

**THE BOOK OF THE FAIR.**

BY HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT.

THE fact is established that the World's Columbian Exposition is the greatest of its kind, greatest not alone in dimensions, but as an exemplar of the progress of mankind. Nor is it probable that the present generation will see its superior as a display of the products of human endeavor, that by any nation or people it will be considered advisable, or pleasurable, or profitable, to expend the years of labor and millions of money requisite for a more extended showing of what man can do at his best. On the other hand the time may come when it shall not be deemed inexpedient to render continuous the World's Fair idea, when the strain on intellect and industry will not seem too severe to plant in some convenient spot a City of Civilization, perpetually to stand, enlarging with the enlargement of the mind, and yielding fruit of every kind.

However this may be, the present brilliant spectacle is upon us, in all its beauty and utility, a palpable and most interesting reality, and the question is how to make the best use of it, how to secure the fullest and most permanent results from the lessons it teaches. We may consider it from every point of observation, study it through the summer, and review it in the autumn, but we know how quickly vanish scenes caught by the eye and preserved only in the memory. With all our cold storage of learning in libraries, how little is really known to-day of the score or two of world's fairs held within the century at an aggregate cost of many hundred millions of dollars! Much that was beneficial remained, garnered in the intangible storehouses of human experiences, but how much more was lost! The cause is clear: there has never been a properly written history or description of any one of these remarkable exhibitions; there has never before been made what might justly be termed *The Book of The Fair*.

It is the purpose of the present work to supply this deficiency in the literature of world's fairs so far as the Exposition of 1893 is concerned. Great as will be the beneficial influences of this greatest of civic displays, nine-tenths of its benefits will form no lasting boon unless secured in some safer receptacle than the memories of men. Obviously, the best and most enduring form for the preservation of any kind of knowledge is a properly written and illustrated book, whose author entertains first of all an adequate conception of his subject, with the ability to present the same systematically arranged, and in clear and logical sequence. Pictures alone, however beautiful, however essential to the imparting of knowledge, are not of themselves enough; the intellect as well as the eye must be entertained. To produce the best results, the best talents of both author and artist must be brought into requisition, that what the mind receives

through the eye may be impressed upon the understanding.

How far these aims and conditions have been fulfilled in *The Book of The Fair*, it is for the reader to determine. To say that no efforts have been spared, no time or money withheld which might tend to the achievement of the highest results, that the best artists who could be secured in Europe and America were brought to Chicago to illustrate the carefully prepared text of an author of established repute, would go for little did not the literary, artistic, and mechanical features of the work prove worthy of the labor and expense bestowed. The verdict of approval, however, we are receiving from every quarter, and the high approbation thus far bestowed by those most competent to judge, we shall endeavor to merit to the end.

*The Book of The Fair* is the only work in any wise attempting to reproduce in print the Exposition entire. In this respect it is without a competitor. It confines itself neither to art alone on the one side, nor to dry statistics on the other, but aims to present in artistic and accurate form the whole realm of art, industry, science, and learning, as here exhibited by the nations, so far as can be done within reasonable limits. The work will consist of 1,000 imperial folio pages, 12 by 16 inches, to be issued in 25 parts of 40 pages each, at the rate of about two parts monthly, and at the price of \$1 a part. It will contain over 2,000 of the finest illustrations, from official sources, many of them full-page plates covering 102 square inches of surface.

For its superior excellence and artistic beauty, with cuts of the finest, and heavy paper of highest enameled finish, *The Book of The Fair* was selected by the Miehle Co. to be printed as an exhibit on their new improved press in the Machinery hall of the Exposition.

**CHARLES SANGSTER.**

CHARLES SANGSTER, poet and journalist, died at the residence of his nephew, William Sangster, Kingston, last month, aged seventy-one years. In early days he was attached to the staff of the Kingston Whig.

Charles Sangster, called Canada's own poet, was born at the navy yard, Kingston, on July 16th, 1822. He got a meagre education, and had he not studied energetically before he reached man's estate he would not have been quoted among the eminent men of the country. At fifteen years of age he first got employment in the laboratory at Fort Henry, where he helped to make the cartridges with which Capt. Sandon, of the Royal Navy, battered the old windmill at Prescott. Mr. Sangster was later appointed to the ordnance department, where he remained ten years on small salary, without any possible chance of promotion. In the summer of 1849 he resigned and went to

Amherstburg, becoming editor of the *Courier*. At the end of a year he returned to Kingston, and for ten years was manager of the British Whig under the late Dr. Barker. He later joined the *News* staff as reporter, and in 1868 he accepted a position in the post-office department under the federal government, and removed from the city to Ottawa. Prior to this he contributed poetic effusions to the Canadian press and brought out two books, highly spoken of by able critics.

During Mr. Mackenzie's administration he bettered Mr. Sangster's official position, which eased the poet's mind and pocket. Those who got up the "Royal" and "Ontario" series of school books, kept Mr. Sangster before the public. He left Ottawa with a good retiring allowance. Since his superannuation he lived at Buffalo, N.Y., and Kingston.

He was married in October, 1867, to Henrietta, second daughter of the late Dr. James Meagher, and by her had six children, three of whom died very young, and in the summer of 1884 his wife passed away. Scores of writers and journalists wrote glowing eulogies on Mr. Sangster's ability as shown in his book, "*Hesperus and other Poems*."

He was justly regarded in earlier days as Canada's national bard. He had a deep regard for everything British and was inspired with kindly and commendable feelings. Some passages in his poems are regarded as beautiful and lofty, rich and grand in expression, and honourable alike to head and heart.

**THE MAGAZINES.**

LORD ABERDEEN'S picture forms the frontispiece of the *Review of Reviews* for January. There is also an article on Lord and Lady Aberdeen, by W. T. Stead, who visited these people in Canada a few weeks ago. The mission and destiny of Canada is also treated of in an article which comprises most of what Mr. Stead said in Toronto when he delivered an address. Newsdealers should do well with this number.

The Methodist Magazine for December was especially good, and was a fitting number to complete the thirty-eighth half-yearly volume of this journal. It has a host of readers and deserves its success.

The Vanishing Moose is the title of an article in the January Century, by Madison Grant, an experienced hunter of moose in Canada and the United States. Various methods of hunting moose, its distribution in North America, and special reference to its extermination in the Adirondacks, are the leading features.

The Overland Monthly has a special New Year's number worthy of dealers' attention. The stories are many and varied—a curious tale by Leonard Kip of a witch's cauldron, a weird ghost story of an attempt to bribe a Legislature, ending in a sudden introduction