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City courts meet on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month.

## MIDWINTER FAIR LETTER.

CALIFORNIA MIDWINTER INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.—DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION.

[Weekly Circular Letter—No. 7.]

The work of preparation for the Exposition has now reached a point where the aesthetic ideas of the management are beginning to bear fruit. All the main buildings are practically finished, so far as the details of construction are concerned, and now comes the matter of decoration. Charles Graham, the well-known artist—better known, perhaps, in the East than in California on account of his extensive experience with the Harpers, and more recently with the Columbian Exposition—has been appointed as director of color for the Midwinter Exposition, and to him falls the duty of superintending the decoration of the Exposition buildings. There has been made no effort in this connection to pattern after the Columbian Exposition. The term "White City" will never be appropriately applied to this Exposition. Mr. Graham's idea has been to let delicate tints predominate, and to so distribute and arrange these that the peculiar atmospheric effects of the California climate shall be utilized to enhance their harmony and increase their beauty. Warm tones are not particularly necessary in the decoration of any group of buildings in this glorious climate of California, and the darkness of background afforded by the almost black foliage is a magnificent setting for the delicate tints which are to prevail.

Some excellent effects have already been partially produced on the main buildings, although none of them are yet to be seen in the fullness of perfection. There will be a great deal of gold in the scheme of color, although not enough of it to give the architectural group the name of the "Golden City." The domes of the Administration building will be heavily gilded, and the western sun, striking full upon them, will undoubtedly play a very important part in the picturesqueness of the panorama. Mr. Graham says that several of the buildings of this Exposition surpass in perfection of detail and architectural development the buildings of the Columbian Exposition, and that in the line of opportunity offered for picturesque and landscape effects, the like has never been seen in any exposition.

The ornamentation of the grand central court is also receiving a great deal of attention just now. The electrical fountain is being installed in one end, the basin for the allegorical fountain is in place at the other, and the sculpture will soon be ready to be put in position. The electric tower has reached a third of its height, and two more weeks will see it completed. Eight or ten inches of rich loam has been spread over the entire surface of the grand plaza, and on it will be sown the seed of the flowers and foliage which are to make this the most beautiful spot in all the beautiful Golden Gate Park. There has already been transplanted to this grand parallelogram a large number of bamboo plants and date palms that have been artistically distributed, and have made a favorable impression on the public, which warrants the assertion that the picture to be presented within the lines of the court, around which the main buildings are situated, will be one of surpassing loveliness. The Venetian masks, several hundred in number, which are to stand like a line of soldiery around this court, are already in position. These are to bear the flags of all nations by day, and electric arc lights at night; and between them the sun will shine upon long lines of parti-colored streamers, while the darkness of each succeeding night will be relieved by long lines of incandescent lights and fancy lanterns in the development of the carnival effects which have been contemplated in this connection.

The work on the concessional buildings is proceeding satisfactorily. The exposition will be nearer ready on opening day than has been the case of any large exposition in the history of the world. The management of the Exposition are to be particularly congratulated on the fact that in the erection of the 70 odd structures within the Exposition grounds, on which there has been an aggregate expenditure of nearly \$1,000,000, there has, thus far, occurred no labor trouble, no accidents, and not even an alarm of fire.

The programme for opening day has not yet been completed, but the ceremonies will be of a character to warrant the unshattering of all the enthusiasm which San Francisco and the adjoining cities and towns have been getting up for this occasion. It took the business men of San Francisco a long while to wake up to the importance of this Exposition, but there is no longer

any room for apathy on this score, and it is safe to say that when opening day shall arrive the city will be more gaily decorated and its inhabitants will turn out more universally than on any other occasion that has marked the history of California.

A feature of the Exposition which has now been fully developed is that which is to include the display of citrus fruit from different parts of the state. There are in the state two citrus fair associations—that of Southern California and that of the Northern citrus counties. Both these fairs will be held this year in connection with the Midwinter Exposition, and it will be interesting to Eastern people to know that these grand displays of oranges and lemons are made in the months of January and February. The management of the state citrus fair northern district has just announced its dates to be from Jan. 15 to Feb. 15, and that of Southern California will be on at the same time. In addition to these citrus displays Fresno county has completed arrangements to erect a model of her courthouses to be constructed of oranges and raisins, so that Eastern visitors will see more wonderful displays of the golden fruit than has ever been made elsewhere.

## The Rising Generation.

"It keeps one so busy making a living," said a man of family, "that I don't perhaps pay as much attention as I should to the forms of speech, but I think that my children more than make up for anything that I lack in this respect, and I wish they wouldn't insist as they do upon my conforming in this matter to what they call the usages of polite society." The latest phase of this subject occurred last evening at dinner. My wife looked across the table at me and said:

"Not 'doantebo,' you understand, but 'don't you,' with the 'don't' and the 'you' pronounced separately and distinctly. Not being prepared for this, it made me laugh, but my eldest daughter frowned, and when my eldest daughter frowns I don't laugh, so I said 'yes' and stopped laughing.

"I've been accustomed all my life to saying 'doantebo' for don't you, and 'entail' for at all, and things like that, but the children tell me that nobody talks that way nowadays, and so I suppose I have got to give it up.

"They had before insisted that I should have my clothes stylishly cut and with the trousers sharply creased; that I should wear stylish hats and fashionable shoes, and now they insist that I shall speak correctly. Take it all together, I think they are making life pretty hard for their poor old father. Still they're nice children, and I suppose I'll have to try to keep up with the procession."—New York Sun.

## The Pearly Gates Ajar.

An ancient legend says that the angel on guard at the door of heaven was once asked by an inquisitive passer if more married or more single women passed through.

"More married ones," he promptly answered.

"Indeed!" said the questioner, who was a man, and who immediately began to plume himself. "Their husbands' virtues of course admitted them. That was right. The stronger should aid the weaker."

"No," replied the angel, "that is not the reason."

"Then what is it?"

"Well, if you must know," said the angel confidentially, "we pass them first on their own merits. Lots of 'em get through that way. Then, when we can't find any other recommendation for a married woman, it is written against her name, 'These are they which have come up out of great tribulation,' and the gates fly open."

## THE CHILDREN'S ROOM.

How peaceful at night  
 The sleeping children lie,  
 Each gentle breath so light  
 Escaping like a sigh!

How tranquil seems the room, how fair,  
 To one who softly enters there!

Whose hands are those unseen  
 That smooth each little brow?  
 Whose locks are those that lean  
 Over each pillowed head?

Whose lips caress the boys and girls?  
 Whose fingers stroke the golden curls?

Whose are the yearning eyes,  
 And whose the trembling tear?  
 Whose heart is this that cries,  
 Beseeching God to hear?

Whose is the mother's, in whose face  
 Love shows its sweetest dwelling place?

Her hopes in beauty bloom,  
 And heaven sends down its light,  
 Which lingers in the room  
 Where mother says, "Good night."

Soft treading by the sleepers there,  
 Her very presence seems a prayer.  
 —Buffalo Commercial.

## DENTAL SONG—A PARODY.

Drill, drill, drill,  
 With thy dental machine, said she,  
 And I would it were ready to utter  
 The groans that arise in me.

Oh, well for the laughing maid  
 Whose teeth are pearly and sound!  
 Oh, well for the youth in whose molars  
 No cavities deep are found!

And they see the dentist's office  
 Without a thought of fear;  
 But, oh, that my name need nevermore  
 In his little black book appear!

Drill, drill, drill,  
 With thy cold, gray steel, said she,  
 But the tender nerve of a tooth that is dead  
 Will never come back to me.  
 —Mary S. Lohrop in Boston Transcript.

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