

Editors' Table.

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

In about three years hence, as our readers are aware, the hundredth anniversary of the declaration of American Independence will be celebrated by "an International Exhibition of arts, manufactures, and the products of the soil and mines, in the city of Philadelphia." Such is the language of the Act of Congress by which this Exhibition was specially authorized, as a national undertaking. There is a peculiar significance in this mode of celebrating that great event. If the Exhibition were designed to be a display merely of the products of American art and industry, it would lose a great part of its moral value. When it is made "international," it becomes a method of showing practically the community and mutual dependence of all nations. When our forefathers declared their independence as a nation, placing their declaration on the grounds of the natural rights of man, they were virtually proclaiming the freedom and brotherhood of all mankind. The independence which they desired was not a selfish isolation, but freedom to devote all their energies, without restriction, not merely to their own benefit, but to the benefit of their fellow men throughout the world.

Such we take to be the true significance of the International Centennial Exhibition, and in this spirit, without doubt, the celebration will be carried out. Foreign nations, when they are invited to exhibit their wares in the city of Brotherly Love, will find the first place accorded to them, and every arrangement made for the comfort and satisfaction of their citizens who may attend the Exhibition.

The people of our own country, from ocean to ocean, and from the Canadian to the Mexican border, know that they will be at home in Philadelphia. By a well-considered arrangement, the Act of Congress which sanctioned the Exhibition appropriated no funds for it, but left those to be supplied by the legislatures and people of the several States, who would thus have a more direct interest and share in the work. The event has proved that the plan was a judicious one. The contributions are already coming in so liberally as to insure the complete success of the undertaking, which will doubtless be the most extensive and the most brilliant of all the international exhibitions thus far attempted.

Women especially, not only in our own country, but throughout the world, should take an interest in this work; for the event which it commemorates, the establishment of orderly, republican freedom, has proved to be the beginning of a new era for them. Their rights of education and of property, and their claims to social respect and industrial freedom, have been acknowledged and allowed to an extent which would before have seemed incredible. Society in turn has reaped the benefit of these acts of justice, in the wonderful improvement which has taken place in morality and good government, as well as in the arts and the manners which refine and elevate our domestic life.

The Citizens' Centennial Finance Committee of Philadelphia have appointed an Executive Committee of thirteen ladies (to represent the original number of the States), whose appointment has been confirmed by the Executive Committee of the United States Centennial Commission. They in their turn

have formed a sub-committee in each ward of the city, composed of thirty-six ladies (representing the present number of States), whose duty it will be to aid in arousing an interest in this great and patriotic work throughout the land. The committee now urge that similar organizations shall be formed in every village, township, city, and county, in all the States and Territories. We give the concluding paragraph of their circular, with the names and addresses of the ladies composing the committee, and trust that their thoughtful and well-argued appeal will meet with a warm and generous response:—

"In this Exposition the women of our country will have a peculiar interest; their works will stand side by side with those of the most eminent and distinguished, and be inspected not only by the citizens of our own land, but by those who will come from all the quarters of the earth. They will be encouraged and strengthened in their several vocations, and many avenues will be opened for their abilities to have free scope, enabling them to secure for themselves remunerative positions by which they may earn a comfortable livelihood. Every woman, then, should strive, from motives both of patriotism and interest, to make the exhibition worthy of the great occasion. Women of wealth and women who gain their living by their own handiwork should stand proudly together in this glorious undertaking, and thus secure its complete success.

By order of the Women's Centennial Executive Committee.

Mrs. E. D. GILLESPIE, president, 250 South Twenty-first Street.

Mrs. JOHN SANDERS, vice-president, 410 South Fifteenth Street.

Mrs. J. EDGAR THOMSON, treasurer, Eighteenth and Spruce Streets.

Mrs. AUBREY H. SMITH, secretary, 1515 Pine Street.

Miss MCHENRY, 1902 Chestnut Street.

Mrs. CHARLES J. STILLE, 1505 Walnut Street.

Miss ELIZABETH GRATZ, 1309 Locust Street.

Mrs. JOHN W. FORNEY, 618 South Washington Square.

Mrs. EMILY R. BUCKMAN, 567 North Sixteenth Street.

Mrs. RICHARD P. WHITE, 2113 Pine Street.

Mrs. HENRY COHEN, 1828 South Rittenhouse Square.

Mrs. MATTHEW SIMPSON, 1307 Mount Vernon Street.

Mrs. HULDAH JUSTICE, 567 North Fifteenth Street."

WHEN THE CONSTITUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A correspondent has compiled, for the *Journal of Commerce* the following interesting political data:—

The Constitution of the United States was adopted by the original thirteen States in the following order, it having passed Congress September 17, 1797:—

1. Delaware, December 3, 1787, unanimously.
2. Pennsylvania, December 13, 1787, 46-23.
3. New Jersey, December 19, 1787, unanimously.
4. Georgia, January 2, 1788, unanimously.
5. Connecticut, January 9, 1788, 128-40.
6. Massachusetts, February 6, 1788, 187-168.
7. Maryland, April 28, 1788, 63-12.
8. South Carolina, May 23, 1788, 149.
9. New Hampshire, June 21, 1788, 58-40.

SUMMARY OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

There were fifty-six of the members of the Continental Congress who were signers of the Declaration of Independence. Eleven of them were poets and authors of note. Some have published complete works, viz:—

Benjamin Franklin, Hancock, Read, Livingston, and Adams.

James Morton was the first deceased; born in Ridley, Pennsylvania, 1734, and died in April, 1777.

Charles Carroll was the last; born in Annapolis, Md., in September, 1736, and died in November, 1832.

Five of the fifty-six were from Massachusetts.

Three from New Hampshire.

Four from Maryland.

Five from New Jersey.

Seven from Virginia.

Two from Rhode Island.

Nine from Pennsylvania.

Three from Delaware.

Four from Connecticut.

Three from Georgia.

Four from South Carolina.

Three from North Carolina.

There were two of Scotch birth, one of Welsh, three of Irish, two of English.

HEROISM IN AMERICAN LIFE.

WOMEN are the mothers of men, and the true mother lives in the lives of her children. Her sons, especially, claim her care, for in their destiny her hopes of great deeds in the future are centred. All of womankind admire bravery in men. The heroic seems naturally to be his sphere, and the tender mother feels that her son should be among the doers of something that will make him a great man. He must go forth to the battle of life, and the thought awakens her warmest sympathies. He must be prepared for work. His mother feels that her son will have obstacles to overcome, dangers to encounter, and pitfalls to avoid. The loving mother ponders over these subjects, and she willingly makes sacrifices for her sons.

Is it not true that good mothers as well as good fathers have usually considered the education of sons far more important than the training of daughters? Even now, when so much is heard of the equality of the sexes in all pursuits of life, we trust that our friends of the *LADY'S BOOK* will welcome a sketch of one of these true American men who illustrate and ennoble heroism in their business life. And we hope that every happy mother will look on her own little boy with increased determination to train him to be worthy of the good fame which, sooner or later, crowns the brave youth that never shirks duty; and sustains in manhood the energy that works onward to success through dangers and difficulties, careful only to do the right himself, and never to dishonor the name he bears nor to give cause of grief to the home and the hearts where he is beloved.

CHARLES MORGAN

was born in 1795 in the village of Clinton, in the State of Connecticut. His parents were in narrow circumstances, and he went to New York at the early age of fourteen, to take care of himself thenceforward. He soon became a clerk in a grocery store, and some years afterwards entered into business on his own account. His specialty soon became that of an importer. Fruit from the West Indies was an important staple, and Mr. Morgan purchased and shipped it in large quantities. He bought shares in the brigs and schooners in that trade, and finally became the owner of several vessels. He then extended his operations to the Texas ports, and sustained for many years a fleet of iron built steamers which conveyed to Galveston and the smaller seaboard towns of Texas the necessities and luxuries of life, and brought back the products of that wild country to his northern home.

When gold was discovered in California, and the rush to the diggings began, Mr. Morgan built steamers for the Panama and Nicaragua routes. In 1836 he bought the immense foundry known to New Yorkers as the "Morgan Iron Works," an establishment in which from six hundred to fifteen hundred

men are employed. Boilers, engines, and machinery for ships were the articles manufactured.

But since the war, Mr. Morgan has devoted himself to the Texas routes. He now owns twenty steamers, built entirely of iron, especially for the gulf and lake service. The *Morgan Line* of steamers is well known in the Gulf of Mexico. In connection with this enterprise, he has purchased a local railroad—being, as the writer adds, from whom we have abridged these details, perhaps the only American who is the sole owner of one hundred miles of road. This railway runs from a point opposite New Orleans, on the Mississippi River, to Brashear, on Berwick Bay; and by its possession, Mr. Morgan has immensely shortened the road to Texas, as a glance at the map of Louisiana will show. Moreover, a steamboat channel six miles in length has been deepened through Atchafalaya Bay, so that passenger steamers now ply daily between Galveston and Brashear.

It will be apparent that Mr. Morgan's enterprises are on the largest scale, and that the enormous outlay must be supported by a princely fortune. And such is the case. He is one of the richest men in New York. But we have not introduced his name into the pages of the *LADY'S BOOK* merely on account of his millions, but for two reasons: first, to point out how, without unlawful speculations, without gambling in the stock-market, without trading on fictitious values, a man may make his way from poverty to riches, and from neglect to universal respect and esteem; and secondly, to point out the worthy use which he appears to be making of his great wealth.

Clinton, Mr. Morgan's native place, has always born a high character for intelligence. For several years Yale College was located there; and it was with much chagrin that the people of Killingworth, as Clinton was then called, saw it removed to New Haven. Mr. Morgan determined that his native town should never feel the want of an institution where every deserving child could be sure of an education. He has placed, in the centre of the village, a large and handsome building, fitted up with every educational convenience. The school-house has a front of one-hundred feet, and is surrounded by an immense playground. The internal arrangements are thoroughly comfortable, and the course of study most complete. A child who enters at the youngest age may spend twelve years in passing through the various schools united in the edifice, and will then go forth fitted for active life. The building cost \$60,000, and is endowed by Mr. Morgan with \$50,000 more. It bids fair to become a most potent source of good, not only to the neighborhood, but wherever its children shall go.

The man who devotes his hard-earned wealth to such noble purposes is a true benefactor of humanity, and assuredly deserves all the commendation and approval which women know so well how to give to the friends of goodness and culture.

But it is not by his munificent gift for intellectual improvement that Mr. Morgan has won his highest claims to public gratitude. He has, by his own life and example, proved that *labor*—meaning work for material needs, wrought for human benefit, is a great Moral Power in Christian civilization.

Has not the eminent success of Mr. Morgan been the result of obedience to the laws of truth and right? he has sought moreover to do public good in his private undertakings. This is a remarkable feature in his brief memoir.

"Mr. Morgan's tastes," the writer says, "are for private life, seeking no public notice, honor, or office; and he possesses among other good qualities