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DEAL GENTLY WITH MOTHER

Deal gently with mother, O Time, as you pass,
With your scythe so remorseless and fast—
changing glass;
Smooth softly the hair that was raven in hue,
For the white threads therein were all penciled by you.

Deal gently with her, since, in earnest or play,
You've stolen the years of her youthhood away;
May her days be serene as a sweet summer eve,
And nothing be present to vex or to grieve.

You've chiseled deep lines in that motherly face,
From her step, so elastic, you've taken the grace;
Her form you have broken with labor and years,
And bathed very often her eyelids with tears.

Deal gently with her, O Time, while you may,
And take her not soon from our circle away;
Break not this strong link in our family chain,
But may she with us many years yet remain.

Crown her brow with sweet peace as you've wreathed it with years,
Fill the eyelids with joy you've moistened with tears;
Lift the burden of care that has weighed down her breast,
And give to her henceforth a sabbath of rest.

Down life's western slope lead our dear mother's feet;
May the sunset be calm, all resplendent and sweet;
May angels swing open the portals of day,
That shall give us in heaven a mother alway.

Et.

OUR CHICAGO-LETTER.

Chicago is at present violently agitated over the proposed World's Fair which is to be held here in 1893. The time is close at hand when our government must be satisfied that our city means business. To get up a fair of the kind projected takes money. Talk will not do it. It is easy enough to get persons who will put down their names for large

amounts of fair stock, but when it comes to putting a hand down in the pocket the matter is different. In fact, it was folly to think that the thousands of persons who put down their names for stock would or could pay any money for such an enterprise. Nine-tenths of these people are wage-workers whose average daily wage during the year will not equal 75c. a day. At the time hundreds of them put down their names in order to swell the boom for Chicago location. It was thought that if this city were selected the U. S. Treasury would be thrown open, and the question of surplus charmingly settled. Then the strikes and labor troubles set in, and the average worker began to think that perhaps the big show would be, after all, but a rich man's luxury. Thus matters progressed until a few days ago, when it was realized that something must be done or the Fair might go to New York in the end.

Chicago has an area of 174 square miles. Its bonded indebtedness is about \$18,000,000. The total valuation of its taxable property is about \$201,000,000. By constitutional provision its indebtedness must not exceed five per cent of its valued taxable property. By this its debt ought not to exceed \$10,000,000, but the present excess was contracted previous to the adoption of the existing constitution of Illinois; hence its legitimacy. Chicago has no money on hand, no surplus, no way of getting money for a fair except by private enterprise, and private enterprise doesn't generally run to shows, except when such men as Buffalo Bill and P. T. Barnum engage in them.

On Monday evening last the City Council adopted resolutions tending in a practical direction. The Governor of Illinois was requested to call a special session of the Legislature, so as to procure an amendment to the constitutional clause governing taxation and indebtedness in Chicago. The city when legally empowered would issue bonds for \$5,000,000, the proceeds to be devoted to "The World's Columbian Exposition, 1893." It was thought at first the Governor would immediately acquiesce in this scheme, but it appears there is still a hitch somewhere. Delegations

protesting against a special session are moving on the governor. Other delegations are urging that the Australian ballot system, the compulsory education law, and the making of Chicago city co-extensive in area with that of Cook County be made subjects of the session. These busybodies are likely to complicate matters, since the mass of the people at large don't want these issues mixed with the Fair business. Independent of all this there are a large number of Sabbath observers who want the Fair closed on Sundays, conditionally to their agreeing to public taxation for it. Then there are the Prohibitionists, who want all intoxicant liquors excluded from the Fair grounds. On the other hand, the Brewers' Association of the United States, one of the richest bodies in the world, representing capital up in the tens of millions, want space for a complete brewery in full working order, with, of course, consumption at the scene of display. The Distillers' Association wants like privileges. There is talk of over-production in all other lines of industry, but in whisky there is a shortage, and two new distilleries are now starting up.

And last but not least of all is the question of site for the Fair. This city is large enough it seems for sectional interests to enter into the question of a site. There is the North Side, the West Side and the South Side. Each side wants the Fair. At first it was thought that a compromise could be effected by locating the site on the Lake Front at the foot of Randolph Street, but real estate men took a hand, and they want to do something for themselves. Railroads, steamboats and street cars also want to turn an honest penny, and that is why the question of site has become so burning a one. Will it be in the suburbs or in the centre of the city? That is the question. So the fair business is not altogether smooth sailing.

Chicago is on the eve of another of those sensational law trials for which it has become so notorious. The present one is an election fraud case. In the twenty-fourth ward of this city it is said that at the last election for alderman some ten persons by a system of false voting and false registry cast about 100 ballots. The scheme was organized and executed