

OUR CHICAGO LETTER.

Chicago's New Mayor—What he is and How he Was Elected.

A VISIT TO THE "HULL HOUSE"

And a Description of the Philanthropic Undertaking of Some Truly Christian Ladies.

Mr. Gibson's Letter.

5523 EMERALD AVE., CHICAGO, ILL., APRIL 24, 1893.

EDITOR ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT:— Since my last letter, Chicago has elected to the highest municipal office a new political boss and dispenser of spoils, the notorious Carter Harrison. He has filled the office of mayor eight successive years before (Cregler and Washburn succeeded him), and was so openly and undeniably the tool of the gamblers, liquor dealers, professional politicians and sports hunters, that the respectable element, regardless of party affiliations, organized a citizens' movement to defeat him. A citizens' ticket was nominated, endorsed by the republican party primaries, and big meetings were held all over the city. All the leading dailies, except Harrison's (The Times), supported the citizen's ticket, and many of the clergymen of the city took an active part in trying to down Harrison and elect Allerton. But he was able to defeat them all. Harrison is a master of the game of politics, and by making himself solid with the strongest party machine, and adding the vicious, the ignorant and the gullible of both parties to his following, virtually elected himself ruler of a million people, elected himself in the face of an organized, determined, hard-working opposition. The people generally were so desirous of having the best possible man mayor during the World's Fair that the citizen's movement was much stronger than in ordinary years, it would have been; yet Harrison was elected by about 20,000 majority.

One of Harrison's methods of holding the vast labor vote, was to flood the city with a woodcut of Allerton sending the Pinkertons to shoot down the workers in his stock yards; strike of a few years ago. There is no doubt this pictured history had immense effect. Millionaires, who rob the producers and dictate wages to their employees, are not the class to draw from to head citizens' tickets. The workingmen, even those who are intelligent, prefer to vote for almost any man instead. But the workers of all grades and varieties in the city are, for the most part, far from intelligently independent and wise in political matters.

I am about convinced that hanging is too good for dirty-tongued demagogues. They are the worst kind of traitors, the most dangerous foes which confront us as a nation.

It was my privilege to spend an afternoon at the Hull House, a few days ago, and your readers will doubtless be interested to read a brief description of the growing plans and purposers of the truly christian ladies who conduct its philanthropic work. Hull House is "a social settlement," started in one of the worst and poorest parts of Chicago three years ago by Miss Jane Adams, a daughter of Judge Adams of Stevenson county, Illinois. It is an attempt, Miss Adams says, to know the "masses" as one neighbor knows another. Miss Adams and the ladies associated with her live in the midst of the poor, not to dispense charity in the shape of gifts, which usually degrade the recipients, but to practice the love which all christians profess. They are adding the social function to democracy, and rebuilding in better christian form the social organization which has almost wholly broken down in large districts of the city. Where the people are very poor, without leisure or energy except to work for a bare subsistence, and moving often, neighborliness, sociability, mutual helpfulness, are scarcely possible. They live without fellowship, without sympathy, without aspiration or culture, the narrowest round of treadmill toil, often finding its only relief or recreation(?) in the society of the saloon and the nerve excitements of alcohol. They cannot have real homes, and are, of course, "without local tradition or public spirit, without social organization of any kind."

The rich and comfortably well-to-do classes make feasts and invite neighbors of their own financial and intellectual level to meet with them. Christ's command was, "When thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind; and thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee; thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just."

This is what these Hull House ladies are doing. They put themselves on the level of the poor in the matter of neighborliness and unselfish fraternal fellowship.

Hull house is an old family mansion built by a dech man before that quarter of the city in which it is located was given over to the poor, for a tenement house and slum population. The

house is roomy and well furnished, the pictures especially being selected by people of the best taste, and furnish an education in themselves. Miss Adams has with her several young ladies who have had all the advantages which refined homes, intellectual society, education and special culture could give them,—one who paints beautiful pictures, others who teach music, needle-work, clay modeling, cooking, crocheting, darning and sewing, gymnastic exercises, story-telling. Kindergarten, sick room cooking, German, English literature, chemistry (with experiments), electricity (with experiments) and French. The young ladies teach, I should say, a part of the classes in the above mentioned studies. Some of the classes are taught by outside specialists, from Wellesley college, Vassar college and other well known institutions of learning.

Hull House is made the social center of that portion of the city in which it is located. The social club meets in the drawing room from 8 to 10 Monday evenings and has a membership of thirty, mostly working girls. The first hour each evening is devoted to reading, and discussions, and the second hour to amusement, in which they are joined by the Debating club, which has a membership of thirty young men. The debating club discusses topics of municipal and social interest. On the same evening there is also a Men's Athletic class which meets in the Gymnasium, a drawing class which meets in the reception room, an arithmetic and geometry class in the dining room, and English composition class in the octagon room. These and all the other classes which we have not space to enumerate are provided with the very best teachers.

Tuesday evening the Working people's Social Science club meets. An address of forty-five minutes is listened to at each meeting and afterwards freely discussed. Outside speakers of national reputation are often on the program. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor addressed the club February 23d on "Labor organizations." The "Single tax remedy" was presented March 8th by John Z. White, and "What can the law do for man?" was the subject of a paper April 5th by Mr. J. K. Boyeson. April 19th Col. Jacobson read a paper on "The municipal control of heat, light and transportation." In addition to the club mentioned there is a Young Citizens' club of thirty members, and regular lecturers on a great variety of subjects by such men as Henry D. Lloyd, Robert H. Cowdrey, Franklin McVeagh, Melville E. Stone, Prof. E. W. Bemis, and others.

Miss Adams is the originator, the moving directing spirit in all this work. Her remedy for uplifting the masses is: "Give them the best you have." In the closing paragraph of a recent newspaper article she says: "I should like to make it clear that we might as well expect the granite tower of the great Chicago Auditorium to float in mid-air without the substructure to uphold it and to give it a reason for being, as to hope for any uplift in our civilization without the underpinning and support of the masses. Underneath they certainly are, but they are as much bigger and more important than the top as the mighty structure of the Auditorium, filled with all manner of activity and with great swells of music at its heart, is bigger and more important than the meager spaces of the elevated tower. I should like to add that the good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain—is floating in mid-air—until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life; that no man, whatever his genius or his organizing ability, can hope to permanently uplift himself or his followers unless with them he uplifts the masses."

Uplifting the masses is all right, but it would be much better to put a stop to the beastly struggle which crowds them down. There are tens of thousands in this city all the time out of work, fighting for positions and the low wages which enable capitalists to rake off dividends for idle and scheming stockholders. If it weren't for the political pull of the money power all the men could be provided work by the government, building tenements for the poor, which could be rented at cost of keeping them in repair. The government should also provide capital for manufacturing that should draw no dividends for the idle and wasteful, burdensome rich class. I want to say before closing that the Nebraska legislature has done nobly. Three cheers for the Nebraska populists who have tracked the political robbers to their dens, and put a bridge between the teeth of the railroads. I shall have something to say about the World's Fair next time. GEORGE HOWARD GIBSON.

Turning the Tables. In Worthington's Magazine for April there is a very able article in the "Shakespeare-Bacon controversy," by Arthur Dudley Vinton, entitled "Did Shakespeare Write Bacon's Works?" Mr. Vinton's theory is ingenious, plausible, and well sustained, leaving in the mind of the careful reader the feeling that such evidence and arguments as are here presented are such as to render it extremely probable, at least, that Shakespeare and not Bacon was the author of the essays, the unfinished Novum Organum, and all the rest of the Baconian theories and philosophies.

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WHAT THE LEGISLATURE DID

For the State University Discussed by Chancellor Canfield.

In the college paper, known as the Hesperian, of April 15, Chancellor Canfield tells what the legislature did for the State University.

His statement should set forever at rest the silly partisan cry set up by some republican papers that the independents had acted in a niggardly manner toward the university.

So many students are asking what the legislature did for the University, that it seems proper to explain its action through one of the University papers.

The most important legislation was that which gave the University its entire revenues—about \$231,000—in two "lump" sums; one for salaries and wages, and one for current and incidental expenses. This form of appropriation leaves the Regents free to use the utmost economy and financial skill; and is a great advance over the old method of granting specific amounts for specific purposes. Not even the Regents could determine for a coming biennium how resources could be most wisely expended—much less, the legislature.

The usual "formal" bills were passed without hesitation. These are made necessary by a somewhat peculiar construction of our state constitution. They appropriate the matriculation fees for library purposes, the law fees for the support of the college of law, and the (general government) Morrill fund for the use of the Industrial college.

Statutes were also passed admitting the graduates of the college of law to practice, without further examination; and making the library of the college of law a depository for the reports of the supreme court. Both these acts will be very helpful to this growing branch of university work.

By a special statute, the botanist, geologist, chemist, and entomologist of the university become the acting state botanist, acting state geologist, acting state chemist, and acting state entomologist. This is a peculiarly gratifying recognition, ensures the state most skilled service in the respective departments, and makes possible definite state surveys in the several lines indicated.

It was a great disappointment not to receive the \$100,000 asked for the library building and building for further instruction in mechanic arts. But the legislature was put under peculiarly strong pressure by all parties, and by both the retiring and incoming governors to exercise most rigid economy, and to reduce expenditures to the lowest living point. Its action, or lack of action, in these matters cannot, therefore, be construed as unfriendly to the institution.

During the entire session, there was not a harsh word or unfriendly criticism or hostile act on the part of the legislature, or on the part of any member—with two exceptions. The utter ignorance of one and the stupid and stolid opposition of the other deprived their words of any weight whatever; and simply led other members to apologize for such exhibitions of obstinacy and unintelligence on the part of those unwisely called "representatives."

Except as the session is remembered with pleasure it is already of the past; and the university authorities are already planning for the fifteen hundred students of the next academic year.

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