

Work of the Eastman Kodak Co.

THE following description, taken from a Rochester paper, of work done by the Eastman Kodak Company for the World's Fair, as ordered by the State Department of the Government, is very interesting :

"The Eastman Kodak Company has just completed the work of enlarging nearly 700 pictures for the State Department of the Government which are to be exhibited at the Columbian Fair. The collection is one of the most unique and valuable that the Government has ever made and will form a prominent feature among the exhibits made by the United States at Chicago. Charles O. Thompson, the company's artist, has been engaged with an assistant for nearly two years in reproducing these pictures, and the results are highly satisfactory to the State Department and creditable to the artists.

"Several years ago the Government decided to secure the originals or copies of all paintings, works of art and old books that pertained to the life of Columbus, the discovery of America and the events which were connected with that discovery. Artists were sent abroad to copy the famous paintings in European galleries and to hunt for rare pictures which would throw light upon the historical scenes of Columbus' time. Accurate photographs were taken of paintings, old maps and statues, and a contract was then made with the Eastman Company to enlarge these to attractive size.

"Through the courtesy of Mr. Thompson, a *Union* reporter spent a pleasant hour last evening in examining the original copies, which were forwarded to the company by William E. Curtis of the Bureau of American Republics, who is in charge of the work of making

the collections for the Government. So accurate are many of the photographs that the cracks and marks which time has left upon the painter's canvas, and even the stroke of the artist's brush, are strikingly reproduced. The early home of Columbus in Geneva, the convent where he was educated, his appearance at the courts of Spain and Portugal, while endeavoring to secure aid in carrying out his voyage, and many scenes in Spain and Italy during that historic time, which were painted by the celebrated artists of that period, are brought vividly to the eye by means of these photographs.

"Many of the photographs are naturally indistinct," said Mr. Thompson, "as the colors in the original paintings have become faded by time. A large number of the pictures were enlarged on bromide paper and finished in crayon. We also reproduced many of the portraits in oil and some of the more striking pictures in water colors and pastels. The average size of the enlarged picture was forty by fifty inches, but many of them are much larger. After the pictures have been shown at the World's Fair, they will probably be placed in the art museum of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington."

"Perhaps the most interesting part of the collection is the different portraits of Columbus, of which there are nearly sixty. These were copied from the original paintings in the art galleries of Venice, Milan, Florence, Rome, Madrid, Lisbon and other cities, and represent the great navigator in youth, in middle life and old age. Some of the pictures give the discoverer the look of a Dominican monk, with lean and austere countenance, a high forehead and scanty locks of hair. In others he appears as a jolly round-faced