

VOICE OF THE FAIR.

ANDREW SHUMAN, Editor.

Chicago, Thursday, May 25, 1865.

OPENING OF THE GREAT FAIR, AND ALL ABOUT IT.

The great Fair will be inaugurated next Tuesday by addresses, a poem by T. Buchanan Reed, and other appropriate exercises. The halls will then be thrown open for the admission of the public, and the programme of the grand exhibition and its accompanying entertainments, will take effect.

The immense structures on Dearborn Park, extending to the Lake shore, and covering several acres, are now rapidly approaching completion, and the ornamentation of the interior and the arrangements of the display in the several departments are already in progress. The main building is a magnificent palace. It will be filled with a variety and display of articles of every description. The magnificence of the show will be such as to compare favorably with any fair exhibition ever made anywhere. Beauty will vie with utility, and the substantial will shine with the gaudy and the rich.

It will be a national exhibition, every part of our country being represented in the display. It will, indeed, be a World's Fair, for contributions from almost every part of the earth will be arranged within those great and brilliant halls.

The Fine Art Gallery which will be the finest display of pictures and stationery ever witnessed in the West, and the department of Arms, Trophies, Curiosities, &c., are being fitted up in Bryan Hall and an adjoining building, all the rest of the Fair will be located in the Dearborn Park buildings, which will be divided into various departments.

In the main building will be the great display of all the departments, with the exception of the above named, the Horticultural department, which will have a separate place in an adjoining hall, the Skating Pond on the Lake shore, and the Monitor hall, for seeing the naval engagement, also on the Lake shore, adjoining the main building.

We can safely promise the public that this grand exhibition will be well worth the price of admission to see, and we advise all who wish to consult economy to buy season tickets, for the reason that but few of those who shall have gone through the splendid show once will be satisfied, unless they go through it at least a dozen times afterwards. We can give our readers no adequate idea of the vast extent and magnificence of this great Fair. "It must be seen to be appreciated." We base this remark entirely upon our knowledge of what has already been received from various parts of the country and the world, for exhibition and sale in the several departments. The foreign department alone will be a complete museum and curiosity-shop.

It is not definitely decided how long the Fair will continue, probably two weeks, possibly longer. It promises to be a grand carnival of beauty, patriotism and magnificence. That which is curious and wonderful will match that which is amusing and admirable. That which is rich, tasteful and fanciful will outbid in attractiveness and interest that which is ponderous, precious and of practical value. The cannon of the "Monitor," the "Merrimac" and the fort, in the daily naval engagement on the pond, will not drown the busy hum of merry voices within the great halls, neither will Europe outshine America, nor will the precious ores from California and Colorado, eclipse the queer and curious fans, umbrellas, pictures and various knick-knacks from Japan and China. The dry goods department, with all its finery, will not be more admired than will be the department of horticulture, with its luscious fruits and its fine vegetable specimens. All will be full of attractions, and the only question the spectator will be troubled with, will be which to admire most.

Let all the people come to the Fair. Let them patronize it liberally. It is the last time they will be called upon to contribute for the aid and comfort of the sick and suffering soldiers. The funds thus raised will be needed—needed now to provide for the comfort of the thousands of those of our brave boys who are still suffering in the various military hospitals, and many of whom will continue to need our help for months to come. Let all, then, come up and do all they can towards making this a grand and noble success.

The next number of *The Voice of the Fair* will be issued on next Tuesday, the day of the grand inauguration of the Fair, and will, from that time to the close of the Fair, be issued daily. We intend to give a spirited description of the Fair from day to day, as it progresses, to publish each day the programme for the succeeding day, and to give a complete record of all its incidents and proceedings.

All the numbers of this paper, commencing with the first number, (this being the fifth,) and ending with the last to be issued, may be had for \$1.50 to those subscribing for it, either by mail or otherwise. Single numbers 10 cts., probably about twenty numbers will be issued in all.

A MUSICAL CHAIR FOR THE FAIR.—A gentleman in Middlebury, Mass., has shipped to the Northwestern Sanitary Fair an ingenious mahogany Rocking-Chair, which plays eight distinct tunes while rocking. It has all the appearance of an ordinary parlor rocking-chair, but has a place in front by which the stops are arranged and the music, which is under the seat, is regulated. The chair is beautifully upholstered. It has been purchased by the owner for the "New England Kitchen" department, and will be sold during the Fair.

The States of Michigan and Iowa are coming up nobly with contributions for the great Fair. There seems to be no limit to the liberality of the patriotism of those States.

FAIR PLAY.

—Idle rumors, like idle people, are always busy about nothing.

—A railroad depot is like a lumber yard, because people go there to get a-board.

—When may a sleepy man be supposed to be inanimate and very soft? When he's a-bed.

—Why is Mr. Petroleum's head like a newly trimmed Kerosene lamp? Because it is full of oil.

—The bonds of the Union will be firmly put together as soon as those of Slavery are once effectually broken.

—Loyal Boston is not without its disunionists. There were twenty-one divorces granted there in one day recently.

—One will go to the Fair to see, and another to be seen. The former will go with curiosity, and the latter as a curiosity.

—It is almost certain that we will have Jeff Davis' female skirt for exhibition at the Fair. Petticoats, even if worn by traitors, will become the Fair.

—What is the difference between the preceptress of a young ladies' school and a man who is frequently too late for the cars? One trains the misses, and the other misses the trains.

—The ladies of the Sanitary Fair will suspend bird cages all through the exhibition halls overhead, with all kinds of singing birds in them. Above will be winged singing birds, and below them, wingless humming birds.

—We wonder if the chairman of the Relics department of the Fair, among his many other curious acquisitions, will be able to get one of the spades with which the rebels dug their "last ditch." Or the petticoats which Jeff. Davis had on when he was captured, will do just as well.

—When the news came the other day that Jeff Davis was captured, a little six year old patriot exhibited great joy, and immediately wanted to know if "they will now hang Jeff Davis on that sour-apple tree we have been singing so much about?" Hope so, either on that or one higher.

—Edgar A. Poe sung about several kinds of bells, but the two kinds of bells that cause the greatest flutter among men he never mentioned—the dinner bells and the belles of society: the former call on us, and the latter we call on; the former concern our appetites and stomachs, the latter our purses and hearts.

—"He is doubly armed who hath his quarrel just." [That's Shakespeare.] The young lady who is to have charge of the two prize pistols that are to be voted for at the Fair, if she happens to fall out with somebody, will be doubly armed, whether the quarrel be just or not. But she needn't shoot her adversary on that account.

—"The apple of discord is now fairly in our midst, and if not nipped in the bud, it will burst forth in a conflagration which will deluge the sea of politics with an earthquake of heresies."—*Washington Star*.

What an extraordinary apple that must be! A stupendous incipiently mature pomological infernal machine, filled with brimstone, aquafortis and spontaneous come-bust-ability!

—"Be careful not to provoke the President, or he may hurt some of you!" exclaimed the haughty Mrs. Jeff. Davis when her traitorous husband was captured in her petticoats by our cavalry. This shows that the ladies as well as the male gender of the high-pretending "chivalry" can make themselves very ridiculous under grave circumstances. The only party there present in danger of being "hurt" was old Jeff. himself, and he stands a "right smart chance" of being seriously hurt before he is many weeks older.

—A rebel parody on Hamlet's soliloquy on Death has appeared. Unlike very many parodies, it is good. We copy a part of it:

To march, to fight—
To fight! Perchance to die; aye, there's the rub!
For while I'm asleep who'd take care of Mary
And the babies—when Bill is in the lower ground,
Who'd feed 'em—hey? There's the respect
I have for them that makes life sweet;
For who would bear the bag to mill,
Plow Dobbin, cut the wheat, dig taters,
Kill hogs, and do all sorts of drudgery,
If I am fool enough to get a Yankee
Bullet on the brain? Who'd cry for me?
Would patriotism pay my debts when dead?
But oh! the dread of something after death;
That undiscovers fellow who'd court Mary,
And do my huggin'—that's the agony.

SCHEDULE OF THE PRICES OF TICKETS FOR THE FAIR.

The following is the corrected schedule of prices of tickets to the Fair, and its special departments. It may interest the public to know that the season tickets at fairs at St. Louis, Cincinnati, Philadelphia and New York were \$5.00 each, and single admissions \$1.00. The aids tickets at Philadelphia was \$3.00, and at Pittsburgh full price.

Opening day, 50 cents.

Season tickets, admitting during the entire Fair to Union Hall, Horticultural Hall, Monitor Hall, Machinery Department, Art, Arms and Trophies Gallery, \$3.00.

Aids' season tickets, admitting to their special department, free.

Aids' season tickets, admitting to all parts of the Fair, \$1.50.

Single entrance tickets, adults, 50 cents.

Art, Arms and Trophy Gallery, 50 cents.

Monitor Hall, adults, 25 cents.

" " children, 15 cents.

All children's tickets half price except the above.

The "Old New England Farm-House" entertainment that is to be given by ladies and gentlemen of the First Baptist Church of Chicago, during the Fair and for its benefit, will be one of its most interesting and amusing features. A *bona fide* marriage is to be solemnized in the Farm-House, the parties being dressed in the ancient costumes. Any persons designing to be married at about that time, will have the privilege of doing so "in the olden style" on this occasion, by giving previous notice.

ANCIENT WATCHES.—There are four watches of great interest and curiosity which have never yet been produced, or exhibited at any of the displays of historical curiosities and works of art, of which there have lately been so many. 1. The silver gilt watch in form of a death's head, formerly belonging to Mary, Queen of Scots, having been given to her by her husband, then Dauphin of France. 2. The watch of the Abbott of Glastonbury, which was sold at the sale of the effects of the Duke of Sussex, in 1843, and purchased by a person of the name of Sharpe. 3. A watch mentioned by Derham, in his "Artificial Clockmaker," as having belonged to Henry VIII, which went a week. 4. The watch of James I, sold at the Duke of Sussex's sale.

GOLDEN HORSE-SHOES.—Mr. S. D. Kimbark, Chairman of the Department of Iron, Steel and Heavy Hardware, at the Fair, has received a very valuable donation for his department, from H. Burden & Sons, Troy, N. Y., namely, a model of a Horse-Shoe Machine, together with 50,000 miniature golden Horse-Shoes. These little horse-shoes, neatly trimmed for breast-pins and mementoes, were much sought for at the New York and Boston Fairs, and thousands more could readily have been sold if the demand could have been supplied. This machine is a mere model of the great horse-shoe-making machine with which the Burdens make their celebrated horse-shoes.

THE FAIR OFFERING OF TWO PATRIOTIC BOYS.—Walter C. Larned, son of E. C. Larned, Esq., and William C. Larned, son of the late Major William Larned, have built a small frigate—a perfect thing in all its parts—which they have disposed of at a handsome sum which they will donate as their contribution to the Sanitary Fair. The vessel mounts thirty guns, and is called the "Abraham Lincoln." These two boys, who are pupils at the High School, constructed the entire vessel, upper works, lower works and all. It is an extraordinary specimen of youthful ingenuity, skill and perseverance, and reflects great credit upon them.

VALUABLE PICTURES.—The Committee on Arms and Trophies have for sale 4x4 Photographs of Castle Thunder and Libby Prison, at one dollar each, and stereoscopic pictures of Richmond in Ruins, the Pontoon Bridge across the James River, and Monument Square, for fifty cents each. The negatives from which these pictures were printed are the property of the Fair, and were taken under the superintendance of Rev. Dr. Wm. H. Ryder and S. D. Kimbark, Esq., after the fall of Richmond.

The chairman of the above committee is now filling orders for the same.

SHELLS.—E. F. Slocum, of the Committee on Arms, Trophies and Curiosities, has succeeded in getting together the finest and largest collection of Shells that was ever in the Western country. They are from the Coast of Africa, Asia, the South Sea Islands, South America and California, and are of the choicest kind. Specimens may be seen in the window of E. F. Slocum, No. — South Clark street, until the Fair, when they will be sold in Bryan Hall. They are a curiosity-shop in themselves.

CHANCES FOR LIVELY TIMES.—There will be at least two spirited contests at the Fair, by ballot—one for the elegant \$1,000 dressing-case sent from England for the prettiest lady in Chicago, for which our young gallants will doubtless make a vigorous effort, and the other for the \$100 pistol for the most popular General in the United States army. In the latter, both ladies and gentlemen will vote, paying a dollar a ticket.

Those desiring to secure and retain a memento of this eventful era in American history, should not fail to purchase one of the bronze memorial medals, commemorative of the war and of the Fair, which the officers of the Fair have had designed, and a limited number of which are now being struck to be offered for sale during the Fair. This will be a medal worth securing as a keepsake and a relic.

C. L. Wilson, Esq., chairman of the Foreign department of the Fair, on Monday published a list of donations received for his department from Europe. The list, closely printed and in small type, makes over a column of the *Journal*, and additional contributions are on the way. This is a most gratifying exhibition of the liberality of our friends in England, France, Austria, &c.

Anybody having canaries or other singing birds they desire to lend during the Fair, will oblige the managers by doing so. The birds will be well taken care of and returned in safety. Leave word at the Sanitary Commission rooms, Theatre building.

The mammoth Boston ox, "Gen. Grant," which is to be exhibited for the benefit of the Fair, has arrived. He weighs a little short of four thousand pounds, and is perfectly white.

Gen. W. T. Sherman and wife, Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Douglas, Gen. Hooker, Gov. Oglesby, and many other distinguished persons will be in Chicago during the Fair.

IRON, STEEL AND HARDWARE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FAIR.

S. D. Kimbark, Esq., Chairman of the Fair Committee on Iron, Steel and Heavy Hardware, acknowledges the following contributions—others are hourly expected:

Naylor & Co., Boston—iron, nails, rods and spring steel, \$623.18
Park, Brother & Co., Pittsburgh—iron and cast steel, 239.58
Belmont Iron Works, Wheeling—iron, nails and spikes, 104.75
Brown & Co., Pittsburgh—iron, iron and plow steel, 158.44
Abraham Bussing, Ag't—Ansable horse nails, 140.00
H. Burden & Sons, Troy, N. Y.—model horse-shoe machine, with 50,000 miniature shoes at opening of Fair.

DONATIONS FOR THE FAIR FROM CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., April 22, 1865.

MRS. D. P. LIVERMORE, Northwestern Sanitary Commission, Chicago, Ill.

DEAR MADAM,—I send you by to-day's steamer eight cases of minerals (gold and silver ores), bark of the "Big Trees," made into pincushions, with canes from the trees and a few canes made of the wood, and 100 photographs of one of the Big Tree Groves, besides a considerable variety of other articles. It is said to be the rarest collection ever made on the Pacific coast. The pincushions form a new feature; a few were made and sent to the great Fair in New York, where they sold for from \$5 to \$12 each. I send you 1,300, which skillfully managed, will not only form an attracting feature, but I hope will realize at least \$2,000, perhaps more. They are very rare, even in this country, and the bark very difficult to obtain at this season, on account of ice and snow on the mountains—hence the cost.

The minerals are nearly all choice specimens—the silver being from the best mines in Washoe. The gold is generally from quartz ledges in California.

The petrifications will be interesting to naturalists. The Big Tree Canes (of which I send you 500), formed a very attractive and profitable feature in the Boston Fair. The canes of Big Tree wood, and also of Washoe mahogany, are entirely new. The Indian relics, and arrows and cooking utensils, are peculiar.

I send you, by next steamer, the "President's Maul," made of Washoe mahogany, being part of one cord of mahogany sawed on an election bet in Silver City, Nevada, in November last. It has rings made of native silver, and the wedges are tipped with the same. It was intended as a symbolic present from a citizen of Silver City to the President. It was being finished in this city under my supervision (at the donor's expense), with a view to exhibiting at the Fair before presenting to him, when we heard of the President's death. I stopped the work, then concluded to have it completed; but could not get it ready for this steamer. It costs us nothing, and I think will be attractive. It will probably be best to present it to Mrs. Lincoln, and she can present it to the Fair, if she chooses. I will send full directions with it, however.

I presume some contributions will yet be in. I shall endeavor to do something more for you, but in such way as to avoid much expense.

Very respectfully,

J. H. CHAPIN.

Descriptive List of Shipment by steamer "Golden City," to Chicago, for the Fair:

Box No. 1.—Silver ore, (Gould & Churry mine), Virginia City, Nevada.
Box No. 2.—Minerals, (gold, silver and petrifications), Nevada City, Cal.
Box No. 3.—Mineral, (Yuba Co. mines), Marysville, Cal.
Box No. 4.—Minerals, from Nevada and California—canes, etc.
Box No. 5.—Japanese ware, big tree canes, Indian relics, etc.
Box No. 6.—Pincushions, from bark of big trees, Cal.
Box No. 7.—Pincushions, with photographs of big trees, Cal.
Box No. 8.—Bust of Dr. Bellows, from Basham & Son, San Francisco.

DONATIONS FOR THE FAIR FROM PROVIDENCE, R. I.

List of articles sent to the Northwestern Fair by Mrs. D. W. Ives, Providence, R. I.:

3 basket stands for long Cologne bottles; Shaker basket, with pincushion; Shaker basket, with case; 2 coarse open baskets; 2 wooden stands for vases; 2 small open boxes (wood); 2 very small bark boxes (Indian); 1 blue silk box for confectionary; Madeira nut, containing small bag; 2 small paper boxes; 2 Fayal baskets (one red); small fan; palm-leaf fan; small green fan; child's telescope; feather fan with bird, bought at Niagara; 2 ornamented candles; 1 woolen mat (scarlet); 2 small white cotton mats; 2 small blue cotton mats; blue and white ribbon pincushion; 1 with spoons attached; worked ditto, with cat; cup and saucer (Japanese), brown outside; small figure of Cupid; 2 small brown flower vases, with yellow figures thereon; 2 porcelain flower vases (yellow, with heads painted); 2 ground glass flower vases; 1 pressed glass Cologne bottle; blue Bohemian glass Cologne bottle; 1 white China match box; 2 copies Mother Goose; 1 copy Burial of Cock Robin; wax tea rose; small bouquet of porcelain flowers; pair bed socks for a sick child; wash cloth from Cape Palmas, sent by a missionary from C. P.; small milk pitcher, greenish color; 2 flower vases (old) gilt; China candlestick; moss flowers; 1 Berlin iron ring holder; 1 vegetable ivory box; small paper box; small Mocha stone earrings and pin; gold stone breastpin; brown lava pin; blue earrings; small ivory ring.

DONATIONS RECEIVED BY THE WHOLESALE GROCERS' COMMITTEE.

To the Editor of the Voice of the Fair.

I desire to acknowledge donations to the Fair as follows:

N. Y. Steam Sugar Refinery, N. Y., 1 bbl Syrup and 1 bbl Sugar, value, \$100.00
Place & Furlay, N. Y., 10 cases choice spices, value, 316.72
E. R. Durkee & Co., N. Y., 4 cases selected spices, &c., value, 300.00
B. T. Babbitt, N. Y., 21 boxes m'dse, 1500.00
D. B. Deland & Co., Fairport, N. Y., 50 boxes Saleratus, value, 300.00
McKeone, Van Haagen & Co., Philadelphia, 6 cases fancy soap, value, 500.00
H. Cottrell, Sam'l S. Beard and W. M. Camways, N. Y., cash, 100.00
\$3116.72

Very hearty and patriotic letters accompany these donations from those generous and patriotic gentlemen of the sea-board cities, who are entitled to our especial thanks—being among that class upon whom constant calls are made for local charities, and never made in vain.

MERRIL LADD,

Chairman Wholesale Grocers' Com.