

THE GREAT FAIR

AN IMMENSE SUCCESS.

THOUSANDS OF PERSONS PRESENT.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPARTMENTS AND OBJECTS OF INTEREST.

The great Northwestern Sanitary Fair might be said not to have been open to the public until yesterday, for owing to the late hour on Tuesday afternoon at which the opening ceremonies were held comparatively few persons entered the building. Yesterday, however, such was not the case. Long before the hour of opening the doors, ten o'clock, the vicinity of Dearborn Park was crowded with people anxious to gain admittance, and as soon as the doors were thrown open there was a perfect rush for admission, which those in charge had great difficulty in stopping. By degrees, however, all got in, and then for the remainder of the day there was one continued stream going in and coming out. The great majority of those present during the day were strangers, principally farmers and others residing in the surrounding country. As yet there are not a great many persons present from a distance though thousands may be expected towards the close of the week. Those present during the evening were nearly all our own citizens, and thus it will likely be throughout the Fair. Strangers will be present during the day and the Chicago people in the evening.

The Fair is pronounced by all to be the greatest success ever witnessed in this country, for, fine as all the previous Sanitary Fairs have been, this entirely surpasses them all. The buildings are all as perfect and as well arranged as could possibly be desired; every department is more than fulfilling its promises; the display on all sides is truly magnificent, and the attendance of the public, judging from present appearances, promises to be greater even than was anticipated. In every particular the Chicago Fair is far ahead of any of its predecessors, and those who were instrumental in getting it up have every reason to feel gratified and rejoiced at the signal success which crowns their noble undertaking.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEPARTMENTS.

As it would be utterly impossible to give a description of the departments in one number of our journal, and do them anything like justice, it is our intention to continue the descriptions from day to day until we have described the entire building and its contents. We shall devote a certain amount of space to each department, and describe therein the objects of interest and value as our reporters come across them. In this way we hope to be able to do justice to all, and give the public a full, complete and impartial account of the entire exhibition.

THE CENTRAL DIVISION, OR UNION HALL.

The main entrance to the building is on Washington street, and passing through this entrance we find ourselves in Union Hall, as the central division of the immense structure has been termed. On either side the hall is divided off into departments, each of which has the name above it. A person can thus, in a few moments, reach any department required. The centre of the hall is devoted to pianos, glassware, sewing machines and other articles of value, all of which will be described in the proper place. In the meantime we will do as persons on entering naturally will do, that is, take the right-hand side of the hall and pass down it with the crowds that surround us on every side, taking good care to call at each and every department and glance over the objects of interest that we may find therein.

ROMAN CATHOLIC DEPARTMENT.

The first department we come to is that of the Roman Catholic body. It is very handsomely decorated with the national colors—red, white and blue—and side-by-side with the stars and stripes, hangs the green banner of Erin. Over the central portion of the canopy is a very fine and correct oil painting of General Sherman, executed and presented to this department by Mr. Healy, the well known artist. The display made by the Catholic ladies is a very fine one indeed, the most of their articles being rich and valuable—one magnificent article is a shell basket from Cuba, and presented by the Messrs. Shufeldt, of this city. It surpasses anything of this kind at the Fair. Amongst the needle-work, which is varied and beautiful, are some very fine specimens worked by the Sisters of Charity, the Sisters of Mercy, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, the Sisters of the Good Shepard, and the Sisters of Providence. They have also donated some very fine water color paintings, whose touch and finish display great artistic skill. Mr. Healy donates a well finished painting of the

children of Charles L. of England, the original of which is in Windsor Castle. Daly & Miller, of New York, are represented by \$500 worth of fine paintings. A unique and attractive feature is a miniature monument, covered with moss, and erected to the memory of our dead soldiers, presented by Miss Nie, of Painesville, Ohio. Twelve fine oil paintings of "the Stations" are presented by the society of St. Joseph's Church, Rochester, New York. The department is under the management of Mrs. Gen. Sherman, Mrs. Judge Arrington, Mrs. W. H. Fitch, and Mrs. G. P. R. Healy, to all of whom the Fair is much indebted for the success of this department.

NORWEGIAN DEPARTMENT.

Passing onward, we next come to the Norwegian Department. Here we find a neat and modest display of needle-work, fancy articles, paintings, &c., all very pretty and arranged with great taste. Among the contributions, however, there are none of special interest, or that will attract the curiosity of the passer-by; though those who require any little memento of the Fair can easily procure one here. Mrs. Jamson is Chairman, Mrs. Anderson, Secretary, and Miss Jamson, Treasurer of this department.

GERMAN DEPARTMENT.

Moving on a few steps further, we find an immense crowd congregated, before one of the most beautiful bazaars of the Fair; and on looking up we find that we are in front of the German Department. On elbowing our way to the front as best we can, our eyes are feasted with a perfect medley of beautiful, rich and rare articles, all arranged with that taste and regularity for which the Germans are famous. This department is very large, and every inch of room is occupied. There are paintings, and needle-work, and furniture, and fancy goods in abundance, and thousands of curious articles of all kinds. Right in the centre of the stall is a really fine oil painting, by Louis Kurz, entitled "Desperate charge of Sheridan's cavalry to recover a captured flag." The figures are all well and correctly brought out, and are in every way correct. This work is valued at \$150, and was presented to the department by the artist himself. Among the articles of furniture there are six magnificent chairs, the wood-work of which was done by Jultz & Shultz, of this city, and the needle-work by the German ladies. They are marked at \$50 each. Near them are a sofa and two arm-chairs of finished workmanship, and valued at \$180. They were made and donated by Messrs. Herman & Ricke. There is also a fine bedstead worth \$100, given by a gentleman whose name we could not learn. Mr. Yogher, of Chicago, gave \$200 worth of glassware. Mr. Chon, of Lake street, \$75 worth of bonnets; Messrs. Klocke & Hand, a splendid case of hats and caps; and Mr. Mendleson a magnificent hearth-rug, worth \$100. The collection of needle-work and fancy articles is so miscellaneous and large that we can do nothing more than refer to it. The German ladies have done nobly, and have every reason to feel proud of their department, which is one of the finest at the Fair. The management of this department devolves upon Mrs. Boutz, Chairman, Mrs. Magnus, Secretary, and Mrs. Schmidt, Treasurer, all of whom have discharged their duties well and efficiently.

FRIENDS OF PROGRESS DEPARTMENT.

Having examined the beauties of the German department as fully as time and the crowd around us will permit, we resume our journey northward, and find ourselves next in front of the Department of the Friends of Progress. Here we find a peculiar and attractive feature to those who have any taste for geological matters. In a large glass case, about four feet wide by six feet high, is arranged one of the most perfect and complete collections of Illinois quarts we have ever seen. All the specimens are very fine, and if disposed of as we feel sure they will be, quite a large sum will be realized. This splendid collection was presented to the department by Mr. Worthen, of Springfield, a gentleman who takes great interest in affairs of this character. The remainder of this department is filled with books, fancy goods and needle-work. The managers of the Friends of Progress department are, Mrs. Waterman, chairman, Mrs. A. C. Dye, treasurer, and Mrs. C. A. Gibbs, secretary.

HYDE PARK DEPARTMENT.

Passing on a few feet further we come to a very beautifully arranged department labelled "Hyde Park and Ladies' College," but as the young ladies in charge do not appear to have quite finished their work we shall have to pass along to the next department, and remember to call back and see the Hyde Park ladies as soon as a favorable opportunity occurs.

PRESBYTERIAN DEPARTMENT.

We next come to what is most undoubtedly one of the most beautiful and valuable departments of the Fair. There is a perfect jam of people around it, admiring the beautiful articles before them, and on the canopy overhead we read the words "Presbyterian Department." The decorations of the stall are handsome and appropriate, the canopy being festooned with blue cloth—true blue—the color of the sect ever since the days of the covenants. Directly over the central portion of the stall is a shield of evergreen, and on it, in silver figures, are the dates 1560, the year when Presbyterianism was established, and the present date, 1865. The whole arrangement of the department is the most beautiful and tasteful that could be imagined, and the collection of articles they possess is equal to that of any other department of the Fair. Among the articles exhibited, there is on the north side of the stall, a fine bust of the late lamented President, and immediately over it an angel is stooping with a wreath of evergreens in her hand, just as if in the act of placing it on his brow. A companion piece to this is to be seen on the opposite side of the stall, where stands a bust of the great Father of his country, George Washington, with a dove soaring above him, having in her beak a wreath of evergreens with which she is crowning him. The design and arrangement are very beautiful and are much admired by all. Hanging up between these we see a fine steel engraving of Mr. Lincoln, and as the frame around it looks somewhat peculiar we made inquiries, and are informed that it is composed of pieces of a rail that Abraham Lincoln made thirty years ago. There is another picture of the great martyr, and beneath it his autograph. This is supposed to be the only likeness of the kind in existence. It was presented by Mr. Lincoln to Mr. Edwards of St. Louis, who on account of its just value gave it to this department to be sold for the benefit of the Fair, he himself offering \$100 for it. Another great curiosity here shown is a book of German autographs, in which are the names of nearly all the great Germans who have lived during the last century, written by themselves. This book is valued at \$500, and was presented to the Presbyterian department by Mrs. Judd, wife of our present minister at Berlin. Mrs. Dunn, of this city, donates a rare Leghorn hat, valued at \$100, which is an object of great curiosity to the ladies. There are magnificent pieces of needle work on all sides, and among them a splendid sofa pillow, made by Miss Courson. Fancy articles and curiosities lie around in abundance, making up a collection which, for richness, beauty and value can scarcely be surpassed. The Presbyterian ladies have certainly brought upon themselves the very highest credit for the magnificent display they make, and the expressions we hear on every side show how much the public think of their splendid department. The managers are Mrs. Wadsworth, chairman, Mrs. Bentley, treasurer, and J. V. Farwell, secretary. Crossing a hall which here intersects Union Hall, we come to the

UNIVERSALIST DEPARTMENT.

This department, when completed, will contain some of the most attractive features of the Fair, and even now some things take the attention of all. We find a great crowd congregated around a glass case and on working our way up to it we see a leaf of Confederate bonds of the genuine kind. These are the real thing, nothing bogus about them, and were found by our troops in the city of Richmond at the time of its capture. The Rev. Mr. Ryder, of this city, received them and sent them to this department to be disposed of as curiosities for the benefit of the Fair. So you see, after all, Jeff's Confederate notes will help to buy comforts for our sick and wounded soldiers. Jeff's petticoats also belong to this department, but they are not to be seen there as yet. Traveling from the defunct Confederacy across the seas, we find a number of curious articles from China and Japan, which as we do not know what to call, we will let you look at for yourself and give them whatever name you see fit. The collection of needle work here is very fine indeed, and is thickly interspersed with fancy articles and those thousands of little nick-nacks which the fair fingers of those rosy cheeked girls you see all round you know so well how to construct. This department is very complete and beautiful and one of the most attractive we will meet with. Its managers are Mrs. Livermore, chairman; Miss Ella Jones, secretary, and W. H. Arnold, treasurer.

UNITARIAN DEPARTMENT.

We next come to the Unitarian department, where the ladies very kindly show us all the interesting articles in their stall, and they are not

by any means few in number or unimportant. Here is a fine collection of curious ornaments of one sort and another from far off China and Japan, and near them a collection of beautiful statuettes, by Wm. Rogers. The collection of needle-work is very fine indeed and embraces some of the finest pieces we have yet seen. There is also a large assortment of sea shells of rare and beautiful descriptions, and also an assortment of glass-ware worth quite a nice sum. A very valuable walking stick is for sale here, and, as a curiosity, it is not surpassed in the Fair. The head of it is composed of a piece of the bed of John C. Calhoun, while the stick is made out of a piece of old Fort Moultrie. Who ever gets it will have a rare curiosity. This department is extensively patronized and is doing very good business. The attentive lady managers are Mrs. Sayers, chairman, and Mrs. Jinkham, secretary.

PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT.

Moving on a little farther to the north we find a large crowd congregated, apparently deeply interested in what lies before them. This is the Philadelphia Department, and above it we see the words "Philadelphia to Chicago greeting. We are with you all in the cause of our country and her defenders." This department is under the management of Mrs. Thomas P. James, of the Quaker city, who has come all the way out here with nine other ladies to represent their city. Their department is certainly an attractive one, and there is always a crowd around it. They have not received all their goods yet, as nine cases have been delayed on the road some place, but are expected shortly. In a glass case where all can see it lies a magnificent sword, valued at \$500, made by Horstman & Son, of Philadelphia, which will be presented to the general who receives the largest number of votes. Everyone who votes pays \$1 for the privilege. In the case with it were valuable articles of jewelry presented by Philadelphia jewelers. There is a large collection of perfumery, books, and other valuable articles, as also a number of curiosities from the Holy Land. There is also for sale here a poem on the times, entitled "The days of 1863," and very fine views of the Philadelphia Fair buildings. The ladies-work here displayed is very superior, and is much admired by all. As soon as the whole of the goods arrive, this department will be one of the best and most attractive of the Fair.

We next come to the Foreign Department, but as it will take some time to look over it, we must defer that pleasure for the present.

FAST DAY AT THE FAIR.

To-day the Fair will not be opened until 2 p.m., and then all poor people, that is all who cannot afford to pay the regular prices of admission, will be admitted for 25 cents each to visit all the Fair.

GENERAL GRANT.

The mammoth ox, "Gen. Grant," is now on exhibition for the benefit of the Fair, and hundreds look at him each day. He is the largest animal of the bovine species ever known, and those who do not see him will certainly have reason to regret it.

The Fair, in all its departments, was crowded by visitors yesterday. Thus far it is a greater success than the most sanguine anticipated.

SYCAMORE, May 27th, 1865.

MRS. FRANKLIN, Treasurer of the Episcopalian Booth of the Sanitary Fair, Chicago, Ill.:

Enclosed you will please find draft for one hundred dollars (\$100), from the ladies of St. Peter's Church of this place.

With many wishes of success in this work of Love, I remain yours,

MRS. JAMES W. HUNTER,
Treasurer of said Ladies' Society in same church.

We are informed that Dr. Tiffany's lecture alluded to in another column will be given at Crosby's Opera House instead of Bryan Hall. Tickets will be distributed at No. 66 Washington street.

PARTICULAR NOTICE.—The following parties are respectfully requested not to attend any of our places of public amusement: The man with the creaking boots. The woman with the cough. The man who insists upon procuring a better seat for the ladies under his escort. The woman who can not refrain from audible criticisms on the looks of the actors. The man who cracks nuts. The man who laughs in the wrong place. The man who goes out half a dozen times during the play to moisten his clay. The fast young lady who is constantly levelling her opera-glass at the "fellers."