

Samantha at the
World's Fair.

It would be just as easy to comprehend the wonder of this Exposition by reading about it, as it would be for any one to try to judge Niagara by looking at a pan of dishwater.

They are both water, but different, far different.

And you have got to take in the wonder and majesty of the sight, through the pores, as it were, through all your soul, not at first, but it has got to grow and soak in, and make it a part of yourself.

And then, when you have, you hadn't a-go-in' to describe it—words can't do it; you can walk through it and talk about the size of the building, and the wonders of the display, but that hadn't a-go-in' to describe it no more than the pan of dish water can explain Niagara.

When you paint a picture showing the full power and depth of a mother's love, when you can paint the armor and ecstasy that inspires the hero's soul as he leads the forlorn hope, and dies with his face to the foe—

Then you may try to describe Niagara; no pen, no tongue can describe this ever rushing, ever old and ever new wonder of the new world.

And no more can any pen describe World's Fair, the tall tower in fruit of the four centuries, the wonders of the future, the fountain of the future, and liberty, and equal rights.

You can talk about the building—how they are made, how long and wide they are. You can talk about the lagoons, the grand basin, the bridges, the statues, the fountains, the wonders of the flowers and foliage, the grandeur of the display, and so forth, and so forth, and so forth.

But how to describe this as a hull, its immensity, its concentrated might of material, practical beauty and use, that moves the world with its volume and power; or the more wonderful forces and influences that arise from it, like a gold mine seeking the heavens, to fall in showers of blessing to the uttermost ends of the earth—knowledge, wisdom and beauty, of Freedom, and Individual Liberty, Education, Moral and Beneficent influences, who is a-go-in' to describe all this?

I can't, nor Josiah, nor Miss Plank, nor boardin' house keeper, nor nobody. No, Mr. Bolster, who described so eloquently to me the greatness of Chicago, couldn't.

Why, jest a-lookin' at it cracked the old Liberty Bell, and I don't wonder. I s'pose she tried to swing out and describe it, and burst her old sides in the attempt; anyway, that is what some think. The new crack is there, anyway. Who'd a thought on't—a bell that has stood so many different sights and kept herself together! But I wasn't surprised a mite to think it was too much for her—no, nobody could describe it.

I know Miss Plank couldn't, for we met her there, or rather she came onto us, as I stood still and nearly lost, and by the side of myself, and I felt so queer that I couldn't hardly speak to her. I don't know but she thought I felt big and haughty, but good land! how mistook she was if she thought so. I felt as small as I stood there that very minute, as one drop of milk in the hull milky way.

But when my senses got kinder collected together, and my emotions got quelled down a little, I passed the usual compliments with Miss Plank—"How do do?" and so forth.

And she proposed that we should go round a little together—she said that she had been here so many times, that she felt she could offer herself as our "Sissy Roney."

She looked at Josiah as she spoke kinder koketish, and I thought to myself, "You are a-actin' pretty kiddyish for a woman of your age."

"Sissy," sez I to myself, "The time for you to be called 'sissy' rightfully lays fur back in the past—as much as fifty years back, anyway." As for "Roney," I didn't know what she did mean, but s'pose it was some sort of a pet name that had been given her fur away in the distant past.

And I s'posed she ha' d'bring it up to kinder attract Josiah; but, good land! if his morals hadn't been like iron for solidity, I knew that that her to try to flirt wuz like a old hen to try to bite; they don't have no teeth, hens don't, even when they are young, and they won't be likely to have any when they are fifty or sixty years old. So I looked on with composure, and didn't take no notice of her flirtatious ways, and I consented to her proposition, and Josiah did too. That man hadn't been fix up by his emotions as I had, by the majesty and glory of the scene—no, he felt pretty chipper; and Miss Plank, after she quieted down a little, and ceased talking about her girlish days, she could think of rancous, even in that rough hour; for she mentioned, when I spoke of how high the waters of the fountain rise up, "Yes," sez she—

"Speakin' of risin', I left some pancakes eatin' before I left home," and she wondered if the cook would send to 'em.

Pancakes! In such a time as this. And then Josiah proposed to go and see the live stock, and Miss Plank said dreamily that she would like to go to a certain restaurant at the fur end of the grounds to see the cookin' of a certain chef; she had heard it went ahead of anything in America.

"Chef"—I didn't want to act green, but I did wonder what "chef" wuz. I thought meby it wuz chaff she meant, and I s'posed they had got up some new way to cook chaff.

I would like to see and tasted of it, but Duty bagoned me on, and I followed her blindly, and I sez, as I planted my umbrella firm on the ground, sez I—

"Here I take my stand; I don't often stand out and have my way."

Here Josiah gin a deep groan out to one side, but he had no need to—I spoke truth, or pretty near the truth, anyway.

Sez I, "Here I take my stand!" and I bring down my good cotton umbrella agin firmly, as if to punctuate my remarks, and add weight to it, and wuz so earnest that before I knew it I fell into a fervid eloquence caught from my old revolutionary 4 fathers, I s'pose—and, sez I—

"I care not what course others may take."

"But," sez Miss Plank, "we will hang together in such a crowd as this."

"Yes," sez Josiah, "you mustn't go wanderin' off by yourself, Samantha; it ain't safe."

I wuz brung down some, but I kep on with considerable eloquence, though it wuz kinder drizzlin' away unbeknown to me, such is the power of environment.

Sez I, "I care not what course others may take, I will go first to the place my proud heart has dwelt on ever since the Fair was opened."

"I will go first to the Woman's Building," home of my sex, and my proud ambition and love."

Miss Plank demurred, and said "that it wuz some distance off," but I held firm—Josiah sez I wuz firm—and he finally gin in quite graciously, and, sez he—

"I don't s'pose it will take long, anyway, to see all that wimmen has brung

here—and I s'pose the buildin' will be a sight—all trimmed off with ornaments, and flowers and tatin'; meby they will hev lace all festooned on the outside, and tatin' and ribbin' streamers."

Sez he, "I always did want to see a house trimmed with bobinet lace on the outside, and tatin' and ribbin' streamers."

I wouldn't dain a reply; he did it to lower my emotions about wimmen.

But it wuz impossible. So we turned our bodies round and set off north by northwest.

Agin Miss Plank mentioned the distance, and agin Josiah spoke longingly of the live stock.

And I sez with calm dignity, "Josiah you are not a woman."

"No," sez he, "dum it all, I know I ain't; and so there ain't much chance of y' gettin' my way."

I kep on calmly, and with the same lofty mean, "You are not a woman, and therefore you can't tell a woman's desires, that go with me, to see the glorification of her own sex, in their great and lofty work, and the high thrones on which they have set themselves in the year of our Lord, 1893; I am not," sez I, "I am not as ever the statue of America is on her marble pedestal, ject so solid am I riz up on the firm and solid foundation of my love, and admiration, and appreciation for my own sex."

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