

The World's Fair in 1900.

Already the air is filled with rumors respecting the exposition of 1900, says a Paris letter in the Philadelphia Telegraph. Already are the moans of the Parisians rending the air beforehand, for it is a Parisian peculiarity to detest world's fairs in general, and those held in their own city in particular. Quoth a miserable native in heartrending accents: "Whenever there is a great exhibition all our taxes go up--temporarily we are told, but never by an accident do they go down. I paid three hundred and eighty francs in '77, and for the same premises my taxes are now three thousand and odd. We are overrun by tourists; we are crowded out of all the theaters; the cabmen all go on strike; the cafes all put up their prices. For several years before all the streets one wants to go through are closed to the public because the exhibition is being prepared, and for at least a year after the same streets are closed because the exhibition is being demolished. All your country cousins come to town and expect to stay with you in an apartment you have always found too cramped for the requirements of your own family; and if I am not lucky enough to be dead I shall certainly move away before this large misfortune falls upon this unhappy place."

Happily all Paris is not so pessimistic as my friend, and the architects are busy with their plans. All the ground comprised in the exhibition of '89 is to be included, as well as the portion of Cour la Reine that will inclose the Palais l'Industrie and its surrounding gardens. We are to have an additional bridge across the Seine which will open a vista from the Place de la Concorde straight through to the palace of electricity, which is to be the central feature. Our rulers are greatly bored about the Eiffel tower; but as the concession was granted for twenty years it has got to stand; but the architects say consolingly that they will try and hide it as much as possible.

The sight of it vexes poetic souls, and Francois Coppee, the author, who is, by way of being, aesthetic, wrote a formal protest to the government at the time of its erection to request that the plan should not be carried out on the ground that the Eiffel tower, being ugly and ungainly, and furthermore being visible from his windows, interfered with his flow of inspiration. However, the tower was built nevertheless, and, although we are deadly tired of seeing it about, Coppee continues to write, so evidently his flow of inspiration was only impeded and not permanently plugged up. Furthermore, we are to have a branch exhibit at Versailles, which will rouse that sleepy little town from its chief occupation of listening to the grass growing in the streets. In the splendid park of Versailles, on either side of the grand canal, is to be the retrospective history of gardens throughout the ages.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, that were counted among the wonders of the world, are to be reproduced in miniature; Japanese gardens, Persian gardens, the Italian garden of the renaissance and French and English gardens of different epochs. The Grand canal itself is to be used for the exhibition of one of the floating gardens cultivated by the Aztecs in Mexico before the Spanish conquest of the country. The center of the canal is to be occupied by a large island built on piles, with bridges connecting it with the two shores, which is to have aquaria, grottoes and cascades, with cages for aquatic birds, and the great sheet of water is to be additionally ornamented by an exact reproduction of the little fleet of elegant boats that Louis XIV. launched on its surface when Versailles was first built. All this sounds most imposing; but we are devoutly thankful that the time for it has not yet come. It is like the story of the philosopher who was to teach the king's donkey to speak in a year's time, on pain of death, and never bothered about the penalty on the ground that the king might die.

the donkey might die, or he himself might die, and whatever happened he had a year to the good. So, as we have seven years before us, we do not yet as a rule wall about future contingencies.

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