

# History of U. K.

In the year 1855 John B. Bowman, of Mercer County, Kentucky, a farmer, conceived the plan of the founding, in his native state, a university for the people. He resolved to found and build an institution for the poor men of the country, on liberal and comprehensive plans, to be a monument to his Blue Grass state. The Civil War came on. Fate was against Bowman in the carrying out of his plans and the securing of suitable grounds for such a university was delayed until after the war, when he purchased "Ashland," home of the immortal Henry Clay, containing 433 acres, for the site. Preceding this time the school had been scattered over the city of Lexington, some of the buildings being in the down-town section and some being as far out as Woodland Park.

## IN HEART OF BLUE GRASS

The site of "your" University of Kentucky, as John Bowman proposed it should be, is located in the southern part of the city of Lexington, near the Cincinnati railroad in a former city park. By offering 52 acres of land, \$30,000 in bonds and \$20,000 in cash the city of Lexington and the county of Fayette secured the university. The far-famed Blue Grass region, distinguished for fertility and healthfulness, wealth and beauty, culture and agriculture, race horses and true Americans, is its home.

In the year 1866 the Agricultural & Mechanical or Kentucky University, as it was called then, opened its first session with President John Augustus Williams, four professors and a commandant. Professors adhered strictly to high standards of schol-