

NOTES FROM THE WORLD'S FAIR.—II.

April 26th.



THE Opening Day is very near, but President Cleveland will see little of the exhibits unless he comes again. The buildings are a mass of packing cases and unfinished courts, and only here and there one is so far completed as to receive its display. Prodigious efforts are being made to prepare for opening, and, notwithstanding the most extravagant prices demanded, it is estimated that there are over fifty thousand men employed in various ways on the grounds. Then, two weeks of the worst April weather ever known to the writer has delayed all outside work. The little steam

launches that take the tired visitors about in the pretty lagoons from one building to another, are a great accession, and the easy rolling chairs, in which the visitor is easily pushed along by fine, nobby young men, will all help wonderfully in giving a restful mode of transfer from one part of the grounds to another.

The boom for high prices of accommodation has run very high and must surely break. \$1.50 to \$2 per day for a room, without board, is absurd, in a city of nearly a million and a half which is so easily able to accommodate 200,000 or more visitors per day.

The Customs regulations are giving the writer heaps of trouble getting hold of our goods. A special permit must be got to move our several car-loads of fruit and vegetables from the City Cold Storage into the grounds, or for moving about from one building to another; and no box can be opened without a Customs inspector to check off the contents, the same to be returned to the box at the close of the exhibition, or duty paid.

The Administration Building, where most of the business offices of the World's Fair are situated, is quite unique, and of peculiar interest. By many it is considered the gem of the Exposition buildings from an architectural standpoint. The grand dome, which is open to the floor in the centre, is two hundred feet in height, gilded without and within, and richly decorated. It has four pavilions, eighty-four feet square, and the general style is that of the French renaissance, with the first story Doric and the second Ionic. This building, with an heroic statue of Columbus before the main entrance, will be the first to attract the attention of visitors after their arrival at the immense railway terminal station, and will give a very favorable "first impression."

The attention of the visitor is naturally directed next to the largest building upon the grounds, the *Manufactures and Liberal Arts*. Leaving Administration,