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THOMAS N. IVEY, - - - - - Editor.

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### AT THE EXPOSITION.

(Editorial Correspondence.)

I have been at the Exposition for nearly a week, and in this time a very peculiar dissatisfaction has developed within me. The more I have seen the more I have realized there is to see that cannot be seen by the visitor who expects to return home this side of December 1st. It takes a big show to develop this kind of feeling in one, and the feeling is sure to bring a kind of pleasing dissatisfaction. At the other fairs, each day of sight-seeing brought me nearer the goal. Now each day carries me farther from it. The St. Louis Exposition is simply too big for two classes of people—those who have only a few days to spend, and those who having more time are unable to select exhibits and concentrate attention. Unless you can do the latter, do not by any means come unless you can spend three months. A few days aimless walk through the Exposition will simply give you a blurred vision whose memory will be only that which you have of a view through a kaleidoscope.

But I wish to emphasize the fact that a visit to only one of certain departments of the Exposition will repay the visitor. Take for instance

#### EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ECONOMY.

In the first place there is a building with a floor space of 290,000 square feet, and costing fully \$400,000. It is a dream of architectural beauty, and is said to be the most beautiful building on the grounds. What an honor paid to education—that which up to a few years ago never received any attention at a State Fair or an Exposition! For the first time in the history of the world education has a home on Exposition grounds. This looks as if the world were moving on to the sunrise.

It would pay every school officer and teacher in North Carolina to visit the Exposition just to see the educational exhibit. He would learn more than he could learn at a half-dozen summer schools and institutes. He would carry back with him a broader vision of that field which is just beginning to be considered rich enough to claim the toil and devotion of so many teachers.

Of course I am not going to try to catalogue the wonderful exhibits. The United States, England, Germany, Sweden, and France are represented. Several respectively of the New England, the Eastern, the Central and the Western States are

represented. No South Atlantic State, I believe, is represented. The common school and the college and university are intelligently and practically illustrated in a hundred lucid ways. Germany, judging from its exhibit, leads the world in educational spirit, method, appliances and equipments. The fact will be driven home to the consciousness of every open-eyed visitor that the American public school of to-day is far different from that of even ten years ago. The school taught in miserable shanties by inexperienced teachers whose prime function seemingly was to "hear" lessons in the three "R's," call "books" and "turn out" for the day, has given place to the school taught in buildings as carefully constructed as private homes, and by teachers who regard their work as a profession. It is evident from the display in the Educational Building that hereafter the pupil in the public school is to be taught not only how to read and write and cipher, but to know things around him and to do things with brawn and hand.

The college and university exhibit should be unusually interesting and valuable, but it is not. It will be at the next great Exposition. Several of the higher institutions display the books written by members of the faculties. No bad idea, but one which is full of very valuable suggestion.

I wish to repeat that it would pay every man and woman who is interested in education to visit the Exposition for the sake of the educational exhibit alone. Nothing of the kind has ever been seen before, and probably never will be again.

Another building which greatly interested me was the

#### AGRICULTURAL BUILDING.

My experience in farming has been limited to a few days' plowing years ago, and to desultory work which I have essayed to do in the garden. Yet I like everything pertaining to agriculture. What is seen in the Agricultural Building is surely sufficient to interest every man, woman, and child in the land.

The building is a mammoth. I have spent a large part of two days in it, and there is quite a number of aisles which I have not traversed. The exhibits are similar to those seen at former Expositions. New varieties of grains and other products constitute, however, a pleasing feature.

The cereal ornamentation was a wonder to me. Very few of our people realize what can be done with cereals in an artistic way. I saw wheat straw used on the sides and over the doors of booths so as to resemble gold decorations. I saw corn and wheat and sections of corn cobs made into the most seemingly elaborate pictures, which at a distance resembled oil paintings. I saw what to me was a new use of the ground pea. It was made into the most beautiful bead drapery which would adorn any hall of the most handsome residence. Why do not some of our Eastern North Carolina housekeepers in those sections where the festive goober flourisheth utilize the idea? Perhaps the edible property of the ornament would generate in the stray visitor an appetite which would master his aesthetic faculty. Who can tell?

Let no visitor to the Exposition fail to see the butter display in the Agricultural Building. The sculptor's genius has simply done as artistic work in butter as was ever done on marble and granite.

This statement, of course, is made from the standpoint of a crude admirer who has never "sculpted," and who cannot be accepted as an authority.

Let me give you a few things done in butter as yellow as gold and kept all the time below freezing point: busts of noted men; a milk-maid leading her cow to the pasture; a boat containing three men; a girl milking and sending the white fluid into the mouth of a cat greedily sitting near. Remember that all these objects were life-size. I have been through the Art Department and I saw there nothing more beautiful (to me) than the work done in butter in the Agricultural Department.

Right here, without waiting any longer, I wish to say something of North Carolina at the Exposition.

The first place at which I came upon North Carolina was in the Horticultural Hall. The display of apples was a failure as compared with the display of fruits from other States. When I remembered what I saw last fall at the State Fair, and then looked at the inferior display in Horticultural Hall, I could not but feel that a mistake had been made in making any display at all. Later in the day I ran on the North Carolina exhibit in the Agricultural Building. It was in the hands of a North Carolinian, Mr. Green, busy in his place preparing for the jurors who are to make the awards. The exhibit had a familiar appearance and looked somewhat sober and conservative, but the real thing was there, and I felt that North Carolina had nothing to be ashamed of. Further down the aisle the State held her own in the display of tobacco. I noticed the following large sign prominently displayed: "Pitt County grows more bright tobacco than any other county in the United States. Greenville, with its seven warehouses, sells annually 18,000,000 pounds of leaf tobacco." This was a great stroke of enterprise on the part of Pitt County, and suggests what North Carolina should have done in the way of making a general display at the Exposition. The blankets displayed by the Chatham Manufacturing Company, of Elkin, are beautiful, and excite the admiration of every beholder. There was also a commendable display of North Carolina cotton.

#### THE PEOPLE I SEE

The crowds attending the Exposition are daily growing larger. The most interesting occupation I have is that of watching the volume of humanity surge by. This is not an idle occupation, but a very useful one. The people are really one of the most entertaining and valuable exhibits of the Exposition. If you wait long enough you will see a representative of almost every nation on the globe. A crowd of Patagonians was viewing the sights a few days ago. The Filipinos, of whom I will write in another letter, excite an interest which is abnormal. In passing up one of the streets to-day, I saw quite a group of people, mostly young ladies, gathered around some object which I could not see. On pressing close, I saw that the excitement was not caused by a fainting person, but by a simple and foolish-looking young Filipino, who was evidently thinking that he had gotten into a strange land.

You will always find a large number of people on the Pike, of which I will write later, and you may form the idea that the majority of the people are attracted to the Exposition by the amusement feature, but in this you will be mistaken. While that immense throng is surging through the great amusement thoroughfare, you will find Festival Hall packed to hear an organ recital or people in the Acromtor section listening to a recital on a certain kind of wind-mill. You see people with earnest intent faces, with note-books, and with purpose written in their features.

You will find good humor everywhere. Even the young husband wheeling the baby through the throng wears a smile. An Exposition is a great place for learning lessons in good humor.