Influence of Expositions.

Della Drollinger.
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It would not be easy to overestimate the educational value of the objects of beauty, monumental architecture, galleries of painting and sculpture, and museums that are found in some of the old European Towns, for such things stimulate the imagination, increase the thirst for knowledge, and awaken and educate the aesthetic faculties.

Much of the marvelous beauty and wealth of public architecture, fire, and art in small European Towns has been due to earlier political conditions. The Town at some time probably was the seat of government of some small kingdom; but in these days of great empires those old-time memories have passed away and something new must take their place. The tendency to create expositions...
is a valuable part of the outworkings of these new motives.

In our study of history it is obvious to notice the high state of civilization that existed in some of the ancient valleys and peninsulas and then almost completely vanished. This was the result of an imperfect civilization caused by confinement to a limited amount of territory and to an insignificant portion of the inhabitants of the nations involved. The means of preserving and documenting what was achieved in three days was absent. The accumulated tree of civilization has been deeply impressed upon the nations of the world by the artistic and industrial exhibitions that have been held in the
last fifty years. For the impressions made by these have not only been indelibly stamped on the individuals but also on mankind as a whole.

These expositions are not new only in a certain sense for in ancient times inhabitants came from far and near to sell and buy at fairs, and thus new ideas and learning were spread to a considerable extent.

The first international exhibition worthy of the name was held in London about fifty years ago. It was a small affair when compared with those held in recent years, but it probably required more original planning than any that have taken place since for the first ship costs the most.
The Prince Consort, the husband of Queen Victoria, was a man of unusual abilities, and keen foresight. He gave his most intense energies to the furthering of the Crystal Palace exhibition, for he believed it would give an immense impetus to national trade and in this he was correct. Every other exhibition has had the same effect. This fair stormed upon the eye of the world. The importance of such an institution there followed quickly; at Dublin and New York in 1853, at Paris in 1855, at South Kensington in 1862, at Melbourne in 1866 and at Vienna in 1873, as well as other national institutions. None of these impressed the
world as the first Though
the exhibition at Vienna
was superior in many
respects. It was not un-
til 1876, when an exhibi-
tion to glorify the cen-
tennial of American Inde-
pendence was held at
Philadelphia that the
institution reached its
present state of develop-
ment. As concern our
own interests and those
of other nations it would
be impossible to over-
estimate the importance
of this fair to the people
of the United States. It was
the first adequate expres-
sion in an international
way of the dignity, wealth
and resources of the nation
through the long period
previous and even after
the Civil War, European
statesmen eagerly watched
the development of
the United States and few
had confidence in its future. When the panic of 1873 came, European pessimists again found a theme from which to moralize on the weakness of the nation. They forgot that this nation's wealth lay in the ingenuity, ambition, and perseverance of the people, and in its boundless resources. But in 1876 this nation was able to make an exhibition that astonished itself and well as others. Among the features of this exhibition were a few of lasting importance. In matters purely utilitarian it was in many respects ahead of others, but in no other branch had it any reason to boast. That which appealed most to visitors and surprised most those who had never had
The advantage of foreign travel was the character of those things that were concerned with public display, personal adornment, and home decoration. The colors at this time seemed absolutely garish and sometimes disquieting but it was not long before the newness wore off, and the visitor saw in the wonderful display of fabrics, decorations, wall-paper, architectural details and biarba, an exhibition of beauty in form and color that was pleasing. The result of all this was soon apparent upon the manufactures and upon the tastes of the people. The visitor also gained a practical idea of the way things were done, for the exposition disc
played the workings of so many kinds of machinery. Many more machines have been exhibited since but not in active operation. The assembling of new and wonderful works of mechanism has a widely and important effect in stimulating the naturally great inventive faculties of young Americans. This exposition also acted greatly in cementing the national spirit, and in assuaging the sectional bitterness that had grown out of the war.

The key note of the Paris expositions has been beauty and in this they have succeeded to an admirable extent. The city of Paris is very indistinguishable, flowered, and rich, subject to few fluctuations from exceptional dullness to
exceptional prosperity. This is due largely to the ingenious and artistic nature of the industries, giving a high value to a varied product for which the demand is constant and extensive. Thus the Peruvians do not seek to turn out cheap wares in vast quantities but to make fine articles with the peculiar embrace of style. The French expositions have revealed these characteristics of the industrial life of Paris and have also shown how the schools perfect and advance the industries for which the city has long been pre-eminent.

The Midway exhibits a feature introduced by the French, some a sort of microcosm where in one may see all the nations
of the world more value
as they live at home
the object lessons given
on these exhibits have
contributed much more
to the general knowledge
of man than all the
books in existence.

As a result of the
Columbian World's Fair, the
whole future of Chicago
as a centre of enterprise
and enlightenment was
changed for the better by
the concentrated local
effort. To do a great
and fitting thing, City
architecture, previous to
this had been in an
inharmonious jumble.
Grand and noble building
had lost their effect
through the lack of dignity
or harmony in the
setting and the general
environment. The whole city
gave to millions of Amer-
icans for the first
True in their lives a conception of harmony in the architecture of buildings placed near one another. This influence is now visible in many of the cities and towns growing up in the prosperous west. This conception was further influenced by the charming arrangement of buildings in the final exposition, five years later and also by the late Pan-American at Buffalo. They have introduced flexibility and beauty into the design of public buildings. For example, the new post office at Chicago, which probably upper the architectural excellence of the fair held in that city. The exhibits in the educational line are also a source of much use.
and enlightenment. One can obtain a better understanding of the methods and objects of education by two or three weeks of the exhibits, than by weeks or even months of study otherwise conducted. Another feature of the Chicago fair that made a great and lasting impression was the building designed by a woman, decorated by women, and all that was contained in it showed what women had accomplished in this country outside the domain of cooking and dishwashing. The domain to which the act had so long been condemned by men.

The chief feature of the Buffalo fair was electricity. It was the mysterious display of
an incomprehensible power that impressed one most. This successful utilization of the
Magical Power.
Thus we see that expotions import knowledge and arouse the imagination which has
a lasting power for good and stimulates to higher and nobler purposes.