AT THE ∵ EXPOSITION.

A Visit to the Army and Navy Exhibit—Beautiful Southern Women — The Electrical Exhibit—Will It Ever Sow Crops?

LETTER NO. V.

On this our second day at the Exposition we will take a careful survey of the United States Government exhibit. The building occupies 65,000 square feet of floor space and contains exhibits from the various departments, the Smithsonian Institute and the United States Fish Commission. Many of the exhibits are familiar to us but were none the less appreciated. One of the most striking exhibits was that of the army and navy. Here we saw lay figures of the soldiers of 1776, 1812, 1861 and mounted Indian soldiers. The old historic army wagon, Gen. Thomas' office wagon, tent models, etc. In the navy department we saw large models of many of the ships of our navy from the beginning of the century to the present time together with some models of ships of an earlier date. We could plainly see the changes in the designs and arrangements of men-of-war from the time of the Spanish Armada to our war of 1812, the wooden steam frigate that bombarded Sebastopol, the monitors of our late war, until at last we see the huge ironclad monsters of the present day. A torpedo boat belonging to the armored cruiser Maine was a very interesting object to us. A 6-inch modern high power gun was shown us, together with machine guns, rapid fire guns—everything in fact, which goes to make up the armament of a modern warship and a complete collection of the projectiles used. On this building one of the powerful battleship searchlights is shown.

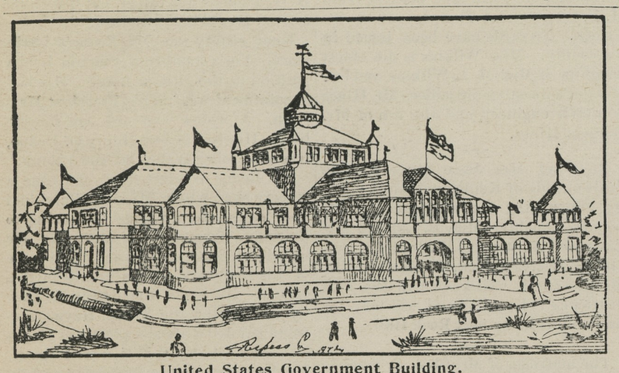
Speaking of guns, the finest exhibit, we think is in the Manufacturers Building. We see there the kind of gun used by the Japanese and the Chinese in the last war. Both were good but the Japs had the better one—the same weapon used by the German army. Steel bullets and smokeless powder were also seen. At Fort McPherson not long ago, we were informed, one of these bullets overshot the target and killed a mule about three miles away. The bullet was identified and the government settled for the mule. These bullets go through fifty inches of wood at fifty yards as shown, also four-inch steel armor pierced by six pound projectiles from a Hotchkiss rapid-fire gun which is also exhibited. Near this exhibit is a commercial show evidencing the greatness of our commerce. It is by an importing house which trades with one hundred and fifty-nine countries, and shows products of many.

The space allotted to the exhibit of fish occupies 8,000 square feet. The principal features of the exhibit are the aquarium and the fish hatchery. The aquarium tanks are arranged in a grotto about 25 feet wide and visitors have a walk ten feet wide. This passage is entirely inclosed and is lighted only from the tanks containing the fish and other aquarium objects. The fish are seen swimming about in these various tanks and the names of the different species printed clearly on each space. These spaces are filled about equally with fresh and salt water. The se water is brought from the ocean and i stored in a reservoir under the building from which it is pumped into a larg tank.

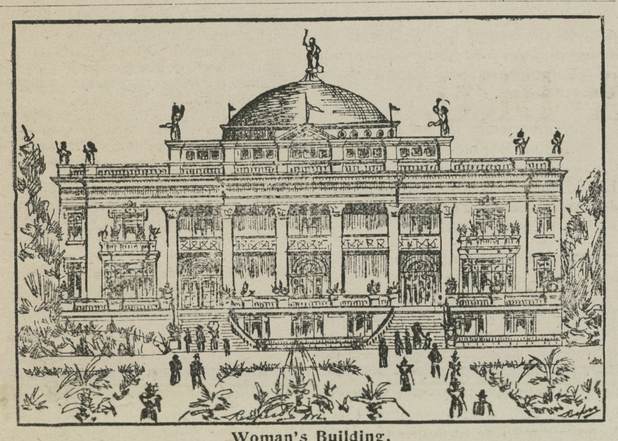
In the midst of these splendid structures, within whose spacious walls are the wonders of man's inventive genius and power, our eyes turn with delight to the building from whence woman's genius radiates. It is exquisite in design and finish and its architect being a young woman gives it a more appreciable effect. The interior decoration is also the work of a woman and speaks well of her handiwork. We pass within and there we trace her steps from the lowly part she played in the primitive civilization of the race, to the exalted position she now occupies. Here we see a library for books, etc., by women; a music room filled with her compositions; a scientific room for patents, etc.; halls filled with their sewing, embroidery, drawn work, wood carving, chinaware, painting, glass decoration, and many other things. A cooking school is also here and masters of the culinary art lectures daily to the public. We heard their discourses and tasted their food, but "mother" can beat them all. Here we also see a fine display of Kindergarten games, toys, furniture and other paraphernalia. A fine showing is here made of painting in oil and water colors, of etchings, wood cutting, landscape gardening, and sculpture. Technical art could be seen in the rugs, carpets, upholstery, etc.

A striking group of pictures greet us in this building and we stop and gaze upon them—Southern beauties. The originals are women of social position and of distinguished ancestry. Maryland is represented by Mrs. Annie Sterling, who the Constitution says is a beauty and a belle. She is a native of Westminster. An important feature of this fair are the congresses held here by the ladies and women of world-wide fame as writers, composers and teachers. We had the exquisite pleasure of attending a large reception at the Capital City Club in company with five of the handsomest ladies in our party, and there saw the lady who is president of the lady managers of the fair, to whom the Woman's Building stands as a monument—Mrs. Josephine Thompson. She was attired in a costume simple but chic, of the faintest peach-colored satin, the bodice falling from her faultless shoulders with touches of velvet on the corsage and short sleeves. She is of rich Circassian blond type. She is fairly large and magnificently made and carries herself gracefully and regally. Her hair waves in masses of nut-brown; the eyes are alluringly blue and her skin is as delicate as a flower petal; the lips and cheeks a rosy pink. Besides Mrs. Thompson there were hosts of other Southern beauties there and it was indeed difficult to entice "Doc" to leave. The ladies of our party admired the dressing and declared it was the handsomeness of the attire that shone so

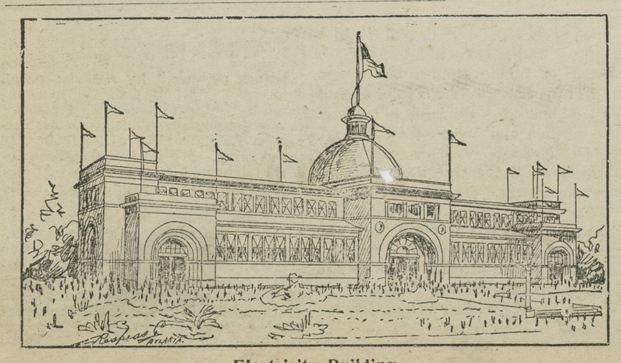
The [illegible] vances since 1893 and suggests wonderful possibilities. We see here electrical apparatus for almost every purpose and in great variety for light, motive power on land and water, utilities of all kinds, amusements, etc. In all the manifold uses to which electricity has been applied it has as yet been made to do nothing for the farm. It is all around him and some day we shall see it plowing the fields, hauling crops to market, threshing, etc. F. G. U.



United States Government Building.



Woman's Building.



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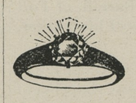

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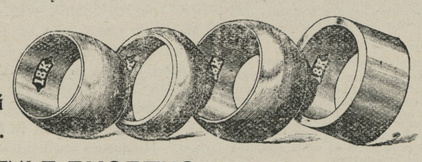

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