

# THE CENTURY.

ITS FRUITS AND ITS FESTIVAL.

BEING A HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF

THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION,

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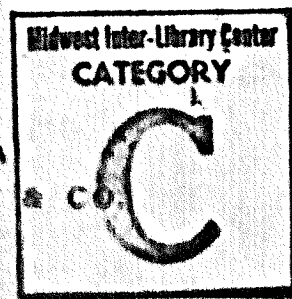
PRELIMINARY OUTLINE OF MODERN PROGRESS.

By EDWARD C. BRUCE.

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS.

PHILADELPHIA  
J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO.  
1877.  
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252 pp.

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# CONTENTS.

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	PAGE
PART I.	
GENERAL PROGRESS.....	9
PART II.	
AMERICAN PROGRESS.....	22
PART III.	
PAST EXPOSITIONS.....	39
PART IV.	
THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION UNDER ROOF.....	58
PART V.	
MINOR STRUCTURES OF THE EXHIBITION.....	74
PART VI.	
THE DISPLAY.—INTRODUCTORY.....	93
PART VII.	
IN THE MAIN BUILDING.....	111
PART VIII.	
IN THE MAIN BUILDING.—CONTINUED.....	129

CONTENTS.

PART IX.

THE HOUSE OF THE IRON HAND.....	PAGE 150
---------------------------------	-------------

PART X.

ART.....	172
----------	-----

PART XI.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.....	194
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PART XII.

DETACHED EXHIBITS.....	216
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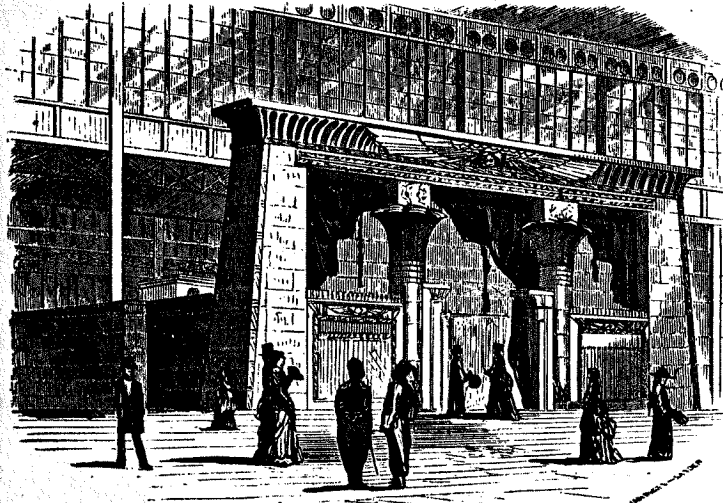
CERAMIC ART AT THE EXHIBITION.....	237
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hard and unimpressible entities, the railroad companies, thus manifesting itself in low rates and gratuitous advertising, could not fail to be contagious. Nor was the service done by the interior lines wholly domestic. Several large foreign

contributions from the Pacific traversed the continent. The houses and the handicraft of the Mongol climbed the Sierra Nevada on the magnificent highway his patient labor had so large a share in constructing. Nineteen cars



FAÇADE OF THE EGYPTIAN DIVISION, MAIN BUILDING.

were freighted with the rough and unpromising chrysalis that developed into the neat and elaborate cottage of Japan, and others brought the Chinese display. Polynesia and Australia adopted the same route in part. The canal modestly assisted the rail, lines of inland navigation conducting to the grounds barges of three times the tonnage of the average sea-going craft of the Revolutionary era. These sluggish and smooth-going vehicles were employed for the carriage of some of the large plants and trees which enrich the horticultural department, eight boats being required to transport from New York a thousand specimens of the Cuban flora sent by a single exhibitor, M. Lachaume of Havana. Those moisture-loving shrubs, the brilliant rhododendra collected by English nurserymen from our own Alleghanies and returned to us wonderfully improved by civilization, might have been expected also to affect the canal, but they chose,

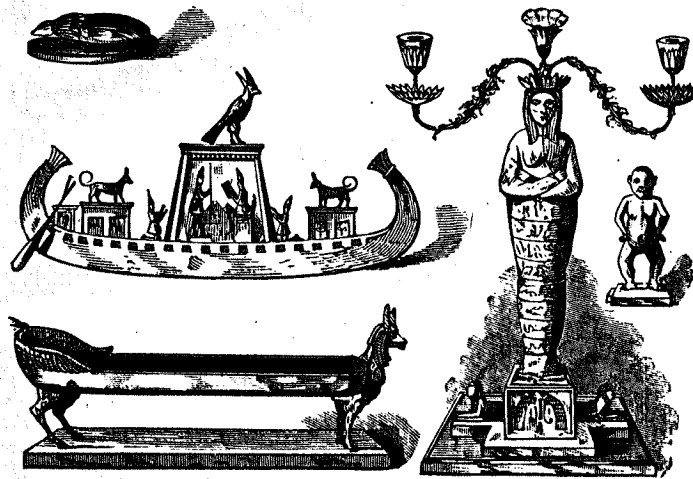
with British taste, the more rapid rail. They had, in fact, no time to lose, for their blooming season was close at hand, and their roots must needs hasten to test the juices of American soil. Japan's miniature garden of miniature plants, interesting far beyond the proportions of its dimensions, was perforce dependent on the same means of conveyance.

The locomotive was summoned to the aid of foreign exhibitors on the Atlantic as on the Pacific side, though to a less striking extent, the largest steamships being able to lie within three miles of the exposition buildings. It stood ready on the wharves of the Delaware to welcome these stately guests from afar, indifferent whether they came in squadrons or alone. It received on one day, in this vestibule of the exposition, the Labrador from France and the Donati from Brazil. Dom Pedro's coffee, sugar and tobacco and the marbles and canvases of the Société des Beaux-Arts

THE  
EXHIBITION  
OF  
1876

## PART VIII.

IN THE MAIN BUILDING.—CONTINUED.



SILVER WRITING-DESK FURNITURE, FROM EGYPT.

It is not a particularly long trip, even by sea, from Honolulu to Manilla, and in the exposition it is very short. The Philippine Islands are housed with the rest of the Spanish dominions within the stately and somewhat sombre pavilion of imitation syenite that bears the two castles. The bark-cloth of the Sandwich Islands suggests the grass-cloth of the Philip-

pinas, but it does nothing more. In quality there is no comparison. The latter is among the most elegant fabrics in the building. Its delicacy, lightness and variety of tint place it high among the finest products of the loom. This is the forte of the Tagals, their other contributions being unimportant.

The mother-country, whom we thus

turn to semi-tropical maize, more graceful than caladium and stately as the banana. The white bloom of buckwheat, vocal with bees, winds up his year more brightly than the aster or chrysanthemum. It may, indeed, be a floral surfeit that disinclines him to borrow from horticulture. But flowers are one of the few things in which plethora is impossible. Properly disposed, as regards variety, mass and opposition of color, they can as little be overdone as pictures. Even weeds are but plants out of place. The India-rubber tree is inferior in beauty and fragrance to its humble relative, the asclepias or silk-pod of our fence-corners, and the burdock before it dons its burs is a charming thing to sketch. All the tenants of the parterre and conservatory are weeds somewhere.

But as we step from our shaky Al-Sirat into a paradise ahead of Mohammed's we forget to inquire whether Mr. and Mrs. Giles have come with us or not. We have left a temporary booth and its more or less perishable contents for a structure which has obviously "come to stay," its walls sheltering within and overlooking without the flowers of all nations on their own roots, and flourishing as though they breathed their own air. On what a scale this assemblage was made we gather from such facts as the contribution of twenty-five varieties of maples from Japan, besides a corresponding collection from the same new and distant region of camellias, conifers and other evergreens, azaleas, etc. Cuba, through the government and private exhibitors, took the foremost place in exhibits direct from the tropics. Brazil followed. More ample offerings of greenhouse trees and shrubs came from the United States Botanic Garden and Agricultural Department, and from the nurseries of England and the United States. The Washington conservatories look to the introduction of fruits and fibres that may be found available in this country, and have accordingly a more utilitarian character than those of private growers. They send the cocoa, guava, papaw, rose-apple, mango, banana of several varieties besides those which are hardy

in Florida, date and other palms. The eucalyptus, or Australian blue gum, hardy in California and probably in the Atlantic States south of 35° or 36°, requires protection in this latitude. Where hardy it is said to disarm malaria, and it has been largely planted with that view in miasmatic localities in Italy, Spain, Southern France and Algeria. Some maintain that its reputation in this respect is chiefly due to its rapidity of growth. It makes in this way more striking the improvement in healthfulness consequent upon the surrounding of dwellings in malarious districts by a belt of trees.

The Robert Morris sago-palm, a century and a half old and ten feet high, would be disowned by the tropics. It is evidence that to some things a northern climate fails to impart vigor. More curious are the insectivorous plants, long known, but lately infused with new life by the magic touch of Darwin. One species is shown from Australia, another from Java and one from North Carolina. The assimilation of animal matter by plants through the roots having always been so notorious, the sensation caused by the discovery that some of them absorb it through the leaf-pores is somewhat surprising. Why should not the drosera live on flies as well as the apple tree on Roger Williams, or the peach on André?

Mr. Waterer's English rhododendrons were the lion of their short day—a day which cannot, we fear, be prolonged or repeated in the Centennial grounds. An American exhibitor, Mr. Parsons of Flushing, has for years endeavored to make this fine evergreen at home under our sky, but with only partial success. He exhibited seventy varieties. The summer seems to be a more trying period with most kinds than the winter. The common kalmias of our hills, more showy than many of the rhododendrons, are seldom seen upon the lawn by reason of their requirement of shade. Ivy also avoids the direct rays of the sun, but will grow well with a northern exposure and on the trunk of the acacia. It was exhibited in forty varieties by Hoopes & Thomas. Our command of arboreal evergreens is

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