

Our Daily Fare.

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 8, 1864.

A WORD FOR "OUR DAILY FARE."

This journal is intended to be a lasting memorial of the Great Fair held in Philadelphia in June, 1864, in aid of the operations of the Sanitary Commission—the noblest and grandest work of human benevolence the world has ever seen. In the course of time it may come to be consulted among the materials laid before the future annalist or historian. It should, therefore, be such a memorial as will tell its own story clearly and fully. To this end, it will be a principal object with those who have the paper in charge, to present copious reports of all events and proceedings relating to the Fair, and of its operations while the Fair is in progress. It is their purpose, also, to describe the origin, nature, and objects of the Sanitary Commission, and the effective methods by which they dispense the munificent bounty of the people of the United States to their soldiers in the field. To complete the history of our journal there will be a brief exposition of the character of the war that has compelled more than a million of our peaceful and thrifty citizens to take up arms, and that has given occasion for the inestimable services of the Sanitary Commission and other similar agencies of the patriotic beneficence of the people.

It will add greatly to the enduring interest of this journal that the Fair, of which it is the exponent, is held during the progress of the great campaigns near Richmond and Atlanta, which will probably decide the fate of the rebellion, and which, from the magnitude and activity of the operations, and the incessant conflicts with the public enemy, occasion the most frequent and urgent demands for just such aid as the projectors of the Great Fair are laboring to extend.

HOW IT ALL COMES ABOUT.

"How shall we do for money for these wars?" So queried the Duke of York, in Shakspeare's Richard II., and questions of similar import have fallen from the lips of every Finance minister from the days of "the bald first Cæsar" to our own. But here on our soil, and in our day, that question is undergoing a process of solution that never entered into the dreams of the rulers of the old world. Instead of subsidies wrung from plundered subjects, the people pour their willing tribute into the national treasury to furnish "money for these wars," and advancing beyond this cheerful discharge of their duties, come with

liberal hands, dispensing munificent gratuities to add to the soldier's comfort and preserve his health and life. This has been done during the present war to the extent of tens of millions of dollars, contributed from private resources and administered by private hands. Such bounty, on such a scale of magnitude, and distributed with such effect as this has been by the United States Sanitary Commission, has never been paralleled, or even approached, in the history of the world.

Why is all this? Why is it that such an extraordinary manifestation of the loftiest patriotism is called forth in our country, in our time, and during this war? A record of the answer to this question deserves a conspicuous place in the first issue of the journal of the Great Fair.

On the 20th December, 1860, the United States were inhabited by a peaceful and happy people, in the enjoyment of unexampled prosperity, and blessed by a government illustrious for the wisdom and the freedom of its institutions. No other nation had ever made such progress in so short a time. In three-fourths of a century it had sprung from a condition of colonial dependence to the rank of a first-class power. Thus, peaceful and prosperous at home, powerful and respected abroad, enjoying the freest and wisest government ever vouchsafed to man, this nation had come to be regarded by all other peoples as the bright exemplar of what theirs ought to be. Politically, it was the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night for the oppressed of all the world.

But even as there were rebellious spirits who "raised impious war in Heaven," so there were traitors and rebels here to plot and attempt the destruction of the Great Republic. To conceive such a wrong to the hopes of humanity throughout Christendom, was a crime without a name; but men were found bad enough for both the thought and the deed, and, on the 20th of December, 1860, without cause or justification, their infamous work was begun.

Such is the character of the rebellion which our citizen soldiers are fighting to suppress. It is that black treason to the Republic and to humanity and liberty everywhere that has brought forth our volunteers by the million. It is to sustain the armies battling against such causeless and wicked rebellion that the people have poured into the national treasury within three years thousands of millions of dollars with such hearty readiness as to amaze the rulers of the old world. It is to give prompt aid to the wounded, to nurse the sick, to protect the health, and preserve the lives of the soldiers in such a cause that the people have come, and are coming, with their munificent gratuitous contributions of stores and supplies, of nourishing food and medicines and money. It is the vast extent of these volun-

tary contributions that has compelled a resort to organized effort for their orderly concentration, and for their effective distribution and application. Hence we have the Sanitary Commission for the organized and effective distribution and use of the people's contributions, and hence we also arrive logically and historically at our Great Fair, which is an organized method for the orderly and economical concentration of popular liberality for the aid and comfort of the soldiers of the Union.

OUR FAIR BUILDINGS.

When Xerxes viewed, from a high tower near Abydos, the magnificent host which he had collected for the subjugation of Greece, his pride and triumph are said to have given way to tears when the reflection occurred to him that the brevity of human life was such that not one of this countless host would survive the lapse of one hundred years. Shall we confess that, on entering the Fair, and contemplating the vastness of the buildings, the labor and ingenuity employed in their construction, and the taste of their decorations, we felt for a moment, like Xerxes, a pang of regret that their duration was not destined to be eternal? Such feelings, however, are, fortunately for human nature, but transitory, and were soon lost in admiration of the energy and taste which had, out of such temporary structures, produced such surprising effects. The grand archway, occupying the main avenue of the square, ninety feet high, sixty-four feet wide, and five hundred feet long, is really magnificent. In looking at it we were struck by the force of the theory which attributes the conception of the beautiful Gothic arch to the natural arch, formed by avenues of lofty trees, among which its inventors had been accustomed to worship. The branches which have been permitted to enter through the roof assist the imagination, and give the idea that art has merely filled up the form drawn by the hand of nature.

The circular buildings, designed for the Horticultural and Restaurant Departments, are most agreeable contrasts to the predominating form adopted for the other buildings, and are well calculated both for accommodation and display. The different departments in which exhibition, rather than sale, was the principal object, as the Department of Arms and Trophies, were particularly rich, and can scarcely fail to gratify the most fastidious.

We do not pretend to embody in our remarks more than the effect produced upon us by a first visit to the Fair, before it was ready for exhibition. We trust to furnish our readers hereafter with accurate reports of all that is to be seen, and merely wish on this occasion to give expression to the universal sentiment of every spectator, that the location is admirable and the design complete.