

## VOICE OF THE FAIR.

ANDREW SHUMAN, Editor.

Chicago, Wednesday, June 7, 1865.

## FAIR GOSSIP.

The popular verdict is, that the Fair is a success. The people patronize it, and the daily receipts are large. We do not know the precise figures at this writing, but may safely estimate the entire cash receipts up to this morning at one hundred and thirty thousand dollars.

The general appearance of the exhibition halls seems to improve every day. Something new greets one's eye at every turn. We have been through the halls about a score of times since the Fair opened, and yet even now we discover some new attraction or some striking feature that we had not noticed before, whenever we enter. Especially is this the case in Bryan Hall, where there are so many novelties and curiosities that it would require days for one to discover every interesting object in that department.

The magnificent painting of the "Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation," by Mr. Carpenter, which is on exhibition for the benefit of the Fair, over the entrance of McVicker's theatre, is receiving many visitors. Containing the portraits of President Lincoln and the members of his Cabinet, this picture has an historical interest to Americans that but few, if any, paintings in the country possess. Mr. Carpenter has proved himself a true artist by this splendid production.

The man who goes into crowds with his arms a-kimbo, poking his elbow into the sides, stomach or faces of those around him, visited the Fair last evening. He seemed quite happy in making others uncomfortable. The man with the umbrella under his arm had already been through the Fair, and fortunately did not gouge anybody's eyes out—no thanks to him, however.

There is a Police Department in the Fair—just in front of you as you enter Union Hall—a little to your right, when you stand fronting northward. The sign is on the door. Should you lose anything or have your pocket picked, leave information there.

There are thieves at the Fair. The superintendents, saleswomen and salesmen should have a sharp look out for them. Some articles have been pilfered at some of the booths. A well-dressed woman was yesterday caught in the act of attempting to "spirit" away a valuable article at one of the booths by laying her parasol upon it and "grabbing" in that way. Be vigilant, ladies!

We regret to learn that the estimable lady of Mr. Bryan, Superintendent of the Fair, is quite ill at her residence.

Major Gen. W. T. Sherman will probably visit Chicago, to attend the Fair, with his family, to-morrow morning.

The visitors at the Fair are buying more liberally than they did last week. The "solid men" of Chicago and elsewhere, are just beginning to loosen their purse-strings.

The printer got our figures of Fair receipts a little too large in our yesterday's issue. We wrote it: "about \$120,000," and he got it, "150,000."

Gen. Hooker, who is President of the great Fair, is in the city. He arrived here from Cincinnati yesterday.

What a great time the children are having in the Fair! Their bright eyes and excited faces are to be seen in plenty during the afternoons, and their merry voices keep time with the general hum of the occasion. We trust there is not a parent in the city who will not treat the little ones to at least half a dozen visits to the Fair during its continuance. It is not only a treat, but also a school for them.

The "Artist's Album," from the artists of Boston, contributed by them to the Fair—is a delightful collection of exquisite pictures. It is to be disposed of by subscription, some of which were taken by citizens of Boston before the "Album" left for Chicago. A lady is receiving subscriptions to it, in the Art Gallery of the Fair. Each \$5 subscription is represented by a number, and these numbers will be drawn from at the close of the Fair, when the award will be made. It is a prize worth trying for. Its possessor will have a treasure.

There is a post-office in the Fair, located in the "east wing" of the main building. If you call there for a letter, you will get one from a pretty young woman. She has it for you, we are quite sure.

The daily papers of Chicago deserve the thanks of the Fair for making so full and creditable a report of it. The patriotism, liberality, and enterprise of the press of Chicago are truly reflected by the great interest it exhibits and the generous space it devotes to the Fair. No city in the world has more enterprising and public-spirited newspapers than the city of Chicago. All our daily papers are of the first-class, and that is the position justly awarded to them by their cotemporaries of other parts of the country and of the world.

Gen. Grant, who will certainly be in Chicago next Saturday, (we have his own word for it,) will be accompanied by Mrs. Grant. This will be their first visit to Illinois since the General went east to take command of the movement against Richmond.

The Monitor and the Merrimac keep up their fight in Monitor Hall, and the fort and land batteries join in the general "scrimmage" occasionally. The contest becomes quite exciting at times, and those are the times you ought to be there.

Crinolines is represented in the Fair, as well as almost everything else under the sun. Bradley's "Duplex Elliptic Skirt, double spring" (the ladies know what all that means, we suppose), has a place in the Dry Goods Department. Mr. L. H. Day, the good-looking western agent of this hoop-skirt manufacturing house, is there in person, and he tells us that Bradley has orders ahead for eight thousand dozen of this "peculiar institution", in which the women engage themselves, and that the ex-secesh women of Richmond and other southern cities, having learned, since they have been brought back into civilization, that hoops are the fashion, are sending for large supplies. We also see the "Union Hoop-Skirt" in the Fair. Send these to the South, by all means.

It should not be forgotten that on next Friday will be the grand anniversary day of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, and that it will be "celebrated" with spirit by the Fair people in this city. Rev. Dr. Bellows at Crosby's Opera House in the afternoon—the explosion of \$6,000 worth of fire-works, contributed by citizens of New York, expressly for the occasion, on the Lake shore, in the evening. This last feature will be a spectacle worth a hundred miles journey to behold. It will be something extra, we can promise.

With Gens. Grant, Sherman and Logan, at our Fair, the "celebration" of the anniversary, and the continually increasing interest in the Fair, we may safely anticipate that what remains of the present week, will be one of sensations, excitements, and crowds, in Chicago. Thousands of people will come to town to see the Great Generals, and the Fair.

Notwithstanding the many articles sold every day, we cannot see any perceptible diminution in the array of, or brilliancy of the general exhibition throughout the Fair. So many articles have been contributed, that no sooner is one sold than there is another to take its place. We should not be surprised if the Fair will continue in progress for at least two weeks longer, and lose none of its general attractiveness even then.

Everybody who has visited the Fair expresses himself or herself delighted. It exceeds everybody's expectations. It is a greater show than mere fancy paints it, even in the liveliest imagination.

In answer to inquiries we repeat that a season ticket to the Fair admits one person, at any time during its continuance, into Union Hall, Horticultural Hall, Bryan Hall, New England Farm House, and Monitor Hall, which embrace all the Fair proper. Admittance to Carpenter's Great Picture, Lincoln's Log Cabin, Jeff. Davis in costume, and the great ox "Gen. Grant," is 25 cts, extra, for each.

In the European department of the Fair, there are about a score of Japanese umbrellas, of peculiar style, sent over from Japan. These would be quite convenient this warm weather, for protection for the sun, especially in the country. Buy one of them.

There are about a hundred ladies we could name, and would, if they would let us, who have been and are doing nobly by devoting themselves earnestly to the great work attending the fair. Many of the most estimable ladies of Chicago, are in the work, and although they have had their handsfull of it for days, and some of them even for weeks, yet still they stand up under it like heroines. Verily our western ladies are among the true nobility, and their devotion to a good cause cannot be commended too eloquently. God bless them all!

"Lookout Mountain" is the appropriate name given to the eminence in the south end of Horticultural Hall. It is properly so-called, for from its top you have a fine look-out upon the entire scene, and it is a spectacle worth climbing to behold.

The Photographic Department of the Fair, in the north-west corner of the main building, is one of its chief attractions. It contains many fine pictures.

The Michigan Department of the Fair is highly creditable. Besides making a fine show, it has some of the prettiest women of the Wolverine State in charge of it.

Mr. Fry has a collection of "Russell's Gems"—small landscape pictures, beautifully painted, and neatly framed—on exhibition and sale, in the "east wing" of Union Hall. They are gems, in every sense of the word—the products of the skill of the artist Russel, of New York.

We are glad to see new contributions of flowers and plants to the Horticultural Department. Each day brings with it some fresh additions, the gifts of fair hands and good taste and skill.

Those who neglect to visit the "old folks," at the New England Farm House, deny themselves one of the most entertaining treats of the Fair. Therein you have before you the styles of our New England ancestors, and a representation of how they "did things." The primly dressed ladies in that department will also give you a very palatable breakfast, dinner, or supper.

The "Yankee Notions" Departments, in the "east wing," attracts the attention of old and young,—especially the young, who find a thousand knick-knacks there to admire, and to buy. A large and beautiful doll is there, too, which is to be presented to little Nellie Grant, the General's daughter. To do this, we must buy it for her, each of us paying ten cents towards it. Mr. C. S. Noble is in charge here, and ably assisted by pretty ladies.

We have seen a letter stating that Major General John A. Logan, who commands the "Army of the Tennessee," will be here the latter part of this week.

## WHAT THE CITY PAPERS SAY.

All the daily papers of Chicago agree in pronouncing the Fair a triumphat success, both as on exhibition and in the attendance.

The Times, which is scarcely ever very enthusiastic upon any subject, is captivated by the Fair. Monday morning it said:

"The past week has been one of the gayest, happiest, busiest, and, to many, the most wearisome thus far experienced in the calendar of the current year. It has been a period which will be memorable in the history not only of Chicago but of the northwest, in the glory and honor of which the whole nation will share; and the grand, charitable enterprise which it has so auspiciously inaugurated will be a lasting monument of the generous munificence of a grateful people in behalf of brave soldiers who have survived a cruel civil war, and in behalf of the families of those who have fallen in the strife.

What more noble or humane enterprise could be projected than this great charity, to illustrate the true character and spirit of a popular government, and the natural tendency of democratic institutions in promoting the growth of generosity, benevolence, and kindred virtues among a people working out the greatest good to the greatest number of persons, the paramount object of legislation? The war being over, the great armies of the rebellion having been subdued and their leader's captured, the enthusiasm which prevailed while troops were being raised has in a degree subsided, and there no longer remains occasion for offering men extraordinary inducements to imperil their lives for the common good. But this great Sanitary Fair, which has been thus splendidly inaugurated during the past week, is a free, spontaneous offering to the surviving men of the army and navy of America and the families of those who have fallen, by a nation grateful for the heroic sacrifices of blood and treasure which have been made to preserve and perpetuate the principles of civil and religious liberty in an invincible union that shall remain henceforth one and inseparable.

The Fair was opened on Tuesday under the most propitious circumstances; which argued favorably for a prosperous continuance, and thus far the result has justified the omens predicating and attending the inaugural ceremonies. For surely a bountiful nature could hardly have provided more agreeable and delightful weather than prevailed not only on Tuesday but throughout the week. The mild and genial atmosphere of early summer has just commenced disseminating its tranquil influence, whilst cool and bracing breezes from the lake have produced that happy atmospheric state to which ladies and poets are accustomed to apply so many charming and delightful adjectives. It does appear as if a bounteous heaven had thus lovingly and specially contributed to the holy cause for which the Fair is being held, by graciously tempering the

weather to the comfort and pleasure of thousands of men, women, and children who are attending the Fair and laboring for the noble cause in whose interest it is held.

The Fair has proved to be a most magnificent success. In many respects it has afforded features more attractive than were anticipated, and the receipts must present an array of figures most gratifying to witness, amounting, in the aggregate to upwards of \$100,000.

Thus the labor of months of canvassing for money and contributions, all over the country, has been most excellently achieved. Thousands of fancy and useful articles have been placed on exhibition; numerous branches of mechanical art and manufacture, and almost countless specimens of handiwork are represented; besides a rare museum of trophies, relics and curiosities; a numerous collection of beautiful paintings and statuary; an artificial pond with miniature vessels, affording a representative naval fight occasionally; a floral department, which is fragrant with the perfume of early horticulture and evergreens, and presents attractions of scenic beauty that suggests charming descriptions of gardens in southern Europe—altogether forming an exhibition such as has never before been given in Chicago, and may never be repeated."

The Tribune says: "The fair is progressing admirably in all its departments, and as successfully as we might have expected at so early a period of its operations."

The Republican says: And still the Fair progresses. Day after day rolls by, and the interest in the grand event seems to abate not one particle, and from early morn till late at night the same incessant throng pours in at the main entrance, rambles through the great hall, and its wings into the horticultural hall and out at the north door. The tide of humanity seems to abate not in the least degree, and it for a moment there is a gap in the grand procession, upon the next instant there comes surging onward a denser crowd, as if to make up for the temporary lull."

The Journal is equally enthusiastic. Here is one of the incidents it records:

"This morning a strange procession moved through the brilliant halls of the Fair. The gay throngs parted silently before as it came, the laugh subsided and the smile faded out. It was a triumphant procession, without marshal or baton. Slowly, like a sad-colored thread drawn through a bright warp it passed on. And this procession had the freedom of the city. Not the Governor when he entered, headed by drum and bugle, had a better right to enter there. Four soldiers bearing a stretcher; upon it a wounded soldier with a flag for a covering. And the soldier so taking his rest was color-sergeant of the 127th regiment of Illinois, and those hands of his, so feeble now, grasped the staff as the eagle grasps the arrows, and planted the banner upon the rampart at the capture of Arkansas Post.

And this man would see the halls the grateful land had built for his comrades and for him. Not for "the pomp and circumstance" of the big wars; not for pride and power, but for just this man, pale, silent, suffering, and for the thousands like him, is all this pageantry. Do you wonder there was a lighting up of his anxious eye? Was it a flash of sun without, or the light of a grateful thought a dawning?

Officers of the Commissions, noble President of the Fair, Chairmen of the Departments, true and earnest women, faithful as the Mary at cross and grave bright, fair groups of girls, giving your days to unremitting toil, givers of the gifts around the world! You have robbed the angels of their mission."

## NEW ENGLAND FARM HOUSE.

NO MORE HALF PRICE TO "AIDS."

The ladies having in charge the Farm House, are compelled to announce a change in their arrangements, and desire so fully to explain the reason therefor, that no possible dissatisfaction or misunderstanding can arise. It having been published that "aids on duty" would receive meals at "half price," the ladies have cheerfully endeavored to carry out the arrangement thus far. But after a careful computation of the expenses incident to the Farm House, it is found impossible to continue it. The charge being so moderate—only seventy-five cents for dinner, and fifty cents for breakfast or supper—it must be seen that every meal furnished at half price is an actual sacrifice, and lessens the proceeds of this department. The ladies feel sorry to discontinue this arrangement, but, in justice to themselves and those who are donating them, they feel compelled to do so, and after this day, (Wednesday) aids will be charged full price, just as they themselves pay when duty.

Our friends may rest assured that we should not make this change unless it were absolutely necessary.

LADIES OF THE NEW ENGLAND FARM HOUSE.

## THE "BARD OF AVON."

We publish to-day a poem from the pen of W. H. C. Hosmer, the gifted "Bard of Avon." This poem forms one of a volume that will, in the course of events, be published by the bard.

## DONATION.

Mr. Charles L. Noble, chairman of committee on Toys, &c., donates \$200 to that department. Decidedly handsome that.