

positive and overwhelming success as compared with the previous great Exhibitions of the world.

It is a success of which the American people have especial cause to be proud, for it was entirely their work. The great International Exhibitions of Europe were the work of the governments of the countries in which they were held, and were fostered with the greatest care, and every resource of the state was placed at their disposal to insure success. The Centennial Exhibition, on the contrary, was viewed with disfavor by the American Government, which withheld its aid until the indignant remonstrances of the people forced it to come forward and do its share in the work. The Centennial Exhibition was thus the work of the people of the United States, conceived by them, carried forward to its close by them, and made by them the grandest success of the century.

The deepest interest was manifested by all classes of our people in their beautiful Exhibition. Thousands came from all parts of the Union, and yet other thousands from abroad, to visit the great Exhibition, and all these went away with the acknowledgment that, great as their expectations were, they were more than realized.

Believing that such would be the interest of the American people in the Exhibition, the author began at an early day the preparation of this work, in which he has sought to present to the reader not only the history of the great enterprise, from its inception down