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BLIND GIRL AT THE FAIR

Helen Keller, America's Most Wonderful Daughter, Has Special Day at St. Louis.

ADDRESSED LARGE AUDIENCE

How the Girl Who Can Not See or Hear Took in the Fair—Created a Sensation—Text of Her Speech.

St. Louis, Oct. 28.—With eyes that could not see and ears that could not hear, Helen Keller has by the sensitive touch of her hand and the wonderful sympathy of her intellect realized all the sights and melodies of the great World's fair. She was accorded an honor at St. Louis that belongs to no other living person—that of a special day at the exposition. The event was one of the most memorable of the many recorded in the last six months.

Long before the hour for the opening of congress hall, where the exercises were held, the crowd began to gather. It came in the early hours of the morning, at first by twos and threes and later in groups. At 10 o'clock it was a solid mass of pushing humanity all intent upon reaching congress hall. Those who were first to arrive crowded the hall to its utmost capacity and the guards kept back the 500 to 600 surplus people eager to enter. The windows had to be guarded, for some enterprising individuals had secured stepladders and climbed in a number of very sedate old gentlemen and ladies coming by this entrance, while the window seats, at least 8 feet above the floor, were all filled.

The front seats in the hall were reserved for the children of the blind, deaf and dumb schools, and the afflicted ones formed a pathetic contrast to the hustle mass of not too well-mannered men and women who pressed forward.

The guards were unable to manage the crowd, and President Francis, piloting Miss Keller, was obliged to slowly work his way to the front. Miss Keller seemed blissfully unconscious of it and as happy as a child out for a holiday. She followed, one hand clasping that of her friend and teacher, Miss Sullivan. Her hair curled about her face and her pretty flower hat was somewhat awry from the ordeal through which she had passed. Her dainty pink and gray linen gown was crushed and pulled. Her face was flushed from the effort but there was a smile upon it as she took her place on the platform.

President Francis occupied very little time in his address of welcome, but after a few touching remarks, in which he showed how earnestly he appreciated the situation he introduced Miss Keller.

With a smile upon her lips she advanced and a breathless silence fell upon the audience. As Miss Keller spoke in a low voice natural to her, Miss Sullivan repeated the words:

"I have been asked to come here today," she said, "and lend my voice to what is being done in the world for the uplifting of those who struggle in unequal and untoward circumstances. All these great halls of machinery, power and art are the achievement of the strength of man when his arm is firm and his spirit unbound. In the midst of so much mighty achievement the presence of our convention here demonstrates that on his way man has not forgotten his weak brother. The many thousand people who have been invited to come here have been asked because of learning, skill or contributions to the wealth and duty of the world. I come not for aught that I have done, but for what has been done for me; to testify to what the good and strong have done for deprivation and infirmity. I bring my evidence that able men and women are doing their best to unstop the ears of the deaf, open the eyes of the blind, put speech on dumb lips, bring light and intelligence to darkened minds. I enter with you into the communion of living speech and in the joy of speech express my heartfelt gratitude that the impediment of dumbness has been removed from my tongue. Such is my brief, but earnest, message to those who have asked us to come here and those who sit before us.

"The message of this exposition is to work for the education of all people, including the sightless, the deaf and the dumb.

"Now within the great halls stand not only model factories and works of art. Yonder stands the locomotive

annihilating distance, and the illustration of the progress of irrigation which has reclaimed the desert and in the halls of education we see how man has reclaimed his fellowmen and annihilated darkness. The Louisiana purchase is a great manifestation of all the forces of enlightenment and all man's thousand torches burn here at once. The value of everything is education. This exposition is what its distinguished founder intended it to be (at this point President Francis hesitated, and Dr. Dobyne of Mississippi took up the sentence and repeated it to the audience), a world university. Here we see the machinery side by side with the intellectual processes that begot them.

The root, the process, the fruit. The fair is an epitome of what the world is. Here all nations of the earth are brought together, so that each profits by the expedience of all.

"We think no country since Eden has been so good to live in as ours. No nation, however, is as great as the sum of the achievements of all nations. All that is gathered here symbolizes the will of the American people that there shall be an open way of education to all, no matter how poor their circumstances or limited their capacities.

"The service of man to man shines all the brighter. They appeal to the instincts to help, more deeply and firmly implanted in our civilization than in any other age. All that these great halls contain tells us that the world is on our side. The forces here displayed lift up my hands and support my weak feet. Science, nature and art say unto me, thou art deaf and blind, but enter thou into the kingdom of God. God bless the nation that provides education for all her children."

Following the talk of Miss Keller the two talented blind twins, Lester and Tessie Van Sant, of the Kansas school for the blind were lifted to the top of the table. They played several violin solos. The scene was affecting and all over the crowded house men and women were wiping their tears of sympathy. The only ones who did not seem more or less affected were the unfortunates themselves Miss Keller smiled all the while the "twins" in their impassive way, fingered the strings of their instruments. The last number was a composition of their own, which the little fellows played in the same stolid fashion. At the close Miss Keller impulsively rushed towards them, and feeling for the children, drew first one and then

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the other towards her in a close embrace, kissing their faces and fondling them.

A large bouquet of American beauty roses was handed to Miss Keller, over which she bent with a pleased smile. Two little Indian girls sat on the platform at the feet of Miss Keller, and, in her nervous way, she soon discovered their presence, and when she was told who they were, she selected two roses and presented one to each.

There were seated on the platform President Francis, Miss Mary Perry, Miss Laura Perry, both sisters of Mrs. D. R. Francis; Miss Sullivan, who sat beside Miss Keller and constantly kept her informed of what was going on; Miss Wherry, Dr. J. N. Keller of Hot Springs and his wife, uncle and aunt of Miss Keller, Dr. Wm. Keller of the City of Mexico, Jack Macy, Dr. Dobyne and a few mutual friends.

In the afternoon Miss Keller visited the Philippine reservation. The party was taken in charge by Dr. Gustave Niederlein and Victor Hall. The Igorrote village was the first visited and everything interested her, even insisting on feeling the skulls on the totem poles. The dances were in progress in the village, and she had many questions to ask about them.

(Continued to Page 7.)

France Would Assume Loan.
 New York, Oct. 28.—At a conference between Minister of Finance Terry and Lewandsky, a French financier, the latter has made, according to the Herald's Buenos Ayres correspondent, a proposal for the conversion of the national five and six per cent debt. The offer was made on behalf of a French syndicate.
 No action has yet been taken.

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