in harmony, or in convenience, unless, possibly, it may be the Senate Chamber at Albany. It is, too, like the Kansan's character ought to be—genuine and honest. There is nothing in the whole chamber which is not what it pretends to be. Bronze is bronze, and marble is marble; there is no painted wood to represent either. I hope it symbolizes the solid and enduring character of our government, and that to our children's children may go down as a legacy of wisdom and justice, the work to be accomplished in that chamber.

When our first Legislature met, the population of the State was 50,000. When the Legislature first met in the State House, the population was but little over 300,000. Now it exceeds the latter number by a round million. Great as has been our architectural progress, it has not kept pace with the growth in population and wealth. I am not among those who look upon our costly State buildings as wild and unnecessary extravagance. It may serve the purpose of wandering and savage tribes to make their few rude laws in wigwams of bark or the hides of wild beasts, but the place of assemblage of the supreme power in a great commonwealth, filled with an educated and cultivated people, should be dignified by all the evidence of progress which the art of architecture can furnish, and which the prosperity of that people can afford.

When the first Senate met, the Senators represented a people living along a narrow strip of territory bordering the eastern frontier. As heretofore stated, the most western Senator was S. N. Wood of Council Grove, and I do not doubt that he then talked, as Senators now talk, of the Great Southwest. To use an illustration suggested by an ex-Senator from southeastern Kansas, the map of the State of Kansas might be fitly represented by a barn door; the inhabited territory by the lock on the door, and the district from which public officers were chosen was the keyhole. This he facetiously denominated "the key-hole system."

I have already alluded to the cause which brought to our State its first population—the Anti-Slavery and Free-State agitation. Those who came in later years were mostly men from the Eastern States and foreign countries, seeking homes on our fertile prairies. A very large proportion of them had been soldiers of the Republic in the War for the Union. This fact has moulded and emphasized the genius of the Commonwealth to such a degree that its laws and institutions have placed it among the most progressive in the world. I cannot close without, in this connection, referring to a statement which lately appeared in a historical work which read: "John Brown was a parenthesis in Kansas history." Now a parenthesis is something which may be left out without injuring the sense. Is this true of John Brown? I think no one doubts that the War for the Union was an outgrowth of the slavery agitation and the contest to make Kansas a Free State. I think it also true that the heart of a nation finds expression in its songs. I therefore conclude that John Brown's place in the history of Kansas and the Union has been fixed by the soldiers of the Union armies, when on every camp-ground, and in every march, they filled the air with the martial music of that grand hymn of liberty:

"John Brown's body lies mouldering in the ground,
But his soul goes marching on."

ADDRESS OF HON. J. B. JOHNSON.

The next speaker introduced was Hon. J. B. Johnson, Speaker of the House of Representatives, who delivered the following address:

THE NEW KANSAS.

Reviewing the record of the genesis of States, we who meet here to-night, and the more than a million of people who comprise our population, know how admirably our beloved Kansas is fitted to be the central star in the Union's phenomenal galaxy.
Through what a strange experience of sunshine and shadow it has passed! Its early struggles and baptism of blood have been told to you on this Twenty-fifth Anniversary of its birth, by men who were prominent actors in those times, in language more eloquent than I can command. Some of those who founded, on Kansas soil, the principles which have made the State what it is to-day, and point to even greater possibilities in the years that are to come, are here present with us to-night, and it appears to me that that noble little army of which they were a part, was destined for their special task—they were anointed as men have never been. And what a completed scroll of historic deeds is theirs! If I were to point to the fact which above all others has been favorable to our growth, it would be to the persistence of those noble men, their hardihood and mighty endurance, their experience of the severe exactions of patience, and that sublime faith in the right which alone made it possible for them to raise on the fresh soil of a wilderness, a civilization whose inestimable blessings you and I enjoy to-day. "Firm and faithful, they kept at their work in those years of dark despair, intent on the present, yet more mindful of the future; like Abraham, reading their posterity in the stars of heaven, content for the sure mercies of time to vindicate their sacred trust." And what a vindication it has been! The glory of Kansas answers. But I propose on this occasion to speak of the State in its incipient manhood of to-day—the accession of its majority. Unanimous prophecies of its future were made years ago that were ridiculed; deemed idle dreams, or mere picturesque anticipations not possible in material nature. But we know now, and the world knows, that they were truthful foreshadowings by inspired men of a condition which we to-day realize, but which have not yet reached their calm and completed whole. History shows us on every page that wherever pilgrimage has taken a westward direction new empires have sprung up; and Kansas, with its marvelous progress, and still more wonderful possibilities, is but another emphatic verification of this historic fact.

Our more recent people, I mean the pioneers in the central and western portions of the State, the New Kansas, have had much to contend with; but theirs has been a physical struggle, in contradistinction to the preeminently severe moral trials of the founders of Kansas—those noble and long-suffering men to whom I have referred, and to whom, above all others, we owe what we are. The pioneers of our central and western civilization of to-day, by the fickle mutations of the climate of our intro-continent region, had to suffer, but by suffering became strong; they had to wait, but by waiting they have triumphed. Incongruous elements, or what were deemed such by the scientific world, have, in our "New West," been brought together by a before unknown affinity, and to-day on our once-arid plains, are harmonized into a system, producing now-seeming natural results. These newer pioneers have, as it were, "built another empire from the deep of ages, and entered on the circuit of its shining." Their progress in developing the material resources of their once strange locality, has been unexampled. Over bold, bleak hills, and on dunes of sand, in the alkali dust of the desert and on the deep-fissured upland, they have planted forests; where the stunted and sapless grass struggled for existence, broad fields of corn and golden cereals wave in the sunlight. The rains and the summer dews have come, and nature has assisted to make the Great Plains fit for the abode of man. What a contrast between the tornadoes, the grasshoppers and the drouths of a few years ago, and the rich harvests and happy homes of to-day! Time has apparently put all things right. Our early opinions of the possibilities of the western portion of our State were prejudiced and distrustful; but the lapse of a quarter of a century since the birth of Kansas has made us to realize that those who condemned that great area to perpetual sterility, were false prophets. "Year after year God's disposing hand has been rearranging the physical materials of that portion of
our State, and they are compelled to subserve the end intended." What was once in reality a mighty desert, has been redeemed by the magic touch of agriculture, and prosperous towns have sprung up where utter silence once reigned save when disturbed by the heavy tread of the buffalo in vast herds or by the dismal cry of the wolf. For a time there was, it is true, a period of suspense and of fluctuating hopes. The change did not come at once; crops were many times sown and germinated, then came the blazing sun and scorching air, crisping the half-grown fields of grain and changing all to brown vegetation. The corn leaves withered till in July they gave the dry rustling sound of October. When autumn seemed to breathe coolly again over the burnt-up country, then came poverty, dragging down those hardy pioneers in the dust, crushing the aspirations of the heart, and condemning them to the companionship of sorrow and suffering, to such a degree that the State had to interpose its paternal hand and give relief from its treasury. The whole region was condemned as the theater of blasted hopes, fit only as the race-course of the winds and the arena of the tornado. Now all that has passed away, and through a beneficent Providence and the courage and industry of man, the knell of that era has been rung. There is no more prosperous section of our State—nowhere does immigration more madly rush, till unoccupied lands are scarcely to be found by the home-seeker.

Bad seasons may come again, and they doubtless will, for that is the fate of all agricultural areas the world over; but the once dreadful spell of hopelessness is broken, and few now doubt that as the years roll on our western frontier region will, only as broken by casual vicissitudes, continue to blossom as the rose. The rifle has dispersed the buffalo and the antelope, and the plow piercing the soil and exposing its fertile elements to the sunshine and the air, has enticed the clouds to drop their life-giving moisture. Thus the barren and desolate wilderness has been changed to the fruitful abode of man. The chemistry of the seasons has been changed. There are now thousands of happy homes; common schools and the college dispense knowledge and virtue to the children; the press reports the current events and transactions of busy communities; and the pulpit proclaims "Peace on earth, goodwill to all men." Above all, there are, hidden from the public eye, and sheltered within the calm retreat of the dug-out, the sod house, and the more pretentious cottage, thousands of noble women, sharing the hardships of their husbands and giving example to daughters that are to be the mothers of the coming and even more noble generations of the people of Kansas. And now, on this the twenty-fifth anniversary of Kansas as a State, we plant our feet on the glorious achievements of the past, and press firmly on with steadfast purpose to the golden shores of the future.

ADDRESS OF REV. RICHARD CORDLEY, D.D.

Rev. Dr. Cordley, who was then introduced, delivered the following address:

THE SCHOOLS OF KANSAS.

The schools of Kansas are a part of her very structure. They began with her life and have grown with her growth, and have been woven into all her history. The planting of schools was not an incident, nor an afterthought, but a part of the original purpose of her first settlers. It was truth, as well as poetry, that—

"They came to plant the common school
On distant prairie swells."

Schools sprang up as soon as they touched the soil, almost before there were children to attend them. Lawrence was settled in September, 1854, and in less than four months, January 2, 1855, a school was opened by Mr. E. P. Fitch, of Massachu-