

exhibit of the Christian Brothers fell under the eyes of the Hon. John Eaton, then Commissioner of Education for the United States, who requested its transfer to the New Orleans Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition which was to open the following year, (1885). The Brothers were obliged to disappoint the hopes of the American Commissioner, but they prepared another exhibit from the schools of the United States for the New Orleans Centennial. Nothing could exceed the astonishment and delight of the leading American educators in viewing the extraordinary showing made by this hitherto unknown religious body of teachers. The judges seemed unable to give adequate expression to their admiration. The press was almost extravagant in its praise. Dr. Newell, President of the State Normal School of Maryland, was appointed to write a special report of the Brothers' Exhibit for the Educational Congress that was to be convened at Saratoga a few months later. The New Orleans *Daily Picayune* March 19th, 1895, in an article on the Brothers display, thus speaks of the disciples of La Salle and their methods: "The Brothers are, above all things, systematic, clear and plain. They desire not to cram, but to expand the mind, make it thoroughly receptive, and put the pupil in possession of the fundamentals, so that in after years he can 'hoe his own row' without fear or anxiety as to opposition or competition. If the boy is to become a civil engineer, he is taken step by step along the difficult road, and is held firmly under direction and control until he feels and knows himself to be equal to any task within the limits of his line. And so it is with the boy who desires to be an architect, a lawyer, a physician, a book keeper or a business man. The ground work of all these professions is laid broad, and according to methods of instruction that are being more and more simplified every year." Mr. Thomas W. Bicknell, Chairman of the Committee on Education, and Hon. John Hancock, a member of the same committee, in their respective reports to the United States Bureau of Education, also made the most flattering references to the Christian Brothers. At the close of the Exhibition, the Judges made to the

Brothers, sixty-seven awards, among which was the Grand Diploma of Honor, the highest award for collective exhibit.

But perhaps, reader, you will object that all this is ancient history. This is the century of progress, and education has taken rapid strides since 1885. No doubt the Brothers belong to the century. They may even have occupied the front rank in the eighties, but they don't belong to the nineties. As you will—but you must admit, at least, that the Great Columbian Exposition opened at Chicago in 1892, was up to date. The Directors of the World's Fair invited the advocates of all educational systems to take part in the Exhibition. The Christian Brothers, confident in the superiority of their methods, responded with alacrity to this invitation, and promptly prepared an exhibit representing not only their institutions of America, but those of France, England, Ireland, Belgium, Spain, and even of the little antipodal Isle of Mauritius. The advocates of the Public School system, on the contrary, seemed loath to enter into the competition. They fought shy of the trial, and when they did place the fruits of their system on exhibition, they seemed animated by an excessive spirit of modesty, inasmuch as they tried to make their exhibit occupy as little space as possible. And this remark applies not only to the apostles of the Public School system in general, but to the upholders of the Public School system of Ontario in particular, as may be easily shown by a single comparison. The display of the Catholic Schools of Quebec covered an area of 1,700 square feet, while from nearly 5,900 Public Schools in Ontario, was sent the paltry aggregate of 375 exhibits. And if this were only the worst. But what is infinitely more humiliating is the fact that after all our loud-mouthed boasting, our Public Schools were not merely overshadowed, but simply eclipsed by those inefficient schools taught according to the out-of-date system of La Salle.

The Brothers, I say, fearlessly placed on exhibition the fruits of their methods in competition with the world at this Columbian Exposition, and never did the system of La Salle score a greater victory than that won at Chicago in the full blaze of