

Amateurs at the World's Fair.

WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION, }
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT. }

CHICAGO, March 31, 1892.

F. C. BEACH, Esq.,

*Cor. Sec'y Society of Amateur Photographers,
New York, N. Y.*

DEAR SIR,—Your favor of the 24th inst., relative to the right to photograph objects of interest at the Exposition, was duly received and presented to the Executive Committee of the World's Columbian Exposition at its meeting yesterday, and the matter therein contained was discussed at length.

The photographic privilege at the Exposition is regarded as very valuable, and is one of the sources to which the Exposition must look for the reimbursement of the heavy expenses entailed upon it. While it was the desire of the committee to meet the wishes of the very large and influential body of amateur photographers of this country in the matter referred to, the very fact that this class is so numerous was deemed a serious objection to granting the permits you desire, as, by so doing, the value of any photographic privileges that might be granted would be seriously impaired, if not wholly destroyed. Neither was it deemed possible by the committee for the Exposition to discriminate between those who were and those who were not amateurs in this art.

In view of these facts, the Executive Committee re-affirms the action of the Committee on Ways and Means, and directs me to express its regret at the inability to comply with the wishes of your society.

Very respectfully,

BENJ. BUTTERWORTH, Secretary.

From the above letter, received by Mr. F. C. Beach, cor. secretary, Society of Amateur Photographers, New York, in answer to his written request that the Executive Committee reconsider their action depriving amateurs of the pleasure of using their cameras on the grounds of the World's Exposition, it would seem very probable that the camera is to be classed along with dynamite bombs, fire-arms, dogs, etc., and rigidly excluded from the grounds of the World's Columbian Exposition in '93.

It is a mistaken measure, and it is to be regretted that the Executive Committee see the matter in the light they do. The injustice that would be done to the legion of visiting camerists can not be too strongly dwelt upon. It deprives hundreds of thousands of half the pleasure of visiting the fair and the after pleasure of recalling what

they saw there to themselves and their friends.

That the privilege of photographing at the Exposition is a very valuable one is admitted; but the question arises whether it would not be far better policy, from any point of view, to take less from the four or six professionals—if, as is claimed by the Board of Directors, the granting of privileges to amateurs lessens the value of the professional grants—and then sell permits to amateurs under restrictions not to sell on the grounds. When we considered the immense number of amateurs who would gladly pay any sum in moderation for such privileges and the very considerable difference made in attendance, it would seem an easy matter to determine the best paying and at the same time the most satisfactory answer to this question.

It is to be hoped that the many influential clubs of the country will not submit to their members being thus classed among the "people to be watched," as it were, but will form a concerted movement for voicing a vigorous protest against such rulings on the part of the board before it is too late.

Since writing the above we have received a letter from Mr. Beach, enclosing a printed petition to the Ways and Means Committee, and which he will send to every camera club in America and most foreign countries for signature. We hope the energetic efforts Mr. Beach has made in the cause will be successful.

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Snap Shots.

"What's the matter here?" asked a stranger of a small boy, as he noticed a large wedding party coming out of a church on Fifth avenue.

"Nawthin' but the tied goin' out," was the reply.—*Texas Siftings*.

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Said the flaxen-haired maiden to the dapper young man behind the counter: "Have you any nice, soft muslin that will suit my complexion and hair?"

The Shopman: "Bleached or unbleached?"—*Chronicle*.