

CAPT. JAS. W. ENGLISH stands among the conspicuous figures of the incomparable pluck and courage of Atlanta citizenship. He was one of the originators of the Cotton States and International exposition; he is chairman of the executive committee, a member of the board of police commissioners, president of the American Trust and Banking company, one of the largest financial institutions of the city; president of the Chattahoochee Brick company, one of the largest industrial enterprises of the south; a member of the board of education of Atlanta's public school system, and is largely interested in many other industrial institutions which play no small part in the general development of Atlanta and its section. Capt. English was born October 28, 1837, in the parish of Orleans, state of Louisiana, and was left a penniless orphan at the age of thirteen; he came to Georgia in 1852, and located at Griffin, where he remained until the breaking out of the civil war in 1861, when he enlisted as a private in the Confederate service. His company was ordered to Virginia on the 18th of April, 1861, where it was consolidated with one from Columbus and two from Macon, Ga., forming what was known throughout the war as the Second Georgia battalion. Capt. English remained with the army of northern Virginia, serving with the Second Georgia battalion, Gen. A. R. Wright's brigade. It is said of him by his old comrades that he was only absent thirty days from active service in the field during the entire war. Gen. Lee surrendered him at Appomattox, on the 9th of April, 1865, with the rest of those faithful followers who had borne the brunt of the entire struggle from beginning to end, and on that ever-memorable day, when he began his weary march toward home, the same conditions environed him as confronted every other Confederate soldier that was present at the surrender—poverty in abundance, and poor prospects. It was then he came to Atlanta, making it his home May 14, 1865. He was united in marriage with Miss Emily Alexander, of Griffin, Ga., on July 26, 1866. Their family consists of five children: James W., Jr.; Harry L., Edward, Emily and Jennie. Theirs, indeed, is a happy home. Capt. English entered the service of the city as a member of the general council in 1887, and for the two succeeding years was the chairman of the finance committee of that body, his work in that capacity for the good of the city being marvelous. He found the city's finances in woeful shape, weighted down with a ruinous financial system, with a floating debt of over \$500,000, bearing interest at from 12 to 24 per cent. per annum. He went to work to remedy the situation, and by a bold and honest effort placed the debt upon a basis of payment that was easy, satisfactory and safe, and reduced the rate of interest on said debt to 7 per cent. His work along that line is still remembered to-day in graceful acknowledgment by the older citizens. It was also while a member of that body that the present state constitution was adopted. Among other questions submitted to the people of the state, was the permanent location of the state capital, Milledgeville and Atlanta being competitors for that honor. The preponderance of sentiment and the press of the state seemed to be very largely in favor of Milledgeville. When this fact was fully realized by the mayor and council of Atlanta, they requested Capt. English to take charge of Atlanta's interests, which he reluctantly consented to do, realizing that it was leading a forlorn hope, and the great responsibility that would rest upon such a committee. He called together a number of Atlanta's public-spirited citizens; they organized a committee and elected him their chairman; they soon perfected a thorough organization of their friends throughout the entire state, and appropriated for the

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J. M. English