackenridge Park can be seen San Antonio's two great breweries. The first is the City Brewery, the second is the Lone Star.

FORT SAM HOUSTON.—On Government Hill is Fort Sam Houston, the second largest post in the United States at present, and soon to be the largest and most important. For its improvement the government has already spent more than \$3,000,000.

In its ample barracks and officers quarters are accommodations sufficient for an entire brigade. At present the forces consist of a Brigadier General commanding the Department of Texas, a regiment of infantry, a regiment of cavalry and a battery of artillery. The border posts are soon to be abandoned and the entire brigade will be stationed at this post. There are now three posts, known as the Upper Post, the Lower Post and the New Post. North of the New Post is a target and manoeuver ground of over 1000 acres. At Leon Springs 30,000 acres have been purchased for a permanent manoeuver ground. At this place there will be held annually the great joint manoeuvres of the regular army and the troops of all the Southern States. At that time there will probably be as many as fifteen or twenty thousand troops on the ground at one time. The Upper Post is to the right of New Braunfels Avenue. It contains the upper parade ground, extensive barracks for the soldiers, quarters for the officers and the offices of the Post Commander.

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS is known as "the Quadrangle," because the buildings are arranged so as to form a hollow square. It is in these offices that all the business connected with the Post is conducted. An entrance through the sally-port reveals a beautiful park, in which a good-sized herd of deer and various water birds enjoy themselves, entirely unafraid of the passer-by. In the center of the quadrangle is a high clock tower, from the top of which can be seen the most beautiful view of San Antonio that is possible to obtain anywhere in the city. Days spent in traveling through the city and its suburbs will not give the visitor anything like so adequate an idea of the city as thirty minutes spent in this tower will give.

LOWER POST.—The Lower Post is flanked on the west and north by the officers' quarters, among which is the residence of the General commanding the Department of Texas. On the extensive parade grounds all the great reviews are held. Here

three presidents of the United States, Harrison, McKinley and Roosevelt have reviewed the troops. The last review was held in honor of Secretary of War Taft, who inspected the Post last fall. There are weekly dress parades and daily concerts by the military band.

ON HOUSTON STREET.—At the corner of Houston and Nacogdoches street is Turner Hall, the beautiful hall of the San Antonio Turn-Verein. At the corner of Main Avenue is one of the old Spanish ditches or acequias, which at one time brought the water from San Pedro Springs to furnish the city with water both for drinking and irrigation purposes. The First Presbyterian church, the oldest Protestant church in San Antonio is at the corner of Houston and North Flores streets. It will be noted by its tower and other peculiar architectural features.

MILAM SQUARE is the most magnificent plaza lying to the left of Houston Street. In the center is the grave of Ben Milam, over which is a neat monument. This grave is strewn with flowers on each anniversary of Texas Independence Day, March 2, and appropriate exercises are held at which all the public school children of the city participate. Milam Park was the first Protestant cemetery. When the cemetery was abandoned to make way for the park, Milam's remains alone were undisturbed. The large building to the south of the park is the public market house and the group of buildings to the north is the Santa Rosa Infirmary. Continuing west on the West End street car line one lands at West End, one of the most substantial suburbs around the city. Here is located many of the leading boarding colleges for both youths and misses.

MILITARY PLAZA: Returning from the I. & G. N. depot along Commerce Street to the Military Plaza the car goes via Dolorosa Street, the English meaning of which is "Road of Sorrow," so called because it was originally the road along which all funerals passed to the cemeteries. In the center of Military Plaza is the City Hall. The

plaza was originally called "Plaza des Armes" and was devoted to the Spanish military garrison. On the west side was formerly the palace of Governor Cordero, the first Spanish governor of Texas. The governor's coat of arms is still visible on the walls of the building.

SOUTH FLORES STREET enters Military Plaza at the southwest corner and by going via this street the visitor has a view of the United States Arsenal. It covers twenty acres of ground and is enclosed by a substantial rock and iron fence. It was commenced in 1860 and completed in 1874.

TRIP TO HOT WELLS: A ride to Hot Wells via Garden and Presa Streets transports the visitor from the city proper to the suburbs. To the right may be seen the venerable time blackened towers of the Mission Conception, one of the oldest of the Texas missions, and soon the tower of the Main building of the San Antonio International Fair Grounds is seen. Here a grand fair is held each year in the fall. On these grounds the celebrated Rough Riders were organized by Dr. Leonard Wood and Theodore Roosevelt. This was their camping and training ground until they left for Cuba where they did such valiant service in the Spanish-American war. In April, 1906, the Rough Riders' Re-union was held on their old camping ground, with President Roosevelt as their guest.

The Hot Wells hotel and bath-house are outside the city limits. The hotel is beautifully and picturesquely located and has accommodations for a large number of guests. In connection are bath-houses which utilize the water of the hot sulphur well, sunk by the state. This water has a temperature of 104 degrees and is said to possess medicinal qualities equal to those of the famous Hot Springs of Arkansas.

At the end of the car line is the Southwestern Insane Asylum, maintained by the state.



"The Dawn at the Alamo," 1836. (Copyrighted.)

(The Fall of the Alamo.) This picture recognized as being historical by the legislature artist, Henry McArdle, original and its companion, (The Battle of San Jacinto,) in Senate Chamber of Capitol, at Austin, Texas.

The Alamo.

THE main historic point of San Antonio is the Alamo Plaza, formerly the Plaza de Valero, for on it is the famous and historic Alamo. Its ecclesiastical name was the Mission de San Antonio de Valero, so called from San Anthony of Padua, the patron saint of the city, and the Duke de Valero, the Spanish Viceroy. How it came to be called the Alamo, is a matter of conjecture. Alamo signifies cotton wood and as the building lies under the shade of such big trees, this may have originated the name, but it is quite possible that as the first garrison came from Fort Alamo de Parras in the Province of Coahuila, Mexico, they gave it that name.

This mission seems to have had a migratory existence prior to its settlement on its present site. It was originally established in 1703 on the cienagua of the Rio Grande, thence it was moved to San Ildephonso. After that it was removed to San Antonio. It was first at San Pedro Springs, then on the Military Plaza and afterwards where it now stands.

The building was erected in 1718, but the corner stone bears the date of 1757. The reason for this discrepancy is not known. It would appear as if the building was first of a different form to what it was known later, that originally there were two towers and a belfry to sound an alarm on the approach of hostile Indians, and to call the people to mass. Apparently in design it originally resembled the first mission as it is seen today.

The Alamo as a mission was in charge of the Franciscan monks, who educated and christianized the friendly Indians and protected them, the huge thick walls being invulnerable to attack. There were no windows then on the lower floor and Indians had to shoot arrows upward, striking the ceiling and doing no harm.

When in 1718 a military post was established here and the conquest of Texas was attempted by the French, who then controlled Louisiana, it was found necessary to have a fort and the Alamo was a most desirable place for it. In 1757, it was secularized by royal decree, and it is possible that changes were then made in the building to adapt it for military purposes and that the stone merely commemorates the changes. However this may be, the Alamo became then the protective fortress of the city and no doubt was occupied by part of the garrison.

It was first captured by Major Kemper, of the Magee expedition, who defeated General Salcedo in 1812. These were American revolutionists and Mexican malcontents. A year later General Arredondo, at the head of a superior Mexican army, re-conquered it and Mexicans were again in possession, and it remained in their control until 1835, when gallant old Ben Milam, with a few brave companions, invaded San Antonio, captured it, and General De Cos, head of the Mexican army surrendered, evacuated it and retired with his army into Mexico.

The Texan colonists remained in peaceable possession until February 1836, when General Santa Anna, President of Mexico and Commander-in-chief of the Mexican army, besieged the city. His army consisted of 6000 men, picked men of the country; while the Texan army consisted of only 145 efficient men. This was later augmented by 32 men who came from Gonzales.

The invasion of Santa Anna was not unexpected and Travis, then in command, had been ordered to fall back on Goliad, where a large force of Texans were in camp. Instead of this, he and his men fortified themselves in the Alamo and Travis sent to the provisional government for re-enforcements, with his immortal declaration: "I shall never retreat or surrender." Owing to the confusion of the time and other disobedience

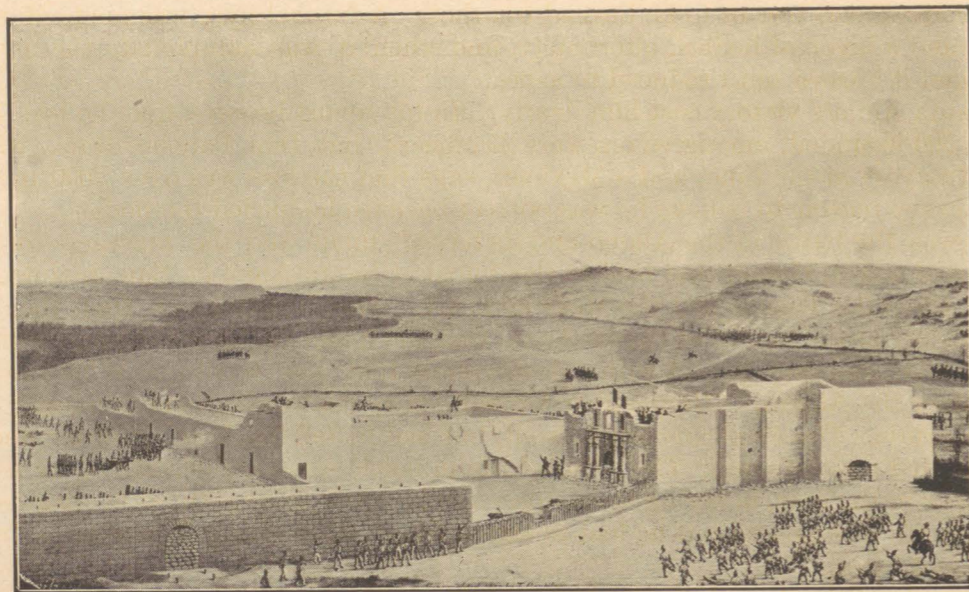
no relief was sent until too late, except the men from Gonzales, who merely added to the butchery.

Santa Anna hoisted the black flag on the parish church, (now San Fernando Cathedral), which signified "no quarter" and commenced a vigorous cannonading, which continued, with few intervals, but did no material damage to the building and injured none of the gallant defenders. The Texans' fire was sparsely delivered for they were short on ammunition, and wisely reserved it for the final attack.

Santa Anna chafed under being kept at bay and feared re-inforcements might arrive, and it was decided that an attack should be made at dawn on Sunday, March 6th, 1836, and at that time Santa Anna, at the head of his army, marched to the Alamo. The attack was made in six columns and at different points. For some time the brave defenders kept the Mexicans off and killed many, but the reserves were brought to the front and the Mexicans succeeded in making breaches in the walls and in scaling them. Then occurred a most desperate hand to hand fight, which is thus described by Santa Anna in his official report:

"They (the Mexicans) met with a stubborn resistance. The combat lasted more than an hour and a half and the reserves had to be brought into action. The scene offered by this engagement was extraordinary. The men fought individually vying with each other in heroism."

But resistance against such an overwhelming force was in vain, and every Texan perished in the strife. The commander, Travis, was killed at the gun; Dave Crockett died in the main building; Bowie, who was sick in bed in one of the side rooms, near the door, died fighting, and Bonham met with a like fate. Major Evans was killed as he was attempting to explode the powder magazine.



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The Fall of the Alamo, March 6th, 1836.

Thus was the Alamo captured and its brave defenders died.

Santa Anna's vengeance did not end here. To his eternal disgrace he caused the bodies of the Texas heroes to be burned to ashes. A funeral pyre was made of a layer of wood and a layer of bodies, alternately, and when it was completed, the pyre was lighted and it burned until reduced to ashes.

Santa Anna's victory cost him dearly. In his report he says that he lost 75 men and had 300 wounded, among whom were 25 officers, but Don Pancho Ruiz, who was alcalde (mayor) at the time, and a Mexican, says that the loss was over 2000 men, and there is every reason to believe he was correct because he buried the bodies.

It was the battle of the Alamo and its terrible finale and the massacre of Texan prisoners of war at Goliad that led to the defeat of Santa Anna at San Jacinto, April 21, 1836, when the Texans met the Mexican army. The Texans knew that they would find no mercy at the hands of Santa Anna, that the honor of the wives and their homes were at stake, and they fought with a desperation that was terrible. With the cry of "Remember the Alamo," "Remember Goliad," they made a furious onslaught on the Mexican army. The Mexicans fought well, but had to fall back in disorder and were utterly routed and defeated. Their loss of life in battle was terrible, and many perished in the river in the rear, in trying to escape. Santa Anna was captured in disguise next day. His life was spared but he had to sign a treaty recognizing Texas as a free and independent State.

In spite of this treaty, Santa Anna continued to claim Texas as a province of the Mexican Republic and attempts were made to reconquer it. The first was by General Visquez in 1843, but he contented himself with claiming sovereignty and changing the civic officers. He remained only two days and then returned to Mexico. In September next General Woll came and took possession of the city. The Texans retreated to the

outskirts of the city and there organized. Woll attacked the Texans on September 17, but was ignominiously defeated and retreated to the Alamo. The next day he evacuated San Antonio and returned to Mexico.

In 1845 the Republic of Texas joined the United States and became one of the many states under the stars and stripes. The Mexican claims to Texas was the cause of the Mexican war. In their victory the Americans secured a recognition of Texas as United States territory and since that time Mexico has made no attempt to reclaim her lost province.

The Alamo church remained neglected and in ruins for years until the United States had it re-roofed and fixed up for use of the quartermaster's department and it was so used until Texas seceded from the Union, and then the Confederates used it for the same purposes. When the civil war was over the United States again took possession of it and held it until the department was moved to Fort Sam Houston.


Then the famous old church had a further degradation. It was leased to Honore Grenet, a merchant in an adjoining store and was used as a store house.

The Alamo church property was purchased by the State May 12, 1883, for \$20,000, and placed in the custody of the city of San Antonio on the condition that the city should take care of it and provide a custodian. Under this arrangement the Alamo was cleared of the wooden fixings of the U. S. quartermasters, etc., and placed in the clean condition it is seen today.

The Alamo is open to visitors from 9 a. m. until 12 noon; and from 2 until 5 p. m. daily except Sunday.

It should be added that by a recent legislative enactment the care of the Alamo church and grounds adjoining has been placed with the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

The Missions.

HERE are no more interesting historical sights in San Antonio than the four Missions, or old Spanish churches, located to the south of the city. These are the monuments of the first Spanish settlements and the first attempt in the southwest to civilize and Christianize the Indians. The missions are four in number and are the best example of ancient ecclesiastical architecture in existence. They form the basis from which the architects of today have designed the many beautiful mission homes to be seen in all parts of this city. All are within ten miles of the city and are connected with San Antonio by excellent roadways. A drive to view them is one of the most charming and pleasant that a tourist can possibly enjoy in this section. The macadamized roadways pass through beautiful groves and along each side are the irrigated farms which have, within the past few years, demonstrated the magnificent agricultural possibilities of this fertile section. A trip to the missions will not only give a person an opportunity of viewing these great historic landmarks, but will also give him an excellent idea of the country surrounding San Antonio, which contributes so much to the prosperity of the city.

The missions in their time were more than mere places of worship. Connected with each was the "convento" in which the priests lived and surrounding them were the fields in which the civilized Indians labored. The erection of each mission was the result of prodigious labor. The buildings are for the most part made of small stones embedded in cement and these materials had to be brought many miles on the backs of

the Indians. The fact that, despite years of neglect, they stand today is a living testimony to the substantial way in which they were built.

The first mission, which can be seen and reached from the Hot Wells car line, is Concepcion, noted for its twin towers. It was built in 1734 and is still used as a place of worship. Services are held here twice a year and thousands of the loyal Catholics of San Antonio make a pilgrimage on foot from the San Fernando Cathedral to this mission. In addition to its religious significance, this pilgrimage is supposed to bring a season of good luck to all who participate. This is the best preserved of all the missions.

San Jose, built in 1711, is known as the second mission and represents the most artistic conception and the most finished architecture of anything of its kind in the southwest. Its front is adorned with statues and other carvings which are the life work of a noted religious sculptor. The window to the south is said to be one of the best pieces of ancient carving to be found anywhere in the world. Here can be seen the arcades which were a distinctive feature of all the missions as well as the ovens and other domestic features of the old missions. A trip to San Antonio can hardly be considered complete without a visit to this mission, as it is only a short walk across the fields from the Hot Wells Hotel,

The other two missions, San Juan and San Francisco de Espada are at a considerable distance from the city and are much smaller and much more dilapidated than the first two missions. They are not particularly worthy of the attention of a traveler who has but a short time in the city. A particular feature of the third mission is the old stone wall showing the hollow square in which all the missions are arranged.

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