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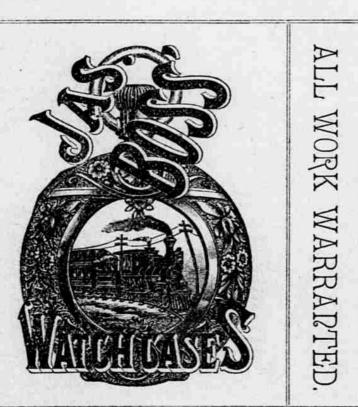
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OUR EXPOSITION LETTER.

The task of writing up an Expoition estimated to be worth fifty millions of dollars, and embracing every department of nature and of human genius, skiil and industry, and to give the reader an intelligent conception of its vastness and exhibits, is one of the most difficult tasks ever alloted the correspondent, and he may well crave leniency in criticism should he fail, even in many particulars.

Constant comparisons are being made of this Exposition with that held at Philadelphia—the Centennial. In foreign exhibits, especially those made by the European governments, and in the art departments, it is conceded that the Fair of 1876 excelled this one, as it also excelled any of its old world predecessors. But our Northwestern States and Territories, all and each of them, the Southern displays far superior to those made at the Centennial. In new and improved machinery and in electric displays, this Exposition also excels any around the globe, and as a school of instruction, a month's careful study of it would be more valuable to the student than a year in college. Since the Art gallery was thrown

open to the public it has been constantly crowded with sight-seers, who seem never to tire of gazing upon the many beautiful works of art on the walls and of statuary on the floor. In these collections are many fine pieces contributed by French, German, Belgian and Mexican artists, while every American artist of note is represented. At one end of the gallery hangs Thomas Hill's canvass of the "Far West," at the other Jos. Chelmonski's "Snow-Bound Russia," each bringing out in rich coloring the most striking features of their respective subjects. E. Keyser is rep resented by "The Toying Page," which received the silver medal of bronze. There is a strikingly lifelike bronze bust of our great poet of Nature—Bryant—by J. S. Hartly, strongly portraying the great traits of the venerable poet. Louis Samain sends among the Belgian exhibit, "L'Amour Maladroit," representing Cupid's badly aimed arrow piercing the bosom of his pet bird, at which McGOOK, accident great tears roll down his ba-by cheeks. There are many fine water colors, pen and ink sketches, gourches and sepia drawings, sent by the Scribner Publishing Company, and very many attractions on canvass, or in marble or bronze, which atone in the pleasure of seeing them, for the tardiness in opening the gallery, and it is now a most pleasing and instructive feature of the Exposition.

The exhibits made by the colored people in the north gallery of the Government building, from a dozen or more states, have attracted much attention, since the formal opening of their department, presenting a race which in other fields has had a large share of the world's attention, in a new and more interesting light. Considering their past history, and the circumstances which have surrounded them, their advancement and capabilities revealed in these exhibits, must greatly modify, if not entirely change, the estimate hitherto entertained of the future of these people. Here are fine needle-work, paintings, drawings, and school exhibits, which bear no mean comparison with those of like classes in other departments, while in mechanical devices, machinery and architecture, the samples on exhibi-tion astonish the visitors, and elicit many remarks of admiration and praise. These classes of their work are represented in models of dwellings, in locomotives, constructed without the advantage of apprentice ship, and in other machines, all of which are most creditable and reveal the race in a most promising and

hopeful aspect. Another gallery in the same build ing is occupied chiefly with exhibits of woman's work, Dakota, Indiana, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Kentucky, Misthere some patented machine or household implement, the invention of woman's mind. In the Iowa space are two busts of two distinguished statesmen, Ex-Senator James Harlan, and Justice Samuel Miller of the United States Supreme Court, mod eled by Mrs. Ketcham, of Mt. Pleasant, who studied the Sculptor's art at Washington, receiving instruction from the best masters at the Capital. (CONCLUDED ON EIGHTH PAGE.)

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