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# "We are a Distinct and Peculiar People":

## Oliver Perry Temple and the Knoxville Industrial Association Address of 1869

By Alison Vick\*



The mountains and valleys of East Tennessee set it apart from the other regions of the Volunteer State. The three regions (East, Middle, and West) are very distinctive in their landscape and culture. Knoxville is the primary city in East Tennessee, but the region as a whole is closely associated with the Great Smoky Mountains and the Appalachian South. While the mountains and rivers are some of East Tennessee's most attractive features and natural resources, the region's terrain limited large-scale farming or industrial development.

Historically, East Tennessee was the poorest of Tennessee's three regions, and as such, residents carved out a specific niche which shared cultural ties more akin to Southwest Virginia and Western North Carolina than the rest of Tennessee. During the nineteenth century, the differences between East Tennessee and the other two regions within the state were even more pronounced than they are today. Unlike West and Middle Tennessee, during the Civil War East Tennessee did not support secession and its inhabitants were predominately Unionists. When Tennessee seceded from the Union and war erupted, the people of East Tennessee had divided loyalties. In 1861, a poll showed that the majority of East Tennesseans favored remaining with the Union.<sup>1</sup> More than four years after this poll was conducted, Civil War soldiers returned home and discovered the landscape and economy of East Tennessee was ravaged, and their farms destroyed, crops devastated, and livestock depleted.

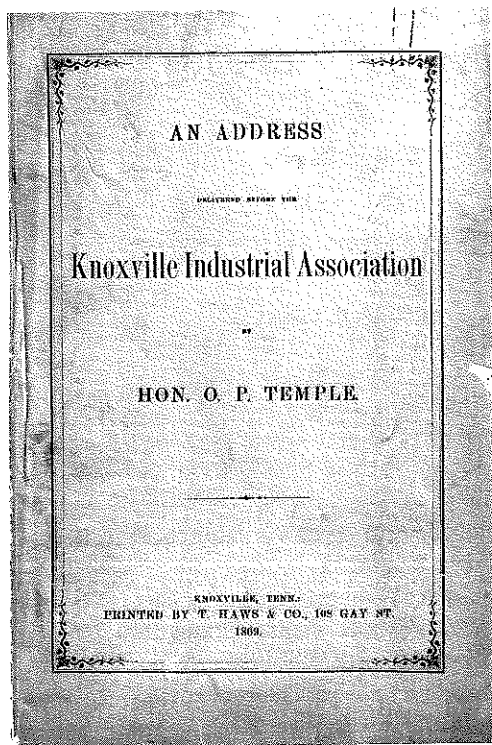
In the wake of this destruction East Tennesseans needed a plan of recovery and economic rejuvenation. In 1869, the prominent Knoxville

\* The author is a graduate student in history at Virginia Tech.

<sup>1</sup> Mary U. Rothrock, *The French Broad-Holston Country: A History of Knox County, Tennessee*, (Knoxville, 1946), 41.



lawyer and equity judge, Oliver Perry (O.P.) Temple (1820-1907) offered a plan to transform the city of Knoxville and the region. In 1869 he delivered a lengthy speech to the Knoxville Industrial Association. This group promoted the economic assets of East Tennessee and Temple was their primary spokesperson. Temple's speech emphasized how East Tennessee was a unique region before, during, and after the Civil War.



O.P. Temple's 1869 speech before the Knoxville Industrial Association resulted in two short books. *An Address Delivered Before the Knoxville Industrial Association* by Hon. O.P. Temple (Knoxville, 1869) was designed for local audiences and had a limited print run.

*Facts and Figures* contained complex jargon, financial data, and numerous mathematical charts and figures. Furthermore, the writing style of *Facts and Figures* was very dry and difficult to read. *An Address* focused the reader on loftier goals and Knoxville's potential. Because *An Address* contained more flowing language and was more readable than *Facts and Figures*, it was more representative of the actual speech that Temple delivered. Both versions of

<sup>2</sup> Oliver Perry Temple, *Facts and Figures Concerning the Climate, Manufacturing Advantages, and the Agricultural and Mineral Resources of East Tennessee* (Knoxville, 1869).

<sup>3</sup> Oliver Perry Temple, *An Address Delivered Before the Knoxville Industrial Association* by Hon. O.P. Temple (Knoxville, 1869).

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Temple's message promoted economic rejuvenation for Knoxville and the reunification of the divided loyalties of the region. Temple was aware that economic growth required the rekindling and strengthening of ties between the North and South. This essay reviews the details and purposes of Temple's postwar message by focusing on the text of *An Address Delivered Before the Knoxville Industrial Association by Hon. O.P. Temple*. This scarce printed version of his speech was designed to galvanize the average citizens of Knoxville. Temple and others believed that progress would only be possible when East Tennesseans set aside their Civil War prejudices and worked together to develop a strong industrialized economy.

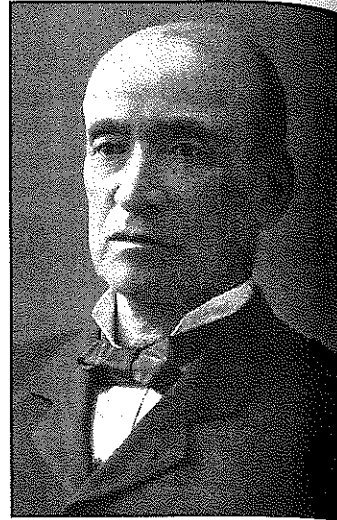
O.P. Temple was a figure well-known throughout the Knoxville area because of his community activism. He had served as a lawyer, was an advocate for higher education, promoted agricultural reform, and at the time of his speech, he served as an equity judge in Tennessee's Eighth Chancery District, in present-day Union, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Campbell counties. Temple's address paid attention to the problems faced by East Tennesseans in 1869, but these problems were not exclusive to East Tennessee. As an area closely associated with the culture of the Appalachian South, the problems East Tennesseans faced were also seen in parts of North Carolina and Virginia. It is this connection to the other parts of Appalachia, that make Temple's address relevant to scholars studying the Appalachian South during Reconstruction. The speech articulated the problems East Tennesseans faced in the postwar period, and also explained how leaders in the communities tried to resolve the social and economic crises wrought by the war.

In spite of his contributions to the region, few historians or Tennesseans have studied O.P. Temple and his influence on Knoxville and East Tennessee in the postwar period. Almost 150 years later, the scholarship on Temple is scant. Who was this man who had such influence on Knoxville and East Tennessee during Reconstruction? What was the Knoxville Industrial Association, and why did Temple deliver his address before them? What did his address mean for the rural farmers and laborers of the time? To understand the importance of Temple's speech, it is necessary to first understand his background and rise to prominence in East Tennessee.

Oliver Perry Temple was born January 27, 1820 to James and Mary Craig Temple, who like many of the people living in the Appalachian South, were of Scotch-Irish descent. When Temple's father died in 1822, Mary Craig Temple took responsibility for raising her seven children and instilled the importance of education. His mother's strong belief in the importance of education struck a chord with Temple. In 1841, he enrolled in a program of classical education in Washington College in Washington County, Tennessee near present-day Johnson City. As a student, Temple developed an interest in political science and law.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Fred Bailey, "Oliver Perry Temple, New South Agrarian," (M.A. thesis, University of Tennessee, 1972), 2-4.

*Oliver Perry Temple, 1820-1907, was a prominent figure in Knoxville throughout the second half of the nineteenth century. He supported educational, agricultural, industrial, and urban development for the region. After the Civil War, he proposed a plan to transform Knoxville into a modern city. William Rule, ed. Standard History of Knoxville, Tennessee (Chicago, 1900).*



Temple completed his formal education in 1844 and immediately entered politics. That year, Temple campaigned actively for the Whig Party presidential candidate, Henry Clay. James K. Polk defeated Clay that November, but Temple's active participation in the campaign exposed him the field of politics and acquainted him with William G. Brownlow. The campaign also gave Temple the courage and support to challenge Andrew Johnson for the Senate in 1847. Again, Temple was defeated by someone more experienced in Tennessee politics.<sup>5</sup>

Following his defeat, Temple put politics on the back burner and turned his attention to law. In 1846, Temple passed the bar, and quickly became one of the most successful lawyers in Knoxville. In 1851, Temple married Scotia Calendonia Humes, a devout Presbyterian of direct Scottish heritage. Three years later in 1854, Temple became a trustee for East Tennessee University, which would later become the University of Tennessee. Temple served as the school's trustee for the next fifty-four years. It was also in the 1850s that Temple gained regional and national prominence. Temple's acquaintanceship with Tennessee Senator, and fellow Whig Party member, John Bell, developed into a close friendship which brought Temple to the attention of President Millard Fillmore. Fillmore appointed Temple, to a three-man delegation assigned to negotiating with Native Americans in Texas over taxes on territory ceded by Mexico. During Temple's tenure in Texas, he developed friendships with Joseph E. Johnston, Albert Sidney Johnson, and Sam Houston, a hero among Texans and Tennesseans alike.<sup>6</sup>

Following his service in Texas, Temple returned to Tennessee. Always an advocate of reform and modernization, Temple invested heavily in railroads and real estate. His investments resulted in great wealth, an estate in Knoxville called Melrose, and a high level of social standing. By 1860, Temple and others were concerned with Tennessee's stance on the issue of secession. Temple was a Unionist, and as an East Tennessean, he did not

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 5-6.

<sup>6</sup> William Rule, ed. *Standard History of Knoxville, Tennessee* (Chicago, 1900), 500; Bailey, "Oliver Perry Temple," 7-9.

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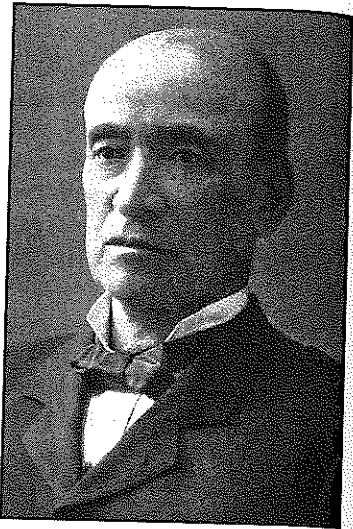
The Civil War was an uneven and significant battle for the rest of the country by smaller battles and guerrilla warfare across the region. The losses of transport and livestock, crossed resources. In Knoxville, Sanders altered the divided the loyal town.<sup>8</sup>

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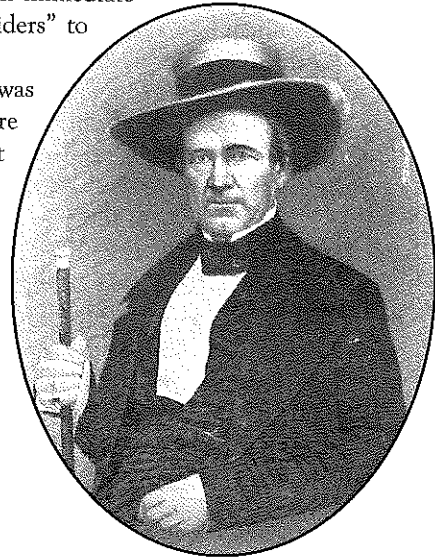
support secession. He campaigned actively in the anti-secession movements of 1861. Ultimately, when war erupted that year, Temple pledged loyalty to his state. While he was not an advocate for the causes of secession listed by the Confederacy, Temple remained in Knoxville. In spring 1862, Temple was appointed as one of the defending counsels for the famous Union soldiers known as Andrews Raiders, who that April had stolen the Confederate steam-locomotive, the *General*. The trial ended abruptly when Union troops advanced toward Knoxville and forced an immediate evacuation of the men of "Andrews Raiders" to Chattanooga.<sup>7</sup>

The Civil War in East Tennessee was uneven and devastating. There were significant battles near Chattanooga, but the rest of the region was mostly plagued by smaller battles, sieges, skirmishes, and guerrilla warfare. The movement of armies across the region resulted in significant losses of transportation routes, property, livestock, crops, and other natural resources. In Knoxville, the Battle of Fort Sanders altered the landscape and further divided the loyalties of the residents in the town.<sup>8</sup>

At the end of the Civil War in 1865, the Volunteer State had significant political, social, and economic challenges to address. Reconstruction in Tennessee was a complicated process and leaders who had supported the Union, such as Brownlow and Temple, had great opportunities to decide how to address postwar challenges. In East Tennessee one of the most immediate needs was to increase the size of the labor force. Temple, like other Whiggish leaders of the time, believed that economic stimulation and industrial development was the key of building a new and vibrant society. However, a stable and inexpensive workforce would be needed to help with the transition.

<sup>7</sup> Bailey, "Oliver Perry Temple," 10, 13; William Pittenger, *Daring and Suffering: A History of the Andrews Railroad Raid* (New York, 1887), 264-77.

<sup>8</sup> See, Digby Seymour, *Divided Loyalties: Fort Sanders and the Civil War in East Tennessee*, 3rd ed. (Knoxville, 2002); Noel C. Fisher, *War at Every Door: Partisan Politics and Guerrilla Violence in East Tennessee, 1860-1869* (Chapel Hill, 1997); Robert Tracy McKenzie, *Lincolmites and Rebels: A Divided Town in the American Civil War* (Knoxville, 2006).



Sam Houston, Tennessee Governor from 1827-1829 and early Texas pioneer, remains one of the most colorful Tennesseans of the nineteenth century. O.P. Temple and Houston negotiated with Native Americans in Texas during the 1850s. From, J.S. Jones, *Biographical Album of Tennessee Governors* (Knoxville, 1903).

Historically, immigrants provided a source of cheap labor, and in the postwar period there was a need for more workers in the South. The working class of East Tennessee was comprised of the Scotch-Irish and Germans. In 1867, the Tennessee legislature created the Immigration Bureau to encourage new immigrants to relocate to the Volunteer State. But, two years later, lawmakers halted funding for the agency. Like other postwar leaders, Temple initially rejected new immigration, but by the late 1860s he embraced a new set of goals. He believed in the importance of economic rejuvenation, investment from outside the region, and attracting new groups and laborers to Knoxville. To aid these initiatives, Temple and other influential and wealthy entrepreneurs founded the Knoxville Industrial Association. This group promoted the importance of economic rejuvenation through the unity of agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. As one of the organization's first activities, Temple delivered a sweeping address and reform agenda.<sup>9</sup>

In the spring of 1869, Temple addressed the members of the Knoxville Industrial Agency and other guests. During the course of the lengthy speech, Temple covered a wide range of topics, initiatives, and historical details of the region. In the process, Temple outlined a lofty plan to create new jobs, woo investors, and create a new economy for Knoxville. The key, he believed, was to attract a suitable workforce to help make the transition. Thus, Temple opened his address with an open invitation to the "immigrant" to come to Knoxville. He explained:

*The Immigrant, in selecting a new home, naturally inquires, in reference to the Point in contemplation, concerning the Climate, the Soil, the Productions, the Schools and Colleges, the state of Society, the Railroads and Markets, the Minerals and Manufacturers. I propose treating briefly these several topics.*<sup>10</sup>

Temple followed his invitation to a new workforce searching for a home with an idyllic depiction of East Tennessee's climate, saying that:

*Its summers are delightful. The heat is greatly tempered . . . the winters are mild and pleasant. Snow seldom falls, and ice rarely exceeds three or four inches in thickness. Much of our stock runs out, unprotected, during the whole year. The fierce winds which, during a great part of the year, violently sweep over the northwestern States, rarely visit in fury this mountain protected region. Swamps and stagnant water, so common in the west and further south are almost unknown. For this reason miasmas and noxious exhalations, except in the region just stated, are absolutely unknown. In the region of Knoxville, and in all*

<sup>9</sup> Bailey, "Oliver Perry Temple," 101, 104, 130.

<sup>10</sup> Temple, Address, 3.



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<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

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*that East of it, we are exempt from chills and ague, the great enemy of the immigrant in all the Western and Southern States. No process of acclimation is necessary here, whether the immigrant comes from Maine or Pennsylvania, from France or Norway, from the first he inhales a pure mountain air, and is exempt from disease as our native mountaineer. He can come with perfect safety during any month in the year.<sup>11</sup>*

The first striking aspect of Temple's description was his description of the immigrant. In 1869, the term had multiple meanings. Who was the faceless immigrant that he referred to in his description? His word use demonstrated that Temple was appealing to European immigrants. Also, he was addressing the northern "carpetbagger," the much-resented figure of many southerners during Reconstruction. The carpetbaggers were frequently middle class, educated northerners, who had some amount of capital for investment. Because of these traits, Temple saw these northerners as potentially useful to help promote education and bring money into the South.

Temple's assertion that the immigrant had nothing to fear living in East Tennessee suggested that he was referring to the newly freed African American population. Though there was not a large population of African Americans living in Knoxville during the Civil War, there was a black community. The postwar period in many parts of Tennessee was still an inhospitable place for African Americans. Temple asserted that East Tennessee was a different region from that of West and Middle Tennessee, and one in which immigrants, whether African American, European, or from the North, could live safely. He added further assurance for immigrants saying:

*The people of East Tennessee are at peace. The outrages of which strangers may read are in Middle and West Tennessee. There are no Ku Klux outrages here. During the late civil war a very large majority of people sympathized with the National Government. Those who took the opposite side in East Tennessee, are to-day law-abiding and peaceable citizens, quietly engaged in legitimate business. Many of them, possibly a large majority, sincerely desire to see immigrants from the North settle with us and join in developing our wonderful resources.*

*The immigrant will be as safe here as in New York or Pennsylvania. This is certainly more true of East Tennessee than of any other part of this State or of the South. Perhaps this is the only place where he is really safe, but certainly he is safe here.<sup>12</sup>*

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 4.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 12.



In addition to assuring the immigrant of their safety in East Tennessee, Temple's address boasted of the vast economic potential in Knoxville and the surrounding area. In discussing the soil and crops of East Tennessee, Temple had two agendas. The first was to encourage immigrants to move to Knoxville. This part of his address appeared to be directed to immigrants from Europe, particularly Eastern and Southeastern Europeans. He stated:

*The products of the soil of East Tennessee are exceedingly numerous. Occupying a half way position between South Carolina, and the grain growing States of the north west, with an altitude greater than either, it combines many of the peculiarities of production of each of those regions. Here the yam, the peach, and the water melon [sic] mature in luscious perfection. The fig will also ripen out doors in this place. On the other hand many products, more peculiarly belonging to a northern climate, do well in this region such as wheat, rye, oats, timothy, buck wheat, clover, apples, pears, and the Irish potato.<sup>13</sup>*

Temple's mention of watermelons and figs was an attempt to appeal to farmers in the Mediterranean region, where these fruits are prominent crops. Careful not to exclude Northern and Eastern Europeans from the appeal, Temple also stated how grain crops and Irish potatoes thrived in East Tennessee. Most of the crops Temple mentioned were not, and are still not, generally harvested in East Tennessee. Considerably hilly and very rocky, East Tennessee was not the southern "bread-basket" that Temple described. However, Temple's speech had an educational and agricultural agenda. As a successful farmer and promoter of husbandry, Temple understood that replanting fields with the same crop yearly depleted the soil of vital nutrients. As a result, crop yields decreased in quantity and quality each year. The crops he listed were ones he had achieved success with on his own estate, and he sought to encourage diversity through crop rotation. By producing higher crop yields, farmers would have enough to feed their families, and sell the surplus in the city markets, thereby encouraging trade and economic prosperity.

When Temple discussed people of all classes and ethnicities immigrating to East Tennessee, he spoke directly about education. Only four years after the end of the Civil War, Temple advocated for education for different races and classes. He explained:

*At all times we have had a plenty of colleges in East Tennessee. Since the war a free school system has been adopted and put into operation, which opens the doors of knowledge to every child in the State black or white, rich or poor. Thus is Tennessee moving to the front in the line*

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 7.

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<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, 12.

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*of progress. This system has imparted a new zeal and enthusiasm in behalf of the cause of education. The great fact is at last recognized that to have a prosperous and free people, you must have an educated people. Knowledge is truly power. Educate the ignorant man, and you will add to his power more than a hundred fold.* <sup>14</sup>

Temple's declaration represented a progressive step toward modernization of Tennessee's educational system. Both African American children and the children of farmers and poor laborers would receive some level of education, even if the facilities and quality of education were separate and unequal compared to the schools for the children of middle class and affluent whites. Temple used the speech to distinguish East Tennessee as a separate region. He stated:

*Let not East Tennessee be confounded with the other divisions of this State, or with other parts of the South. We are a distinct and peculiar people. We hail the coming of the immigrant with a hearty welcome, and give him the assurance of perfect security, as long as he obeys the laws. We point him to our agricultural fields, to our vast mines of iron, lead, zinc, coal, copper, ochre and slate, to our vast quarries of marble, to our splendid water powers, "now running idly to the sea;" to our grand old forests of pine, oak, ash, birch, maple, hickory and walnut; to our equable climate as lovely as that of Italy, and invite him to participate with us in these golden bounties of Providence so lavishly bestowed on this beautiful region.* <sup>15</sup>

Temple's use of the word Providence meant to attract attention. In a region where religion played a significant role in the lives of most of the population, this reference connected to the idea that East Tennesseans were a moral group of people, blessed with vast natural resources. At the same time, Temple connected East Tennessee to a higher power, which suggested to immigrants that the region was religious and moral, and thereby safer than most areas of Tennessee.

Temple's statements outlined the path for Knoxville to modernize. While his statements were meant to assure the immigrant of their safety in a changing and urbanized environment, he also wanted to appeal to workers and farmers in and around Knoxville. In a paternalistic way, Temple petitioned the people of Knoxville to avoid violence on basis of ethnicity, race, or creed. Temple's statement also explained that the development of the area's "wonderful resources" would bring economic prosperity to the area. But his message also encouraged the exploitation of the region's natural resources for the sake of progress and profits. He explained:

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 12.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

We boldly assume that no point in the South or Southwest, all things considered, commands so many advantages for cheap and profitable manufacturing as Knoxville. Let facts speak:

1. Our climate, as has already been shown, is perfectly healthy. It is emphatically a temperate climate. Out door work can be done the whole year round. We have neither the long and hot, and therefore exhausting summers of the South, nor the long and icy winters of the North. Our altitude and the lofty mountains which surround us, account for this apparent phenomenon. Our productions are not restricted, but admit a greater diversity and a wider range than can anywhere else be found.
2. Labor is cheap, and must remain so, because provisions are abundant and cheap.
3. Provisions are cheap and abundant. The immense supplies drawn from this valley, by both armies during the late civil war, forever established its character as one of the most productive spots in all the land.
4. Iron and coal can be had here as cheaply as desired. They are brought in by the rivers and by the railroads. Then combine with iron and coal, cheap labor, cheap food, a mild climate, and a vast country destitute of every article made of iron, wood, steel, cotton or wool, and there is presented a market for sale and profit. Such is our proposition.
5. We are situated on the very borders of the cotton region, where they have not cheap food, and therefore they cannot have cheap labor. There is no district in the South, except the small district in Alabama, where coal and iron, cheap meat and cheap grain are found together as they are at Knoxville. Besides, the climate further South is enervating, and therefore it cannot compete with us. We daily send from this point to Alabama and Georgia, bacon, corn, beef, Irish potatoes, butter, eggs and hay, and that fact demonstrates the inability of those regions to compete with us in cheap food and labor. The Cotton States may manufacture cotton, but beyond they cannot go, if our people are true to their splendid opportunities. We can undersell them. We can and will manufacture for them all the multiform products of iron, wool and wood. There is the great market for our rising factories. And sooner or later New England will be forced to transfer her machinery for all the heavier manufactured articles to the Alleghany District, on the borders of the cotton fields, or stop the whirl of her spindles.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., 23-24.



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<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 24.

Temple's address hinted that the future of the region lay in the resources buried in the two mountain ranges bordering the Knoxville area. To the east of Knoxville were the Appalachian Mountains, still covered in mature timber. To the west of Knoxville, the Cumberland Mountains contained rich coal and mineral deposits. As a way to harvest these resources and export products from Knoxville, Temple referred to Knoxville's developing railroad network. He continued from the previous list stating that:

6. The sixth reason why Knoxville affords remarkable facilities for manufacturing is, that it is the center of a magnificent railroad system, and therefore affords an outlet to market in every direction. At this point the great through road from Washington and New York to New Orleans, will intersect the great road cutting the other at right angles, from Charleston and Savannah to Cincinnati. By the East Tennessee and Virginia Road, we enter Virginia, and traveling through the heart of that State, we reach by a direct route, Washington and New York. By the East Tennessee and Georgia Road, by way of Dalton, we reach Atlanta and the whole railroad system of Georgia. By the same road, by way of Chattanooga and Wills Valley, we strike the heart of Alabama, and reach, by a direct line, Mobile and New Orleans; while by the same road, by way of Chattanooga, we reach Stevenson, and then turn to Nashville or go direct to Memphis. By the Knoxville and Kentucky Road, now completed to the coal fields, and being pushed forward to Kentucky, we reach Cincinnati and Louisville in the Great West, by a route two hundred miles nearer than by way of Nashville. While by the Knoxville and Charleston Road, or the Rabun Gap Road, we will go directly to Augusta, Charleston and Savannah. And by the East Tennessee and Virginia Road, and the Morristown and Paint Rock Road, we will reach the heart of North Carolina and strike her system of roads. This road is completed within four miles of the North Carolina line. And by the Tennessee and Pacific Road, when completed, we will have a direct road to St. Louis. It will thus be seen that our railroad system, when completed, will be as perfect as can be desired. By it we can reach every important city in the country by the shortest route. Our interior central position gives us the interior and shortest lines to every important market. We can choose between them.<sup>17</sup>

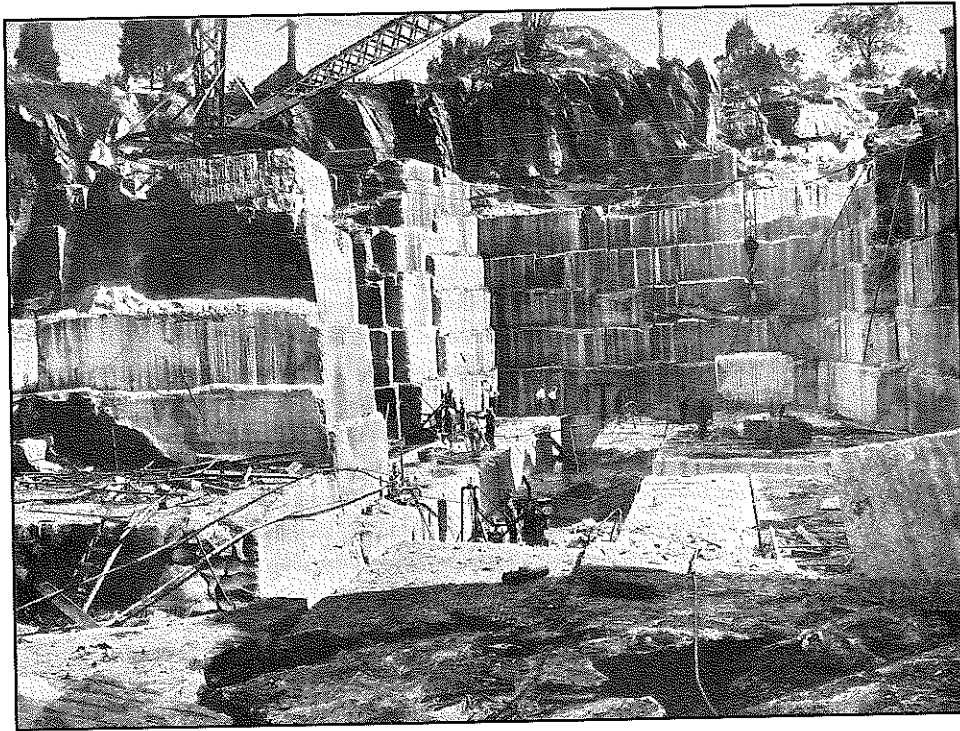
Temple's lengthy depiction of Knoxville as a railroad center was clear—the railroad project was not completed, but with a workforce supplemented by immigrant labor, Knoxville's railroads would be completed, bringing with it economic prosperity to the area. While his address promised the “opening

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 24-25.

up" of the region to the Northeast and Midwest, it also foreshadowed exploitation of the area's natural resources.

Near the close of Temple's speech, he focused on the great industrial potential of the region. Temple described the vast coal and iron deposits available in East Tennessee and encouraged the development of these natural resources. In addition to rail connections, Temple argued that the Tennessee River was crucial to developing the region because it offered a cheap way of transporting Tennessee's resources to ports at New Orleans, Muscle Shoals, and Savannah. In an effort to establish Knoxville as an inland shipping port, he declared:

*Open up the Tennessee river so we can ship by river to New Orleans, and we will supply the world with the very best of marble. The tributaries of the Tennessee are navigable with flat boats from the salt works in Virginia. Give us free access to the ocean, and we will ship without limit, gypsum, salt, lime, marble, coal, iron, copper and lead.<sup>18</sup>*



*By the late nineteenth century Knoxville was at the center of the marble industry and later became known as the "Marble City." Philip M. Hamer, ed., Tennessee: A History, 1673-1932 (New York, 1933), vol. 2.*

<sup>18</sup> Temple, *Facts and Figures*, 26.



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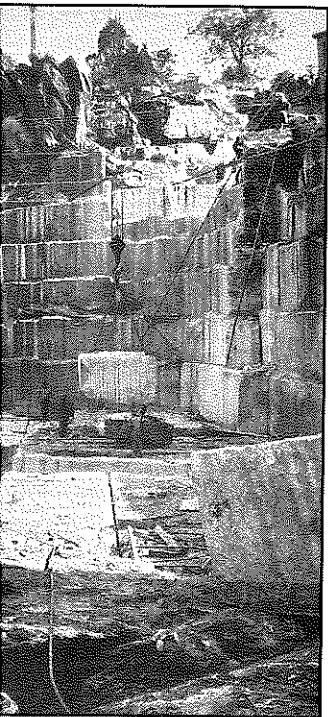
<sup>19</sup> Temple, *Address*

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 17.

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The more widely available printed version of the speech, *Facts and Figures*, concluded with Temple's plea for northern investors to unlock the natural resources and economic potential of the region. He projected how East Tennessee's resources would be best utilized to develop East Tennessee. In contrast, the more scarce printing of the speech for local audiences, *An Address*, lauded the many climatological and geographic assets, and manufacturing potential of East Tennessee. The conclusion of *An Address* offered a more idyllic description of the region and its unique challenges, and left readers with a question:

*Does any man suppose that our people, with such a country, and with such inestimable advantages, with light breaking upon them from every quarter, and with their minds freed from the narrow ideas of other days, will much longer consent to pay tribute to distant States, when the means of a glorious independence are under their very feet?*<sup>19</sup>

In many ways, the two printed versions of Temple's speech delivered the same message—East Tennessee was a region of tremendous natural resources which had been undervalued. However, with the development of Knoxville as a manufacturing hub, Temple believed that East Tennessee would become a center for national trade. He emphasized that the prevalence of natural resources, the potential abundance of cheap labor from immigrants, and nearby railroad networks were key to this transition. Temple believed that if the people of Knoxville worked to develop and use the city's innumerable resources, then "this splendid region" would prosper economically, and become a model city for the postwar South.<sup>20</sup>

While the two printings of Temple's speech indicate some interest in his message, the immediate effects of his boosterism remain unclear. When Temple spoke in 1869, Knoxville was just starting its industrialization process. He referred to the status of manufacturing in the town saying:

*Manufactures are yet in their infancy in East Tennessee. With the exception of a few furnaces, two or three foundries, one nail factory, four or five cotton yarn factories, a steam tannery or two, some plow factories, a soap factory, a few steam saw mills, one zinc establishment, a few rolling mills, and a few other minor establishments such as every community is compelled to have, we are just where we were fifty years ago. In this respect we offer all the advantages of choice and monopoly of a new State.*<sup>21</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Temple, *Address*, 26.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 17.

Temple's survey of the industrial landscape of Knoxville was accurate. Just two years before his address, in 1867, Hiram S. Chamberlain, Union General Ambrose Burnside's quartermaster during the Union occupation of Knoxville, established the Knoxville Iron Company. This was the first large-scale industrial plant in Knoxville, and paved the way for the development of a large industrial sector in Knoxville. While other such enterprises developed in the 1870s they were limited in size, because of few investors, a small labor pool, and incomplete transportation routes. In the 1880s industrialization exploded in the Knoxville area, helped tremendously by the completion of an elaborate railroad system.<sup>22</sup>

O.P. Temple and other leaders guided Knoxville into the industrial age. He was heavily involved in improving the infrastructure of the region. Temple helped secure funds for the railroad between Knoxville and Louisville, which connected East Tennessee to cities in the Midwest. On a more local scale, Temple was a central figure in laying out the plan for Kingston Pike in 1867.<sup>23</sup>

Temple had a varied career after the Civil War. In 1866, William Brownlow appointed Temple as to the Tennessee Eighth District as Chancellor, a position he kept until 1870. From 1870 to 1878 he served as Chancellor of the Second District. Temple practiced law in and around Knoxville until he retired in 1881. Throughout his life, Temple promoted agricultural education and mechanization. In 1872 he co-founded the East Tennessee Farmers Convention to help educate farmers on new techniques, crop cultivation, and equipment. During the 1890s, Temple wrote several books and essays on East Tennessee history. His book *East Tennessee and the Civil War* (1899) discussed Unionist sentiment and included many of his own recollections of the period. Temple, a tireless spokesman for improving the economy and society of East Tennessee, died on November 2, 1907.<sup>24</sup>

The process of economic recovery after the Civil War was a slow process in the South. The South had sustained tremendous physical destruction during the war. Additionally, southerners were reluctant to accept northern investors and ideas as part of a new society. Temple's ideas on industrialization were unusual and not widely accepted in 1869, even in East Tennessee where the majority of residents had opposed secession and supported the Union.

However, Temple's speech documents the significant changes in Appalachian communities and culture during the late 1860s. After the war, East Tennessee was still the poorest part of the state, but the region offered vibrant opportunities for laborers of all backgrounds and ethnicities when the rest of the state did not. In this way, East Tennesseans remained, as O.P. Temple described them, a "distinct and peculiar people" throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century.

<sup>22</sup> W. Bruce Wheeler, *Knoxville, Tennessee: A Mountain City in the New South* (Knoxville, 2005), 19.

<sup>23</sup> Bailey, "Oliver Perry Temple," 130-31.

<sup>24</sup> Oliver Perry Temple, *Notable Men of Tennessee, From 1833 to 1875* (New York, 1912), 21, 24, 29; Oliver Perry Temple, *East Tennessee and the Civil War* (Cincinnati, 1890); Rule, *Standard History*, 500.



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