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THE FAIR MOVEMENT IN THE LOYAL STATES.—No. 2.

THE CHICAGO FAIR.

HAVING, in our first number, presented the general features of the "Fair movement," let us now return to the principal subject of these sketches, the several "Fairs" themselves.

The constant stream which had flowed to the army during two years and a half, embracing, as has been said, articles of more than seven millions in money value, had, of course, somewhat drained the natural source of supply, the homes of the country. This exhaustion was first felt in the West; not only because the contributions in kind from that part of the country had been most munificent, but also because the reserve stock was there, necessarily, more limited. At this juncture, it became necessary to adopt some expedient, not only to keep up the regular supply which had hitherto been sent forward, but also largely to add to those supplies, in view of a prospective increasing demand.

It should have been stated that the work of gathering in these supplies by means of the Aid Societies had been from the first exclusively in the hands of the women of the country. The Sanitary Commission was merely the recipient of their contributions, and the almoner of their bounty when it was received. It had nothing to do (beyond mere suggestion

and advice) with the mode by which these contributions reached its depository. During the Summer of 1863 it occurred to some of those ladies who had been zealous co-workers with the Sanitary Commission from the beginning that a grand "Fair," to be held at Chicago, and so organized as to enlist the patriotic and benevolent feeling of the whole Northwest in its favor, might be made a means of replenishing the exhausted stock of the Commission at that point. To two ladies of Chicago (Mrs. A. H. HOGE and Mrs. D. P. LIVERMORE) belongs the distinguished honor not only of originating the idea of SANITARY FAIRS, but of so successfully organizing and conducting the "Great Northwestern Fair" in that city, as to stimulate by their example thousands of their own sex in other cities, who, guided by their experience, have since achieved such wonderful results for the benefit of the soldier by similar enterprises.

These ladies, associating with them a large number of others who had been the presiding officers of the more important aid societies in the Northwestern States, issued a circular calling a convention of all those interested in Army Relief, to be held at Chicago, on the 1st of September, 1863. This convention was largely attended, and most enthusiastic in its approval of the contemplated Fair. By it the plan for conducting it was definitely adopted, and all the machinery of committees and officers arranged. It was determined to make a strong effort to produce a grand demonstration

of loyalty and sympathy for the soldier. Mrs. HOGE and Mrs. LIVERMORE visited towns by scores, to awaken interest where special effort was needed, and in every principal place in the Northwest "Fair Meetings" were held, which resulted in handsome pledges to the Fair, that were more than fulfilled. The whole population of the five States was roused to a state of excitement, which culminated in the splendid inaugural pageant at Chicago, at the opening of the Fair, on the twenty-seventh of October last. This pageant is described by those who saw it as "a sight such as had never been before seen in the West on any occasion," and as probably a more magnificent spectacle than was ever presented even in the streets of the Empire City itself. The procession, nearly three miles long, was made up of country wagons, vehicles laden with supplies for the soldiers, of civic orders, and military organizations both horse and foot.

From the earliest dawn of the day, the heart of the mighty city was awake, and long before eight o'clock the streets were thronged with people. Citizens hurried excitedly to and fro, and country women, with their children, came in early in the morning, with colors tied to their bridles, and decorating their wagons, and with miniature flags and banners on their horses' heads. From the house-tops, from the public buildings, was displayed the glorious flag of liberty. By nine o'clock the city was in a roar: the vast hum of multitudinous voices filled the atmosphere. Drums beat in all parts