

nation, and although her position as a border state has deprived her of the full measure of prosperity enjoyed by the Northern and Southern states, her rapid progress is now assured. The battle ground of both armies during the civil war, and the scene of many of its greatest conflicts, her name will be irreparably connected with a struggle from which she suffered more than any other state, Virginia alone excepted. Her founding was an illustration of territorial expansion in its best sense, and she will have the best wishes of the sisterhood of states for the new century upon which she is entering.

## THE TENNESSEE CENTENARY

TENNESSEE celebrated on June 1 the one hundredth anniversary of the approval by President Washington of the act which made her the sixteenth state in the Union. Vermont was the first new state added to the original thirteen, and Kentucky the second, though, singularly enough, the latter was the first whose admission was authorized by the federal Congress. Kentucky was formed from the territory of Virginia by the act of December 18, 1789, and Vermont from a part of the territory of New York by the act of March 6, 1790, and the application of the former for admission into the Union was received on December 9, 1790, and that of the latter on February 9, 1791. Approval was given to the act of Congress admitting Kentucky on February 4, 1791, and to that admitting Vermont on February 18, 1791, two weeks later, but the latter act was to take effect on March 4 of that year, while the formal admission of Kentucky was deferred until June 1, 1792. Although Tennessee followed Kentucky in the order of states admitted after the adoption of the federal constitution, it is not impossible that had not the efforts of John Sevier, the founder of the commonwealth, and his associates been defeated, statehood might have been attained much earlier. For in the middle of the last century pioneers from North Carolina pushed their way across the Alleghenies and founded at Watauga a prosperous colony, and in 1784, formed a constitution and erected a state named Franklin, with Sevier as governor. North Carolina, whose proposal to cede what is now Tennessee to Congress had alienated the colonists and prompted the latter act, finally regained control and destroyed the state organization, but when the cession of the Tennessee tract was finally accomplished in 1790, Sevier became the representative in Congress of the territory south of the Ohio. Later on, in February, 1796, the people of Tennessee adopted a constitution and applied for admission into the Union, and on approval of the act of admission by Washington on June 1 of the same year, elected Sevier as their first governor. In all he served five terms in that capacity and thrice represented his state in Congress, and as its founder and a born empire builder, any list of the great names of the state would be as incomplete without his as it would be without that of President Jackson. Tennessee has played an important and honorable part in the development of the