



GRAND REVIEW OF THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES, AT WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 23, 1865.—TROOPS MARCHING UP PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, BEFORE PASSING THE REVIEWING STAND.—FROM A SKETCH BY W. T. CRANE.

The Washington of 1861 and 1865 was a very different city from the magnificent capital of to-day. It was then an overgrown country city, with no important buildings except the public offices, and many of those were unfinished. Its streets were little better than country roads, and they were so cut up with artillery and heavy wagon-trains that they stood knee-deep in mud; and even Pennsylvania avenue, which to-day is one of the finest streets in the world, was notorious for being, in its normal condition, almost impassable. It was into such a city that the triumphant Union armies entered in May, 1865, and closed their victorious career with a grand review. The sombre emblems commemorative of the martyred Lincoln had scarcely disappeared when this display of the success of his labors was made. Mingled with the joy and enthusiasm excited by this passage through the streets, was much that was pathetic and saddening. No list of dead and wounded could give so true an idea of the perils of a soldier's life as the appearance of the maimed survivors in the sadly-thinned ranks. Yet the armless sleeve and the halting step made heroes of those who exhibited them, and the general feeling was one of rejoicing that "this cruel war was over," and of enthusiasm for the saviors of their country. The army marched through Washington and then, as an army, disappeared forever; absorbed into the body-politic, a million men of war turned men of peace in a single day.