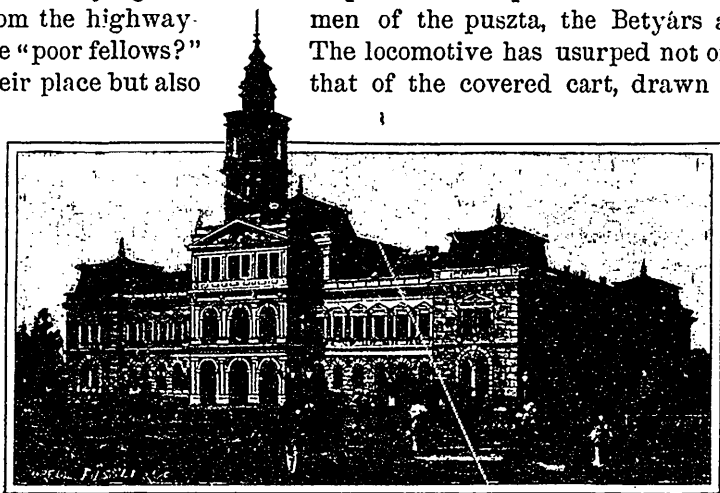


abundant pasturage. The traveller sees vast herds of high-legged, long-horned, white cattle, large flocks of sheep, and herds of swine, feeding by the side of the railway. The horse-herds are still the most daring of riders, the most ardent of lovers, and the most light-hearted of men.

Comparing the Plain as we see it to-day with that sung by Petöfi, Lenau, Beck, and so many other Hungarian bards, we cannot help recognizing the fact that here as elsewhere the progress of culture and civilization has taken place at the expense of the romance and poetry that lent such a charm to the untrammelled life of former times. Where now are the post-chaises, which, drawn by three fleet horses, flew over the steppes, surrounded by a guard of pandours to protect the traveller from the highway-men of the puszta, the Betyárs and the "poor fellows?" The locomotive has usurped not only their place but also that of the covered cart, drawn by



TOWN-HALL, ARAD.

a mixed team of horses and oxen, which was substituted for them in places where the road was too bad to be passable in any other way.

While formerly entire districts might be found in which not a soul understood the noble arts of reading and writing, numerous schools are now engaged in spreading knowledge and enlightenment among the people, though much still remains to be done in this respect. The towns, which were formerly little else than large villages, are becoming more and more the seats of intelligence and centres of an increasing traffic, and their outward appearance is also undergoing a gradual transformation. The houses are for the most part of one story, often thatched with straw, and the streets broad and sandy. Several of the larger