

THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.

Unless the reader is specially interested in agricultural matters, and therefore has an object in deferring visiting the Centennial until the autumn, when the displays of live stock and fall products will take place, we advise him to make his pilgrimage to Philadelphia now. Nearly everything is in order, and the finishing touches are being pushed forward with great rapidity. No such crowds are present at this time as will be toward the close of the six months; and when the magnificent distance, which is to be traversed merely to pass through the various aisles and from building to building, some twenty-five miles in all, is realized, it will be perceived that slight sojourn on such a gigantic scale during hot weather will savor strongly of hard work. To those who are able to spend some time in Philadelphia and so view the Exposition leisurely, the heated term will be of minor inconvenience; but others, whose holiday is limited, will find their enjoyment greatly increased if they will take advantage of the moderate weather of the present month.

For the benefit of the latter, a few hints as to how best to see the display in the shortest time may prove serviceable. The mistake of most people is trying to see too much in too short a time; and this is attended with very disagreeable results. When the mind is on the stretch, the body is not nearly so sensitive to fatigue; and consequently the visitor may never feel that he has overtaxed himself until after the day's work is over, when he will be admonished of the fact by illness, which may incapacitate him for the following day: a serious matter when one's time is limited. Still it is by no means impossible to get a good general idea of the show in two or three days; and this period, we have no doubt, will comprise all that can be afforded by the majority of people coming from a distance to Philadelphia.

As every visitor will naturally prefer to plan his own visit, it is superfluous to offer suggestions for a programme here. Still, we may point out that to hurry is but to waste time, and that the few days will be most agreeably spent if the first be quietly devoted to such parts of the Exposition as it is intended to study, while the mind is fresh and unwearied. Then the subsequent observation of objects to which no particular thought is given becomes a kind of relaxation. It will save much time to procure a good map, giving the names of localities.

THE WOMAN'S PAVILION.

Perhaps the most interesting object—if we may be so ungallant as to use the word—in the woman's edifice is the lady engineer. We do not recollect ever having seen a woman manage a steam engine before; but if Miss Allison may be taken as an example, there is no doubt but that the fair sex is quite competent for the duty. In fact, the lady herself suggests very truly that there is a good field for woman's work in taking charge of the thousands of small motors used in minor manufacturing operation. She thinks that an engine is not half so hard to manage as a baby, and most, of her sex at least, will agree with her. Miss Allison has regularly studied engineering and science, and runs the machine entrusted to her in a manner which elicits general admiration. We wish we could speak as highly of the rest of the woman's display in general; but it must be considered, as a whole, to be disappointing. Still, there are many excellent articles in it which will well repay a visit to the building. Queen Victoria sends a beautifully spun napkin, her own work, and some spirited etchings which give some pleasant glimpses of home life in the royal family. The English princesses contribute some really fine specimens of embroidery. This handiwork of royal fingers silently preaches a lesson of industry which, to judge from the conversation of those who gather about the cases, is invariably heeded. No doubt, however, her Majesty would find a world of amusement, could she overhear, as we did, certain *naïve* remarks of the rural damsels, whose impression appears to be that queens do nothing but wear gold crowns and sit on thrones.

If we were asked as to the prevailing characteristic in all the woman's work exhibited, we should unhesitatingly say: patience. And that quality is shown in as high a degree in the embroideries and, to the masculine mind, incomprehensibly intricate patchwork as in the elaborate productions of the Japanese artists in the celebrated collection of bronzes, in the Main Building. If patience always yielded beauty, then our woman's work would be transcendent. But it does not; and therefore while we may recognize the deft persevering fingers, in the innumerable worsted pictures, hair chains, feather and shell ornaments, and marvelous pieces of knitting, let us not be asked to call them beautiful. We will make one exception (we dare say there are others which we do not recall) of a quilt: a wonderful quilt, intricate and yet artistic. Fifteen hundred rosebuds, in each of which

there are nine hundred stitches, are embroidered on white and rose-colored satin. No wonder it took eighteen months to complete.

Leaving out fancy work, woman's labor is but poorly represented. There are few inventions, where there might be many. We notice some dish washers and a life-preserving mattress, which, it is said, is to be officially tested, and there is a fine collection of medicines prepared and put up by fair hands. The best woman's work is in the other buildings, and those who are inclined to belittle her part in industrial labor may see the evidences of her skill in the superb coloring of the famous Doulton pottery and in the wonderful Gobelin tapestry—there is one gem of this needle work in the Art Gallery, which only near inspection distinguishes from a painting; in the intricate meshes of the Belgian point lace, in the nice shading and coloring of the German cotton velvets, in the manufacture of the delicate Swedish silver work, in the Italian mosaics, in the decoration of the fragile Bohemian glass. And this is only the beginning. In Agricultural Hall are wines of all kinds prepared by woman, in Memorial Hall her finest works of pictorial art are displayed; and in among the buzzing machinery, she is tending looms spinning raw silk into thread, making and putting together the intricate mechanism of watches, and converting coarse leather and cloth into the daintiest of shoes. The severest criticism that can be made on the Woman's Pavilion is that its contents show woman's amusements, not her work.

THE BOATS.

The Exposition is notably rich in nautical objects, and in models especially. Every class of vessel can be found, from the full-rigged sloop of war, in the navy department, down to the fishing snacks, which Massachusetts contributes in a collection of probably five hundred. There is a model of the old frigate Constitution, and of a lightship, the latter complete in every part. An ingenious Yankee has rigged a chicken bone with a set of sails, and only close inspection shows the curious conceit. The famous Merriman dress, in which Captain Boyton swam the English channel, is also exhibited. Foreign visitors are displaying much interest in the ice yacht, a superb full-rigged specimen of that vessel, with her sails set, being prominently located in

MACHINERY HALL.

In this building, work has rapidly been carried forward. The immense Krupp 61-ton gun is now in position, and several industrial operations, intended to be exhibited in progress, are fairly under way. In the French section, a toilet soap manufactory is in full blast; near by, an immense press is striking off American flags on continuous webs of cloth; an india rubber factory prepares and purifies the crude material. A set of workmen are busily engaged in making coconut sugarplums. Two paper mills are also hard at work; the Coventry silk loom is weaving silk book-marks in wonderful rapidity; and the great Walter press, at certain hours, strikes off its thousands of the *New York Times*

THE ORIENTAL CAPES

have recently all opened, and are by no means the least interesting part of the general display. One is Turkish, and all its attendants are genuine Mohamedans. Here one may have delicious coffee made in the Turkish fashion (that is, in a kind of paste with water, and boiled thick), rose conserves, any number of curious strups, and real Turkish tobacco in a real Turkish pipe. Prices are cheap; for \$1, a taste of almost all the Turkish delicacies can be had. The Tunis *café* is conducted on curious principles. It involves a touch of the harem. It is not so large as the Turkish building, nor so ornate in its style. An individual, posted outside the door after the fashion of itinerant showman, yells at you to enter. You pay 25 cents to a person supposed to be an Arab, although he looks more like a German, and are served with a cup of muddy coffee, and permitted to stare at five musicians. One torments a venerable violin, another bangs a pair of cymbals, the third has a nondescript instrument resembling a lute, and the remainder, a woman and a small boy, drum with their fingers on kettledrums. The music is painful to an advanced degree; and the woman occasionally intensifies the discomfort of the deluded visitor by dancing, if a variety of postures deserves that title. Altogether the show is not uninteresting; but one experience will probably satisfy the most curious of visitors.

Another curious building is devoted to the sale of Hungarian wine. The attendants are dressed in the national Magyar costume. Wines of excellent quality may be tasted in moderation, at quite low prices.

THE AQUARIA.

Professor Frederick Mather is busily preparing the aquaria in Agricultural Hall. The display is to be made in thirty-five large tanks, one of which is 23 feet long by 7 wide, and 4 feet deep. The collection is not yet complete, but will be in a short time. The British Commission has despatched a large tank to Bermuda, to obtain angel sharks and other curious fish. Later in the season, when trout and salmon begin to spawn, the hatching process will be illustrated. Several specimen of forcing apparatus are already on exhibition. There is a tank filled with terrapin; and in one aquarium are gathered hundreds of small specimens of California salmon, which have been artificially hatched. We shall allude to this very interesting portion of the Exposition in detail hereafter.