THE CENTENNIAL.

Inspection of the Exhibition Building by Members of the Government.

A GALAXY OF OUR PUBLIC MEN.

Banquet to the President, the Cabinet, Congress and the Supreme Court.

Brilliant Scene in Horticultural Hall.

ENTHUSIASM OF THE VISITORS.

Progress of the Work and Its Reflection of the Nation's Progress.

PATRIOTIC TOASTS AND SPEECHES.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18, 1875.

The day that has been looked forward to with so much solicitude by the friends of the Centennial broke bright and clear, but with a sharp, bracing northwest wind. Ample preparations had been made by the Citizens' Executive Committee for the comfort of their guests, and at an early hour the streets in the vicinity of the Centennial and Girard hotels were alive with curious people anxious to see the celebrities of the nation. There was the usual delay in moving so large a number. The procession to the grounds was uneventful, but the entrance to the buildings by the visiting party was full of interest. The approaches are upon such a scale of magnificence that it would be futile to attempt to give a pen picture at all adequate to the subject. There are two great highways that intersect at the grand entrance of the Exhibition grounds, Belmont and Elm avenues. These avenues are broad, with spacious footways and lined by new edifices, those nearest the Centennial grounds being large hotels, newly erected and arranged with every modern convenience. At the entrance of the grounds the avenues have been widened and the buildings thrown back to form a concourse, which is utilized by the various railway companies that centre here. The grand entrance to the main Exhibition building being unfinished, the visiting party entered by the east door. To a stranger the prospect that was presented to his gaze to-day could not but excite his admiration and surprise, and even those who had not been upon its spot for months were open in expression of astonishment at the rapid advance toward completion. The main building is still unfinished, but its completion is not far distant, the artisans being now actively engaged in giving the final touches to the decorations. It is only by traversing the building that one can obtain any idea of its magnitude, for the eye is completely deceived in attempting to take in distance. As the parties arrived in groups of thirty or more they marched through the northern nave, and congregated in the centre, where they could obtain a full view of its dimensions. Taking up the line of march, a visit was made to the Memorial Hall, or Art Gallery, a granite structure made permanent by the liberality of our State and city. It is as yet unfinished, and the most beautiful portion cannot be seen for the scaffolding. Machinery Hall, the only completed edifice, was the next centre of attraction, and met with much commendation. The finish of this building is in perfect taste, and its arrangements and architectural design such as to take from it that look of barrenness which is an almost invariable accompaniment of an empty building.

Passing from Machinery Hall we see upon our left the United States building, to which they are giving the finishing touches, the government to take possession in a few days. To the north and east was the Women's Pavilion and the Horticultural Hall. In this latter the banquet was given, and in its construction and decoration there is a combination seldom found in architecture. Upon all sides were showered encomiums, the ladies giving their full share of praise. If in its present condition it excited such agreeable thoughts, what may be expected when this beautiful edifice is filled with plants from every clime, blooming and fragrant with sweet perfume? It must have been gratifying to the gentlemen who have gone through the struggles and difficulties of this great International enterprise to hear from their guests as they arrived at the banqueting room congratulations upon what had been done and hearty wishes for a glorious fruition. Moving among the notables—those to whom the commission now look for aid and countenance that they may successfully, and without indebtedness, carry out our great Centennial—but one feeling was discovered, and that was a hearty accord and outspoken admiration of what they had beheld, and accompanying these could be observed in their animated countenances a feeling of patriotic pride.

THE GUESTS.

The following named persons were among the guests:—

The President and Mrs. Grant, Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Grant and Mrs. Grant, Levi P. Luckey, Private Secretary to the President; Chief Justice Morrison R. Waite and Associate Justices Nathan Clifford, Samuel F. Miller, Noah H. Swayne, David Davis, Stephen Z. Field, Joseph P. Bradley, William Strong and Ward Hunt, of the United States Supreme Court; Hon. Edwards Pierrepont, Attorney General; Hon. Marshall Jewell, Postmaster General; Hon. W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War; Hon. George M. Robeson, Secretary of the Navy; Hon. B. H. Bristow, Secretary of the Treasury; Governor Campbell, Third Assistant Secretary of State; R. W. Taylor, First Comptroller of the Treasury. Also the following members of the commission for the preparation of the government exhibit:—Colonel S C. Lyford, Chairman; W. A. De Caindry, Secretary; P. W. Taylor, representing the Treasury Department; Rear Admiral Thornton A. Jenkins, representing the Navy Department; Dr. C. F. McDonald, of the Post Office Department, and Mr. John A. Eaton, of the Interior Department.

Among the Senators received as guests were:—

Allen T. Caperton, of West Virginia; Isaac P. Christiancy, of Michigan; Powell Clayton, of Arkansas; Henry L. Dawes, of Massachusetts; Henry Cooper, of Tennessee; Hannibal Hamlin, of Maine; James M. Harvey, of Kansas; P. W. Hitchcock, of Nebraska; Joseph E. McDonald, of Indiana; Oliver P. Morton, of Indiana; Richard J. Oglesby, of Illinois; A. S. Paddock, of Nebraska; Thomas J. Robertson, of South Carolina; William A. Wallace, of Pennsylvania, and William Windom, of Minnesota.

THE BANQUET.

At about two o'clock the vast assemblage took seats at the table. After the dinner had been done justice to and coffee and cigars were brought in, the presiding officer, Mr. Bullitt, rose and spoke as follows:—

On behalf of the citizens of Philadelphia, who have provided this entertainment, I wish to express the gratification afforded them by the presence of the distinguished guests now around this board. You were invited by the Centennial Commission and Centennial Board of Finance to visit Fairmount Park and view the grounds and buildings of the International Exhibition. But under this roof you are our guests, and we trust that you will find no reason to complain of the hospitality of the citizens of Philadelphia. While I represent here only the citizens to whom I have referred, I would crave your indulgence in some remarks that appear to me appropriate to the occasion. The government of the United States, by acts of Congress passed in 1871 and 1872, created the United States Centennial Commission and the Centennial Board of Finance. To them was intrusted the duty of preparing and superintending the execution of a plan for holding "an exhibition of American and foreign arts, products and manufactures under the auspices of the government of the United States," in Philadelphia in 1876. The Centennial Commission was formally organized March 4, 1872, and the Board of Finance May 10, 1873. I shall pass over the variable experiences which they have encountered. They knew they were engaged in a noble enterprise, and, armed with a consciousness of the results to be attained, they pressed on with unfaltering energy toward the great purpose of their creation. Permit me to lay before you, in a brief way, the results of those labors:—On the 4th of July, 1874, the first shovel of earth was removed by the Mayor of Philadelphia from the spot on which now stands Memorial Hall. Since that time there have been enclosed for the use of the Exhibition 230 acres.

The following buildings have been erected and have either been completed or are in a condition to be completed in ample time for the Exhibition:—

	Acres.
The main building covering	21.47
Art gallery (Memorial Hall)	1.50
Machinery Hall	14.00
Horticultural Hall	1.50
Agricultural building	10.15
Making a total of	48.62
Add to this other structures, such as the government, leather, carriage and photograph buildings, of about 12 acres, and it will give of actual flooring for exhibition purposes about	60.00

This is exclusive of the space occupied by the buildings erected by foreign nations, the several States and for general purposes connected with the Exhibition. The whole of them will not be less in number than 150 buildings. Compare this work for a moment with the great Exhibitions that have taken place in other parts of the world. The following is a list of exhibitions elsewhere, with the space covered and the cost of erection:—

	Space Covered.	Cost.
London, 1851	20 acres.	$1,464,000
New York, 1853	5¾ acres.	500,000
Paris, 1855	30 acres.	4,000,000
London, 1862	24 acres.	2,300,000
Paris, 1867	40½ acres.	4,596,763
Vienna, 1873	50 acres.	9,850,000
Philadelphia, 1876	60 acres.	6,724,350

Again let me call attention to what foreign nations are doing.

List of foreign nations that have accepted the invitation to take part, with the amounts appropriated for expenses, as far as ascertained:—

G't. Britain, with Australia and Canada (gold)	$250,000	Chili [Owner of all goods exhibited, and all expenses.]	—
France and Algeria	120,000	Hayti	—
Germany	171,000	Venezuela [All expenses, amt. unlimited.]	—
Russia	—	Mexico	—
Austria	75,000	Ecuador	$10,000
Italy (government $38,000 Chamber of Commerce, $38,000)	76,000	Nicaragua	—
		Persia	—
Spain	150,000	Liberia	—
Japan	600,000	Siam	—
China	—	Guatamala and Salvador	—
Belgium	40,000	Honduras	—
Denmark (gold)	10,500	United States of Colombia	—
Sweden	125,000	Hawaii	—
Norway	44,000	Argentine Confederation [Owner of all goods exhibited.]	60,000
Netherlands [Ample provision; amount not yet known.]	—	Tunis	—
Portugal	—	Orange Free States	—
Turkey	—	Total	36
Egypt	—		
Brazil	—		
Peru	—		
Bolivia	—		

Foreign nations who have erected and will erect buildings:—

Great Britain	3	Egypt	2
Germany	1	Canada	1
Brazil	1	Australia	1
Sweden	2	Turkey	1
Japan	3	Morocco	1
Spain	2		
Nations			11
Buildings			18

SPACE TAKEN BY FOREIGN NATIONS IN EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.

	Total Area of Building.	Foreign Space.
Main Building	21.47	12.4
Art Building (to be increased)	1.50	over 80 per cent.
Machinery Hall	14.00	about 25 per cent.
Horticultural Hall	1.50	1-7
Agricultural Hall	14.15	1-3

The following States have had the ground selected within the enclosure, and are having the work prepared for the erection of buildings for the use of their citizens and exhibitors:—

Pennsylvania,	New York,	Nevada
Ohio,	Connecticut,	Wisconsin,
Indiana,	Massachusetts,	Iowa,
Illinois,	Missouri,	Minnesota,
Michigan,	Kansas,	Arkansas.
New Jersey,	West Virginia,	

The amounts of money which have been subscribed and appropriated toward the work are as follows:—

Total stock subscriptions, reliable		$2,357,750
In which are included:—		
New Jersey	$100,000	
Delaware	10,000	
Connecticut	10,000	
New Hampshire	10,000	
Wilmington, Del.	5,000	
	$135,000	
Gifts, concessions and interest		230,000
Further receipts from concessions		100,000
Appropriation by Pennsylvania		1,000,000
Appropriation by Philadelphia		1,500,000
Making a total of		$5,187,750
Amount still required to prepare for opening up to May 10, 1876		1,537,100
Total cost		$6,724,850

Of these subscriptions and appropriations about ninety per cent have been furnished by the State of Pennsylvania and the city of Philadelphia and their citizens.

These facts speak for themselves. They speak more loudly and intelligently than any words I can use in explanation of the untiring energy and earnest work which has been done. Beneath the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral, in London, lie the remains of Sir Christopher Wren, the great architect of his century. On a black marble slab are inscribed the words "*Si monumentum quæris circumspice.*" Translated literally it means:—"If you would seek my monument look around and behold my works." Can I not apply the words of that simple and beautiful epitaph to the Centennial Commission and Board of Finance? It is true their work is not yet finished. They have still a task before them which nothing but the most unselfish and courageous devotion will enable them to accomplish. They are engaged in a nation's work. They are epitomizing a nation's history from infancy to manhood. They are illustrating its growth from thirteen to thirty-eight States, from 3,000,000 to 40,000,000 of people; from poverty [illegible] from a state of weakness and comparative insignificance to that of unsurpassed strength, vigor and position. They are spanning a century with monumental arches typifying and illustrating that growth. All this work they are doing under the auspices and on behalf of the government of the United States, and you are here to-day to inspect that work and ascertain whether they are discharging their duty with fidelity and in a manner befitting the occasion and the trust confided to them. I know it has sometimes been said derisively, and at others under sincere conviction, that this was not an affair of the government of the United States, but an enterprise of the city of Philadelphia only, or, at most, of the State of Pennsylvania. If this were true I think we could point with pride to the noble manner in which both State and city have responded in the promotion of the work.

But look to the acts of Congress creating the Centennial Commission and Centennial Board of Finance; look to the appointment of the members of the Centennial Commission by the various States; look to the invitations sent by your national government to the foreign Powers and their acceptances; look to the work itself in its scope, its magnitude and its purposes; look to the dignity and honor of the Republic, now involved in its success; look to the yearning expectations and heartfelt satisfaction of your people from one end of the land to the other, as they contemplate the Exhibition of 1876, and then determine if a heart can be found so cold and so indifferent that it would dwarf this, the nation's work and nation's pride, into the insignificant proportions of a county or a State fair. Its real importance and real significance are given to it by the fact that it is an exhibition inaugurated and to be held by the government of the United States. It is true it is to take place here, and it is true that our people take the liveliest interest in its success. But I am sure that if some more appropriate spot had been selected, they would have done their full share toward its promotion. They have cherished and nurtured the memories of 1776, and they are earnest in their desire to see the centennial of our national existence commemorated by proper and becoming ceremonies. They do not claim that this is the only place where it might have been held. But they do claim that no more appropriate or beautiful site could have been found. They do claim that no point would be more accessible to the whole people, and none better adapted for feeding, housing and accommodating the vast throngs that are to be expected. They do not claim that Philadelphia is a political Mecca, or that there is here any shrine to which pilgrimages must necessarily be performed by all true patriots. Fortunately there is no one focal point in this country from whence political or patriotic ideas must necessarily emanate. In this respect they claim no more influence than they can fairly command by the intelligence and virtue of the people. But they do claim that if the traditions of the Republic are worthy of consideration when looking for the proper place for such a celebration no other city can recount more of them, or more that are indissolubly united and ingrained with our independence, with the achievements of our ancestors, and with all that is illustrious and exalted in our national history.

But neither the State of Pennsylvania nor the city of Philadelphia claims any more right to or property in this exhibition than any other State or city in the Union. It is the property of the whole nation. It had its origin in laws of the United States. It has been conducted under its auspices thus far, and whatever of prestige or success may attend it must be due to and inure to the credit and honor of the United States. I have said it was the property of the whole nation, and I use those words in the broadest and most catholic sense. National in its conception, in its creation, in its progress, in its purposes and objects, in the spirit which has pervaded the efforts of those who have had it in charge, in the magnitude of its proportions, in its softening and harmonizing influences upon our own people; national in its relations to foreign Powers, to the several States and to the government of the United States, there is and can be no proprietary ownership in it or of it save and except that of the 40,000,000 of free people for whom and on whose behalf this grand Exhibition is being prepared. But not only is it national. It gains additional lustre from the fact that its every object and purpose are in the interests of peace—in the appropriate words of the President's Proclamation of July 3, 1873, "in the interest of peace, civilization, and domestic and international friendship and intercourse"—peace abroad and at home—peace and good will with foreign Powers and among our own countrymen. We stretch across the Atlantic and Pacific and invite the nations of the Old World to come among us and take part in this celebration. To our own countrymen it is said, whatever may have been the past, whatever dissensions or heartburnings may have heretofore existed, whatever of contentions or differences or alienations may have prevailed to agitate or divide or separate us, let them all be buried with the century to which they belong. Let us meet in one common fold and renew those pledges of mutual support, forbearance and devotion which alone carried our forefathers through the Revolution of 1776, and which must not be forgotten or violated if we would preserve the integrity and insure the safety of the Union. In this spirit the Exhibition of 1876 was conceived and will be conducted to the end.

Within these precincts no partisan or sectional discord can enter. Here every citizen can find freedom from strifes and contentions. Here he can repose beneath the broad and outstretched arms of his government and realize the value of being an American citizen. Here there can be neither doubts nor distrust nor prejudice to disturb his mind or roughen his temper. It is his nation's exhibition—his country's celebration—and he can visit and enjoy and partake of it with the consciousness that no man can gainsay or dispute his right. But, much as has been accomplished, well as that has been done, bright and encouraging as are the prospects for success, both at home and from abroad, there remains still a great work to be performed. The men who have devoted themselves so perseveringly and so faithfully need the encouragement and help of the whole country to make their success assured. Will it be regarded as trespassing upon the laws of hospitality if I urge upon you, the representatives of the government of the United States, now present, to give your earnest attention to the subject, and if you find upon examination that these servants have been faithful in the trust confided to them, that you will afford to them that assistance which will place this noble enterprise beyond question or doubt? We, who have been on the spot, believe they have acted with the highest integrity and fidelity; that throughout they have displayed economy, skill and taste, and that they are worthy of your most absolute confidence. We believe, with your aid, they will perform all that the most sanguine could hope for; that the Exhibition of 1876 will excel all that have preceded it; that it will be worthy the occasion and the nation, and if rightly understood and correctly appreciated, your action will receive commendation and approval far and wide throughout the land.

The applause was loud and apparently general. The sentiment that whatever dissentions and heartburnings there had been in the past should be buried now, met with tumultuous enthusiasm.

Mr. Bullett then announced, the first toast in order is

"THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES."

This was received with the greatest applause, and when three cheers was proposed they were given heartily. The toast was drunk standing. The President did not respond, however, except by bowing slightly and smiling faintly. There were no calls for him, but a manifest expectation that he would speak and an evident disappointment when he did not. Without any delay the Chairman announced the second toast.

"THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES."

This was greeted with applause, and Chief Justice Waite rose to reply. His first few words were inaudible in the large building, amid the echoing sounds of the building, whose acoustic properties are wretched. He was understood to say:—

Speaking in behalf of my brethren and of those who have not the opportunity and pleasure of being here today, I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the Centennial Commission, and the Board of Finance, for the magnificent work we have seen to-day. You know, sir, that the Justices of the Supreme Court are trained to be listeners. They speak only in their acts. I know, therefore, that you will excuse me from speaking longer on this subject when I have said that I fervently trust that the people of this city and State will meet with that response and that success they have shown that they deserve. (Applause.)

The next toast was,

"THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,"

and the Hon. O. P. Morton, of Indiana, was called upon.

He said:—Mr. Chairman, I can only speak for myself. I cannot speak for the honorable body to which I have the honor to belong. But I doubt not that in most I shall say I can speak the sentiments which should animate the breast of every American. We are here to-day enjoying the hospitality of this great city, not yet quite 200 years old; here where William Penn first taught the policy of honesty and good faith in dealing with the untutored savage. We are here to view the preparations for our Centennial celebration, and we must confess that they are upon the grandest and most magnificent scale, and that the State of Pennsylvania and the city of Philadelphia have displayed the greatest liberality in their contributions to this vast enterprise. (Applause.) We are told that all the nations of the world are coming here. England is coming here—not bearing arms to intimidate and conquer, as she came a hundred years ago, but bringing the trophies of her arts to excite the friendly competition of our people. England never was so proud, with such reason, of any of her children as we can be of our progress since the Revolution. (Applause.) Magnificent France is coming here, remembering proudly that she lent us a hand in our struggle. (Applause.) Germany is coming; that grand old country that has sent us so much of her best blood and has always given us so much of her best sympathy. All the nations of the world are coming. As I rode past Independence Hall this morning my mind was filled with the grand memories of that place—of the great events there which made us many States, but one nation. We have had our civil dissensions. I trust they have passed away forever. (Applause.) The elements of this discord have been eliminated from our political system. The nation has taken a new departure, and thank God it is in the direction in which our fathers launched out—for liberty and human rights. When we come here next year may we renew the purpose to honor this new pledge faithfully, to stand by the principles of civil and religious liberty and the very substance of the constitution, and we may pray that when the future historian, in the far off centuries, shall take up the pen of Bancroft to continue the wondrous story, he will have nothing to chronicle but the wondrous growth of this country and not its decline and fall. May the people who come after us cherish our memories as we cherish the memories of the Revolutionary fathers. (Applause.)

"THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES."

The next toast was "the House of Representatives of the United States," and the Hon. John Hancock, of Texas, was called upon. He said that he felt it difficult to express the sentiments of his party in the brief time to which he was necessarily limited. He referred to the nobleness of the conception which proposed to exhibit to the civilized world the industrial progress of the United States for 100 years. He was glad to say that the differences between the North and the South had passed away—(applause)—and, as soon as possible, all political disabilities would be removed. (Applause.) He had witnessed the convulsions of civil war; he had seen the convulsions of nature among the mountains of the Sierra Nevadas, when the lightning flashed in sportive dalliance, and showered the rolls of granite; but, after the storm, the sun had suddenly shone forth and the zephyrs had played again among the flowers, making the earth more beautiful than before. We had seen the passions of men sway the country, and peace and prosperity followed. It was our duty to cover the rifts and chasms of war. (Great applause.) He hoped the people of the nation would respond to the Centennial call and gather at Philadelphia like brethren in harmony. (Applause.)

"TO THEIR EXCELLENCIES."

The Governors of the several States were next toasted, and Governor Bedle, of New Jersey, responded. He acknowledged the compliment paid to his State, alluding to the previous announcement of the handsome contribution it had made to the Exhibition. The time for jealousy had passed. Speaking of the fitness of Philadelphia as a place for the Centennial Exhibition, he said there was but one Independence Hall. In the spirit of peace they would expect all the nations of the earth to come. They had put down a civil war unexampled in the history of the world. All should take part in the celebration. New Jersey had given one-fifteenth of the funds. They could not support a government without patriotism. He was opposed to extravagance of all kinds, but $1,500,000 for a celebration like this was economy. (Applause.) New Jersey had given much, but she will give more.

AGRICULTURE.

The Hon. Henry Harrison, of Illinois, replied to the toast "Agriculture, the basis of the prosperity of the nation." His speech was humorous and well received. The speaker represented the Chicago interest and was enthusiastically in favor of the Exhibition.

COMMERCE—MR. BLAINE'S SPEECH.

The next toast was "Commerce, the handmaid of other industries in exchanging commodities among our own people and with foreign nations." Mr. Blaine was announced to respond, and the mention of his name was received with cheers, and the guests arose from their seats and waved handkerchiefs and hats. Considering the dignified character of the audience the tumultuous demonstration was certainly significant. Mr. Blaine made the speech of the day. The vast audience, which had been restless and noisy, leaned forward in expectancy, and as he stepped to the desk he was greeted with repeated cheers. He said:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN—The earnest and serious business of the meeting has at last been reached. (Great laughter.) I have volumes of valuable statistics which have been prepared for this occasion. (Laughter.) I have all the bound reports issued by the State Department for the last ten years; and Mr. Robeson, sitting by me now, has them in his lap—(laughter)—which he will read when I grow tired.

THE NAVAL ACTIVITY.

I have been authorized to announce that the vast gathering of the naval vessels along our Southern coasts is not in any sense warlike. I think I disclose no secret of the government in saying that these vessels are to be used in the arts of peace, in dredging the Charleston harbor and opening the mouth of the Mississippi River. (Great applause and laughter.) I am sustained by my honorable friend (Colonel Scott) on my left, who has caused me to prepare an abstract report of the 76,000 miles of railroad which his company controls, and he authorizes me to say that if it were not for the penurious economy of the Post Office Department he would give us the New York papers for breakfast in Washington and carry them to the people of Chicago in four and three-quarter hours. (Renewed laughter.) I know the Colonel desires to speak for himself, however.

PENNSYLVANIA'S RATIO OF STRENGTH.

But to leave these serious matters—(laughter)—and to turn to the more jocular affairs of the nation, I take pleasure in saying that there is a very peculiar pride for us in celebrating the Centennial of the United States on the soil of Pennsylvania. Not because of the immediate historical interest which attaches to it, but because Pennsylvania represents the average progress of the whole Union, and because of that very significant coincidence that, from the organization of the government, Pennsylvania has turned up at every census representing just ten per cent of the whole population. When all the States had a population of 10,000,000 Pennsylvania had 1,000,000; when we had 20,000,000 she had 2,000,000; when, in 1830, we had 33,000,000, she had 3,300,000; when we had 38,000,000 Pennsylvania had a population of 3,600,056. At this time it was not quite ten per cent. The 200,000 that were missing can be accounted for by Colonel Scott sending them out to work on his railroad in the West. (Great laughter). The croakers who are opposing the Centennial should remember the patriotic Senator Dilworthy, who always went for the old flag and an appropriation. (Prolonged laughter.)

HANCOCK'S DESCENDANTS.

Mr. Blaine paid a handsome compliment to Mr. Hancock, a relative of the immortal John Hancock and the Representative from Texas, who had just addressed the assembly. He dwelt most felicitously on his efforts in restoring peace and prosperity between the North and South. There were loud cries for the speaker to go on, but he retired amid loud applause.

Mr. J. R. Tarbox, who was to speak on manufactures, was absent, and the toast was omitted.

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE.

The next was "Education and Science," and Mr. Bancroft, the eminent historian, spoke as follows:—

That education had made America better able to do anything to which she directs her mind is a truth to which I have been directed at home and abroad. In my long residence in Europe I found that when a workman wanted to recommend his work he would not say that it was from Italy or France, but that it was an American invention. Civilization with us is travelling West and in Europe to the East, and so we are carrying education like a belt around the world, lessening the space, and the influence of America is patent throughout the globe. Do not believe that the Exhibition here is not looked upon with interest all over the world. The influence of America in Europe is greater than the influence of Europe in America. America repays more than she receives. Jurisprudence has been developed here more largely than in any other part of the world. Look, then, at the fact that the judges of England are reforming their jurisprudence according to the example set by America, and how, like America, she abolishes her arbitrary judges and selects them as in the Supreme Court of the United States. We have shown to the world that order can best be preserved by

REPUBLICAN FREEDOM.

Thiers conferred the first great benefit on France by giving her this power of republican freedom. If you cross the Rhine there you will find a great nation that languished for two centuries. By the powers of freedom the United States of Germany started into existence and immediately became one of the great Powers of the world. You have done well here in Philadelphia in the grand preparations that you have made. I shall add only three points of which you have not taken notice and in which I think the World's Exhibition at Philadelphia will exceed any that have gone before it. Never till now has there been a centennial under the auspices of a republic that has endured for 100 years; next, I say, never has there been an exhibition on ground so beautifully prepared by nature, by undulations of hills and valleys, as this on the hill of the Schuylkill. Nature comes to meet you by conceding the finest grounds that have ever been used by an exhibition. Here in the spring I can fancy how this lovely spot will be when the flowers are bursting forth and the birds come to you from Florida. For the first time in history

THE FOUR CONTINENTS WILL MEET

together; the four continents, with Australia and New Zealand, the youngest daughters of civilization, in their train, and the world will come here to study our institutions. We must bear in mind that we are the most inquisitive people in the world, and what there is good in civilization that we have not already, let us make that our own.

General Hawley, President of the Centennial Commission, being repeatedly called upon, made an interesting speech, substantially the same as he had made upon a previous occasion. It was listened to with attention and made an impression.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

Mr. John Welsh, Chairman of the Centennial Board of Finance, was the last speaker. He said that when enthusiasm had reached the point that it had already reached at that meeting it was strange that he, an inexperienced speaker, should be called upon. It was impossible that the nation should pass over the Centennial year without some expression of its industrial progress. The Centennial Board had labored long without much sympathy, but they knew it would come in good time. They had tried to perform their duty faithfully, and they stood before the representatives of the nation to be judged by their works. If they had done well, all they asked was for the sympathy and support which the approval of the people would justify them as their representatives in giving. If there ever was a time when all the nations of the earth should meet together in peace to show the progress of their industries it is now. Let us work for it, he said, and the nation will rise to its true grandeur.

Many of the distinguished visitors returned to Washington in the special train with the President, who retired from the banquet at the conclusion of Mr. Blaine's speech.

IRISHMEN AND THE CENTENNIAL.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Dec. 18, 1875.

Father J. V. McNamara, the famous Irish revolutionist, has issued an address to his countrymen in relation to "Irishmen at the Centennial." After referring to the fact that Ireland has no separate department assigned in the Centennial buildings, but that all Irish products must be arranged under the general heading of Great Britain, he then calls upon all Irishmen to make a great demonstration in one body next year at the Centennial.

A LULL IN ST. LOUIS.

GENERAL BABCOCK STILL DETAINED IN CHICAGO—HIS CASE TRANSFERRED TO THE CIRCUIT COURT—HENDERSON ILL.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 18, 1875.

After all the eagerness with which Babcock has been expected every day this week, it is now decided that he will not be here at all until his case, which is set down for the 11th of January, is called for trial. It is stated that Babcock is detained in Chicago, where his wife also is, by an interesting family event which is about to happen, and that he will therefore not return immediately to Washington. Judge Treat's decision to-day, that a plea was not necessary for the transfer of the case from the District to the Circuit Court, settled the fact that Babcock need not come here and the case was duly certified to the Circuit Court this noon and put down for the 11th of January.

A LULL.

The McKee and McGuire cases are also set down for that date. The prosecution say that they will be tried first. This confirms my despatch of yesterday, that Babcock will probably not be tried until the latter part of January, for the prosecuting attorneys think that the McGuire and McKee trials will certainly occupy from a week to ten days, and thus the likelihood is St. Louis will be a very dull place for the next three weeks, for there are no probabilities of further disclosures until then, although the public will, no doubt, continue to eagerly devour the rumors and stories which spring up every day and are passed so eagerly from mouth to mouth. St Louis was always a very dull place, and now that the spice of that whiskey fraud excitement is gone, for the next three weeks its dulness will be unendurable.

GENERAL HENDERSON ILL.

The sudden report of Mr. Henderson's serious illness, which gained circulation to-day, caused a somewhat painful sensation. One of his law partners says that he was suddenly attacked by nervous prostration yesterday and is confined to his bed to-day. He attributed this prostration to Mr. Henderson's great mental excitement during the recent trial and to the ceaseless strain upon his nerves. He remarked that Mr. Henderson worked day and night during the trial of these cases; that the main burden of responsibility for their successful issue rested upon his shoulders, and that all this excitement, together with his sudden dismissal, produced the attack. The doctor advises him to take a short trip to Cuba, which, he says, will greatly benefit him, and Mr. Henderson to-day expressed a determination to act upon this advice. If he is in a condition to leave he will start upon this trip next week.

GRANT'S MISSOURI FARM.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR ITS SALE—NEARLY A QUARTER OF A MILLION EXPECTED FOR IT.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 18, 1875.

Although the approaching sale of General Grant's famous farm on the Gravois Creek does not properly belong under the category of whiskey fraud news it will no doubt interest your readers. It will be remembered that some negotiations were first on foot with the Pullman Palace Car Company. These have fallen through, and now the Hall Patent Safe Company, of Indianapolis, are negotiating for the land, on which to build their works in the vicinity of the Gravois Creek. The company want 1,000 acres, and General Grant, for his 703 acres, has made a proposition to sell at the rate of $300 per acre, including all the improvements and appurtenances on the farm. This would realize the sum of $237,900. The Safe Company, it is understood, do not object to the price, but couple its acceptance with a proposition to General Grant that he take $50,000 of the company's stock, which proposition he is considering; and this is as far as the pending negotiations have progressed. The Grant farm comprises the original White Haven farm, bought from William L. Long in 1818, by Theodore Hunt, the fur trading agent of John Jacob Astor, at Astoria, in 1812. Mr. Hunt sold out the farm in 1822 to John Cromwell, of Pittsburg, the half brother of Judge Frederick Dent, and Dent moved on it in 1823. From Judge Dent the farm descended to his Presidential son-in-law.

ACCIDENT TO A STEAMER.

THE A. T. SERRILL, ON HER WAY TO BLOCK ISLAND, COMPELLED TO PUT BACK—ALARM OF THE PASSENGERS.

NEWPORT, R. I., Dec. 18, 1875.

The steamer A. T. Serrill, Captain Ricketson, which plies between this port and Block Island, had a perilous trip to-day. She left here at eight o'clock this morning for the island, the wind at the time blowing a gale. She succeeded in getting within three miles of Block Island—this is twenty-seven miles from this port—when the pipe to the donkey engine burst between the stop-valve and the boiler. Fortunately, she was supplied with sails, which were brought into use. The fires were drawn, in order to work the steam off. About one hour after noon the damage was repaired and steam was again used. The passengers were greatly alarmed at the time, as the sea was breaking over her, making her one mass of ice. The windows in the pilot house were smashed in and there were other slight damages. The captain did not think is advisable to continue on to their destination and so put back to this port.

A TRAVELLING FRAUD.

A YOUNG SWINDLER PERSONATES THE SON OF PRESIDENT BISHOP OF THE NEW HAVEN AND HARTFORD RAILROAD—AN ATTEMPT TO DEFRAUD SENATOR EATON.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Dec. 18, 1875.

A young man, representing himself to be the son of William D. Bishop, President of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company, has been travelling around the country for the past two or three months, and by means of forged letters, receipts and drafts has swindled several railroad men and others in Chicago, St. Louis and other places. To-day he made his appearance in Washington, where he attempted to obtain money of Senator Eaton, of Connecticut. He probably is also trying to obtain free passes on railroads. He is about twenty-two years of age, and must have spent some time in Bridgeport, as he seems to be well posted in regard to Mr. Bishop's family and Bridgeport people generally.

THE DYNAMITE DEMON.

His Identity Investigated by Our Correspondents.

HENRY KING "THOMAS" IN RICHMOND

Insurance Companies Swindled on Forged Invoices.

AN INFERNAL ALCHEMIST.

Captain Hester's Recollections of Thompson as Blockade Runner.

The latest reports from Europe in regard to the identity of the man, William Henry Thompson, who had taken passage on the steamship Mosel, at Bremerhaven, with the intention of leaving her at Southampton, England, and having her passengers blown into eternity by his villanous clockwork, for exploding dynamite after the ship had reached mid ocean, seem to be well founded. That he resided in Germany during the last few years is shown by the testimony of various tourists who met him in Leipzic in 1871, 1872 and 1873 and afterward in and near Dresden.

He was known as a blockade runner during the late war, as master of the steamer Old Dominion, a name not recognized by the Shipmasters' Association of New York, but well known to the coast residents of the Confederate States as one of the boldest vessels in the fleet between the Bahamas and the Atlantic ports of the South. After the Woodruff brothers, Captain "Bill" Thompson carried the highest head among the blockade running captains and made the most money by his adventures.

A reference to the "Record of American and Foreign Shipping," compiled by the American Shipmasters' Association, dated January 1, 1871, shows the name of William Henry Thompson, holding a certificate as captain, No. 3,683, but without a ship. The record so continued until 1873, when his name was dropped. The Captain was then on the other side of the water.

Yesterday morning a HERALD reporter met an old associate of the dead Captain, and in the conversation that ensued obtained the following facts:—"His real name was William King Thompson; he was a man about forty-five years old and wore a full red beard; his eyes were very small and quite blue; his temperament was of the nervous sort, and at times his anger was terrible in its expression. He wore glasses over his eyes whenever I saw him, and I think he wore them habitually, because he was so nearsighted. I should think, from what I remember of his size, that he weighed fully 275 pounds. I was intimately acquainted with him during his residence in Leipzic in the fall of 1871 and until the summer of 1873, when he lived there with his family. After that he moved to Strehla, near Dresden, and I lost track of him. In conversation he often told me of his friends in America, and said that he was born in Brooklyn, L. I. I know very well of his marriage. He wedded a beautiful woman from Louisiana, I think, a native of New Orleans. She is living yet, and has four children to care for. I hope that the sins of the father will not fall upon their heads, for they are innocent. The Captain resided in Virginia from 1862 until 1865, and his rapid accumulation of wealth by blockade speculations was very familiar to me."

The name of William Henry (or King) Thompson cannot be found in the records of the Shipmasters' Association during the years from 1861 to 1865, inclusive.

Mr. Havens, one of the Charleston blockade running stewards, said to the HERALD reporter yesterday:—"I recollect the Captain well; a big, fat fellow, with little eyes and a temper like—well, you'd know what he was if you could have heard him when he was about three sheets in the wind. I wouldn't think the old man would try to blow up the ship as the papers say he did; for he wasn't bad at heart, only he had such a devil of a temper. Well, he's gone. I'm sorry for his family. Don't think all the old blockade runners were made of the same stuff. We were fighting for our friends, but we didn't try any such —— things as killing innocent passengers on ships at sea."

THOMPSON'S CAREER AS BLOCKADE RUNNER—REMINISCENCES OF A SECRET SERVICE DETECTIVE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1875.

In seeking for the history of the dynamite fiend, William King Thompson, the Bureau of the Secret Service of the Treasury Department here was consulted to ascertain the whereabouts of the only man in Washington said to be conversant with the past standing and life of the malefactor. This personage is no less than the former special agent of the Attorney General's office, I. G. Hester, who was conspicuous in the Ku Klux investigations in North Carolina, and during the war engaged in the blockade running business. After difficult search it was learned that Hester has been acting of late as a special agent of the Post Office Department. He was found at his quarters, after having been engaged in delivering a series of readings from Milton at an entertainment at the Young Men's Christian Association, Hester having experienced a change of life.

INTERVIEW WITH HESTER.

CORRESPONDENT—Captain, I have been referred to you as the person likely to know something of the man who was the author of the dynamite tragedy at Bremerhaven.

Captain HESTER—I don't know whether I know him or not, but I presume it is the same person. I met a man by the name of Thompson in