

VOICE OF THE FAIR.

ANDREW SHUMAN, Editor.

Chicago, Thursday, June 8, 1865.

FAIR GOSSIP.

And still the wonder grows! The interest in the Fair abates not. The balls continue to be thronged day and evening. The attractions increase, and the donations still come in. The Fair has been open for a week and a day—about \$140,000 has been placed in the hands of the treasurer; and notwithstanding the large daily sales, the booths, and counters, and stands appear just as well supplied now with articles for sale or exhibition, as on the opening day. The stocks seem inexhaustible, and the popular desire to visit the Fair appears to increase as it progresses.

The principle of raffling is seriously questioned by some people, but the end sometimes justifies the means. So think committee having charge of some of the departments in the Fair. They reason that inasmuch as some of the more valuable articles can be made more profitable to the Fair fund by putting them up at raffle or lottery, than by selling them, it is right to adopt the former plan of disposing of them. Hence the raffling schemes now in progress. We neither condemn nor commend the method. Those opposed to it, need not take part in it. Those wishing to take chances in the schemes for drawing prizes, will do so whether we advise them to do so or not.

Carpenter's great painting of the Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, has been moved from McVicker's Theatre to Lower Bryan Hall.

The Spiritualists of Boston have sent a draft of \$500 to the Spiritualist department of the Fair. The donations by the Spiritualists of New York reach about \$3,000.

The report that Gen. Phil. Sheridan would attend the Fair was a mistake. It arose from a mis-print in one of the daily papers, the name of Sherman having been erroneously printed Sheridan. Gen. Sheridan would have made a flying visit to the Fair, before going down the Mississippi, had not the news of Kirby Smith's surrender reached him while *en route* from Washington. He is now at New Orleans.

Gen. Hooker, the brave warrior, who commands this department, and who also is the President of the Fair, is the "lion" of the occasion just now. His visits to the Fair are the signals for the swarming of the multitude and a good time generally. "Joe" Hooker is one of the favorite generals of the great Union army, and everybody admires the gallant and good-looking officer.

Miss Hosmer's celebrated statue of "Zenobia," the opening of which has been delayed for want of a good for its exhibition, is now in position in lower Bryan Hall, where art-lovers will soon be crowding to see it. An extra fee of 25 cents is charged for seeing this noble work of the sculptress.

The contest for that lady's \$1,000 dressing-case, in the European department, to be presented "to the prettiest lady in Chicago," becomes more excited every day. The lady who shall receive the greatest number of votes, at \$1 each, will be declared the "prettiest." The young beaux are extremely anxious on the subject, and the girls are all in a flutter.

The visitors of the Art Gallery have noticed some decided improvements, within a day or two, in that attractive and classical hall. Additions of pictures have been made, and there has been a re-arrangement of others, so that they can be seen to better advantage.

The Arms, Trophies and Curiosities Department, in Bryan Hall, and the Art Gallery adjoining are full of visitors daily. The novelty and excellence of these exhibitions do not wear out.

Our reporter hardly did justice to the Men's Clothing Department of the Fair, in the "east wing," in his report on Tuesday. It is due to say that Mr. De Graff, the clothing merchant, on the corner of Randolph and State streets, by his own individual efforts and liberality, as superintendent of that department, saved it from being a failure. He and two or three others of our clothiers contributed freely of their best goods, which are well displayed in the Fair. We make mention of this merely because we desire to do justice to all, and especially to those who have done their full duty to the Fair. Mr. De Graff is proverbially liberal in his ideas and doings.

The display of fine household furniture, in that department of the Fair, which is under the superintendence of Charles Tobey, Esq., of the firm of Tobey & Brother, the extensive furniture dealers on Lake street, is very creditable.

Mr. Tobey has done "the fair thing," and some of his brethren-in-trade have co-operated with him in a proper manner. This beautiful furniture ought to bring good prices.

Gen. Sherman is expected to visit the Fair to-day, with his family and staff officers. Everybody will go to see the hero of those great campaigns which broke the shell of the rebellion and turned the rotten egg inside out.

Hon. Richard Yates, "the soldiers' friend," as he is so befittingly called, was one of the welcomed visitors at the Fair yesterday.

An ingeniously wrought lady's toilet stand, with drawers and all appurtenances thereunto pertaining—small, but ornamental and curious—is on exhibition in the Iowa department of the Fair. This unique piece of furniture was made with common jack-knives, by Iowa soldiers, in Libby prison, and presented to the Soldier's Aid Society of Sioux city, who have presented it to the Fair. It is to be disposed of at lottery—valuation \$40. Buy a ticket, and make your lady friend a really handsome present.

That splendid \$500 sword in the Philadelphia department, which is to be voted to one of our Generals by those paying \$1 for the privilege of voting, ought to be secured for Gen. John A. Logan. Illinoisans, come to the rescue. Logan has as yet received from us no tribute of this sort, though he has proved himself one of the best of Generals. Unless his friends come up promptly, it will go to somebody else. Sherman, Sheridan, Grant, and others are leading him now.

The "old New England Farm-House," has been obliged to raise the price for strawberries, owing to the advance of that article in the market. They have raised the price per dish from 20 to 25 cents, and you may consider yourself fortunate in getting them so low. The prevailing drouth is playing the mischief with the growing berries. They will soon be out of the market entirely.

"Want your boots blacked?" If so, there is a boot-black stand in the "east wing," presided over by the man who knows how to do it, and what you pay him goes to the Fair fund.

Steam machinery has now commenced operations in the "west wing" of Union Hall, at the Fair. Two engines are at work, and there's "a hum of busy life" in that vicinity.

We may remark, for the information of the ladies, that the stock of perfumery in the European department is all genuine. It was purchased by the donors in Europe at the manufacturer's houses. This is a fact that all using such articles are interested in being assured of.

How those miniature horse-shoes—Fair badges—are "going off." Mr. Kimbark, who has charge of this department, is doing a thriving business. His place is the first you come to on entering the main building.

To-morrow is the Sanitary Commission anniversary-day. That grand display of fireworks in the evening will be worth seeing, and the sight will be free to all. We will state again that these fireworks, costing \$5,000, were contributed by Mr. Edge, who will have charge of them, and by citizens of New York.

The band of Chippewa Indian warriors—genuine red-skins from the north-west—keep up a terrible hullabaloo in their concert-room in the Fair building. A small extra admission fee is required to see them in their war-dance, and this the patriotic "natives" give to the Fair fund.

The coolest place in town this warm weather is "Horticultural Hall," with its fountains, its little lakes, its flowing streams, and its refreshing fragrances of flowers and plants—not to omit mention of "Jacob's Well," where oriental ladies will give you cooling drinks.

The Iowa department has had two large white swans sent to them from Spirit Lake. These two noble fowls will be placed in the lake in Horticultural Hall. With live eagles on the islands and the swans swimming in the waters, this place will look more like a paradise than ever.

An old gentleman, who was a boy in Connecticut fifty years ago, took dinner in the "New England Farm-House," at the Fair, yesterday, and declared that it reminded him quite forcibly of "old times." "Them women folks," he observed, "look jest exactly as the gals and their mother's looked when I was a boy. They dressed jest so, and looked jest so kinder as if you oughter kiss 'em." The old gentleman was loth to take his departure, and as he did so, he sighed.

REDUCTION.—The number of shares in the raffle for Gen. Grant's war-horse, presented to Fair, has been reduced to 500, and the price of shares is \$2 each. Take a hand in.

WHERE THE FAIR MONEY GOES.

The following letter from the President of the Northwestern Sanitary Commission, is a sufficient answer to the questions, "What is done and what will be done with the money raised from this Fair?"

"From the middle of April last the work of this branch of the Sanitary Commission has been dependent upon moneys received on account of the Fair for its efficiency. At that date its treasury became empty, and since then the larger portion of its receipts have been on Fair account. About \$12,000 were expended in the latter part of May in aid of returned prisoners from Andersonville at Vicksburg, besides keeping up the ordinary work of the Branches; and there is now in this city a chaplain from Fort Smith, Arkansas, with well authenticated statements of present suffering among the families of Union soldiers, themselves sufficiently heart-rending to make one wish that the entire receipts of the Fair might be sent to that storm driven state.

This branch of the commission has for the last month sent off, on an average, a car load of supplies every three days, and the demand has not yet in any way lessened.

E. B. McCAGG, Pres't."

MAJ. GENERAL HOOKER.

We had the pleasure last evening of an interview with the hero of Lookout Mountain, who is this week in attendance at the Fair. The general is in splendid spirits and deeply interested in the Fair. He showed the magnificent sword presented him by his friends in California—certainly the most exquisite piece of workmanship we ever saw. It is a most chaste design and the scabbard is beautifully ornamented with pure gold. On the hilt is an eagle set with diamonds. The cost of the sword was \$6000.

On the scabbard is the following inscription: "Major General Joseph Hooker, from his fellow citizens of San Francisco, California, December 25th, 1862. Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Germantown, South Mountain, Antietam."

FOR MRS. GENERAL GRANT.

One of the most noticeable articles in the Michigan department is a magnificent quilt given by the teachers and scholars of the Cass Union School, at Detroit. It is eight feet long by seven wide and is made entirely of the finest and richest silk. One side is an American flag the whole size of the quilt, and the other is composed of trapeziums in the ordinary form, called block patchwork. The exquisite arrangement of the brilliant silk pieces on this side produces a harmony of color and richness of effect not often equalled in the ancient and honorable but much abused art of patchwork. The banner side is one of the most gorgeous flags that can be imagined and needs no description. The quilting is neatly and elegantly done with all the regularity of machine work, and the whole is trimmed with a beautiful silk cord around the edge with tassels at the corners, making it worthy the bed of an Empress.

This splendid article is to be presented to Mrs. Gen. Grant, by means of dollar subscriptions, and a blank book, elegantly bound in Turkey morocco, is provided to accompany it with the autographs of the subscribers. More than a hundred subscribers have already been obtained, and the ladies having it in charge are confident of getting at least five hundred. There are few more satisfactory ways of spending a dollar in the Fair than by joining in this magnificent gift to the wife of our favorite hero.

TO GALLANT YOUNG MEN.

Do not forget that you are to decide who is the most beautiful lady in Chicago, to whom the magnificent \$1000 Dressing Case is to be presented. No one outside of the Fair can have a ghost of a chance, for all the pretty girls in Chicago are there, at their post of duty. But any charming maiden, in any department of the Fair is "eligible." Your sweethearts will look to you for support in this trying ordeal. For ourself we have been in a state of perturbation quite distressing, not being able to decide between the charming contestants. Being a devoted and loyal admirer of the sex in general, and having so philosophical a mind as not to be able to particularize; we have been, without partiality, and with conscientious regard to truth, in nature and art—to select the candidate for one vote or votes; for when fully committed we shall "vote early and vote often."

We first looked at the Foreign department and selecting a paragon of loveliness, concluded charms more fascinating could never be combined. But

being called down the hall, we passed the "Public Schools," where "School Marm's" bloom in unpretentious beauty, and we were a little staggered. We went to "Jacob's Well," and the case became tenfold worse. We went to the New England Farm House and the modest sweet Misses, in their quaint garbs, really seemed to bear off the palm of beauty. We saw a young lady there, who can spin and weave and make bread and "pumpkin pies," and "darn stockings" and "churn," and at the same time is thoroughly accomplished in the graces and acquirements of modern civilization." We wanted to vote for her as Mistress, (this is strictly confidential,) and "an episode." The complication and confusion is becoming serious and alarming, we have been debating the propriety of voting for every lovely seraph we meet. This is the only solution of the problem which now occurs to us.

THE ORIGINAL LINCOLN CABIN.

One great feature of the Fair, is the original Lincoln Cabin, built in Macon county, Illinois, in the year 1830, by Abraham Lincoln, John and Dennis F. Hanks, and now on exhibition near the corner of Randolph street and Wabash avenue. Hundreds daily visit it, and all acknowledge it the best part of the Fair.

Every article or memento with which the lamented President Lincoln was in any way connected, will hereafter be treasured up as a precious relic, and there are none more worthy of attention than this old log cabin. What tender recollections will it bring up! How sublime the thought that within the walls of this simple cabin was matured a mind which has so ably controlled, in its most trying hour, the destinies of the great nation, and sad the remembrance of the terrible manner in which its career on earth was terminated! The position filled by Abraham Lincoln during the four years of the terrible civil war will shed a lustre and romance around his name which nothing can do away, and future history will accord that high position to him which it always does to the great and good of all nations, however humble be their birth or their position in early life.

"Uncle John Hanks," as he is called—the companion of "Abe" in early life, and who assisted him in erecting the cabin now on exhibition in this city—can be seen daily in the old building, ready and willing to cater to visitors all the incidents connected in erecting said cabin, and also a complete history of Mr. Lincoln's early life. "Uncle John" is quite talkative, and the information we gained during our short but pleasant visit to the cabin on Tuesday, was highly interesting. And, then, there is Dennis F. Hanks, the old gentleman who gave Mr. Lincoln his first lessons in reading and writing. He has in his possession the identical razor, seventy years old, formerly used by Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham, and then by Abraham.

Governor R. J. Oglesby paid his respects to the old cabin on Monday, and when he entered within its enclosure, taking John Hanks by the hand, exclaimed, "Well, John, this is certainly the identical Lincoln cabin. I have been in it many years ago. My feelings are sad. I realize where I am."

After the Fair, we understand, the Messrs. Hanks intend removing it to New York, where it will be placed upon exhibition. From thence it will go to Boston. Those who fail to visit the cabin will lose one of the best parts of the Sanitary Fair.

GEN. SHERMAN.—The General arrived in this city last evening, and will this morning be present at the Fair. A grand time is expected.

JEFF. DAVIS' PISTOL.—The identical pistol presented to Davis by admirers in London, and was captured on him, loaded and capped, has just been received at the Michigan Department, in Union Hall. It is a "neutral" weapon, decidedly.

LIBERAL DONATION.—J. M. Brunswick & Bro. have donated to the Fair a fine mahogany Billiard Table, six feet by twelve, marble top, with patent cushions and all the latest improvements. This table is valued at \$1,000. Brunswick & Co. gave a day's proceeds of their famous Hall, 72 Randolph street, and this table in addition.

FLOWERS.—Beautiful Flowers now for sale at Jacob's Well by comely maidens. Yesterday a box of flowers was received from the former garden of Abraham Lincoln in Springfield.

—Go and see "Hero" the celebrated Russian blood-hound now on exhibition in Union Hall. He is the finest specimen of the canine species we have ever seen.