

VOICE OF THE FAIR.

ANDREW SHUMAN, Editor.

Chicago, Friday, June 9, 1865.

FAIR GOSSIP.

—Like good wine, the Fair grows better as it grows older; and like the heart of a good man, it grows not old at all. We weary not of the great show, nor tire of its hum of excitement. There is an influence about it that continually inspires, captivates, and leads one into it, through it and all over it, a willing prisoner. If "a thing of beauty is a joy forever," this Fair should be an everlasting delight to all who see it or engage in it.

—We are obliged to put this paper to press before the closing up of the Fair at night, and hence our inability to announce in our issues the exact amount of the previous day's cash receipts. We may, however, with safety estimate the total receipts up to this morning at about \$145,000.

—Hon. Mr. Strauss, a prominent citizen of Belgium, has arrived here expressly to attend the Fair. He brought with him an elegant pistol of Belgian manufacture, as a contribution. Mr. Strauss is travelling in this country, and writing home his impressions. He will report the Fair to his countrymen. He says the people of Belgium are much gratified at the success of our Government against the rebellion. Only a few mercenary merchants have had any sympathy with the rebellion.

—Provisions are wanted by the ladies for their Fair restaurant. Send in to them anything that is good. Articles thus donated should be left at the Randolph street door of the main building. Every article in the form of provisions and delicacies donated to the restaurant is that much saved to the funds of the Fair.

—A new and very interesting feature in Union Hall is a little prodigy—a lad named Dudley Waller, aged only eight years—who exhibits marvelous genius as a reader and elocutionist. A place has been partitioned off for him in the south end of the hall, where he gives his wonderful exhibitions of youthful genius. He read and declaimed in the presence of Gov. Yates, Gen. Hooker, T. Buchanan Read, and others, on Wednesday, and they were all amazed at the lad's powers of mind and oratory. He is an orphan boy, from New York, and T. B. Bryan, Esq., always prompt in humane and good works, has agreed to pay him a liberal sum, which is to go towards his education, if he will give his entertainments for the benefit of the Fair. The lad has consented to this arrangement, and is now giving his readings and recitations, as above indicated.

—Gen. Hooker is the favorite with the ladies, who pronounce him a "love of a man." The General is a bachelor. He will remain here several days longer.

—Gen. Sherman, who captured Secession, is now himself captured. The Fair "has him," and he expresses himself entirely pleased with it, and was astonished to find how great a thing it is that he has come to. Gen. Sherman is glad to see the Fair, and the Fair is very glad to see him.

—Two beautiful white swans, four eagles, two remarkable ducks of a foreign breed, and a long-legged crane, are among the permanent inhabitants of the Horticultural Hall. They get along together harmoniously, are free to go where they please, and receive the gaze and admiration of the spectators with the greatest indifference.

—A huge frog has been placed in the pond into which the fountain plays, in the centre of Union Hall. He and the fishes of many colors appear to be quite at home there. This fountain in that place, by the way, was a happy idea; it does much to cool the atmosphere of that vast hall.

—The jewelry department of the Fair is among the most brilliant of its features. There are treasures enough there in silver and gold and precious stones, to make at least one man rich. J. H. Hoes, our Lake street jeweller and art patron, has charge of this department, and his artistic taste is apparent in its arrangement.

—Benj. F. Taylor, in one of his poetically descriptive articles about the Fair, in the *Journal*, speaks of "The broad splendors of Union Hall, with its billows of crimson and blue, like the sea just touched with the sun; the air of the lofty nave as full of color as a frosted maple and as full of stars as a clear night; the rich fabrics making a vignette of every niche; the white radiance of services of silver; the rippling of pianos and the laugh of girls; the gay groups

and merry voices everywhere, and the light streaming through the painted windows and the open doors upon this picture of the brightest life."

—Gen. Grant will reach Chicago at noon to-morrow. A warm reception awaits him. He is expected to visit the Fair in the afternoon and evening, and will remain here during the first part of the coming week.

—Among the car-load of flowers that Mr. Reynolds, of Springfield, sent up for the Fair, was a box-full of roses from the old homestead of Ex-President Lincoln. These were arranged in bouquets and sold quite readily on Wednesday evening and yesterday.

—The curiously wrought lady's cabinet, made by an Iowa soldier in Libby prison with a common jack-knife, has been disposed of. Eli Teed, of Milwaukee, drew this prize.

—We hear that a soldier of the 19th Illinois and one of the Ellsworth's Zouaves, are to have a prize drill at the "Old New England Farm-House." The time will be announced hereafter. Both gentlemen are highly skilled in the drill exercise.

—A marriage ceremony in the "New England Farm House," in the olden style, is being "negotiated." A gentleman from Waukegan is the groom, and he will furnish his own clergyman. Particulars have not yet transpired.

—Among the visitors at the Fair is Gen. John Cook, of Springfield, who commands the military district of Illinois.

—The department of arms, trophies, relics and curiosities, at Bryan Hall, is daily receiving additions to its already immense collection. The hall grows more attractive every day.

—The general attendance at the various halls does not diminish. In the day time our "country cousins" and our city families jostle each other, and in the evening the "youth and beauty" of the town are represented in brilliant array. There is no such thing as a relaxation of the Fair excitement.

—The most indifferent individual in the Fair is the Wisconsin war-eagle. He sits quietly on his perch, sleeps when he likes, and cares for nobody in particular.

—Some of those who try their luck in the Fish Pond, in "east wing," are fortunate. One man yesterday tried his hand at it, and "caught" four times his quarter's worth.

—We again caution our Fair folks that there are thieves about. One stole a box of cigars from the tobacco booth on Tuesday night. We hear of other thefts. Be on your guard!

—Carpenter's splendid painting of signing the Emancipation Proclamation, in its new place of exhibition, in lower Bryan Hall, has a good light, and shows to much better advantage than it did at its former place at McVicker's theatre. Everybody ought to take a good look at this fine work of art, notwithstanding the extra admission fee.

—Four pianos, four melodeons, four organs, and other prizes, are to be combined in one grand lottery at the Fair. Tickets \$5.

—If you want Gen. Logan to have that magnificent sword in the Philadelphia department, you will have to get votes for him. We hear many say he ought to have it.

—The great ox, "Gen. Grant," stands the warm weather remarkably well. He has many visitors.

—The art gallery, at Bryan Hall, is graced with the beauty and intellect of Chicago, day and evening. Bierstadt's "Rocky Mountains" is the object of general admiration.

—Gen. Sherman had an enthusiastic reception at the Fair yesterday. The building was jammed with people. The General's speech was short and to the point. His pictures look just like him. He says he will spend several days here.

—We have already published two excellent poems by Mr. Hosmer, the "Bard of Avon." We publish another to-day. Mr. Hosmer is still in Chicago. So also is T. Buchanan Reed, the poet-artist.

—MRS. GEN. GRANT.—One dollar will enable you to give your autograph to Mrs. Gen. Grant, the autographs of the donors are being preserved in a beautiful book.

You can call upon the accomplished Mrs. Alfred Russell of Detroit, at the Michigan department, and will find it worth more than your dollar to get the winsome smile which that lady gives you when she receives the book with such charming grace.

—Dresses without sleeves are the style in Paris.

—GOOD LUCK.—An elegant Bohemian set was drawn Thursday morning at the Rochester, N. Y., Perfumery Booth, by Miss Mary Lakin of Peru, Ind. This booth is in charge of Ezra Taylor, Esq., and C. C. Woodworth, and is filled with a splendid assortment of perfumeries and toilet articles. A competent corps of young ladies are always present to receive customers. Similar sets will be drawn every day at the same place.

—WHY WILL YOU?—Let the opportunity pass, we mean, and neglect to procure a badge for the Fair. Surely no one could do so did he know that the elegant Mrs. Kimbark and a body of damsels as charming as herself were there, at all times to furnish them to all good looking men and pretty women. Come and see.

—Gen. Sherman visited the New England Farm House yesterday and was introduced to the ladies "in costume." The ladies with their usual hospitality invited him to dine with them on Saturday at one o'clock, which invitation the gallant general accepted with the courtesy which is so characteristic of him.

THE HEROINE OF TENNESSEE.

The most beautiful things in nature, the gems of art, the wonders of science, the miracles of inventive genius; all that is rare, unique or curious; quaint relics of antiquity; priceless souvenirs of the olden time; histories embalmed; palpable reminiscences of the Revolution; antique literary treasures; the ten thousand mementoes of this terrible struggle upon which no eye can look undimmed, of which no lip speak unquivering; the battle flags, scarred and tattered, which cause the heart to thrill with unutterable emotions; all these and a thousand others have been gathered by patriot hands in this and foreign lands, and baptized with tears, consecrated with prayers, and radiant with benedictions, have come to the temple as votive offerings on the altar of our country's honor. Each county, state, city, and hamlet represented, has sent its choicest treasures. But there are portions of our country which we cannot expect will respond to the calls, or imitate the glorious example. Thus it is with Tennessee. Devastated and almost depopulated by war, her soil crimsoned by the ensanguined tide from the hearts of her bravest sons—her daughters for years driven from the social hearthstone wandering in exile, poverty and want, but still true to the old flag; surely Tennessee can contribute nothing to the Great Fair. Yes, thank God, Tennessee, in all her historic pride, was never richer in heroic manhood and exalted womanhood than to-day. So she sends as a heroine, Fanny Courtney, one of the names which will be cherished and loved for generations. Here are her credentials, luminous with the luster of heroic achievement:

Mrs. D. P. LIVERMORE, Cor. Sec. N. W. San. Fair:

NASHVILLE, June 3, 1865.

DEAR MADAM:—This will introduce to your acquaintance Miss Fannie P. Courtney. She is well known from the noble part she acted at the battle of Franklin, Tenn., of which place she is a native and where her widowed mother and family reside. A letter of hers giving an account of that battle was published in the "Sanitary Reporter." The accompanying letter of Gen. Thomas will show you how highly her character is appreciated by him. I send her to you as the best contribution Tennessee can make to the Great Fair.

I also forward to you about fifty photographs of Fannie, and a pearl miniature; please see that they fall into liberal hands. We all love Fannie dearly, and believe her to be worthy of the homage of the whole nation.

Very truly your friend and ob't serv't,

E. ROOT,

Ag't U. S. S. C.

Nashville.

Extract from a letter of Gen. Thomas:

Fannie Courtney has on various occasions, at the risk of her life, communicated important intelligence to the headquarters of this department of the movements of the enemy; on one occasion, riding on horseback from Franklin to Nashville, unattended except by her sister, after nightfall, to communicate to Maj. Gen. Rosecrans the occupation of Franklin by a portion of the rebel army under Bragg, in the winter of '63 and '64. Her information was on all occasions given from patriotic motives, as she has invariably refused any pecuniary reward.

GEO. H. THOMAS,

Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Commanding.

Miss Courtney is rather slight, with a form of striking symmetry, graceful and charming in manners, frank and winning in her address.

Her magnificent brow, beautiful eye, and quiet firmness of expression, add an unconscious dignity, almost queenly. She converses with perfect freedom, of her thrilling adventures, but with a modest diffidence. She is ladylike as loyal; as pretty as patriotic; as winning in peace as wary in war; more dangerous to the

hearts of her friends than the armies of her enemies.

Welcome! glorious daughter of Tennessee! Thrice welcome, as her most eloquent messenger and worthy representative to the Fair; and for thine own sake, thrice welcome! Chicago bids thee generous welcome; Illinois responds amen, and the Northwest echoes the glad refrain.

On the bloody field at Nashville, while yet a hundred cannon belched their sulphurous thunders, and ten thousand rifles sped their venomous messengers of death; among our wounded and dying brothers and sons, a gentle footstep came; a soft hand bound up their ghastly wounds and wiped the damp dew of death from their foreheads; a sweet voice spoke words of sympathy and cheer; a woman's heart looked out through eyes suffused with tears, and hope sprang up in many a manly bosom, joy thrilled many a disconsolate heart. We will never forget you. The nation will accord you a proud niche in its history, but to us your name will be fragrant with sweet memories of patriotic deeds, and we will enshrine you forever in our hearts.

In the dark night when doubt hung like a pall and all was wrapped in gloom, thou wast ever true to the starry emblem of freedom; now when the radiant morn is flashing up the eastern sky, and the sun of peace is rising from the sea of incarnadined strife; around thine head shines a halo of beauty, and the laurel gracefully rests upon thy fair brow. Again welcome to our hearts, heroine of Tennessee.

—Our attention was on Wednesday evening arrested by witnessing the crowd gathering near the Musical Department, in the centre of Union Hall. Hastily wending our way as near as the crowd would permit, we caught sight of our friend, Mr. A. Baxter Stiles, and immediately knew what the attraction was. Mr. Stiles was singing that most difficult of German pieces—"The Wanderer," and as we listened we were carried in imagination to the subject so beautifully described by the celebrated composer. But not only were we engrossed by the words, which, though sublime, would not have failed to call forth, in almost any other, the applause which greeted the vocalist; but the singing was exquisite. Indeed, on the whole, it was the finest rendition of the piece to which our ears have ever listened.

"COURTIN'."

Last evening, at the New England Farm House, "Moses" "kind a shined up" to "Julia," and "courted" her. We "guess" she "liked it," by the way she "sot to" and helped "do the job." At the same time, "Peter," on the sly, was "sparkin'" "Molly Stebbins." It is obvious that Molly is "sweet" on Peter. "Betsey Snifkins," the "Old Maid," for the first time had a "beau," to wit: "Dea. Twitchell's" oldest son.

The Old Folks picked over beans, and "Tabithy Ann" churned.

Crowds visit the Farm House every day and go away delighted.

GENERAL SHERMAN AT BRYAN HALL.

Gen. Sherman will visit Bryan Hall to-day at eleven o'clock, where he will be received by Judge Bradwell. He will seem in his element among the paraphernalia of war and weapons of carnage. It will be a most interesting occasion.

THE ASSASSIN'S FAME.

The original painting by P. Fisher Reed, one of the finest of our western artists, is now being painted on a larger scale and will be soon completed and on exhibition for the benefit of the Fair. It will also be chromolithographed and photographed, and, we trust, ready for sale in a few days. The picture will also be on exhibition in all the principal cities during the summer.

BURNETT'S FLORAL HAND-BOOK FOR 1865.—This is a small pocket pamphlet of about two dozen pages, containing an almanac for the current year, a large number of wise aphorisms and proverbs, and other light reading. The feature of the publication is a dictionary of the language of flowers, which is the most complete collection we ever met with. The little book (furnished gratis, we believe,) also contains a list of the celebrated BURNETT Preparations, which are world-noted, we might say, for their quality and excellence.—*Home Journal, New York.*

This little pamphlet is being distributed in the Floral Hall and other parts of the Fair, and is well worth preserving. Its free circulation will give a correct knowledge of flowers, of which so many are deficient, and should tend to increase the taste and demand for flowers at the Fair. Mr. Burnett has contributed handsomely to the Fair. Mr. S. D. Morse, of Boston, has charge of the donations.