

**CITY OF ANN ARBOR:
ITS RESOURCES AND
ADVANTAGES**

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City of Ann Arbor: Its Resources and Advantages by Henry S. Dean

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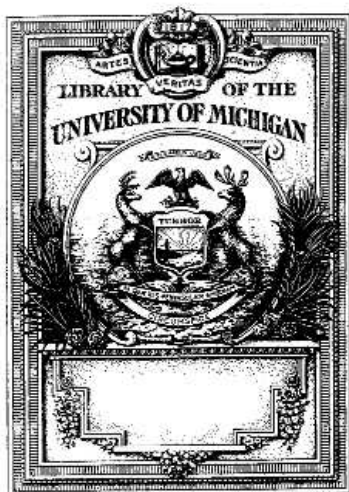
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HENRY S. DEAN

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Albert Greens

CITY
—OF—
ANN ARBOR.
—ITS—
RESOURCES
—AND—
ADVANTAGES.

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN :
THE COURIER BOOK AND JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT,
1887.

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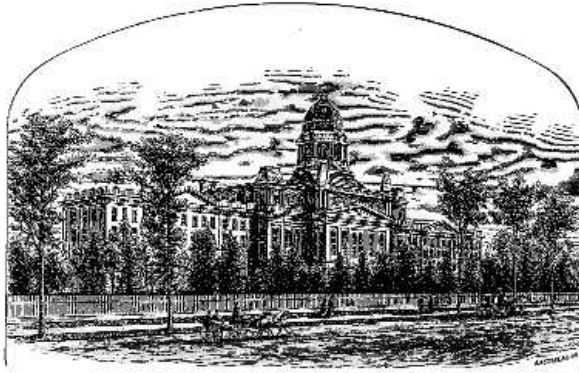
ITS RESOURCES AND ADVANTAGES.

Oral tradition is said to be full of uncertainties but there is authority for the story that Ann Arbor derives its name from an incident which occurred when the country about Ann Arbor was first settled. The story runs, that two families when they came to Michigan located in Washtenaw County on the east and west side of what is now the City of Ann Arbor. As the distance was too great for frequent visits, the wives of the two families used to meet in a beautiful grove half way distant from each home. Their husbands called this meeting place Ann's Arbor as each wife had the name of Ann. In time the meeting place became a village known as Ann Arbor.

To-day the city has fairly earned the name of Arbor City. Long lines of beautiful hard maple and graceful elm trees adorn its streets, giving a delightful shade in summer and adding much to the general appearance of the city.

The City of Ann Arbor is situated on the East and West side of the Huron river near the center of Washtenaw County, State of Michigan thirty-eight miles from Detroit and forty-four miles from Toledo, Ohio. It is the County seat and is the chief city of the County. It is eight hundred and twenty-four feet above the sea, over three hundred feet above the Detroit river and its mean elevation above the Huron river is about eighty feet. The soil is a drift consisting of a sand and gravel bed from thirty to seventy feet in thickness. This, with the bed of the river, which is from fifty to seventy-five feet below the city, makes a perfect system of drainage. In no portion of the city are there low lands or stagnant water. The whole place is entirely free from malaria.

The average annual temperature is about forty-seven degrees F. Owing to its proximity to the great Lakes, the weather is not so cold in winter or so warm in summer as in many other places on the same parallel of latitude. The natural surface configuration about Ann Arbor prevents the occurrence of tornadoes or destructive wind storms. The average annual rain-fall is something over thirty-one inches, and it is so evenly distributed that something more than one half falls between the months of May and October, so that there is seldom a protracted drouth or an excessive and sudden rain-fall. The Huron river never overflows its banks and no



UNIVERSITY HALL.

portion of the city has ever been flooded from high water. Ann Arbor is a healthy city, its death rate being very low, much lower than that of most other cities. Its Board of Health is well organized, and no negligence on the part of its citizens in keeping their yards or grounds is ever allowed. The streets are wide and well kept. The plan of the city is a very good one, the dwellings are not crowded, nearly every house has its lawn and the people take pride in keeping their lawns well cut and in excellent condition. The streets are so hard and level that a stranger in driving over them would think them regularly built macadam roads. The drives about the city are excellent and the views from the hills are grand and very beautiful.

The city is governed by a Mayor and a Board of twelve Aldermen. The Mayor is elected annually, the Aldermen every two years. The city is divided into six wards, each ward being represented in the Board of Aldermen by two persons elected from the ward they represent. The police force is appointed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, thus securing to the city an excellent and efficient force.

Taxation is very low. The total of the state, city, county and school taxes is about one per cent. The city has no debt, but has a surplus in the treasury of \$15,000. The assessed valuation for this year is over \$5,000,000.