

TO PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

BY F. W.

Proudest of all earth's thrones
Is his who rules by a free people's choice;
Who, midst fierce party strife and battle groans
Hears, ever rising in harmonious tones,
A grateful people's voice.

Steadfast in thee we trust,
Tried as no man was ever tried before;
God made thee merciful—God keep thee just!
Be true!—and triumph over all thou must;
God bless thee evermore!
GREAT CENTRAL FAIR, JUNE 16, 1864.

OUR OWN GREAT CENTRAL FAIR.

THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

The visit of our worthy President, on Thursday last, in company with Mrs. Lincoln and General Lew Wallace, was an event in the history of the Fair, and the occasion will not soon be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to be present.

A dense crowd of people assembled in Union avenue to greet the Chief Magistrate of the nation, and the scene at the moment the President entered the eastern door, as witnessed from the music gallery was one of striking magnificence. Beneath the waving banners and flags of all nations was the surging mass of ladies and gentlemen, all decked in their holiday attire, and all bent upon a view of the President. Mr. Lincoln's form towered far above the heads of the people, and at every turn he was saluted with the hearty cheers of those present. Tiny flags were waved by tiny hands; handkerchiefs and fans did duty with those of larger growth, hats were whirled high in air, and, altogether, the like of the spectacle has never been witnessed before in Philadelphia.

Mr. Lincoln was received by John Welsh, Esq., in behalf of the Committee, and after a vain attempt to form a passage through the crowd, the President and his *suite* were escorted to the committee room, while arrangements were made to clear the way for a more comfortable view of the buildings and their contents. Mayor Henry and Chief Ruggles superintended the police arrangements, and after an hour's absence Mr. Henry returned and was saluted by Mr. Lincoln, who was ready to start, with the query: "Well, what do the engineers report?" As the report was satisfactory the tour was resumed and completed with more satisfaction than at the first trial, although the pressure was still far from agreeable.

Mrs. Lincoln, who was in charge of the ladies, reached the building before Mr. Lincoln did and had a better opportunity to inspect the goods and decorations. She left on the West Philadelphia stand a beautiful Japanese flower stand.

Hon. Edward Everett visited the Fair in the morning without any knowledge of the President's contemplated visit, and he formed in the afternoon one of the distinguished guests, with Governor Cannon, of Delaware.

The inspection over, the President and his *suite*, were taken to the banquet room of the Committee, where a cold collation was spread. At the close of this, the health of the President was proposed by Mr. Welsh, and in response, Mr. Lincoln made one of his characteristic speeches. His announcement that the war had been accepted in the line of restoring the national authority over all the national domain, that with the help of God, it was proposed to fight it out on that line if it took three years more, was received with such enthusiasm as is rarely accorded to a public speaker. Hon. Edward Everett, Gov. Cannon, and General Wallace, were called upon for speeches, and their responses were in keeping with the occasion.

On behalf of the Ladies of the Committee on Medals, Ex-Gov. Pollock, presented the President with a Silver Medal, struck in commemoration of his visit to the Great Central Fair.

The entertainment was not closed until after the buildings were illuminated, and before leaving, the President and his party had an opportunity of witnessing the brilliant effect produced at night. On Friday morning Mrs. Lincoln was escorted to the Art Gallery, where she was able to fully inspect the collection of paintings.

The whole affair passed off with credit to all concerned.

The Fair was crowded yesterday, as usual, all was merry, and the work went bravely on. We continue our notices of the most noticeable features of the great display, beginning with the Department of Art:

THE ART GALLERY, NO. 2.

One of the finest pictures in the collection which has been gathered together in the Art Gallery of the Great Central Fair, is Hasenclever's Workingmen's Petition, deposited for exhibition by Mr. Ferdinand J. Dreer. The picture represents the meeting of the town council, or a body of German burgomasters, during the troublous times of 1848. A window in the rear is open, and through the casement a mass meeting in full career, with a popular orator haranguing the people, can be distinctly seen. A delegation of this democratic gathering has entered the apartment, represented in the foreground, and they are about to present a petition to the official gentlemen, demanding a recognition of their political rights.

The artist thoroughly understood the subject he undertook to illustrate. The half-abashed, half-defiant air of the workingmen, who have taken so bold a step as to petition the powers that are, is finely portrayed,

while the artist hits off to the life the amazement and concern with which the officials present look upon a movement which threatens such disastrous consequences to the ancient order of things, where one class was considered born to serve uncomplainingly, while another class claimed the right to rule without question. The city councilmen, or burgomasters, in one group, are finely presented by the artist. There are countenances among them that plainly indicate the anxiety of their wearers concerning the new order of things, while the fat, beery old burgher in the foreground, who is wiping the perspiration from his brow, and puffing off his amazement at the unwonted scene, is a fine foggyish offset to the progressive Young Germanism of the wiry and bearded workingmen, who so suddenly find themselves in such unaccustomed company. Like all of Hasenclever's pictures, this splendid work is complete in every detail, every figure being a study, and the whole forming a group as lifelike as though it had been photographed from the reality.

No. 68 in the collection, a fine picture by C. Von Wille, entitled The Bone of Contention, and the property of Mr. Joseph Harrison, Jr., is an exquisite work of art. Two dogs are represented in the act of fighting for a bone, and the picture is so life-like and natural, that we almost expect to hear the angry snarling of the canines who are struggling so fiercely for the prize which lies beside them. As a picture of genuine animated nature, this work has no superior in the collection.

Haseltine's picture of the Seven Mountains is an exceedingly fine painting. The coloring is managed with great skill and effect, and the toning is exquisite.

No. 362 on the Catalogue, which is denominated "the Light House, coast of Holland," is a capital picture. It represents a beacon-light upon the sea coast, with a man mounted upon a ladder and in the act of trimming the lamp in the lantern. The artist has managed his sea and sky with consummate skill, and he has not forgotten to pay due attention to the *nose* and countenances of the man whom he has introduced in his picture.

"Franklin Before the Privy Council," is a picture that will always command attention. In it Schussele, the artist, has represented the "Printer Philosopher," before the Magnates of England, when the question of Colonial rights and Colonial grievances was beginning to attract the attention of the "Lords and Commons," and when "Agent Franklin" was summoned to Saint James, to be questioned concerning American affairs. The artist has made a decided hit in the Portraiture of the Lightning-tamer, and of the free and easy-looking lords and ladies before whom he has been called.

"Day Dreams," by Couture, will commend itself to all lovers of the really truthful and