

VOICE OF THE FAIR.

ANDREW SHUMAN, Editor.

Chicago, Wednesday, June 21, 1865.

FAIR GOSSIP.

—The day exhibitions of the great Fair closed yesterday, but the evening exhibitions will continue until the end of this week, when the Fair will formally close. Its success has continued, since our last, without much abatement, and would doubtless continue for a week or two longer, if the officers of the Fair and their assistants were not literally "tired out," by their constant and fatiguing labors, rendering a speedy closing up of the Fair necessary. It has been a three weeks' carnival, such as has seldom been equalled on any occasion. The patriotic liberality of our people has been well tested, and, as heretofore, has not been "found wanting." The great Fair has been appreciated, patronized and enjoyed, and we all have the pleasing consolation that its success is all for the benefit of a cause that is precious in the minds of all good and true men and women—the aid and comfort of those of the nation's defenders who have been disabled by wounds or sickness. The large fund that will have been raised at the close of the Fair, will serve a most noble purpose.

—The citizens of Chicago have great reason to be thankful to the devoted and energetic ladies and gentlemen who projected, arranged for and inaugurated the great Fair. It has given to our city an enviable fame in this country and Europe, by the brilliant success of so great a work and so dazzling a display, brought about and carried forward by a degree of public spirit, persevering energy and devoted patriotism, that, all things considered, have been wonderful. Had the war not ended just as our Fair was about to open, it is impossible to calculate what the extent of the exhibition or the amount of its proceeds would have been—vastly in excess of what they have been, or will be, doubtless. But the fact that the war was ended, has had the effect of producing the impression on many minds that the Fair was in a measure needless now, and therefore the amounts of the contributions and the receipts, large as they nevertheless have been, were much less than they would have been but for this mistaken impression. It has been difficult to convince those who were disposed to be captious, and those who are slow to comprehend the fact that there are now more needy soldiers who must have our help than at any previous period, that they ought to exhibit their liberality towards the object in view as freely now as formerly. Therefore, all these and other untoward circumstances of time and events taken into consideration, the success of the Fair is indeed a wonder to the general public, although those who have labored so hard for months, to insure its success, do not wonder at it at all; these have only a feeling of gratification that their labors have not been in vain.

—Few of our people are probably aware of the fact that nothing but this great Fair, and their desire for its unbounded success, could have induced Generals Grant and Sherman to have made a pilgrimage to Chicago at this time. This is a fact. Gen. Grant consented to come only after being persuaded that his presence here would insure a great increase of the receipts of the Fair, and Gen. Sherman would not have come and tarried here as he did, but for the persuasion of his wife and other ladies, who insisted that it was his duty to come, and to whose appeals he finally yielded. It has been as great a thing for Chicago as for the Fair, that these two distinguished military chieftains honored us with their presence, and we trust our citizens appreciate the fact, and will not withhold from the managers of the Fair the meed of credit that belongs to them for securing the presence of these and other distinguished gentlemen and strangers. It was effort that did it—and it was effort that made the whole Fair and everything connected with it so attractive, successful and creditable.

—The \$1,000 dressing-case, presented by a gentleman of England, to be given "to the prettiest lady in Chicago," and the possession of which was so warmly contested by ballot, by our young gentlemen, for their favorites, was voted to Miss Anna Wilson, who received 1,073 out of 3,481 votes polled. The presentation was formally made at the Tremont on Saturday night. Miss Mattie Hill received 1,068 votes, and Miss Amelia Carley 1,022.

—We suppose most of our people understand that Horticultural Hall, with its paradisaical characteristics, is more attractive in the evening, when brilliantly lighted, than it is in the day-time, and we presume, therefore, that it will continue to be a place of popular resort every evening through the week. It will be open day and evening until next Saturday evening. What a pity, by the way, that so delightful a place must cease to exist with the end of the Fair. It would be an honor and a credit to Chicago as a "permanent institution."

—The total receipts of the Fair up to last night, as near as can now be estimated, amount to about \$250,000. Quite a handsome sum.

—The Art Gallery, the statue of Zenobia and the painting of the Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, continue to be open to visitors at Bryan Hall, notwithstanding the final closing of the Arms and Trophy Department last night. These splendid art attractions will probably be open to exhibition a week or two after the rest of the Fair closes.

—The many kind, generous and patriotic ladies who have devoted so much of their time to helping in the Fair for the past three weeks, deserve and receive the thanks of the managers of the Fair and of the appreciative public. They have done nobly, and all their names ought to be printed in letters of gold, and be handed down to future generations, to show what noble women we had in these days.

—Gen. Sherman took his leave of us on Sunday night, and his lady has returned to South

Bend, Ind. The General enjoyed the Fair thoroughly, having remained long enough to see and appreciate all there was of it—and his lady has been energetic in her exhibitions of active interest in her department. The General's presence and his wife's efforts have added vastly to the Fair's success.

—Some 12,000 veteran soldiers who have "returned from the wars," have been admitted to the Fair, free of charge, within the past fortnight. The brave fellows deserved the rich treat, and it was as well enjoyed as it was freely proffered.

—The "New England Farm House" part of the Fair was finally closed on Saturday night, after a very successful career of nearly three weeks.

—Raffling has been and is the order of the day and evening at the Fair. Many of the most valuable articles on exhibition have realized large sums to the general fund by this means, and the raffles, as far as we have been able to learn, are being conducted fairly and satisfactorily. Of course all who take chances do not draw prizes, but somebody does draw them, and many somebodies are therefore lucky and delighted every day.

—The magnificent display of arms, trophies, curiosities, &c., in Bryan Hall, under the superintendence of Judge Bradwell and his lady, was finally closed last night. The museum of the Fair, therefore, is no more.

—We regret to learn that some of the gentlemen who took an active part in the contest for the dressing-case for "the prettiest lady in Chicago," take their disappointment rather seriously to heart. They shouldn't. All the ladies voted for could not have been successful, though they certainly are all pretty enough to deserve prizes. We wish we might pay a befitting tribute to all the beautiful ladies in Chicago, but to do this—so many are there of them—it would require a mint of money to make the purchases.

—We wish the happy couple who were married at the New England Farm House, "in ye goode olden style," much joy in their wedded existence. They possess courage, that is sure—and the courageous deserve prosperity.

—The European Department of the Fair—a magnificent and highly remunerative display—is all "sold out," and was formally closed last evening. It was the most extensive and most valuable of all the departments in Union Hall, and the success of its sales and the fact of its early "closing out" proves the good management of its worthy superintendent and the "winning ways" of his fair assistants.

—We trust that our citizens will patronize the Fair halls liberally by their presence and purchases during the remaining four evenings of the Fair. Hereafter the managers and the lady sellers and waiters will have all day to rest and get ready in, and will be at their places in the evening more attractive and charming than ever. The evenings at the Fair this week ought to be carnival events.

RESUME OF THE FAIR.

Since our last issue the Fair has continued with scarcely less interest than during its palmiest days. Delighted crowds linger around unwilling to bid adieu to its marvellous attractions and brilliant enchantments. The display of beautiful articles is indeed growing "smaller and beautifully less," owing to the immense sales, but enough is still remaining to adorn the spacious halls, and the most interesting features of the lovely scene—the features of the charming aids—are yet there to grace the closing scenes of the grand exhibition. Undaunted by the ungallant demonstrations of Jupiter Pluvius who has insinuated his unwelcome messengers even into many of their fairy palaces; regardless of the scorching rays of the ardent sun-god they stand bravely at their post of duty, their faces wreathed with cheerful smiles, their musical accents and bright glances enticing and compelling attention to their choice and elegant wares; their hearts throbbing with patriotic devotion which triumphs over fatigue and scorns to shrink from any sacrifice necessary to accomplish the greatest possible results in this work of beneficence. We must pass in rapid review the principal features, reluctantly compelled to omit many things deserving of conspicuous notice and worthy of special mention.

NEW ENGLAND FARM HOUSE.

This most pleasing and attractive part of the Fair closed on Saturday, greatly to the regret of thousands who have partaken of its hospitality and good cheer and been pleased with its admirable representations of "departed days." This step seemed advisable on account of the exhausting and arduous labors necessary to carry out successfully the enterprise, the great number of the First Baptist society connected with other parts of the fair—there being no less than six chairmen of departments from that society—has brought a very heavy burden upon those connected with the Farm House. Nobly and well have they performed their allotted task and the encomiums of all evince the general appreciation of their self-denying efforts. It seems perhaps at first sight scarcely dignified for ladies of high position and culture to adopt and for weeks continue to serve in a garb so *outré* and ludicrous—but when it is considered as a test of their devotion to the great cause for which the Fair was originated, it rises far above all the ludicrous associations and exalts every one connected with it to a dignity greater than any fortuitous chance of position or wealth, or advantages of culture or refinement could possibly give. Never need any fair lady blush to confess herself one of the "Aunties" or "Cousins" of this family. The sentiment of patriotism which prompted them ennobles and makes the sacrifice heroic. Thousands will echo the generous appreciation with which Hon. T. B. Bryan acknowledged their most valuable assistance in the great enterprise. Besides the proceeds which have been donated to the general fund the Farm House has furnished at least a thousand meals to soldiers and soldiers' families without charge. All the distinguished guests of the Fair have dined with them.

Gens. Grant, Sherman, Hooker, Senator Yates and others have partaken of their generous hospitality.

Ladies of the Farm House you will not be forgotten.

WEDDING.

On Saturday, at half-past two o'clock, a wedding was celebrated under the auspices of the original hymeneal divinity. The blind god himself was the prime mover in the affair, and was only known in his ancient character of *Cupid*—the name he used to bear before the scales fell from his eyes, and his name was changed to *Cupid-ity*. The entire "Family" was present, clad in the quaint habiliments of "ye olden time." The happy bridegroom, Mr. George C. Clapp, was dressed in a profusely embroidered suit of drab silk which once enveloped the manly form of one of the now immortal signers of the Declaration of Independence. The lovely bride was attired—pardon our ignorance of technical terms—in a satin skirt and a lace upper dress, which were first introduced into genteel society six score years ago, and doubtless excited the envy of less favored members of the *ton* of those days. The bride rejoiced in the cognomen of Snow, which gave one a delightful sensation of coolness, with the thermometer on a rampage; but, alas! it was of short duration, for while we gazed the Snow, if it did not "melt, thaw and resolve itself into dew," did mysteriously become mist, to assume its niveous form no more forever.

Hon. J. B. Brawell luxuriated in the suit presented by Lafayette to Gen. Putnam, and Mrs. Bradwell graced the wedding *trousseau* in which Mrs. Putnam was led blushing to the hymeneal shrine. Rev. Dr. O. H. Tiffany officiated in full canonicals, wig, &c., and was a *fac simile* of a Puritan divine. The Dr., on his way to the wedding, chanced to meet Bishop Simpson, and bore himself so much in character that the Bishop deposed him as Cotton Mather, a very pardonable instance of mistaken identity. From the walls Queen Anne and Sir Walter Raleigh looked approvingly on. The old wooden clock in the corner seemed rejuvenated and ticked with unwonted alacrity. The old cradle, wherein twenty generations had been rocked, was slightly agitated, and all the surroundings seemed to sympathize with the joyous occasion. The entire ceremony was most admirably managed, and the bridesmaids were pronounced incomparable in their charms. Indeed our reporter, in a moment of enthusiasm or lunacy, actually started for the altar, tragically ejaculating that he would be "spliced" to one of them "or perish in the attempt." He was only recalled to his senses by one of the "aunties," who assured him that they were all "engaged"! This statement, after diligent inquiry, he pronounces a foul calumny, and desires the same to be here recorded to the everlasting discredit of the aforesaid "auntie," whose name he will not immortalize, but whose memory he will hold in perpetual detestation.

Several ancient pieces of music—among them "Come, my beloved, haste away," and "Home sweet home," were sung by the choir. A bountiful collation of wedding cake distributed, and a large amount of kissing indulged in, which must have been interesting and agreeable to all the participants in the delightful osculatory exercise.

PRESENTATIONS.

After the wedding party had started on their honeymoon excursion, it came to pass that grandmother—Mrs. J. M. Loomis—was invited to "rise and lean upon her staff." Thereupon, the soldiers connected with the Rest presented her with a silver tea-set. She was quite "overcome" by the matter, whereupon, by her request, Dr. Tiffany responded for her, complimenting the boys, as they justly deserve, for their generosity and fidelity. The ladies of the Farm House then complimented Mrs. O. B. Wilson, their President, with the famous "musical chair." These tributes are richly deserved by these ladies for their untiring and patriotic labors.

HORTICULTURAL HALL.

Is still open to visitors and will continue so day and evening during the entire week. This cannot fail to please the throngs which constantly visit this cool retreat to revel in its charming scenery and refresh themselves when weary with the busy cares of life. We cannot but feel certain that this vision of beauty will not merely linger in the imagination of those who have enjoyed it, but will incite some of our wealthy citizens—if the city authorities will not take the hint—to give us something like this on a larger scale, where the young can resort to cultivate their taste for the beautiful. Our saloons and groceries would be less frequented were better things more accessible, and rendered more attractive.

JACOB'S WELL.

Still supplies in copious quantities the beverage which "will cheer but not inebriate," and the Rebekahs are as sweet and charming as ever. Inquisitive people are greatly exercised about some collateral questions connected with the well. Rebekah, the beautiful maiden, is there—and there too, staid manly Jacob. Things seem a little mixed to the casual observer, but to the learned it is only a slight anachronism which is always allowable in poetry and fairs, as witness Virgil and Milton. Our untutored faculties are not equal to a full explanation of the subject—but we have submitted the whole matter to an eminent oriental scholar, who is familiar with the "Aryan family" in all its branches. The Sanscrit will doubtless throw some light on the perplexing subject. We wait with anxiety the result of his critical exegeses. In the meantime it is interesting to know that the well "pays" finely, and better than all that ten or twelve regiments of our brave soldiers have here drank, "without money and without price." Didn't it cheer their hearts? Ah Rebekah! ministering angels never had more enviable mission.

JOHN WRIGHT.

The indefatigable, is still at home to all persons of good taste, and his stock of good things is exhausted. We were greatly interested last evening in a critical examination of some Strawberries, which had been donated to the Fair by our generous fellow citizen Mr. I. S. Platt; they were of the variety

known as the *Triumph de Gand*, raised by Mr. Jackson of St. Josephs, Michigan. After full discussion and analysis we can pronounce them the finest, as they are the largest we have ever seen or tasted.

FLORAL DEPARTMENT.

Mrs. Dr. Asa Kennicott still presides over the department of bouquets with graceful dignity. To this accomplished lady the managers of the Fair are under great obligations. Not only has she devoted herself with untiring assiduity to the duties of her position, and with rare taste arranged thousands of bouquets in the most exquisite style; but during these weeks she has shorn her own magnificent garden of its burden of beauty and brought the offering daily to this shrine of patriotic devotion.

UNION HALL.

Hereafter will be open only during the evening for the display and sale of goods, of which large quantities still remain despite the heavy sales of the last two days. Many valuable articles are being disposed of by raffle and many prizes have been obtained. All articles for sale are put at the lowest manufacturers prices. Any person wishing to purchase any articles for sale here will find most capital chances for investing their surplus cash.

Some of the booths are closed already. We miss the pleasant faces of our friends at the Baptist refreshment stand, but feel consoled by learning that they have paid over to the Fair about \$400 the proceeds of their labors. The Foreign Department is nearly exhausted, but some very choice articles still remain. The Presbyterian, Baptist and College Departments, and some others still refuse to raffle, and appeal to their friends to assist them in disposing of their valuable goods. The New Jerusalem Department has been doing finely and is nearly exhausted. The Universalist Department has just received a beautiful embroidered Afghan from the ladies of Peoria, for which the ladies deserve great credit for taste and application.

REGIMENTS COMING HOME.

Are all welcomed in Union Hall, and were nothing else accomplished, the warm reception of our veterans by the managers of the Fair would amply compensate for all the trouble and expense. We have looked down into the faces of the boys as they came filing into the Hall, and have seen the eye glisten and the countenance eloquent with emotion as they looked around upon the fairy scene and upon the noble women at the booths, and thought that all this was for the soldier. Many of them were rough and ragged and worn, but they have warm, true hearts, and they will never forget the cordial greeting which Chicago gives them as they come back crowned with the laurels won on a hundred well-fought battlefields. We have not space to mention the many regiments, much less to give a full account of their reception and the eloquent speeches and addresses of welcome.

BRYAN HALL.

Bryan Hall was closed last evening, after being open for three weeks, during which time it has been the center of attraction to many visitors of the Fair. Many valuable articles were disposed of by raffle or private sale, and the balance mostly closed at auction. To-day the articles of decoration are being removed, and the temples dismantled.

ART GALLERY.

The Art Gallery will continue open for two weeks longer, under the same management as formerly. This will give an excellent opportunity for those connected with the Fair to visit this charming spot. Mr. Volk applied to Bierstadt to allow the "Rocky Mountains" to remain, and received his cordial permission to retail it for two weeks longer. We will recur to the gallery again in our next issue. "Zenobia" is still attracting great attention, and is universally admired. Carpenter's picture is also open for visitors in Lower Bryan Hall.

PRESENTATION.

The "boys" in the printing office of Rounds & James have been untiring in the labors on the *Voice*, and especially the foreman AM. BOLSTER, who is deserving of great credit in getting the paper up so neatly. SAM seems to be getting a *caning* however, as will be seen by the following communication handed him by the boys' council, together with a neat gold headed cane, upon which was the following inscription:—

"Presented to 'SAM' BOLSTER by the boys of 46," ADDRESS.

CHICAGO, JUN 17, 1865.

To "SAM" BOLSTER, Esq., Sir:—The coppositors employed in the establishment of Messrs. Rounds & James, taking into consideration your many noble qualities as a man and foreman, during their brief, but happy, acquaintance with you, dare to express something of their great admiration for your straightforward and gentlemanly conduct towards them by presenting you with this cane.

Hoping that "Old Boy" Time will deal gently with your "form," and that when the great traveler Death approaches, and tells you that your "take" is finished, you may be able to keep him little longer at bay by the use of this cane.

We remain, yours fraternally,

Hugh P. Boener,	Wm. A. Cormany,
Geo. S. Mill,	Wm. Pound,
Gilman Merrill,	J. M. Mathews,
John W. Kennedy,	A. J. Boyer,
John McVeigh,	C. P. Richards,

REPLY.

To Messrs. BOENER, MILL, KENNEDY, &c.: GENTLEMEN: I am at a loss for words to express the pleasure I feel upon this occasion, taking me, as you do, completely by surprise. To know that one is surrounded by such friends is indeed gratifying, and I hardly know what I have done to merit this token of your regard. Believe me it will be forever cherished as a memento of your friendship. Again thanking you, one and all, for the beautiful gift you have so generously bestowed upon me, I remain most devotedly yours.