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**THE FAIR MOVEMENT IN THE LOYAL STATES.—No. 11.**

THE GREAT CENTRAL FAIR AT PHILADELPHIA.

IT was hardly to be expected that Philadelphia should escape the general contagion which had extended into other parts of the country. No city, as is well known, has been more conspicuous than this, for devotion to the cause of the soldier, or for contributions to his relief, by means of organizations of all kinds. The Sanitary Commission has had, for a long time, an active and flourishing agency here, which, during the last two years, has collected more than one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, contributed exclusively by our citizens, besides maintaining a depot of army supplies under the charge of the ladies, which has gathered in from this State, and the surrounding States, an immense quantity of supplies, which have been sent forward to the Army of the Potomac. The Executive Committee of the Philadelphia Associates were well satisfied with the regular normal and steady supply of money and goods to the Depository under their charge. The mass of the people here needed no further stimulus or excitement to continue their liberality.

But there was an outside pressure in this matter which they did not feel at liberty to resist; and, besides, it is sometimes true that "you might as well be out of the world as out of the fashion." The "Union League," a most important and influential body here, took the lead by passing resolutions, on the 11th of

January, 1864, requesting the Philadelphia Associates of the Commission, to hold, in this city, a fair, for the same objects which had been attended with so great a success in other places, and pledging the support of its members to the enterprise. This action seemed to meet with such general favor in the community, that the Executive Committee of the Associates had no alternative but to set to work, at once, and in earnest, to organize a plan of operations.

It was, by resolution of January 22, 1864, determined by them to hold a Fair in the month of June in aid of the General National Treasury of the Commission, and, in order to effect that object an Executive Committee of gentlemen, to whose management the whole enterprise should be confided, seemed, after the experience gained at other Fairs, to be the best plan. The most important thing in this plan, at the outset, and the one most anxiously considered by the Associates, was the selection of the Chairman of the Executive Committee, or, in other words, the administrative head of the Fair. They were most fortunate in inducing John Welsh, Esq., to take that position, a gentleman whose name in this community has the guarantee of the success of any enterprise requiring energy, ability, and zeal for its prosecution. From the hour in which he accepted the office, to the present, he has devoted his eminent abilities to the prosecution of the work with characteristic determination and spirit. Difficulties of a formidable kind have been met with at every stage in the prosecu-

tion of so novel an undertaking, but they have been also fully overcome by a combination of energy, tact, and thorough devotion to the cause on the part of the Chairman of the Executive Committee, as to excite the wonder and admiration of those who know best the secret history of the enterprise. If the Fair should prove a great success, it is certainly no disparagement to the important services rendered by others, to say that the result will be mainly due to the admirable direction of its Chief Executive officer.

The Executive Committee of the Great Central Fair is composed of twenty-four members, who have had the general management of the undertaking. They appointed nearly one hundred Chairmen of Committees, representing every branch of industry and art. Organizations auxiliary to this committee were appointed by the authorities of New Jersey and Delaware, each of which States has a special department, and is to be credited with its contributions to the general fund. The Ladies' Committees which correspond with those of the gentlemen as far as practicable, were selected by a ladies' committee of organization, appointed by the Executive Committee. One of the distinguishing features of this Fair is that its management is more under the control of gentlemen than any one which has preceded it.

It is no part of our duty to chronicle here either a description of the Fair buildings, or of the riches that they contain. That agreeable task we leave to our colleagues, but we cannot close this imperfect sketch of the origin