THE PAGEANT OF CORYDON, THE PIONEER CAPITAL OF INDIANA 1816-1916; THE DRAMA OF THE PREEMINENCE OF THE TOWN AT THE TIME WHEN FOR TWELVE YEARS IT WAS THE TERRITORIAL AND THE STATE CAPITAL OF INDIANA

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WILLIAM CHAUNCY LANGDON

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Trieste

The Pageant of Corydon

The Pioneer Capital of Indiana

1816— 1916

THE DRAMA OF THE PREEMINENCE OF THE TOWN AT THE TIME WHEN FOR TWELVE YEARS IT WAS THE TERRITORIAL AND THE STATE CAPITAL OF INDIANA.

BY

WILLIAM CHAUNCY LANGDON

IN FRONT OF THE OLD
STATE CAPITOL AT CORYDON
JUNE 2 and 3, 1916

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The Pageant of Corydon

The Pioneer Capital of Indiana

1816--1916

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FOREWORD

THE Pageant of Corydon is to commemorate the time of the pre-eminence of the town, when it was for twelve years, from 1813 to 1825, first the Territorial and then the State Capital of Indiana. Here in 1816 met the Constitutional Convention which formulated and voted the first Constitution of the State of Indiana. The historical interest of the village of Corydon centers naturally in the Old Capitol, erected in 1812 as a Court House and appropriated to the use of the Governor and Legislature when Corydon became the capital in 1813, and in the Constitution Elm, beneath whose shading branches the Convention met in 1816. The Pageant will be performed on the Public Square in front of the Old Capitol.

The music, played by the Indiana University Orchestra, is most of it from the music of the Pageant of Bloomington and Indiana University, composed by Charles Diven Campbell. The Hymn to America was composed by Brookes C. Peters. Corydon is taken from the old Missouri Harmony and orchestrated by Dr. Campbell.

In presenting the historical material a certain freedom has necessarily been exercised for the sake of dramatic clarity and effectiveness. In many instances the language of the dialogue is in the actual words of the characters represented. It has, however, seemed inadvisable to indicate these passages by quotation marks, on account of the frequent necessity for making slight changes, omissions, or additions in the wording to suit the situation as represented. So also in producing the pageant certain omissions have been deemed advisable which it did not seem necessary to eliminate in the printed form of the pageant.

W. C. L.

OUTLINE OF THE PAGEANT.

Prologue: The Welcome of Old Corydon.

Episode 1: The Completion of the Court House (1812).

Episode 2: Corydon, the Capital (1813).

Episode 3: The Constitutional Convention (1816).

Episode 4: The New Capital (1825).

Epilogue: The Blessing of the Years.

Finale: Centennial!

The Pageant of Corydon

The Pioneer Capital of Indiana

1816—1916

PROLOGUE: THE WELCOME OF OLD CORYDON.

The Bell of the Old Capitol is rung a half hour before the pageant performance is to begin, and again fifteen minutes before the hour. The Bell is rung once more for the beginning of the Pageant. The orchestra plays the Hymn to Indiana.

While the orchestra is still playing, people of Old Corydon come in from various directions, singly and in groups, attracted by the sound of the bell and the music of the orchestra. Seeing the audience, with interest and some surprise they comment upon it to each other. They evidence their appreciation of the importance of the occasion and of the assembled audience, and several of them consulting together agree to call their Governor, General William Henry Harrison. Four or five of them go to the door of the Capitol. The door opens and Governor Harrison appears. He talks with his neighbors, standing in the doorway a few moments, and then cordially comes forward at their suggestion toward the people of 1916 on the grandstand and addresses them, while the others of the people of Old Corydon stand variously grouped a little behind him. The music plays very softly as he speaks.

HARRISON: Our welcome to you all, good friends! I bring
The welcome of Old Corydon itself.
You cry "Hello, the house!" We open the door