

BABEL OF NATIONS AT PARIS.

Paris, France, June 25.—I have passed the day amid semi-savage peoples, Algerians and Tunisians from the southern shores of the Mediterranean; Egyptians, Boers, Chinese, Tartars and Cossacks. There were a few more, but I cannot remember what they called themselves. They nearly all had something to sell for three or four times its value, but would come down rather than miss a transaction. The things they have are all inferior in beauty and usefulness to the things for like purposes in our own country, whether they be jewelry, canes, scarfs, belts, pipes or what not. They have little value except as curios. How can they compete with the beautiful and useful things made in America by machinery, at less than one-tenth the cost required to make them by hand. Nevertheless, there are people who load themselves with such rubbish as they have to sell. Their salesmen and saleswomen have ways that are characteristic. A real Oriental will sit cross-legged in his little sex boutique all day, apparently not caring whether school keeps or not, but the Egyptians from Chicago, Coney Island, Atlantic City, and the ghettos of Berlin, Rome and Paris, are negotiators from the word go. They "size you up," "take you in," address you in your own language, notwithstanding your fancied disguise of French, German, or English, but pointed to a row of figures which they had painted large on a piece of paper to indicate the price asked for their curios, consisting of Indian canes, belts and textiles. In one of the many Chinese shops, I saw for the first time girls with artificially blackened teeth, but inasmuch as they held a fan before their mouths when they talked, I could not see them well. One of them was offering some brass for ten centimes. I told her I would give that amount to see her teeth, and finally doubled my offer, but she, insisting on fifty centimes (10 cents) became so interested in the negotiation, that she forgot to use her fan, and I saw them very well. They are of a jetty blackness without a speck of white anywhere, and glisten with the moisture from the lips. The girl was rather good looking, and I was impressed with a certain aesthetic analogy between her black teeth and

black eyes showing a mysterious abyss of darkness whenever she lifted her eyelids or opened her mouth. But as Mr. K. would say that is another story, I asked a French policeman to direct me to the Cuban exhibit. He replied that I would find it in the Spanish section. It takes an average Frenchman two or three generations to learn a simple historic fact. They are still so absorbed in contemplating the glories of the Napoleonic wars that they know little of the living, changing world around them. The Cuban exhibit is not, as I knew, in the Spanish section or near it. It is in the left wing of the Palace of the Trocadero, and when completed will be creditable to the island. It is decorated with the Stars and Stripes, as well as the Cuban flag. I observed that the place of honor was given to an oil painting of General Maceo. The Cubans, too, are disposed to ignore contemporary history. They have forgotten, if they ever knew, that Dewey, Sampson, Schley, Wood and Roosevelt had something to do with driving Spain from the western hemisphere.

No matter where you go in the Exposition, you will find either dust or mud. In order to suppress the dust, they have resorted to a lavish use of sprinkling pots. They sprinkle even the carpets. The work of preparing the Exposition still goes on and parts of it will doubtless be unfinished a month hence.

POSTAL CARD

Made Into a Magnet that Will Balance a Can.

No doubt you've all made a rubber comb pick up bits of paper by first rubbing it briskly on a rough coat sleeve, but did you ever hear of a postal card that could be turned into a magnet?

Balance a walking stick on the back of a chair and tell the spectators that you are going to make it fall without touching it or the chair.

Having thoroughly dried a postal card, preferably before an open fire, rub it briskly on your coat sleeve and then hold it near one end of the stick. The stick will at once be attracted to the card, and will follow it as if it were a magnet. As it moves it will soon lose its equilibrium and fall from the chair. Of course, you understand the principle of the experiment. By rubbing the card you waken electricity in it, and it thus becomes a sort of magnet, with the power to attract light bodies.

Do not try the experiment in damp weather.

PRINCE CHING'S PAGODA.



All Christendom is wondering whether the friendly mandarin will be able to save any of the foreigners still left alive in Peking. Despite his oft-repeated promise, the massacre of many missionaries by his troops leads close observers at Chefoo and Shanghai to believe he is either less powerful or less sincere than he asserts.

AMAZING GROWTH OF AMERICAN CITIES

The greatest surprise which the figures of General Merriam, the director of the Census bureau, will have for the country will undoubtedly be those which deal with the growth of its cities. In 1790, the year in which the first national census was taken, the proportion of the people who lived in cities of 8,000 population or over was 3.35 per cent. of the aggregate population of the country. This proportion has grown steadily ever since, except in the ten years between 1810 and 1820. It was 29.29 per cent. of the aggregate in 1890. From the rate of growth in the ten years ending with 1890 the proportion in 1900 will probably be fully thirty-five per cent.

There were only thirteen towns in the United States in 1790 which had enough population to put them into the list of cities at the 8,000 classification. There were 448 such towns in 1890. There is likely to be more than 500 in 1900. Philadelphia was the largest of American cities at the time the first census was taken, 110 years ago, and New York was second. Boston was then third, Charleston fourth, and Baltimore fifth. St. Louis did not appear in the list of towns of 8,000 population until 1840. Chicago did not come into the list until 1850. Albany, the oldest town in the United States which figures in the list of cities, which was incorporated in 1686, was twenty-ninth on the list in population in 1890.

New York, the second city at the outset, remained second until 1830. It gained on Philadelphia slightly in the previous decades, but it was the Erie canal which put it ahead. The broad-tracked Conestoga wagons which carried merchandise to and from the West through the Mohawk valley gave New York an advantage over Philadelphia, which used the same vehicles over the far more difficult and costly thoroughfare by way of the Alleghenies to Pittsburgh, but it was the waterway which its enemies derisively called "Clinton's ditch" that gave the Knickerbocker town its decided predominance over the Quaker City. A horse could draw thirty times as heavy a load on a tow-path of a canal as he could on the best wagon road, and the Erie was the first of America's important canals, and by far the greatest of all of them.

Clinton's water-way, as the Erie canal might be termed, which was opened to commerce in 1825, immediately put New York in the lead of Philadelphia, though that town, as well as Baltimore, by means of railroads, which came into vogue a few years later, attempted to regain some of their lost predominance in the Western trade. The Baltimore and Ohio, the first shovelful of earth for the construction of which was thrown up by Charles Carroll, the last of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, on July 4th, 1828, was the earliest railroad designed in the United States to connect the East and the West, but Philadelphia was not far behind in pushing roads toward the mountains. The remnant of the Alleghenies, however, which reached as far north as the State of New York, was easily circumvented by way of the Mohawk valley, and the local roads built between Albany and Buffalo, which were consolidated under the name of the New York Central in 1853, and the completion of the New York and Erie line to the lake of that name two years earlier, enabled New York to increase its pre-eminence.

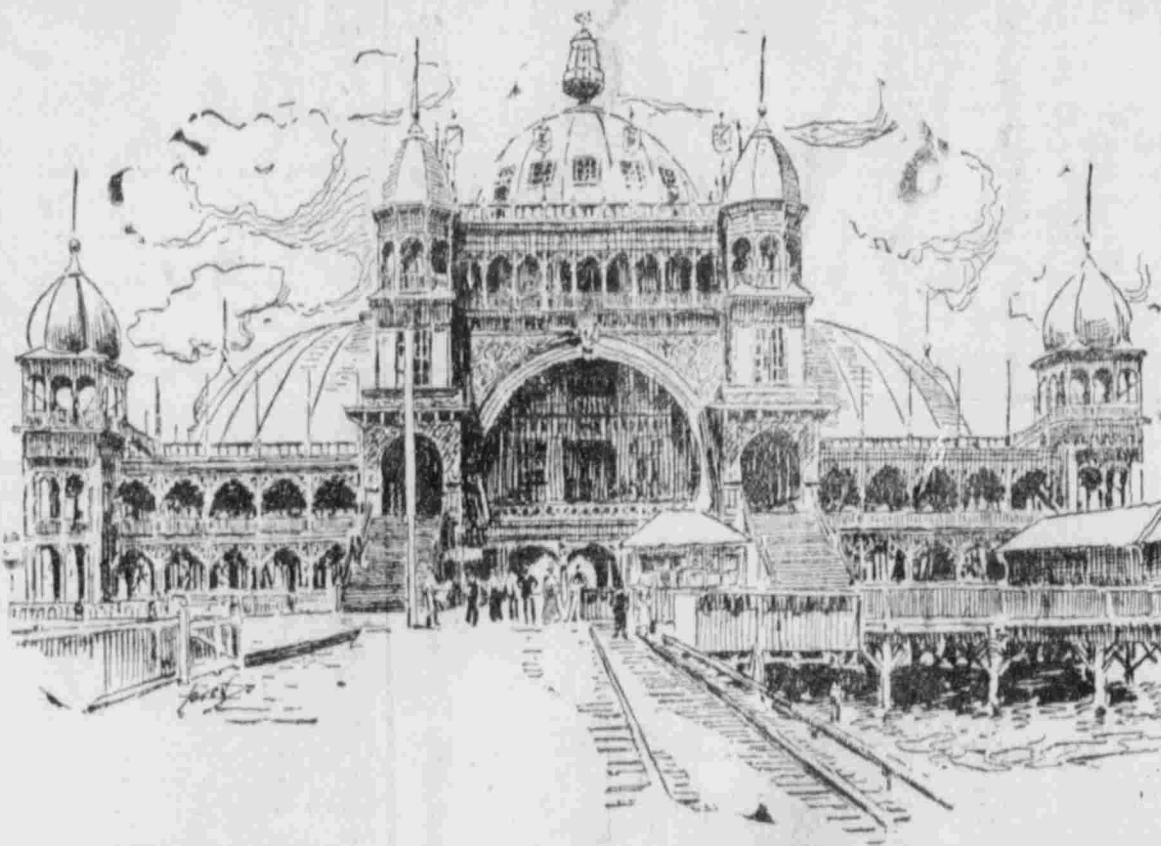
Census Director Merriam's figures a few months hence will put some new cities on the roll, and will change the relative standing of many towns which were on it in 1890, and in previous years, and location will do much to determine their place in the list. New York, partly, however, through annexations of contiguous towns, will be far in the lead. Chicago, which has the same pre-eminence through geographical location and railroad and steamboat connections in the interior of the country that New York has at the seaboard (Chicago's first regular line of steamboats to Buffalo was started in 1839, and her first connection with the Atlantic coast by rail was made in 1851), will be second. Philadelphia will be third, while the race between St. Louis, Boston, and Baltimore for fourth place will be close, with St. Louis probably in the lead.

GERMAN BARBERS.

The barbers in some towns in Germany are compelled by law to cleanse and disinfect their combs, brushes and razors immediately after use and before they are applied to the hair or head of another customer.



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