

VOICE OF THE FAIR.

ANDREW SHUMAN, Editor.

Chicago, Wednesday, May 31, 1865.

THE OPENING OF THE GREAT FAIR.

The Fair is open and in progress. The Great Event has culminated. The seed that has been sown for weeks and months past by the energetic managers, has sprung up and come to a grand fruition.

The halls are open for everybody to enter. The sumptuously spread tables, and the attractive booths, and the multifarious display are before you. Buy your ticket and enter. Buy a season ticket—that's our advice—paying your three dollars, and then you will have the freedom of all the halls as long as the exhibition continues. This will prove economy in the end.

Patronize the Fair liberally. Thus you will be swelling the funds that are to be devoted to the aid and comfort of the thousands of sick, wounded and disabled union soldiers who lie in an hundred different hospitals in various parts of the country.

The Fair is worthy of your patronage. There is no doubt about that, and if you fail to patronize it, you will have reason to regret it hereafter.

It is a noble Fair—noble in its character, extent and purpose. It is a rich treat to every one going through it. Seldom has its equal been witnessed anywhere. The great variety of brilliant, valuable and curious articles on exhibition has rarely been surpassed in any Fair ever held in this or any other country.

We speak deliberately, and are candid in what we say. Go and look for yourself, and you will agree with us.

The great Northwest has every reason to be proud of this grand success. We wish every national soldier could be here and see these unmistakable evidences that they are tenderly remembered by a grateful people, for whom they have labored and fought and bled and suffered. Those of them that need help and comfort will receive the benefit of this Fair's proceeds. Therefore do we hope and trust and urge that the fund realized may be very large—sufficiently so to last as long as there is a sufferer among them, an inmate in a hospital, or a cripple needing support.

Oh, ye people! come up to this Fair, come with well filled purses, and the strings loose, come with wife and children, come to see, to enjoy, to buy, to go away rejoicing. Come as the Good Samaritan came to the bleeding and helpless traveler by the wayside.

This is no time to be close fisted and penurious towards the men who have been bearing the brunt of the recent bloody conflict for the national preservation. It is a time to be grateful, liberal and generous towards them. BE YOU SO, DO YOUR PART. You, we mean, who have been prosperous, and safe, and happy at home, while the conflict has been raging—you who have not felt the terrors, or the damages, or the burdens of the war.

We appeal to you—(but is appeal necessary under such circumstances,) to come up and help to make this great Fair a complete success. Your fellow citizens, noble and self-sacrificing men and women, have been for weeks spending their time and giving their efforts to the getting up of the Fair. They are now at work, day and night, to make it what it should be. Can you refuse to give your encouragement, countenance, and help now? If you be a true, a real patriot, and have a generous impulse in your nature, you must, you will come up and help along this Fair.

EATING ARRANGEMENTS.

We have already informed our readers they can go and get regular meals, morning and noon, at the dining-hall in the New England Farm House department of the Fair in the Soldiers' Rest building. Everything is served up in good old style there. But there is one other place where you can go, at any time of the day and get anything to eat that your appetite craves, and be at the same time supporting the Fair. The Fair Restaurant we mean. This is elegantly arranged at the Randolph street end of the Horticultural hall, right in the middle of what formerly was Michigan avenue. Here Mr. John Wright has charge of a roomy and well filled eating house, furnished for the benefit of the Fair. Mr. Wright, who is an experienced carter to the human appetite, and his nimble and pretty assistants, will set before you just as fine and palatable a meal as you can desire. Let the hungry and the epicures go to the Restaurant, and do justice to its good things.

GRAND DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT.

Yesterday afternoon one of the grandest dramatic entertainments ever witnessed in this country was given in Crosby's Opera House. All classes of the community have been contributing something of their means to the great national undertaking, the Northwestern Sanitary Fair, and the members of the theatrical profession of this city, not wishing to be behind their fellow-citizens in the good work, came to the determination to add their mite to the general fund. A meeting of the profession was held some short time ago, and it was then resolved to give one or more grand dramatic performances in aid of the Fair. A committee of arrangements was accordingly appointed, consisting of Mr. J. J. Mackey, of McVicker's company, and Mr. C. A. McManus, of Col. Wood's company. It was agreed that Shakspeare's sublime tragedy of "Macbeth" should be produced with the full strength of both companies, the cast of characters being left in the hands of the committee. This cast embraced every character in the piece, many of which are usually omitted, as very few companies in the country are strong enough in numbers to take in all the characters contained in the original. About fifty members of the profession were cast in the piece, exclusive of the musicians who form a strong and important feature in the play. As soon as the scheme was proposed, Mr. Crosby kindly offered his magnificent Opera House for the occasion, and every preparation was at once made to have the affair pass off with the greatest eclat.

The entertainment was given in Crosby's Opera House yesterday afternoon, and was, without doubt, one of the most successful histrionic performances ever given in this country. The magnificent house was filled to overflowing by the beauty and fashion of our fair city, and the very greatest interest was taken in the entertainment. A more appropriate place for such a performance could not be found on the continent, for, as everyone is aware, the Opera House is fitted up in the most complete manner, and all the scenic effects and stage appointments requisite for the production of any piece are there to be found.

Of the rendition of this great tragedy we can only speak in general terms, as to particularize the efforts of each performer would occupy more space than we have at our command. The performance, taken as a whole, was, we may safely say, never surpassed in this city, if indeed in any city in America. It is very rarely, indeed, that we have the pleasure of seeing one of the sublime creations of Shakspeare's mighty brain produced in full, or in a proper manner. In order to suit the strength and ability of the company, they are invariably cut down and reduced, and very often not only whole speeches, but characters are left out, and the play is put upon the boards so mutilated and cut up that the great bard himself would not recognize it as his production. Fortunately this was not the case in the present instance. The entire stage version of the play was produced, which, though differing in some particulars from what is known as "Macbeth" to the readers of Shakspeare, is nevertheless sufficiently near the original text for all purposes—very few, except they were well posted in the original, would notice the difference.

The great and difficult character of "Macbeth" was taken by Mr. J. E. Nagle, of McVicker's company, and though we have seen the character better done by leading stars, we never saw a young stock actor render it in so highly creditable a manner. In every part he was well up, and in that most difficult of all passages—the dagger scene—he received the most unbounded applause. "Duncan," king of Scotland, was very ably rendered by Mr. J. J. Mackey, one of the best and most useful members of the profession in this city. He is very seldom "wanting" in any character he assumes, and in this instance was quite up to the mark. Mr. I. Z. Little, of Col. Wood's company, appeared as "Macduff," and though the character does not belong to his line of business, he did himself infinite credit by his masterly rendition of it. The fight between him and "Macbeth," in the last act, was one of the great features of the performance, and was loudly applauded. Every one at all acquainted with the drama knows that the character of "Lady Macbeth" is one of the most difficult ever conceived. It requires more strength, more fire, more energy and more passion than almost any other female part ever written, and the actress who can play "Lady Macbeth" as it should be played, is entitled to rank with the first in the profession. The character, on this occasion, was allotted to Miss Anna

Cowell, the leading lady at McVicker's, and her rendition of it was very fine indeed, and in every way deserving of the applause she received. Mr. a'Becket, as "Hecote," appeared to great advantage. The witch scenes were all remarkably well rendered, all the appropriate songs and chants being introduced. Of the other members of the company we can only say they all did well and have most undoubtedly raised themselves in public estimation by their acting on this occasion. Everyone who took part in this performance is entitled to the praise and thanks of the public for their kindness in doing so much to add to the funds of the Fair.

We understand that it is the intention of the profession to give one more entertainment shortly. Whether "Macbeth" will be repeated or another piece produced we cannot say, but the programme will be decided on and published in a few days.

AMATEUR DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT.

A very large and highly fashionable audience greeted the debut of the amateur artistes, who so patriotically dared the trying ordeal of the Boards in Crosby's Opera House, on Monday evening. The whole performance if not "Perfection" was highly creditable and successful. All parts were well sustained, and the cast was excellent. In the *Loan of a Lover*, the parts were well sustained. Ernestine was dignity and hauteur personified. Gertrude assumed her role with perfect ease. Her naive piquancy and charming simplicity captivated the audience as well as poor Peter Spyke, and it is our opinion—editorially and not individually—that there is more than one "desert heir" on which she would not need to waste so much sweetness, and who would require less delicate hints than the aforesaid Peter. She was frequently applauded.

Perfection was amusingly and handsomely rendered. But decidedly the best hit of the evening was "Poor Pillicoddy." Pillicoddy certainly exhibited comic abilities of the highest order, and Capt. O'Scuttle was no less happy. Mrs. Pillicoddy was capitally done, and Susan gives evidence that she possesses versatility, and takes as naturally (in an artistic sense) to henpecking as coquetting. The entire performance was highly satisfactory, as the applause most abundantly testifies.

As friends of the "Legitimate Drama," we beg our amateur friends not to drive the "Managers" mad by stealing their audiences, nor the "stars and stock" to envy and suicide by confiscating their laurels—except in aid of the Fair—for which timely assistance they richly merit and will assuredly receive "all thanks." Mr. Crosby refused any compensation and all the attaches did likewise.

NOTES OF THE FAIR BUILDINGS. No 1.

One of the most attractive departments in these buildings is the Horticultural. Aladdin with his wonderful lamp could scarcely have improved such gardens of Paradise beauty; certainly not, with these modern additions! Under this roof the visitor finds trees, shrubbery, flowers, arbors, grottoes, ponds, lakes, winding paths, (for lovers?) fountains, statues, summer-houses, rustic bridges, observatory and last and most interesting to young gentlemen and ladies, JACOB'S WELL! at which it is supposed a Jacob will be found awaiting the fair Rebekah's coming! and also that she will come! The camels, indeed, may not be there, but they only helped to fill up the picture you know, and were utterly forgotten by JACOB in the presence of the divine Rebekah! The pitcher will be there, and may be expected to be as gracefully "let down upon the hand" of the beautiful Rebekah of these days, that "my Lord" may drink, as the more ancient damsel could have lowered it to his lips? But time alone can tell whether she will as willingly follow the fortunes of the JACOB of these days? "And they called Rebekah and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go." It will be observed she did not put up her "lily hands to cover her blushing face and refer him to papa," but she said frankly and womanly, "I will go," and SHE WENT. The whole of this department is charming and will not fail to give the fullest satisfaction and pleasure to all visitors, and we feel quite sure no one will fail to go there. FLORENCE.

Note the proclamation in this paper for volunteers. This call presents unusual inducements, as it is the first occasion where women have been permitted thus to show their devotion to their country. Both recruits, moreover, will be officers. A captain and lieutenant only are wanted; but which shall be captain and which lieutenant will be left to the parties to decide. Fill the quota promptly, and avoid the draft.

INTERESTING TO THE UNMARRIED VISITORS TO THE FAIR.

NOTES OF THE FAIR BUILDINGS, No. 2.

In the main building, I found mysteriously enveloped in surrounding evergreens—what do you think dear reader? why, no less than a *truthful Fortune Teller!* All unmarried persons will not fail to see the faces of future husbands and wives by looking in the glass which they will find in that department. We were not a little amused to see the rush in that direction last night, as soon as we communicated the fact to the surrounding crowd; and no one came away disbelieving! Go and see for yourselves. FLORENCE.

DR. TIFFANY ON FAST DAY.

In accordance with a general desire and in compliance with an especial request of the "Citizens Committee," Dr. Tiffany will deliver his eulogy on President Lincoln at Bryan Hall, on the evening of Thursday, the day set apart for National Fasting and Prayer. This will be an opportunity of which many will desire to avail themselves, and we can assure them they will not fail to be amply repaid by the eloquent and touching utterances of our patriotic townsman.

DONATIONS FROM THE TREMONT.

Messrs. Gage & Drake, the public-spirited proprietors of the Tremont House, Chicago, have donated \$500 worth of various kinds of eatables for the RESTAURANT of the FAIR, and also \$500 in cash to the funds of the Fair. The gentlemen of the Tremont are among the most patriotic and liberal of our citizens, and this exhibition of their generosity is characteristic of them.

New York is governed principally by injunctions. Nearly all her departments are double-headed. We have two Croton boards. One has got an injunction against the other. As the board controls not only the water but the streets of the city, the confusion caused by this conflict of jurisdiction is very great. We have two fire departments. An injunction from the court makes the new paid department powerless. The old department has been enjoined from giving up any property or any authority. The various departments of the city, numbering over a dozen, act all independently of each other and are all as distinct and defiant as so many separate municipalities. This state of things makes fine fun for the lawyers, but is rather heavy for tax-payers. It is stated here on very good authority that there is to be an entire change in the federal offices of this city. Mr. Lincoln had to deal with the cliques and parties into which New York is divided, and they gave him great trouble. The success of the one over the other did not restore harmony. The outs are determined to be in, if they can. A clean sweep of the lucrative positions here may be expected at an early day. "Are you going to administer on the effects of the late administration, or are you going to open a new set of books?" said a leading politician to the President last week. "I think the people will be satisfied with the course I intend to pursue," was the President's quiet answer.

THE NEW ENGLAND FESTIVAL.

We wish to direct special attention to the proclamation in another column. "Lives there a man with soul so dead, who never to himself hath said, 'Oh! I should like to marry, if I could only find some nice, sweet, handsome lady, just suited to my mind?'" The special service for which these volunteers are wanted is a hazardous but most honorable one.

"Let those now wed who never wed before." Our respect for the laws of our country forbids us to add—

"And those who always wed now wed the more!"

This is the last call, and should be promptly responded to. And even as the scarred veteran from Richmond exclaims exultingly, "I belonged to the Army of the Potomac," so will the hero and heroine of this occasion say hereafter, with conscious pride, "We were married at the Sanitary Fair." Dulce et decorum est pro patria vivere.

TO OUR LITERARY FRIENDS.

We respectfully request all of our literary ladies and gentlemen to come to our aid. We, the editor, has his hands very full, conducting this daily sheet, in addition to performing his usual share of editorial work in another and still larger daily paper, and being at the same time liable to be called to Joliet almost any hour in the day, to attend to the duties of a public office under the State Government.

We wish our literary friends to understand that we need their help, and hereby request that they all contribute something to our columns as often as possible. All good literary contributions will be gladly welcomed—none others are wanted.