

THE PARIS EXPOSITION AND ITS OPENING

Scenes In and About "the City of Cream and Gold," Where the Great Fair Is Now Going On.

THE Paris exposition has opened. The compact little city of cream and gold, lying in the busy heart of that greater city of milk white masonry fringing the Seine, has opened its gates to the world and at last the great exposition of 1900 has become an actual fact. After years of deliberation and planning, after months of hard work and weeks of feverish haste, the flags have at last gone up on the new Alexandrine bridge and all the civilized nations of the world are now lined up with their industrial and artistic toe to the scratch, as it were, all prepared for the race and all hungry for the prize. It is a gigantic competition of civilizations. And while the great nations of the world are competing the citizens of those nations are in Paris enjoying the amusing panorama. It is for its lessons, however, and not for its laughs that the exposition will become one of the great events of the passing century.

But perhaps it is wrong to say that every competitor is prepared for the fair. The wheels of the great machinery have started off with a tremendous amount of rumbling, and history are already pouring into Paris, but it is a well recognized fact that it will be a month or more before all the buildings are completed and all the exhibits in place. A number of things have happened to delay work on the grounds and structures, and weeks ago it was felt that Mile. Paris would hardly have her house in order by the time the first guests should come knocking at her highly polished front door. Hurry and fret as might the directors and architects and contractors, strikes, bad weather, miscalculations and a hundred and one other things combined to keep Paris from being en fete to all the world on the day announced. Paris has had fairs before this, but none so great. She now stands with her arms outstretched to all the world, and it is responding to the seductive invitation.

Within the gates of this magic little city within a city have been gathered together examples of the national progress of every country in the world, everything representative of peculiar national ideas and customs and everything typical of the world's advance in science and art during the last century. All this sounds rather big and pretentious, but Paris is taking to six months of posing as the schoolmistress of the world and is already working very hard at her object lessons. And it is not of-

ample of this passion for ornateness. Happily always accompanying this is the Parisian in a redeeming sense of what is truly artistic and in good taste. The Place de la Concorde entrance, looming up in all its magnificence, is a standing invitation for the stranger to pay his franc and enter in to inspect the even more wondrous sights beyond that magic gate. The new Alexandrine bridge over the Seine is yet another expression of the Gallic love for the decorative. This graceful single span covered with steel bridging the river is to Paris what the Brooklyn bridge is to Greater New York. When it was built, an effort was made to break away from the traditional Parisian method of making a bridge. Most of the capital's bridges are elaborate and ornate things, with buttresses and made of stone and ornamented with great sculptured figures the size of giants. So the Parisians said that the Alexandrine bridge should be simple and light and graceful. But they could not resist the temptation to put two great, square marble columns at each end. Then each one of these figures had to be surmounted by a symbolical figure, and these again had to be gilded. Then a few more figures had to be added to the base of each, and then the bridge itself divided into spaces and each space embellished with some statue of bronze or iron, to say nothing of rows of most ornate carrelars representing groups of children. All of which goes to bear out the fact that the Frenchman insists on beautifying everything about his beautiful Paris—indeed, in this very fact lies a solution of the mystery of the present day charm of this siren of cities. Even the big smokestack standing near the palace of electricity is an example of the irrepressible artistic instinct of the Parisian. This huge chimney is 290 feet high and is the largest smokestack in the world. But, think you, is it a great, grimy tube pouring a cloud of blackness up to the heavens? Not a bit of it. It is an airy looking tower, with its periphery made gorgeous with variously colored bricks arranged to form the most pleasing figures and designs.

It has become a fixed tradition to look upon the Parisian as a pleasure seeker pure and simple and upon Paris as a city of pleasures. Never was greater mistake made. Paris is first and foremost a manufacturing city, a great center of factories and frugal minded people, with only its superficial upper crust of frivolity. Some people have

down because political complications would mean smaller dividends. Today the Parisians are saying that foreign pilgrims are going to leave \$204,000,000 in their capital, before the exposition closes, and even though this gigantic figure is not realized the money chest of monsieur will be enormously enriched.

An exposition on a plan so extensive, embracing all the countries of the world, naturally makes it impossible for the exposition managers to recognize individuals. It is a matter of nations only. The individual exhibitor has been merged in his national exhibit. More than 50 different countries are now taking part in the exposition; in fact, the participation on the part of the different foreign powers has proved surprisingly liberal. It is well known what extraordinary eclat the French government itself has given to the scheme, that body having practically fathered the enterprise from its first conception.

Each country participating in the exposition has a national building or a

State, either at home or abroad. No less than 54 agricultural experiment stations have sent pictures illustrating American methods and their happy results, and the outcome is a most interesting and valuable collection of photographic pictures. The cotton exhibition, for instance, is made up of between 500 and 700 specimens of choice lint cotton furnished by American growers. One feature that is proving a novelty to foreigners is a full sized cotton plant covered with bolls. The tobacco industry has been similarly treated, and the exhibit is the finest ever made by this country. No less than 1,000 specimens of the fragrant weed are to be seen, these being accompanied by an exhaustive photographic display of the different processes of cultivation and manufacture.

The part which the American cereal plays in the exhibition is no insignificant one. The grain specimens now being gazed on at Paris is all carefully put up in glass jars one foot in height and five inches in diameter. These assorted grains look very crisp and span in their long rows, and constitute an exhibition of which the American farmer may well be proud. Our official government exhibit in the mat-

ter, but also those of his grandfather and great-grandfather. A woman is, at the most, responsible for the debts of her husband.

When two Chinamen meet, they shake hands—that is to say, each shakes and squeezes his own hands and covers his head. If the meeting is after a long parting, after the handshaking is over the friends rub shoulders until they are tired. Instead of inquiring after one another's health it is etiquette to ask: "Have you eaten your rice? Where are you going? What is your business there? What did you pay for your shoes? How old are you?"

Men wear long petticoats and carry fans, while women carry canes.

Flying at ball and kite flying are the pastimes of graybeards, and the children look on with folded arms.

When a Chinaman wishes a visitor to dine with him, he does not ask him to do so; he reserves that politeness as a means of intimating to a visitor that his company is not desired; of course, the hint is taken, and the invitation is politely declined.

Rich men always get any number of servants, and yet they pay them no wages. The common people have to pay their servants highly, and even then find them hard to get. The reason is that the servant of the rich man can make more than triple the ordinary wages in perquisites.

er of grains is a model grain elevator and other models of machinery connected with the great grain and flour industry of our American corn is shown on the seat on framed panels.

An important display is that of the meat industry as carried on in America. All the large packing houses have been granted space, and there are interesting models showing all the different operations of a modern packing house. Here one can see just how the active and voracious hog of the stockyards is turned into smoked ham and steers from the eastern ranches transformed into succulent canned goods. Then there are displays of American coal and sealing methods, of American minerals in general, with a model gold mine in full working order, forest and fishery exhibits showing the wealth of our country in that direction, and other things too numerous to mention.

The American newspaper and the American educational system, even is explained by very concrete methods. Nor must American art be forgotten. Although ours is a country still in its youth and not possessing hoarded accumulations of art works of past centuries, the showing made by American artists is a very creditable one. Selections have been carefully made, and representative pictures are now hanging in Paris. It is not for our convases and busts that we shall attract the attention of the world. It is rather by that wonderful display of machinery, including everything from a locomotive to a sewing machine needle, and by the gorgeous display of our agricultural products that we shall cause the eyes of the European to open in wonder.

In the meanwhile the "bloodless struggle of the nations," as the great exposition has been called, is going on, side by side the great countries of the world are ranged up in their great competitive examination, and, though con-

LEGENDS ABOUT THE BEAUTIFUL EASTER LILY.

Lilies, always popular, are in much more demand about Easter, and, in anticipation of its approach, inevitably have a large stock of these flowers on hand. Great was the demand for these beautiful blossoms in the past, the request for them within recent years has so greatly increased that the dealers find it difficult at times to supply the trade. Large sums of money



A PERFECT EASTER LILY.

are expended by churches and private individuals in purchasing lilies at Easter time, and churches and apartments are profusely decorated with them.

The lily is frequently spoken of in the Bible. In the Canticles we find it introduced in such beautiful language as "the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valley," and "the feedeth among the lilies." In his sermon on the mount Christ said, "Behold the lilies of the field," and continued that "Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

The only true lily found now in Palestine is the scarlet Madonna lily, but it is probable that by the term in Scripture is meant the scarlet anemone, which in color and abundance answers the requirements. But as the Arabs apply the term lily now to many flowers, it is possible that the word was thus generally used by the authors of the books of the Bible where it is introduced.

The great profusion of the lily and similar classes of flowering plants in the Holy Land is remarkable and forms the most beautiful and attractive feature of the landscape, blooming as they do in winter or the early spring. The plain of Sharon, the lower slopes of Lebanon, the shores of Galilee and the bare, craggy terraces of the Judean hill country are at certain seasons aflame with white and scarlet and golden lilies, whose glory is the most striking of all the aspects of the country. The plain at the foot of the mount of Beatitudes is covered at various seasons with a vast profusion of lilies and other flowers, all of brilliant colors. When Christ directed the attention of his auditors to the lily as an illustration of his beatitudes, there were doubtless thousands of the flowers to be seen wherever they turned.

Blooming when all else was dead and precursors of spring and the superabundant life of summer, it was but natural that the lily should become the resurrection flower, a beautiful type of that life to come, which forms the essential hope and doctrine of the Christian faith. It also became the emblem of purity, for could anything be more emblematic of a soul freed from all the defilement of sin than those stainless blossoms, pure and beautiful enough to be exotics on our earthly soil transplanted from the gardens of heaven?

A monkish legend of the second century states that Mary, the mother of Christ, like her Divine Son, also rose from the dead. It relates that the apostles on going to her grave on the third day after her burial found the grave open and the place where her body had lain filled with roses and lilies. As this story of the "assumption of the Virgin" gained credence throughout Christendom the lily became the Virgin Mary's special emblem. The species which medicine art associates with her name is the "anemone lily" of our gardens (*Anemone pulsatilla*).

In old Italian and Flemish paintings representing the Virgin a vase of these flowers is always placed by her side, with three blossoms crowning three green stems. In later pictures of the annunciation the Italian painters place a spray of great white lilies in the hands of the angel Gabriel.

In the early part of the thirteenth century the preaching of St. Bernard gave a great impulse to the high veneration in which the Virgin had been previously held, and it was then that the most beautiful lady chapels were added to cathedrals and that the lily first appeared in ecclesiastical architecture.

Though the celebration of Easter as a recognized festival of the Christian church was not general until 100 or 200 years after the birth of Christ, it was observed by many Christians previous to that time. Gregory Nazianzen, who died in 390, calls Easter the "royal day among days." Previous to his time and subsequently vigils were held on the night preceding Easter in anticipation of the second coming of Christ, as it was supposed by many that he would appear at this time. In apostolic times and for some centuries after Christ was an ardent matter of belief to many Christians, and there are thousands even today who await that event with as eager a hope and as firm a faith as the early believers in the second advent.

It seems almost like a rhetorical flourish from everything that is to eggs refined and elevated to assist with Easter, as to lilies in connection with the future life, symbolism relative to the use of eggs at this season was originally symbolic of the resurrection of nature in the Christian point of view. From the Christian point of view this heart of eggs at Easter has been usually considered emblematic of the resurrection and of life surviving physical decay.

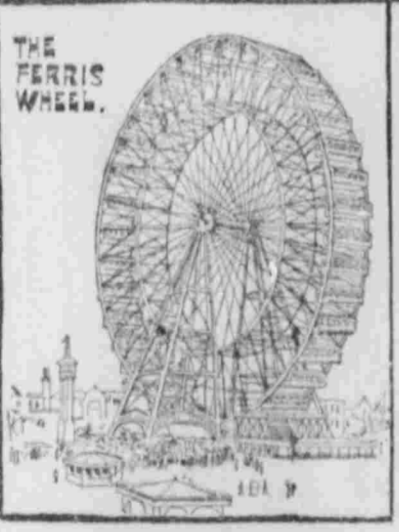
The Jews at the time of the Passover also attached special significance to the eating of eggs, and among the Persians, even now at the time of the solar new year in March, present each other with colored eggs. NEIL MACDONALD.



THE APPROACH TO THE ALEXANDRINE BRIDGE.



THE EIFFEL TOWER.



THE FERRIS WHEEL.

come to look upon the great exposition as a mere frolic of the Parisians. The great globe, the Eiffel tower and the Ferris wheels they regard as freaks, and not as triumphs of engineering ingenuity. A frolic this fair never was. This exposition is nothing but a huge and brilliant business speculation, and one, too, that promises to reap a rich harvest for the investors interested. France is not so altruistically inclined that she considers it her duty to spend six months enlightening the world as to this same old world's progress in the arts and sciences and get nothing for her pains. Monsieur loves art, but he also loves his franc, and it will be found that the exposition will prove one of the most carefully engineered speculative schemes of the end of the century.

So today everything in France is playing second fiddle to the exposition. Municipal fetes have been given up because the money was needed for spectacles at the great fair that was to do France proud. Rumors of war have been laughed down because such things might affect the foreign attendance. Revolutionary sheets have quieted

headquarters for its citizens. These different pavilions are each supposed to represent some particular phase in the life of the country for which it stands.

The country which is taking most interest in the exposition outside of France itself is, of course, our own United States. It is this country's exhibits, too, that most interest Americans. Both the federal and state governments have been liberal in their appropriations. For months past Commissioner Peck has been bending every effort toward making the American exhibit one creditable to his country. He not only succeeded in interesting an exceptional number of Americans in the exhibits and arousing a new enthusiasm in the fair in general, but also secured an additional grant of space, so that now, with the exception of France and Russia, America has more space than any other country. More than 5000 American exhibitors, in fact, have found space at the exposition in the various buildings. So the American citizens who go to Paris this summer will look about him with justifiable pride, and everywhere he will see that his country has not lagged behind in this bloodless international struggle for supremacy. He will be able to take a special delight in the national pavilion of his country, rising with its dome 200 feet above the river Seine. It stands on the Quai d'Orsay, among the buildings of the other great powers, and its site is one of the best locations in the grounds. The uppermost tip of the American building is fittingly crowned by a large eagle with outstretched wings. Another equally American feature will be the two elevators which will whiz up and down inside this big structure. The building itself is square, with a large central dome and rotunda. On three sides of the rotunda open fair sized rooms, one of which—that on the left of the main entrance—is being used as a lounge room for men, while that

as money and ingenuity could do, and from the point of view of comfort and convenience it is generally conceded by impartial critics—which, of course, are not always easy to find—that there is no building on the grounds that compares with it. It must not be supposed, however, that in this building will be found all of the exhibits sent over by our republic. According to the classification of exhibits into 18 different groups, regardless of national distinctions, the United States exhibits are, of course, distributed in many different buildings.

Some of the state exhibitions are showing themselves to be especially attractive and valuable. Frenchmen are beginning to find out that they are not the only people who can make wine. They have been smacking their lips over our California claret and confessing with a good natured shrug that they might be worse. You cannot get a Frenchman to praise any wine made outside of his own country. Then, too, Mile. Paris is learning just what delightful things can be made of American corn—stuff she had thought that was only fit to be fed to chickens. She has been sinking her pretty white teeth into corn muffins and corn dodgers and has wowed them delicious. Then Europeans are looking wide eyed at the fruit that has been sent over from America. Every week the Californian exhibit, for instance, is to receive a fresh supply of perishable fruits. Delicious peaches, grapes, plums, apricots, figs and other delicacies of the orchard and garden from the golden west are now making the mouth of young Paris water, and at the same time showing the world in general just what can be grown in the new world.

Speaking of fruit naturally leads to the extraordinary agricultural exhibit made by America at this fair. Our farm exhibit at Paris excels anything ever before attempted by the United

States, either at home or abroad. No less than 54 agricultural experiment stations have sent pictures illustrating American methods and their happy results, and the outcome is a most interesting and valuable collection of photographic pictures. The cotton exhibition, for instance, is made up of between 500 and 700 specimens of choice lint cotton furnished by American growers. One feature that is proving a novelty to foreigners is a full sized cotton plant covered with bolls. The tobacco industry has been similarly treated, and the exhibit is the finest ever made by this country. No less than 1,000 specimens of the fragrant weed are to be seen, these being accompanied by an exhaustive photographic display of the different processes of cultivation and manufacture.

The part which the American cereal plays in the exhibition is no insignificant one. The grain specimens now being gazed on at Paris is all carefully put up in glass jars one foot in height and five inches in diameter. These assorted grains look very crisp and span in their long rows, and constitute an exhibition of which the American farmer may well be proud. Our official government exhibit in the mat-

ter, but also those of his grandfather and great-grandfather. A woman is, at the most, responsible for the debts of her husband.

When two Chinamen meet, they shake hands—that is to say, each shakes and squeezes his own hands and covers his head. If the meeting is after a long parting, after the handshaking is over the friends rub shoulders until they are tired. Instead of inquiring after one another's health it is etiquette to ask: "Have you eaten your rice? Where are you going? What is your business there? What did you pay for your shoes? How old are you?"

Men wear long petticoats and carry fans, while women carry canes.

Flying at ball and kite flying are the pastimes of graybeards, and the children look on with folded arms.

When a Chinaman wishes a visitor to dine with him, he does not ask him to do so; he reserves that politeness as a means of intimating to a visitor that his company is not desired; of course, the hint is taken, and the invitation is politely declined.

Rich men always get any number of servants, and yet they pay them no wages. The common people have to pay their servants highly, and even then find them hard to get. The reason is that the servant of the rich man can make more than triple the ordinary wages in perquisites.

NUGGETS FROM EVERYWHERE.

Experts say that the peanut yield this season will reach nearly 4,500,000 bushels of 22 pounds each. The bulk of the crop is produced in Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina. The American yield constitutes but a small proportion of the peanut crop of the world, as the exportation from Africa and India to

Europe is nearly 400,000,000 pounds annually, half of which goes to Marseilles to be made into oil.

Henry F. Oxnard, the sugar trust millionaire, who is credited with having succeeded in forcing congressmen to enact a bill imposing a tariff on imports from Porto Rico, is one of the smooth-

est lobbyists ever seen in Washington. He owns a beet factory in Grand Island, which he built with money contributed by the farmers of that place in order that they might have a market for their beets, and they have been fighting him ever since for reasonable prices.

Once, when Professor Blackie had some students to breakfast with him, he called upon one of them unexpectedly

to ask a blessing in Greek. The student was somewhat put out, but he did his best. When he had finished, Blackie said: "The spirit of that grace is excellent, sir. But heaven, I hope, will not look too closely into its grammar!"

Emile Fougere, a new member of the French academy, is rather a Bohemian, with little of an immortal's dignity. Daily he walks down the Boulevard St.

Michel, balancing his cane and whistling loudly the latest popular song.

Of the 23 bishops of the Church of England 2 are the sons of temporal peers, 2 of bishops, 11 of clergymen, 2 of lawyers, 1 of a doctor, 2 of bankers, 3 of country squires, 1 of a tradesman, 3 of farmers and 2 of the archbishops of Canterbury and York are army officers.

It is announced that the French gov-

ernment, looking for a new source of revenue, has determined to plant fruit trees all along the public highroads of France.

Although the sympathies of the great banking house of the Rothschilds are with the British in the present war, N. M. Rothschild & Sons and M. M. De Rothschild of Paris have sent 100,000 francs to relieve the immediate neces-

sities of the diamond workers of Amsterdam, who have been thrown out of employment as a result of the war.

Some says that one hears more music whistled in the streets of our cities than in any other country of the world.

Cremation is growing more popular in London. In 1885 only three bodies were incinerated in that city. Last year the cremations numbered 240.