



INTRODUCTION

COLUMBIAN Exposition of 1893 is the greatest undertaking of the kind the world has ever seen. The majesty and beauty of its buildings, the extent and magnitude of the grounds, and the infinitely varied character of its exhibits will make it, not the eighth wonder of the world, but the first, eclipsing the seven that have borne that distinction for so many centuries. The history of this enterprise must be of unending interest to everybody. This is, however, an age of quick thought and rapid movement. Massive books laden with details are for the student and scholar, and the few men of leisure. It was this idea, clearly impressed, that led the publishers to get out this work; one that should be complete, yet concise; a book that one can slip in his pocket and pull out anywhere for reference. A writer of marked ability and one who has been intimately associated with the World's Fair since its inception essayed the task, a by no means easy one, and has succeeded in covering the whole ground without the use of a superfluous word or the omission of a single important fact. Only one who is in close relation with the management and identified with the development of the details, could have accomplished the work.

Chicago is the marvel of the age; its fame has extended to the remotest bounds, and the tens of millions who will visit here this year will not go away until they shall have had an opportunity to see its perfect park system, broad boulevards, fountains, statues and monuments, palatial hotels, grand office buildings, libraries, art galleries, Auditorium, Board of Trade, picturesque suburbs, great waterworks, immense stockyards. It is proper, then, that this little book shall be a guide for the stranger throughout the city as well as the World's Fair grounds. In these pages will be found complete information. All the leading points of interest are clearly pointed out, together with instructions how to reach them. The various railroads, depots and offices, telegraph and express offices, banks, hotels, with their capacity and rate, office buildings, hack and cab regulations and charges—in short, any and all sorts of knowledge necessary for intelligent guidance about the city. This work was relegated to a writer who has for years made a specialty of Chicago and its growth. As in the case of the World's Fair, everything is brought down to date of publication.