

it is secondary to the national stimulus which has been lost by this flagrant and onerous omission. The product we have in mind is American literature.

On another page we print an "Open Letter" from Mr. George Parsons Lathrop, secretary of the American Copyright League, setting forth the efforts that are now being made by that body to obtain from Congress a recognition of property in literary products equal to that which we accord to even the poorest brand of Havana cigars. We have already called attention in

these columns to the distinguished advocates, in politics and literature, of the principle embodied in the Dorsheimer Copyright Bill, which is now high up on the calendar of the House of Representatives. The bill is not open to a single partisan consideration; it has no proper relation to the tariff, and the only strife it ought to give rise to is an eager emulation on the part of representatives to see who can do the most to procure the early passage of an always just and now doubly expedient measure.

OPEN LETTERS.

The World's Exposition at New Orleans.

ITS SCOPE AND EXPECTED RESULTS.

THE World's Exposition at New Orleans is the response to a demand that arose from most of the Southern States simultaneously—a response that had previously found partial expression in the local expositions of Atlanta and Louisville. The South herself was astonished at those exhibitions of success which had attended the labor necessitated by her defeat in the Civil War. She had been too absorbed in the struggle for existence to notice the change her energy was creating; and it was only when she had won for herself the right to a moment's rest that she looked around and saw the gratifying result of her toil.

The project of the new World's Exposition was born of a spirit of friendly rivalry with those other sections that had already proclaimed to the world their industrial development; and it was intended simply to show one phase of the country's resources. But as it was planned on an extensive scale, leading men of "the new South" saw the opportunity they had been seeking, and easily prevailed upon those having the enterprise in hand to make it neither local nor sectional, but national. The steps to this end were natural and easy. Cotton might no longer be King, but its cultivation from the seed to the bale, and its manufacture from the bale to the fabric, embraced so significant a part of the nation's industry, was so inextricably woven up with the wealth of the world, that it required no change of plan—merely an extension of idea—to make an exposition of cotton an exposition of the world's industry. As soon as this decision was reached, the entire country came to the aid of the undertaking, and, with a spontaneity and enthusiasm which are gratefully appreciated by the Southern people, extended such pecuniary assistance and moral support as were necessary for the successful completion of so gigantic an enterprise. Such are the causes that gave birth to the Exposition and extended its original scope; but the results that may be expected to flow from it cannot be so briefly stated.

What the Southern people have accomplished since the war has not been due to emulation springing from observation of what the world beyond their borders was accomplishing. The largest proportion of her people have been and still are profoundly ignorant of the higher phases of intellectual and mechanical power

as applied to the every-day wants of life. It is true that they read in their papers and in books that there is a continual re-adaptation of the sciences to meet the changed conditions of society, that each element of nature is being utilized in some new way to satisfy some new need. But those things are to them as things in dreams. Poverty has held them to their work; and living as they do far from the centers of activity, they have not been able by even hurried glimpses of great cities to form a conception of how their surroundings could be improved. What they have done has been by untiring energy with inferior appliances. It would be unfair to say that this is true of all sections of the South. There are certain portions of it where results are reached by the same means as those used in the North; but in the majority of instances Southern energy has been handicapped by inferior methods and appliances. Add improved methods to her natural advantages and intense desire to develop herself, and there must come a prosperity unexcelled in history. And since the larger mass of her people cannot go out into the world and see things with their own eyes, the world in essence is to be brought to them. National and international expositions have heretofore been held in the great centers of population, in places needing them least. The results have, notwithstanding, been beneficial, as interchange of thoughts and sympathies must always be; but it will be difficult to foretell how largely the Southern people will be instructed by the great Object Lesson to be placed before them at New Orleans.

If these remarks hold good of even the white population, who by means of the press have kept themselves to a certain extent *au courant* with the progress and processes of society, what can be said of the colored population, that vast agglomeration of ignorance as yet scarcely touched by the leaven of civilization?

If the Exposition has no other effect than that of guiding in the right direction the uncertain aspirations of this element of Southern life, the million of dollars appropriated by the National Government will be returned to it a thousand-fold. For, besides the advantages which the blacks will receive in common with the whites, a new factor has been introduced into their development, a factor so important that the World's Exposition is likely to mark an era in their history almost as significant as their emancipation from slavery. It is difficult to find at present a white Southerner who would return if he could to the ante-bellum system;

still the feeling toward the colored man up to within the past two or three years has been the passive sentiment of "live and let live." The civil equality of the negro was forced upon the white man against his will; but to his credit be it said that in order to show his acquiescence in the theory of government for *all* the people, he has come forward and asked the colored people, as being a large component of the society of which he is himself a part, to assist him in showing to the world what the South has grown to be. The management of the Exposition have created a department devoted exclusively to an exhibition of the advancement made by the colored people within the past twenty years, and have put at the head of it a colored man who commands the confidence of the entire country. A large space has been reserved for the colored people's exhibition in the Government Building. In consequence of this, the negroes in every Southern State are alive with eager activity; and although their exhibition will probably be crude, it will be one of the most significant features of the occasion.

These are the two distinctive benefits to the South that will flow from the Exposition. There are others common to all expositions not necessary to be enumerated here; but one or two of national importance cannot be passed over. New Orleans was selected as the site for the Exposition not only because this is the natural outlet for a large proportion of Southern trade, but because the city is the natural gateway for the vast commerce that must at some time spring up between the United States and the Central and South American countries. To foster and develop that trade, the management of the Exposition have bent every energy. Although aware that New Orleans and the South would be the principal gainers, they saw that the entire country would be enriched, particularly the manufacturing and agricultural industries of the North and West. Nothing was left undone to secure the coöperation of these southern races. Commissioners were sent to interest the governments and the peoples; desirable locations were reserved in the buildings and grounds; premiums were offered to suit the demands of the exhibitors. As a result, the most intense enthusiasm has arisen among countries that had never before evinced the least inclination to participate in foreign exhibitions. Each has vied with the other in attempts to place herself in the most favorable attitude before the world; and each will keenly watch what the various commercial, industrial, and agricultural centers of the world can offer in the way of interchange. European countries have finally appreciated this fact. At first there was a positive refusal on their part to participate in the Exposition. New Orleans was a great way off, and they had been surfeited with expositions. But when they saw the unprecedented zeal of the South American countries, the feeling changed. The newspapers began to call upon the merchants and manufacturers to exert themselves, unless they wished to see their trade directed away from its former channels. And now from across the Atlantic comes information that self-interest has done what self-pride could not do, and that the European will compete with the North American in a struggle for commercial supremacy in the far South.

The Woman's Department of the Exposition is also to be national in its scope, and will yield an abundance

of good fruit to the entire country. The women of the South particularly will reap a harvest from the experience of their more fortunate sisters of the North.

To say that the Exposition will have a softening effect upon the lingering animosities of the war is to imply that such animosities still exist—an implication that the Southerner is loath to admit. There is nothing so potent as prosperity to wipe out resentment. The more prosperous the South has grown, the less disposition has she felt to dwell upon what she was wont to consider her injuries; and to-day, standing on the eve of her great festival, to which she has invited the nations of the earth, she would resent the imputation that she harbors malice against any. Doubtless, however, the Exposition will bring about a still better knowledge and higher respect among the various sections of our common country.

NEW ORLEANS.

Richard Nixon.

Recent Electrical Progress.

THE Electrical Exhibition held at Philadelphia in September and October was to many people a disappointment. Many of the international exhibitions held in the last ten years have been marked by the appearance of important inventions, as the telephone at the Centennial and the phonograph at the great exhibition at Paris. This has led to a general expectation that all important exhibitions will be signalized by the first display of some startling and wonderful discovery or invention. This is particularly true in electricity, the public mind being quite prepared to accept anything, however strange, in this field of research. It must be observed as a curious change in public opinion that while twenty years ago all inventions were received with distrust and unbelief, there is now an eagerness to welcome everything that would be to the elder inventors, like Morse or Howe, something quite bewildering. All this seemed to give to the visitors to the Philadelphia exhibition a certain sense of disappointment, while to the student this feeling was the most striking feature of the occasion.

At the same time, the exhibition was in the best sense a success and very far from disappointing, because it showed a remarkable commercial and industrial progress of the electric light. With the general introduction of dynamos for lighting appeared new mechanical problems. There must be high speed, steadiness of motion combined with ease of management. The dynamos for isolated lighting, as in a hotel, factory, or single building of any kind or on ship-board, must also be compact in design and light in weight. The steam-engines shown at the exhibition were, for this reason, quite as interesting as the lamps. No specially novel motor was exhibited, yet the effect of the demand for high speed was evident in all the types of engines in the exhibition. Even in the matter of belts for connecting engines with dynamos progress was claimed, some belting being shown specially designed to secure steadiness of motion. In brief, the improvement in engines and connections is clearly the result of the peculiar demands of the dynamo, and a new class of motors has appeared, giving high speed and uniform motion, with the utmost compactness of design. One gas-engine directly connected with a dynamo was shown as an interesting illustration of the conver-

arate. No better method could be devised of showing the world the relative insignificance of these differences. When this fact is made to appear, the path to practical coöperation, if not to organic union, will be made plain.

In the same line with the purpose of the Congress of Churches is a striking article by an eminent clergyman of the Presbyterian Church in the present number of *THE CENTURY*. The historical breadth and the pacific temper of this paper will commend it to all tolerant and charitable persons. That the doctrinal differences among Christians are much less strongly accentuated now than formerly is a familiar fact; that they are approximating to common grounds of polity and ritual, as Professor Shields so clearly points out, is equally true. It would be a most useful exercise for clergymen of the several denominations to make a careful study of the symbols and the institutions of their several sects, in order to discover and make known the indebtedness of each to the others, that the people of every communion may know whence they derived the creeds which they recite, the doctrinal and liturgical expressions by which they convey their thoughts and feelings, the forms they observe, the principles they cherish, the hymns they sing. Such knowledge could but enlarge the sympathies of Christian believers and strengthen the bonds that unite them.

That the churches of the United States will find "liturgical fusion" a shorter road to unity than theological agreement, or political consolidation, may well be true. Surely a devotional fellowship would be deeper and more permanent than a doctrinal consensus or an ecclesiastical combination. But it may be doubted whether this result is quite as near as Professor Shields seems to hope. That there is a tendency among non-liturgical worshippers, chiefly among the Presbyterians and Congregationalists, toward the adoption of liturgical forms, is undoubtedly true; but even in these churches, the number is yet small, we imagine, of those who would consent to a fixed ritual, from which extemporaneous worship should be excluded. Doubt-

less the utterance that springs from the "chance impulse" of the officiating clergyman often fails to be edifying, and "unpremeditated effusions" and "long desultory prayers" are sometimes hard to endure; but the great majority of those who favor some enrichment of the meager ritual of the Puritan churches yet prefer that the leader of their worship shall have some liberty of expression; and while they would not wish that his prayers should be desultory or unpremeditated, they desire that he should be in closest sympathy with those to whom he ministers, and that he should be able to utter the voice of their present need when he leads them in worship. So much as this of priestly function the Protestants have always yielded to their ministers, and they are not yet ready to take it away from them. Probably Professor Shields does not desire such a complete change; at any rate, such a change is yet a great way off. The union of the churches of the United States upon a uniform ritual,—if the extemporaneous element were to be rigidly excluded,—could not, we think, be confidently predicted.

Every essay in this direction is, however, of value; and this suggestion of the fellowship of believers in that part of their religious life which is most distinctly spiritual—in their confessions, their prayers, and their songs—is one that may lead the way toward a visible and real unity.

Professor Shields's paper, so catholic in its view and so full of sweet reasonableness, will be followed by a number of others, prepared by representative men of several of the leading denominations, each of whom will undertake to show what contribution those who stand with him are ready to make toward the accomplishment of this end. It is assumed on all sides that a closer unity and a more perfect coöperation among the churches is greatly to be desired; it is obvious also that some concessions, and perhaps some sacrifices, must be made by each for the good of all. *THE CENTURY* has offered to wise leaders in these various sects the opportunity of pointing out the ways that lead to concord and coöperation.

OPEN LETTERS.

An Exposition of the Three Americas.

ON the principles of persistence of force and continuity of motion, the best results of a great work cannot be computed until after the first impressions produced by it on the environment have disappeared; sufficient time has therefore not yet elapsed since the close of the World's Exposition for a thorough estimate of its beneficent effects upon the country at large and the South in particular. Forces were set in motion last winter at New Orleans that are but now making themselves felt, and that will eventually prove of incalculable value to the development of a firmer industrial life and a higher national sentiment. The Exposition was inaugurated at a time when the tide of Southern affairs had begun to turn, and was the expression of a strong desire on the part of Southerners to assert their industrial equality with

the other sections of the country, and to offer irrefutable evidence that they were full of peace and goodwill toward their fellow-citizens of the North, and had completely adapted themselves to the changed necessities of the times. Assuredly, no one who visited New Orleans when the Exposition was at its height could fail to see that these desires had been largely fulfilled. Even Southerners themselves were astonished at the marvelous resources displayed by their own States,—resources only partially unfolded, it is true, as compared to the higher development of other parts of the country, but nevertheless filled with startling promises of a brilliant future. And still more assuredly no one could fail to be impressed with the unequivocal public and private hospitality received by every well-conducted stranger. The welcome was too warm to admit of any doubt that it was sincere, or that there lay behind it any latent feeling of injury

and vindictiveness. Indeed, it would not be difficult to prove that the recent expressions of honest regret from all classes of Southerners at the death of the great American hero were partly attributable to the cordial relations established by the late industrial festival in the metropolis of the South. Whatever its deficiencies and its financial failures, the World's Exposition will soon be recognized by all students of contemporaneous history as one of the most important features of this decade.

But the people of New Orleans have undertaken a work of still vaster proportions, a work made all the more necessary by the success of their recent labors. The last exposition was supposed to be international in its scope, but its primary and chief object was the development of Southern industry, by bringing it into close contact and rivalry with that of the other portions of the globe. Although every State and Territory in the Union, with the exception of Utah, was represented by a handsome collective exhibit of its natural resources, the enterprise was essentially Southern. But the work now going on is international in every sense, and is of as vital importance to the North and East and West as it can be to the South; for on the 10th of November there will open at New Orleans a North, Central, and South American Exposition, which has for its object the solution of the industrial problem of the United States. It has long been a serious question with manufacturers to know what shall be done in the future with their surplus products. There has been such enormous increase of manufactures of every character throughout the North and the East during the past few years, that it only required ordinary intelligence to foresee a time of great over-production and consequent distress. Up to the present moment the South has been the market for this over-supply; but the World's Exposition has so stimulated her industry and so developed her natural wealth, that she is preparing not only to sustain herself with her own resources and by her own labor, but to compete with Northern products upon Northern soil. The unsuspected mineral deposits in such States as Louisiana and Texas, heretofore supposed to be fit only for agricultural purposes, the cheapness with which iron can be made in Alabama, the profits from cotton manufactories in South Carolina and Georgia, all point to a period when the South will also be in need of an outlet for her enterprise. This period in her future is comparatively distant, but such a time is pressing irresistibly upon the more populous and cultivated portions of the country; and it is for this reason that the American Exposition concerns the entire United States. There is no such bond as community of interest; what the World's Exposition failed to do in removing sectional prejudices, will be accomplished by its successor and complement.

There is but one direction in which the necessary relief from this inevitable over-supply can be found, and that is in the countries of Central and South America. It is needless to look towards Europe. She has come to that crisis in her industrial life which the American Exposition is seeking to obviate in our own, and has already reached out and appropriated the richest parts of the Latin-American commerce. The deflection of this Central and South American trade from Europe to the United States is the highest

international problem with which our country has at present to deal; and nothing will tend to solve it sooner than the Exposition at New Orleans, where a hemispherical commercial policy can be inaugurated.

As to the benefits to be derived from such a policy, even were it not of pressing necessity, a few statistics will not be uninteresting. According to recent reports by the Department of State, there is a total annual demand from Mexico, Central America, South America, and the West India Islands, amounting in round figures to \$475,000,000, of which amount the United States supplies but \$77,000,000, or only sixteen per cent. Again, while the total annual exports of these countries amount to \$479,000,000, the United States takes but \$168,000,000, or only thirty-five per cent. In other words, the interchange of products is not between the countries of Central and South America and the United States, as it should be by all reasonable laws, but is between those countries and Europe. These figures will probably astonish those who have not studied the latest currents of commerce, and will surely be humiliating to our sensitive national pride. To deflect from Europe this ever-increasing trade, and to establish reciprocal commercial relations, is the primary and patriotic purpose of the Exposition.

That New Orleans is the place where such a movement should be started is not to be questioned. The recent decision of the Post-Office Department that hereafter all United States mail for the Central American countries should be sent by way of New Orleans instead of New York, as formerly, indicates the growing sentiment in favor of New Orleans as the medium for this commercial interchange. Until recently, it was doubted whether the Crescent City was in a position to handle the expected trade; but her steadily advancing prosperity during the recent financial embarrassments, affecting the whole world, shows conclusively the solid grounds upon which her fortune rests.

It is fitting that New Orleans should be the promoter of this international enterprise for the additional reason that it was through the World's Exposition that the general public became aware of the great resources of Mexico and Central America, and the advantages inevitably to follow a close commercial reciprocity. Every one had of course read the tales of travelers, and had learned to speak of the wondrous wealth of Mexican mines and South American forests in much the same way as they spoke of the magnificence of Oriental princes, vaguely and somewhat incredulously. But the World's Exposition gave unmistakable evidence of these and many other extraordinary natural resources. Indeed, it was the immediate success of Mexico's exhibit that has stimulated the other Latin-American countries to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the new enterprise.

The management of the American Exposition is national in its organization and is working for the prosperity of the entire country. It purchased the plant of the late World's Exposition, and will open its doors on the 10th of November, unembarrassed in any way whatever. With steam transportation from the heart of the city to the exposition grounds, and with unprecedentedly low railroad rates, there is every assurance of success. The management has set aside

for the discussion of the great commercial problem certain days when leading minds of the three Americas will meet for an interchange of ideas, and give to the industrial life of this country an impetus as irresistible as the mighty river upon whose banks they deliberate.

NEW ORLEANS.

Richard Nixon.

**Reform of the Civil Service
Essential to every other Reform.**

DOES it not every day become more evident that reform of the civil service is essential to the success of many other important reforms? Take, for example, the matter of forest protection. In the State of New York, by dint of much hard work and the expenditure of a good deal of time and money in investigation, an act for the preservation of the Adirondack forests and other important tracts of woodland was got through the last Legislature. Had the majority of the members of that body been as intelligent and honest as those that civil-service reform will doubtless one day give us, it is probable that a much better act would have been passed a year earlier. At that time we had, thanks to the uprising of the reform sentiment, a Governor who would no doubt have promptly made fit appointments under the law. Does any one suppose that if his successor had been a man of like mind he would have made the appointments he has, which have had the effect to delay the operation of the law an entire season, even if no worse comes of it?

Is not the same principle illustrated in our attempts to restrain gambling, the sale of intoxicating drinks on Sunday and to minors, to suppress obscene literature, to protect immigrants, Indians, children, and animals from injustice and cruelty? Of what avail is the adaptability of a law, in itself considered, to secure any of these desirable objects, unless it is executed? And how can it be executed except by public officials who are either appointed or elected? But what hope does either reason or experience give us that, when public office is the reward of political service, we shall have such enforcement of law by constables, excise commissioners, sheriffs, policemen, police justices, district attorneys, etc., as will — by offending powerful constituents who have an immense pecuniary interest in the non-enforcement of such laws — put their own reelection or reappointment in jeopardy? Has it not come to be regarded as a matter of course that local officials will not enforce certain laws in certain localities?

Now, why cannot our reformers of all sorts see this, and unite their efforts first of all upon the one fundamental reform — that of the civil service? Take our self-denying and public-spirited friends, the Prohibitionists. They tell us that if liquor-selling is not stopped in the large towns of Iowa and Maine, it is because the public officers are not heartily in favor of stopping it. They maintain that these officers can execute the law so as to make it impossible — or at least very difficult — to get liquor to drink; and they are confident that, were this done for a few years, the decrease in crime and pauperism would bring so many who are now upon the fence over to the prohibition side, that there would afterwards be no difficulty in keeping the necessary laws upon the statute-book and in enforcing them.

Granting all this, does it not prove that the first thing for prohibitionists to do is to help secure trustworthy national, State, and municipal civil service? Until this point is reached may it not really injure the cause to agitate for absolute prohibition over whole States? Local option may, indeed, give real prohibition in counties or towns where public sentiment demands and will sustain it. But until the general quality of our public servants is higher, is there not at least a very strong probability that, when applied indiscriminately to large areas such as States, there will be at the outset such failure in cities, — where the percentage of foreign-born population is large, — that a perhaps undeserved discredit will be brought upon the principle of prohibition?

Most plain, common-sense people are shocked at seeing a statute ignored, as are most laws restraining popular vices in our large cities. The average man believes that when a law is not executed it is a strong presumptive proof that the principle of the law is wrong, or at least that its enactment is premature. Why, then, can we not all unite, first and foremost, in efforts to bring the civil service into such a condition that a law, when enacted, shall be so enforced as to furnish a real test of its merits?

S. W. Powell.

A Word for our Public School Teachers.

I WISH to introduce to thoughtful readers a class of workers seemingly forgotten in the dispensing of moneys for the founding and support of various retreats, homes, and hospitals.

The friendless sailor, who, through misfortune, thriftlessness, or casualty, has not saved a competence to support him in his weakness or old age, has his "Snug Harbor" for refuge from an unloving world; the clergyman, in case of worn-out faculties, has the Sustentation Fund of his denomination, meager though it may be, to count upon; but the public school teacher, in many cases after years of faithful public service, has to choose between two alternatives: to remain in the harness until literally turned out to die, or look forward to dependence upon the charities of friends or of the people.

I do not propose the endowment of a special refuge for such unfortunate ones, for, as a general rule, teachers are self-respecting, independent, and possess the kind of pride which instinctively shrinks from publishing their poverty. But it is true that many, in this broad land, who have conscientiously served an exacting public for a mere pecuniary pittance, find themselves, after a score or more years of such service, weakening physically, and perhaps mentally, with only such a sad prospect before them, as they look toward life's sunset.

I see only two ways of relief for this crying injustice: One, to educate the general public to the fact that the laborer is not only worthy of hire sufficient for his daily bread, but something over, to lay in store for a time of disaster and need.

The other appears to me the more feasible plan: Honorably to retire from active service, with a moderate competence, those who have faithfully discharged their duties for a fixed term of years. Why should we not