



During the month of May many sensational newspaper reports were published regarding a lack of harmony in the management of the World's Columbian Exposition. Judging by many inquiries that have been received in Chicago, it would seem as though many people who contemplated visiting the Exposition had become imbued with the idea that the Exposition had been much neglected in order that these official differences might receive all public attention. A great deal more is known in the outside world about these differences than is heard in Chicago; in fact, they attract no attention in Chicago, being entirely overshadowed by the magnificence of the Exposition. If any troubles exist they are, doubtless, due to the complicated nature of the management. It has been quite impossible from the first to know where authority rested and to whom officials were responsible. The national commission has felt that it was final authority, as it represented the government; but the directors have considered that they should have final say, because of the fact that they represent the corporation which put up the greater part of the money to pay the bills of the Exposition.

By far the most attractive feature, of late, at the Exposition, has been the evening sessions, when the grounds and buildings were illuminated. The full scheme of illumination has not been carried out, although it has been promised on one or two occasions, and had it not been for these promises the illuminating as given would have been more than satisfactory. The Basin forms a center around which all the illuminating is done, although many people seem to have been taken with the idea that the whole grounds would be illuminated on the same plan. The cornices of all the buildings facing the Basin are outlined with incandescent lamps, and the nosing of the walls forming the side of the Basin and adjoining waterways is also outlined with these lamps. The great Columbus arch in the Peristyle is made brilliant with red lights, while at the opposite end of the Basin stands the Administration building, which is a mass of illumination with lights on the cornices and on the ribs of the dome. On the colonnade story are torches on each of the four faces, which add much to the effect with their flare and flicker. Owing to a mistake in the arrangements of the electrical fountains, it has not been possible, as yet, to use them. This is not because of any fault in the electrical equipment, but to a mistake in the hydraulic arrangement. Every evening that the Exposition has been open the attendance has been much larger than during any day with the exception of the opening day on May 1.

Several attractive features of the Exposition were much delayed in opening to the public. The Streets of Cairo, the Irish Village, and other attractions in Midway Plaisance did not open to the public until the last week in May, while inside the Exposition grounds some of the German, also the French, Italian and other exhibits, were delayed in opening. The Electrical building was not formally opened to the public until the first of June, although visitors had had free access to the building, and were permitted to see it in its unfinished state.

A corps of official guides has been provided to pilot visitors about the Exposition grounds. The grounds are so immense and there are so many buildings that it is bewildering to visitors who are not thoroughly posted to find their way about. One difficulty that has been experienced all along has been the fact that the Columbian guards have known nothing about the several buildings in the grounds, so that as guides they have been useless, and visitors who have not learned to make their way about have found it impossible to locate some of the most attractive exhibits without loss of time. The guides are intended to be thoroughly posted, not only upon the general plan of the grounds, but also upon matters pertaining to the exhibits, so that they may be of practical use to visitors who wish to make a study in any direction or in any particular line of exhibits.

The last Sunday in May will be a memorable one in the history of the Exposition, as it was the first Sunday upon which the grounds were thrown open to the public. If the question of Sunday opening had been one for the local directory to pass final judgment upon, the grounds would have been open every Sunday. The question was not sufficiently settled until the 24th day of the month, when the national commission, which was the last body to consider the question, voted for Sunday opening. The result proved in every way all that had been hoped for by the friends of Sunday

opening. The attendance was the largest of any day up to that date with the exception of the opening day on May 1st. It was not until about one o'clock that there was any semblance to a crowd inside the gates. During the early part of the day, when church services were being held, the grounds were practically deserted, but by one o'clock visitors were pouring in from all directions, and before night at least one hundred thousand people had paid admission, to say nothing of the number of passes that were used. The people seemed to comprise very largely those who were not able to visit the grounds during the week. Family parties were in the majority, and a large portion of the people carried lunch, with the evident purpose of reaping the full benefit of the long day, as the Exposition was open until eleven o'clock in the evening. One of the interesting sights of the day was to see the many nationalities represented. Thousands of Germans visited the German village in Midway Plaisance, the German government building, and the several German exhibits. Swedes and Norwegians seemed to visit their respective buildings and exhibits, and many Irishmen visited the two Irish concessions. Chinamen were in abundance in the Chinese theater. The main center of attraction, judging by the size of the crowd, was the Midway Plaisance, which was jammed with people from early in the afternoon until nearly eleven o'clock in the evening. The bazars were all opened to the public, and did a large business.

In the main Exposition grounds the Government building was closed, and no machinery was running in the Palace of Mechanic Arts. Many of the State buildings were open, as were also foreign government buildings. The Gallery of Fine Arts was very popular and was densely crowded. The Manufactures and Liberal Arts building was nearly as popular as the Gallery of Fine Arts. Most of the exhibits were thrown open. A few, however, were closed. The illumination in the evening was the first one that many of the visitors had seen, and was more fully appreciated probably than any illumination that had been held since the Exposition was opened. A large part of the power plant was required to be in operation because of the illumination, and visitors thronged Machinery Hall, watching the great electrical engines. The day was beautiful and the crowd was orderly in every respect, there being less trouble than there had been on most week days during the month. Just outside of the grounds saloons and fakir shows in great variety were in full operation and used every effort to attract the crowd, but business, to use the expression of the managers of the fakir shows, was "bum." On previous Sundays thousands of people had haunted these shows and saloons, and the lawlessness and drunkenness resulting was quite appalling.

The Midway Plaisance is one of the features of the Exposition that has not been appreciated by early visitors at the Exposition. Many people have not even taken the trouble to investigate to see what its attractions are. It is a part of the Exposition, so far as the admission is concerned. The SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of May 27 contained a full list of the more important of the concessions, but no idea of the real interest there is in many of them can be conveyed in words. Certain it is that visitors who neglect to see what there is in the Midway Plaisance make a mistake.

Much fine music has been rendered at the Exposition, but has not been fully appreciated by the public, although the band concerts in the open air have been well attended. Music Hall has been used almost daily since the Exposition was opened, but because of the comparatively small attendance at the Exposition, and probably because of the chilly weather, the attendance has been small. In addition to concerts, in which an admission is charged, free concerts are given each day in this hall at noon. These concerts are orchestral. Band concerts are given daily in the open air from the band stands in front of the Administration building. The more important musical gatherings are held in Festival Hall. This building was erected for this special purpose, and was formally opened on May 22 with a Wagner's programme, the day being the anniversary of the great composer's birth. The best week of music was that held during the last week in May. The special feature for the week included three chamber concerts, two oratorio performances and three symphony concerts in addition to the regular daily programme.

The Public Press Congress, the second of the series in connection with the World's Congress Auxiliary of the Exposition, opened on Monday, May 22, and continued for a week with several meetings every day. Representatives were present from nearly every nation in the world. Woman's work in the newspaper world received its full share of attention, and all lines of journalism were discussed, including trade journalism, the religious press, etc. Many interesting papers were read by well known newspaper workers and much attention was shown those in attendance at the congress both in the city and at the Exposition. Resolutions were unanimously passed pronouncing the charges of extortions in the city of Chicago as unfounded; de-

claring that the "public can attend the world's greatest Exposition at a reasonable cost;" and calling upon the press of the country to make known the rights of the people for cheaper rates to the Exposition.

African Exploration.

M. Delcommune, who, with his surviving companions, has just arrived in Belgium, has issued a summary of his discoveries. The *London Times* says they complete those of Livingstone, Cameron, and Stanley to the north, and of Reichardt, Capello, and Ivens to the south, comprising as they do the sources of the Congo and the course of its principal affluents.

The Congo issues from a chain of mountains, which extends from the shores of the southern extremity of the Tanganyika Lake to the extreme north of the Nyassa. It forms in those countries a river called the Tchambesi, discovered in the course of the last century by a Portuguese traveler, Lacerda, and forms the chief affluent of Lake Banguelo. The waters of the Banguelo descend from a height of 1,100 meters into Lake Moero, 900 meters above the level of the sea, by means of the River Luapala, 300 kilometers long, which is a succession of rapids. The Moero constitutes a second reservoir, and sends forth a stream 800 meters broad, which reaches the village of Ankorro by a series of waterfalls. At this point it becomes navigable, receiving upon its western bank the Lualaba, also navigable, whose waters have been swollen in their turn by the Lunga and the Lovoi on the western, the Lufira on the eastern bank, and by the discharge of the Lakes Kabele, Upemba, and Kassali.

Between the 8th and 9th degrees of latitude, the Congo receives on the right the Lukuga, which draws off the overflow of Lake Tanganyika, as described by Cameron and Stanley. M. Delcommune confirms the assertions of these explorers, that the Lukuga is an unimportant waterway, as its course is obstructed and only flows freely when the waters of the Tanganyika are exceptionally high. The Luapala, on the contrary, empties Lake Banguelo, which was formerly an inland sea, but is now bordered by vast swamps. When the Congo finally reaches Nyangwe it measures some 1,200 meters from bank to bank. Lake Landji, though marked on the maps according to the reports of the Arabs, has no existence.

M. Delcommune left Albertville, on the Tanganyika, on September 29, and arrived at Lusambo on January 7, after M. Dhanis' victory. He was rejoined at Lusambo by the Bia expedition. The country which he traversed with his caravan of 112 persons is good. He did not suffer from famine, as in the south, nor did any Arabs cross his path.

A telegram has been received from Boma by the Congo companies, reporting the death of M. Van den Kerckhoven, the leader of the Lalo expedition.

Letters from the son of Tippoo Tib confirm the report of the death of Emin Pasha, who is represented to have been killed fighting, as well as all his people.

A Life Saving Exhibit at the Fair.

Besides the exhibits of all the latest life-saving apparatus contained in the new station at the world's fair, there are several exhibits of older appliances which have interesting histories. Among them is the first life car ever used on the coast of the United States, and with it the mortar and ball which are the necessary adjuncts to such work. With this apparatus, in 1850, a life-saving crew on Squan beach, New Jersey, saved 250 lives from the wrecked British ship *Ayrshire*. The passengers were mostly Irish immigrants, some of whom settled in the immediate neighborhood, and it was from them that Lieutenant McClellan, of the revenue marine service, who is in charge of the station, got the story which he tells about the relics. The shot, which weighs twenty-five pounds, struck the deck and bounded down one of the hatches, striking a woman between the shoulders, but doing her no injury beyond giving her a great scare. In the excitement attending the rescue the ball was detached from the line which it carried to the ship when fired out of the mortar. The hulk settled in the sand, and, like all such incidents, the wreck was soon forgotten. In 1875, twenty-five years after, a heavy gale set up a current in another direction and the sand was washed away, and once more the hull of the *Ayrshire* came to view. A party of wreckers going through the ship's hold came across the old rusted cannon ball. Its presence excited no little comment among the wreckers, and when they went ashore they told their story of the strange find in the hold of the *Ayrshire*. There were some of the people who came over in the ill-starred ship still living in the neighborhood and they soon explained the presence of the big twenty-four-pound cannon ball. It was sent to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, where, with the curious-looking old mortar and the life car, it has since remained. Only one life was lost in the rescue of the passengers and crew of the *Ayrshire*. It was that of a man who became too impatient to wait for his turn to go inside the car and insisted on going ashore on the outside. A heavy wave turned the car over and he was washed off and drowned.