

The first and strongest and most lasting impression made by the Exhibition is its vastness—the immense extent of the buildings, the bewildering number and variety of the exhibits. We may read that the Main Building is over a third of a mile long, and covers over twenty-one acres, but it is only when we stand beneath its lofty dome, and gaze down its many-bannered vistas, and pace its long corridors, that the conception of its real vastness grows upon us. The number of buildings on the grounds is sixty-five, their area seventy-five acres. The length of the corridors in the five principal buildings is twenty-two miles, crowded on either side with the choicest products of the art and industry of almost all the civilized nations of the world. Of course, only a few impressions can be here given of the bewildering variety of objects presented for our study and delight.

The first thing to be done is to make the three miles' circuit of the grounds on the narrow-gauge railway. The numerous buildings of ornate architecture and gay with banners and brilliant colours, the broad greensward, the umbrageous foliage, the bright parterres of flowers, the crowded boulevards, the sparkling fountains, the moving multitudes of people make a series of pictures not soon forgotten.

We enter the Main Building: its architecture is light and graceful, the materials being chiefly glass and iron. The area allotted to the different countries is in many cases surrounded by a highly ornate screen, sometimes of imposing height, and of characteristic national architecture, and over each enclosure is emblazoned the name of the country, often accompanied by trophies of the national flag. Many of the exhibitors, also, have erected exceedingly beautiful pavilions, stalls, show cases, or groupings of their choicest exhibits. The *coup d'œil* of the whole is of imposing grandeur. This people's palace of industry surpasses that of earth's proudest kings. The nations of the world have poured into it their choicest treasures, to vie with each other, not in the bloody tournament of war, but in the ennobling rivalry of peace. It is a perfect microcosm. The picturesque costumes and unfamiliar speech of foreign countries strike strangely on the eye and ear. Red-fezzed Turks, oriental-looking Moors and Tunisians, silk-robed Chinese, swarthy Japanese, French, Germans,