

## Newport's Historic Park.

On the Newport side of the mouth of the Licking, opposite Cincinnati, is a pleasant city park. On the Covington side is a handsome residential section. It is the most peaceful region. Yet it has a most decided military history.

When Fort Washington was abandoned 132 years ago, in 1804, the Government built a barracks and arsenal in Newport, which remained there until Fort Thomas was established in 1894. Then its site became a park.

In the War of 1812, and in the Mexican and Civil Wars, the Newport Barracks was important. Between times it was a sleepy military post. But long before there was a settlement on that side of the river it was a gathering place. When Kentucky went on the war-path the mouth of the Licking was the rendezvous. In a new country it was a place about the location of which there could be no doubt.

Colonel John Bowman gathered his men there; George Rogers Clark did the same thing in 1780, when he marched against the Indian stronghold on Mad River; Bowman made a fizzle, but Clark had a smashing victory. Even the English were there, for early in 1780 Captain Henry Bird came this way with a company of redcoats and a large number of Indians. He went by boat up the Licking and captured two of the pioneer stations. Returning, the English soldiers took the boats down the Ohio and up the Big Miami, but the Indians and the prisoners crossed to what is now Cincinnati and marched overland.

Now as one stands on the Public Landing he sees Covington and Newport, serene and quiet. Yet there was a time when on the shores of the Licking hundreds of camp fires blazed and the men about them were neither serene nor quiet. Indians, the soldiers of George III., the Kentuckians, with their long rifles and fringed buckskin coats, soldiers of later wars—that beautiful little park in Newport has seen them all. If the Licking had a voice it could tell an heroic tale.