

## Our Daily Fare.

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 9, 1864.

### OUR FIRST DAY'S EXPERIENCE.

TO tell the honest truth, our experience in Fairs has been of the most limited character. We have, in rural neighborhoods, attended fairs, and, in a meek sort of way, have erected churches, enlarged chapels, improved wardrobes (clerical), and performed, often, good works, which modesty and want of space forbid us to mention. This we have done mainly through the agency of worked slippers and embroidered suspenders. Not wanting these articles, of course, enhanced our merit in our own eyes, and paying a good price for them, enhanced our merit in the eyes of others. We found the business gratifying, easy and meritorious. It never struck us, until two days ago, that a fair had to be got up. We somehow received the impression that slippers and Afghans, and all those breezy and fleecy sort of things that women wear, got themselves made up, and, with a little carpenter and joiner work, made up a fair. Of course, now we come to reason about it, we see our error, but then we had never been on a committee.

Being on a committee, in fact, on three or four, the point from which we regard the matter is different. A fair, regarded from the top of a ladder, or in connection with a glue pot, impresses men somewhat differently. Your feelings are not so concentrated; then, perhaps, you feel it all over you, more especially in the small of your back and in your legs. These emotions were entirely new to us, and, up to the present time, have increased rather than diminished. We are in hopes, in a day or two, to be "off" our legs again for a few minutes, and to experience other sensations, if not of a more novel, at least of a more interesting character.

Our critical judgment, perhaps, has been more exercised than our legs. We have agreed with every female member of our committees on every suggestion that they have made, and when you consider the variety of the suggestions, and their utter inconsistency with one another, you may imagine the mental strain upon us.

We have expressed a decided preference for so many colors; we have been so certain that articles hung crooked and hung straight, and ought to be up and ought to be down, that our mind is in a perfect whirl; our critical faculty is so exasperated that our toilet, which formerly gave us no trouble, has become a matter of the greatest concern. To part our back hair properly now seems impossible, our cravats are always crooked, and it takes us at least a quarter of an hour to put our

hat on perfectly straight. Strange suspicions are instilling themselves into our domestic circle! This devotion to our person is misconstrued, and gives rise to injurious reflections. This particularity about the parting of our hair seems suggestive not of other partings but of other meetings. We are considered conceited, when we only desire to be correct; the victim of some designing female, when we are only a sacrifice to an over-excited sensibility.

### THE FEAST OF TANTALUS.

It seemed to be the rule, whether laid down by the authorities or established by common consent, we know not, that the opening day should be one of exhibition and not of sale. The first day of general admission would thus find the Fair undiminished in its proportions, and shorn of none of its attractions. The rule, we think, was a very good one, but a very trying one to the parties interested. The tables were ready, the guests had arrived, the waiters were on the alert, but no one was invited to partake of the Feast. This, to an ardent saleswoman, was trying; to an enthusiastic youth, burning to possess some of the handiwork of his lady-love, positively exasperating.

The Restaurant Department was, of course, absolved from all restraint in this particular, and was in the active fulfilment of its destiny. This increased the uneasiness elsewhere. Persons were observed eating ices who ought to have been buying pincushions; reckless expenditures were noticed in poundcakes, which should have been reserved for walking-sticks. To the eyes of the other Committees, they seemed to be eating not the usual articles of diet, but letters, newspapers, chinaware and cabinet furniture. The day, however, at last came to an end, and left the unemployed fresh for the morrow. The day of that morrow finally dawned, and we are glad to hear that both sellers and buyers have fairly avenged themselves for their former self-denial.

### THE TEMPORARY CLOSING YESTERDAY.

Shortly after noon, yesterday, the Executive Committee of the Great Central Fair deemed it advisable to close the buildings until this morning, at 10 o'clock. This was not from any imminent danger, as was currently reported, but from an excess of caution on the part of the Committee, who wished to put the occurrence of accident beyond the pale of ordinary possibilities. Of course a great many absurd reports were started into immediate circulation by those not well informed about the matter, and Rumor unfortunately had, on this occasion, a large addition to her usual number of tongues. Some had the "trusses" giving way, others had the "braces" caving

in, and still others had the "abutments" of the "gothic arches" falling down. A great many other startling things had likewise happened. All this had the appearance of a very alarming condition of affairs, especially to those to whom the mystical technicalities of builders and architects were like so much Greek. When you come to talk of the infirmities of "braces" and "girders," and "abutments" and "trussed arches," it is not difficult to get up a panic on a very slender foundation. We have a painful recollection of a severe shock once experienced in our editorial person by being told, on a Lake Erie steamer, that the "cylinder crosshead was working loose." What this might be was a profound mystery to us—that might mean anything, from a trifling delay in the voyage to the instant explosion of the boiler. It was, however, all set right, in about a minute and a half, by a few turns of a screw. So in the present case, of the Fair Buildings, the whole matter amounts to nothing more than the shrinking of a few short pieces of scantling, which does not impair the security of the building at all, and which will be set right by the judicious expenditure of a dozen pounds of nails. The arches of the Union avenue are in no more danger of falling than those of the cathedral opposite, for their foundations are in the solid earth.

### OUR KIND NEIGHBORS.

We trust that the visitors to the Fair will not forget to note the contributions to its attractions which were due to the exertions of our "more distant" friends. We refer especially to the gifts and labors of many warm-hearted "Jersey Blues" and "Blue Hen's Chickens," as well as of those in our own State. In the great cities, where every facility for varied and ingenious work is at hand, it is sometimes no easy matter to give a striking specimen of attractive handiwork; and, when we carefully examine what many ladies have done who are unprovided with such aids, we must warmly acknowledge the zeal which has been displayed.

### THE GRAND ISSUE.

There is one great thought about the present war that should never be forgotten. It is this: the cause of free government is on trial, here and everywhere, now and for all time. The Union soldiers are fighting the battle of republican freedom for all the world as well as for ourselves, and for all coming ages as well as for the present.

Great, then, as our home efforts appear to be, they are dwarfed into insignificance when viewed by the side of their noble work; and we shall have to surpass by far everything yet done before we accomplish anything approaching the height of their deserts.