

funeral processions. The number of funerals on Sunday when the cortege can be long and the carriages filled with citizens taking their usual Sunday holiday in a manner above reproach substantiates this accusation. When women yield to cheap temptations for parade it is time for someone not too sensitive to the performance of a very unpleasant duty, to protest.

#### "A Stimulating Atmosphere."

Mr. E. S. Martin, who contributes to Harper's Weekly its most interesting page, according to the taste of the observer in this department, said in a recent issue that many persons find the atmosphere of New York stimulating. Mr. Martin thinks that is perhaps the reason why Dr. Buchanan, who came from Kansas City to New York, three years ago, to organize the first boy's high school in Manhattan borough, found that the work of the boy's school in the latter city was distinctly superior to the excellent work of the mixed school from which he came. Dr. Buchanan ascribes the superior work of the New York boy's high school to the exclusion of girls, and I would rather his explanation were accepted, than that the atmosphere of Kansas and Nebraska should be blamed. So well read and far traveled a gentleman as Mr. Martin is, ought to know that the atmosphere of Kansas and Nebraska holds the stimulating record. New York's atmosphere has a damp, apathetic, Sleepy Hollow effect. Docters are sending weekminded children out here purely for the awakening, bracing effects of the atmosphere which is as peculiar and unmistakable as New York's cosmopolitanism.

#### The Greater American.

An Omaha correspondent says in regard to the warmed over show there that: "I do not know that the prospects clearly indicate either success or failure, but a good many people seem to think that the chance is better, now that the board has changed hands, for they may say what they like, but Rosey was doing it a great deal of harm, and no doubt, he would continue to do more. I guess the railroads are back of it now to some extent, and if they make good rates, I should not wonder if the crowds came, later on in the season. As a moral factor in the development of the city, it is already a total failure. Really, it is tough beyond expression; men like Skip Dundy, Bittinger, etc., have a lion's share of the concessions, and most of them are unfit for any one to patronize, and I am not referring to the callow youth alone in this. Not only will we need a jack lantern to find an honest man, but it will take a locomotive headlight to discover a decent woman, before the show is over."

This is testimony of a loyal, upright citizen of Omaha whose judgement is unimpeachable. The effect of a midway, such as he describes, upon the youth of Omaha can not be estimated. It will last when the buildings are dust and the war of the Roseys has been forgotten. Fathers and mothers who are seeking to promote the exposition can not consistently warn their sons away from it as an evil, poisonous thing. And they go there and form acquaintances openly, which, under ordinary circumstances, they would be ashamed of and repudiate.

If the exposition is a success financially, it will be on account of the crowds from smaller places who will spend their money, as they did last year, to the direct loss of country

merchants. If it be a failure it will mean a large loss to the confident capitalists who have subscribed for stock in the exposition. Either way, it is of questionable policy politically for country merchants control a large influence and they resent an invasion of their territory for two years in succession, and will be likely to remember it against the next Omaha candidate for state favor, however innocent and unselfish he himself may be.

"Expositions" are a cause of local war wherever they are held, of state jealousy and of state reprisal. They disturb trade and always deflect the small profits of the country tradesmen into tills of the shopkeepers in the exposition city. So many have been held in the last fifteen years that it has been possible to study their phenomena more or less exhaustively. All investigators agree that a large exposition raises the price of foods, domestic service and raises rents in the city of the exposition. It depresses trade in other parts of the country where the exposition is held. It is like a boom, in that when it is over, the condition of the people is ten times worse than when it began. It creates jealousy and local and national dissension; and finally, unless the amusement features are depraved and intoxicating liquors are freely sold, no exposition has succeeded. It is said that they promote international sympathy and knowledge and stimulate manufactures. The American centennial unquestionably was the cause of an immediate improvement in the manufacture of textile fabrics, of furniture and ceramics. But having raised his product up to and higher than the European, the American manufacturer has nothing in particular to gain from a yearly exhibition of his goods. And international amity is gaining through foreign residence and travel in American and American residence and travel abroad. There is a point with nations as with neighborhoods when friendly visiting has degenerated into gadding and sympathy for one another into gossip and this exposition habit encourages idle gazing and comment rather than sympathy.

#### The New York Federation.

The executive board of the New York State Federation of women's clubs has decided that nobody except members of federated clubs shall speak at the next annual state convention at Rochester. This does not exclude professional speakers or writers if they are also members of a federated club. But as most women who earn their living by writing or speaking have sold most of their time, there is not enough left for the conscientious fulfillment of the duties, which are also pleasures, of club membership. Yet if a woman like Octave Thanet or Mrs. Peattie, both of them distinguished by a fervid and unwavering love for humanity and for women in particular, should have a message to club women, an inability to deliver it on account of a rule excluding every one not a member of a federated woman's club from such a privilege would be most unfortunate, and a disappointment to all who realize the unselfish devotion which these authors and many others have paid to the cause of the rights of women to life and the opportunities of happiness.

Insofar as the resolution excludes, book agents and all those with designs on the club for business purposes, it is commendable. The clubs were an expression of a common desire for intellectual development. The federation of clubs is a more or

less conscious admission that the study of Shakspeare, the Roman Empire or the Italian Renaissance, by a sort of national conservatory method is not the principal reason of such association. If there were no other reason for federation, the expense of the biennial meetings and of meeting the expenses incurred by the officers of the federation would be out of proportion to the object of association. Culture can be attained quicker and with smaller loss of energy in smaller groups. A national federation quickens and stimulates the desire for culture doubtless, but not enough to warrant such an expenditure of energy and money. What the federation really means is the unity of woman and her inchoate satisfaction with a national expression of it. This being so, the exclusion of every body who has not an important message,—important to the clubs rather than to the messenger or those who sent him—is decidedly expedient. Only, it seems to me, the committee who prepares the program of each state or general federation meeting should be competent to judge of the importance of every message which it is claimed that the delegates should hear. The New York State executive board has adopted the rule under discussion for only the approaching meeting in Rochester, and if it is found unsatisfactory its temporary nature is fortunate.

#### The War Correspondent's Protest.

Those who sympathize with the war correspondents in Luzon and are clamoring for General Miles in General Otis' place forget that General Miles is if anything, a stricter disciplinarian than General Otis and would, like the experienced old soldier he is, endeavor to keep every thing from the enemy calculated to encourage them and prolong their resistance.

This government and the people of this country hold General Otis responsible for the conduct of the war in the Philippines whether the papers get the news or not. It is generally necessary for the general on the field to exercise a strict censorship of the press and General Otis is probably but fulfilling his duty to the government in revising the newspaper letters. It is in the interest of justice to wait until we can hear General Otis' report and if he does not choose to present it until the war is over, to wait until then. The war correspondent is intent upon getting the news, the whole news, and anything that has the aspect of news for his paper at home. He is not at all concerned with the effect his letters will have upon the enemy and the cessation of hostilities. If anything he rather hopes the war may be prolonged. Otis be succeeded by Miles and Miles by somebody else in order that the excitement and the interest in war news be not diminished. And the public is so eager for news, that on first reading the spiteful criticism of Gen. Otis from the war correspondents it was inclined to take their part. But on reflecting that Gen. Otis is held responsible for the conduct of the war and not the scribblers and picture makers, and that it is far more important that helpful information should not reach the enemy than that we should be specifically informed of every move and plan of General Otis, the public is inclined to think he has done exactly right in making the war correspondent's letters of secondary importance. Nothing that walks the earth or skims it is so important and so hard to sit on as a good war correspondent and if General Otis has accomplished it, it is another Manila

Bay victory. The men who have done the work are heroes but who would have known about it if the war correspondent had not chosen to report their heroism? Who can ever forget Richard Harding Davis' account of the Cuban campaign and the illustrations of himself conversing with General Shafter or riding a horse alongside Colonel Roosevelt? He never for a minute forgot that he was there to make any man famous or drown him in oblivion as he chose, nor did he let any of the fighters nor men of action forget it. Mr. McCutcheon, Mr. Bass and other correspondents in Luzon are able men and very clever and graphic writers but they are newspaper men and not fighters and they are apt to take hazardous chances on aiding the enemy and injuring this country if only they can send their newspapers the news. However able and clever they may be all thoughtful Americans rejoice that the control of the American army in Luzon is not in their hands and if General Otis sees fit to suppress any of their stuff, he is just the man to do it.

#### THE FIRST SONG.

'Twas morn in Eden,  
and the summer sun  
Shone round and full  
above the trees;  
The sky, in which  
the shadows of the night  
Still hung amidst  
the splendors of the dawn  
Like wreathing smoke  
in flames; was opal-tinged  
And like the pearly  
lining of a shell.  
The air was laden  
with the holy scent  
Of opening buds:  
the blossoms that adorned  
The first great spring;  
when new-create, the world  
Was hurled along  
the viewless paths of space  
From God's all powerful hand;  
and ravished with  
The dulcet chorus  
of the golden-throated birds.  
Through bowing branches  
overhead, the rays  
Of dawn crept softly  
as a summer sigh  
And lighted on  
the dew-wet eyes of Eve  
Who slept upon a bed  
of fern-strewn moss  
Beneath, and slowly  
from the thrall of dreams  
She roused, and flashed  
her creamy lids apart.  
Then, springing like a hind  
she stood full-length,  
Her hair a golden robe  
around her form  
Of perfect mold;  
the velvet flesh beneath  
Like blushing roses  
under strands of gold;  
Her eyes still full of haunting  
dreams; her hands  
Still idly clasping  
fadeless Eden blooms.  
The lifting breeze b'ew  
cooly through the leaves  
And made a wider rift  
through which the sun  
His radiant glances poured,  
and, shining like  
A pillar wrought of  
pearl and finest gold  
She stood, a vision  
fair as dawn, as pure  
And stainless as a bud  
still wrapt in green.  
Around her, every sound  
was full of joy;  
The rippling rill that  
spilled its silver flood