CHICAGO

Her History and Her Adornment

by

Mabel McIlvaine

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Illustrations sketched from figurines and relics of The Chicago Historical Society

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Original Americans

Spanish jewels and a San Domingo domicile

THE jewels of a woman and the courage of a man accomplished the discovery of America. Once discovered, some one had to "hold down the ground." To this task the father-in-law, and we trust the mother-in-law, of Columbus addressed themselves, setting up a homestead on the island of San Domingo.

A San Domingan and Chicago's "Early Colonial" period

The doors of that dwelling are now in Chicago at the heart of the continent (displayed in the Chicago Historical Society) and strange to say it was a native of that same island of San Domingo who essayed the task of "holding down the ground" in Chicago. Here he lodged at the head of the sand spit that jutted out from the north bank of the river, built him a cabin, and set up business as a fur trader about the year 1779. His name, very appropriately, was Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, or "Sandy Point." It is said that he was tall and handsome, if somewhat dusky of skin.

Where trails and waters meet

Now there were footprints on those sands before this Sheik of Sandy Point arrived. Who shall number those moccasin-clad feet that had softly trodden those trails leading to this meeting place of the waters—the watershed of the continent—or count the canoes that had slipped silently through the Chicago River toward the setting sun?

The French Voyageurs

There were other passers-by—many of them—gentle Marquette and sturdy Joliet in 1673-4, mapping the waters as they went, toiling across the portage, wintering in its vicinity, messengers of peace and good-will—La Salle, that great business man, passing to and from

his colony on the Illinois in 1679-83, discerning its possibilities, pausing at "Checagou" on September 1, 1683, to address a letter to Tonty of the iron hand at Starved Rock, bidding him to hold the fort while he betook himself to France on an errand of publicity and promotion.

Under Three Flags

The King of France did not grasp his opportunity in America quite as firmly as did the King of England. Even after the Revolution the latter was maneuvering for empire in the West. Control of the waterways was essential, and Mad Anthony Wayne, in conference with Washington, is said to have put his finger on the map at the point where the Chicago river joins Lake Michigan as the key to the continent and the natural site of its commercial metropolis.

Fort Dearborn founded, 1803

In 1803 President Jefferson thought fit, as part of an extended program of fort building, to order the erection of a log fort at what is now the south abutment of the Michigan Boulevard bridge. The fact that that bridge is said to carry more traffic than any other in the world would seem to justify Wayne's prophecy. The fort was named Fort Dearborn in honor of General Henry Dearborn, then Secretary of War, sometimes called "Father Dearborn."

Our First Community Center

What that fort meant to the few inhabitants of the Chicago region may be imagined when it is known that at the firing of a gun by the Kinzies on the north side of the river, everybody from far and wide would scurry for the fort. An old lady who was one to take refuge there in its Indian days, told the writer that sometimes,

1800-1837

Mrs. John Kinzie, Mrs. Gurdon S. Hubbard, Mrs. Mark Beaubien and Emily

just for the fun of getting the inhabitants together, the gun would be fired when no Indians were abroad, and then they would have a grand jollification at the fort, which was their community center. On one of these occasions a man—mercifully unnamed—took refuge in the chimney, and when they built up a roaring fire, had to drop down in their midst, a grimy and chagrined victim of the false alarm.

The Fort Dearborn Massacre, 1812

But it was not always false alarm. In the year 1812, as Great Britain was trying to renew her grip on "the colonies," the Indians were incited to take this fort. Had the inhabitants remained inside they might have held out until reinforced, but through some ill-advised order, they marched out, garrison and all, and more than half were slaughtered on the lake shore.

Wedding Gifts of the Empire period

A tiny trunk containing the trousseau and wedding presents of Rebecca Heald, wife of the Commandant of the fort, seized by the Indians, was returned to the Healds some years later by friends in St. Louis, and lo! like a silver lining to the dark cloud through which they had passed, they found therein their large soup ladle and set of teaspoons, delicately wrought in silver, with the "bridal comb" of tortoise-shell and gold, crowning ornament of the costume of this time, which was really that of "The Empire." These relics are now displayed in the Chicago Historical Society, together with the little octagonal breast pin habitually worn by Mrs. Heald, the sword of the Commandant, and the silver knee buckles of Captain William Wells, mute witnesses of the horrors of the Fort Dearborn massacre and the

enduring powers of silver and gold as mementos of historic events.

End of Military rule

Rebuilt in 1816, Fort Dearborn remained garrisoned until 1835.

Eleanor Kinzie, Lady of the Land

Those far-flung jewels of Isabella—how their light flashed out when, on the threshold of a new century, with only the protection of this little frontier fort, John Kinzie brought his fair young wife with him into this wilderness! A beautiful woman, refined and intelligent enough to have graced any circle in the land, Eleanor Kinzie was indeed a jewel in a rough setting.

John Kinzie, Laird o' the Manor, and first permanent resident of Chicago

The only dwelling house available for purchase was that of Point du Sable, who, like the drifting sands for which he was named, had already moved on. Kinzie bought it, with the four poplar trees in front of it, and thus became the Laird of Chicago's traditional manor house. His neighbors, Le Mai and Ouilmette, with a few others, chiefly of French extraction, were minded to take up landed estates northward, and thus to Kinzie, who remained here until his death in 1828, belongs the honor of being the first permanent white resident. A genial Scotchman, a silversmith and a fiddler, Kinzie was also Indian agent and a fur trader, very fair in his dealing with the natives. At the time of the Fort Dearborn massacre, his life and the lives of his family were spared, and they returned to their former dwelling in 1816 and continued to "hold down the ground."

Gurdon Hubbard, guest at the Kinzie home, 1818

This little mansion, which was one of the first things a traveler would see, coming in at the river's mouth,

was a very hospitable one, so much so that it was sometimes mistaken for an inn, to the great amusement of the Kinzies, who once boarded an Englishman for a week without his discovering his mistake. Gurdon Hubbard, who, as a young lad in the employ of the American Fur Company, came to Chicago in 1818, upon sitting down at the table in the Kinzie home, was so overcome by the sight of a lady—he had parted with his mother some months before and seen no women since—that he burst into tears and had to leave the table. Only the exquisite perception and kindness of Mrs. Kinzie rescued him from his confusion.

Enter!—The American Fur Company

The headquarters of the American Fur Company in the West were at Mackinaw, and it was in "Mackinaw boats"—large open rowboats—that Gurdon Hubbard and his comrades came down the lake to Chicago all through the twenties. Imagine the stir in the little frontier settlement when "the brigade" would arrive, singing their boat songs, and all oars in the air by way of salute!

Ingratiating "gew-gaws"

And their wares! blankets and calico, ribbon and "gew-gaws" for the Indians, with perhaps some silks and laces for the ladies at the fort and thereabout. Speaking of "gew-gaws," how much of America do we not owe to the ingratiating influence upon the savage breast of, say, a bangle bracelet?

Trinkets for Territory

Clad in her "one-piece" of soft doe-skin with her beautifully beaded moccasins, the Indian maiden cast envious eyes at the glittering metallic ornaments of the

Trunk and Silver of Rebecca Heald

white "squaw," and what were a few square miles of prairie land compared to the pleasure of gratifying this desire to be beautiful? Nor was this desire confined to the female heart. Many an Indian brave who had hitherto felt sufficiently adorned with a necklace of bear's claws must now have armlets of silver and brass and would trade off a tract of land for a set of little bells with which to trim his trousers.

Chicago's center of barter and exchange

It had been the custom to meet the natives at "The Forks," where the north and south branches unite, for this was the "business center" in that day of barter and exchange. Then the brigade would move on to make connections with their customers on the Illinois. Gurdon Hubbard, having experienced the joys of wading waist-deep through Mud Lake or going around by way of the Kankakee river, devised the scheme of scuttling his boats in the South Branch of the Chicago river, and getting his goods to market on pack-horses. It is said that he could outwalk or outrun any Indian, and if our infant community moved at a rapid rate, it is perhaps because it had "Pa-pa-ma-ta-be" or "The Swift Walker" as the pace-maker. It is largely to him that we owe the setting aside by the United States of lands for the Illinois and Michigan Canal in the twenties.

Eliza Chappell and "the little log schoolhouse"

A "close-up" of Chicago in about 1833 would have revealed a village consisting of one street—South Water Street—and a few scattered houses, having at the corner of State Street a log schoolhouse—sacred symbol of advancing civilization. So close is Chicago of the present to that stage of our progress that the story of that

1837-1855
Mrs. John C. Williams, Mrs. Nellie Kinzie Gordon, Mrs. E. W. Blatchford

schoolhouse was obtained by word of mouth from one of the pupils who attended it. That pupil was Emily Beaubien Lebeau, who, at the age of ninety, recalled the lovely school mistress, Miss Eliza Chappell, and many of her little schoolmates who lived in the fort.

Mark Beaubien host of "The Sauganash"

Mark Beaubien, the father of Emily, came to Chicago in 1826. Becoming speedily a landed proprietor, he further aided and abetted business by keeping an hotel —at first called "The Eagle Exchange," later "The Sauganash." From the windows of "The Sauganash," Emily, at the age of seven, witnessed the paying off of the Pottawatomie Indians. The money, silver half-dollars, in wooden cases, was piled up around the walls of the Sauganash. General Lewis Cass—a very large and pompous man—was in charge, with his nephew as bodyguard. Asked if he was not afraid the Indians would rush in and take the money that night, he said, "Oh, no, I'm not afraid: I have my pistol."

A cruel hoax on a gallant officer

That night the little girl and her mother were frightened by Indians who came to the door and demanded admittance through the little lean-to where the family slept. The intruders were really Robert Kinzie and some young white bloods, dressed as Indians. Stealing into the General's quarters, they suddenly raised a war-cry and began to dance about the room, pounding on the boxes with tomahawks and demanding the money. At last, when they were tired of dancing, Robert raised the valance about the high bedstead, and there underneath was the brave General, with his nephew, safe and sound, leaving Uncle Sam's money to take care of itself.

The Indians go West

The next day a real war dance was executed by the Indians fearfully arrayed in half-savage, half-civilized garb. The final payment took place in 1835, when the Indians left their happy hunting grounds this side the Mississippi and went West. This may be said to have closed our primitive period in Chicago.

Chicago doing "a land office business"

As entrepôt for the vast movement westward which took place immediately upon the vacating of the Indian lands, Chicago set up a land office and became the center for one of the wildest "land crazes" in history. People came on foot and on horseback, by carriage and covered wagon, by stage and by steamer. The Sauganash was so crowded that the host bragged of passing his blankets from bed to bed, as his guests fell asleep and new ones arrived. His rival of the "Green Tree Tavern," west of the river, after squeezing as many people into one room as possible, put the remainder on mattresses laid out on the prairie. "Long John" Wentworth, a gawky lad, arrived with his shoes in his hand and his clothes in a blue checked handkerchief, according to Emily Beaubien, who saw him. Emily Twogood —afterwards her bosom friend—came with her father and mother in an open barouche all the way from New York state. Invited to a party that night, she could with difficulty be persuaded to climb a ladder up to the loft where the ladies' dressing-room was located and put on her pink satin dress. Such was the cordiality of the people, however, that she soon was dancing with the merriest, afterwards married one of "those people" and lived on the site of Marshall Field's store at State and Washington Streets.

Bonnets and the brig Illinois, 1835

But we are getting ahead of our story. A mutual friend of the two Emily's, Fernando Jones—or "Fernandy", as they called him—came with his father on the brig *Illinois* in the year 1835. For many years he was our favorite "oldest inhabitant," able to confirm land titles from the ground up and by memory alone. Abram Gale and his wife—the latter a stylish milliner from New York—arrived on the same steamer. Think of the bonnets that she must have had stowed in the hold! Meeting a man of lofty stature and serene countenance in the big warehouse where they were ushered on landing, they asked who he was, and he proved to be Gurdon Hubbard, who by that time was the owner of the warehouse and a permanent resident of Chicago.

Breast pins and corporate life begin, 1837

It is said that the best way of establishing the era of civilization represented by finds in ancient Rome is by noting the kind of "fibulae" or safety pins found along with them. These, having been thoroughly classed, serve to indicate the antiquity of the undated finds. If so, then the period at which Chicago passed from semi-savage conditions to "the civilization and refinement of the provinces" might be determined by the fact that in 1837 breast pins and watches could be bought at a certain little frame building at No. 155½ Lake Street, where Elijah Peacock—a man of somewhat similar mold to that of Chicago's first mayor, William B. Ogden—had established his jewelry store in the very year that Chicago was incorporated as a city.

The Prophet of the House of Peacock

"Elijah Peacock" (wrote E. O. Gale in 1902, in his "Reminiscences of Early Chicago") "came here in 1837

Observing the Coffee rite in the '30's

and engaged in his trade of jewelry and watch repairer, a calling that had already descended through three generations, following the English custom, and which his son Charles (C. D.), who was born in 1838, and who has been one of our leading men in that line, tells me will be continued indefinitely, as his mantle is slipping from his shoulders onto his sons."

Early utensils afforded the housewife

Now, of course, there were other things than jewelry needed in this new country, and one can picture the pleasures of the housewife, torn away from the comforts of the old homestead down East, at being enabled, through the House of Peacock, to set her table with a Sheratonian tea service or a Boardman coffee set, not to mention the soup toureens, hot-water dishes, ewers, basins, trays and candlesticks needed throughout the home.

Watches increase efficiency

Men's watches at this time were largely imported from Europe, and Chicago's efficiency must have been quickened not a little by the ability on the part of "the man in the street" to produce from his waistcoat one of these neat gold or silver case time pieces rather than wait to know the time until he could refer to the "grandfather's clock" that stood in the hall at home.

Records a Roll of Fame

From that time on, the record books of the House of Peacock became a veritable "Who's Who" of Chicago in all her different stages of city-hood. The following are only a few of the notable names of the early day that appear on their pages: Augustus Harris Burley, founder of the famous glass and china house; Philo

Carpenter and Silas Cobb—eligible bachelors of the thirties—who bought wedding rings for the beautiful Warren twins, and afterwards held down considerable ground on the West Side; Arthur Dixon, whose heavy hoisting machinery literally pulled Chicago out of the mud; John B. Drake, host of the Tremont House (whose sons "carry on" at the Drake and the Blackstone); "Long John" Wentworth, who, as representative in Congress, helped to carry the fame of Chicago to the world at large; Cyrus H. McCormick, inventor of the Reaper, and George M. Pullman, inventor of the Sleeping Car; Potter Palmer and succeeding merchant princes, Marshall Field and L. Z. Leiter . . . . .

The Panic of '37

But there, we are getting ahead of our story again, and must come back to Chicago of the '30's. The inrush of investors in land—at a dollar and a quarter an acre—caused everybody who had a dollar and a quarter to lay it out in land, and the country became "land poor." Front footage finally sold for $100 during this time, but "paper town" property that never existed was also sold, and fortunes that had been made were lost. The panic of '37 ensued.

Stability restored upon character

Stability and permanence—these were the qualities that Chicago most needed at this time, and for these the founder of the House of Peacock and his successors have stood throughout her somewhat stormy career. It is such men as Elijah Peacock and William B. Ogden, of whom the words of Burns are true, "The man's the gowd for a' that."

Period of the Forties

The tide of trade rolls onward

The growth of Chicago's business district in the '40's is indicated by the fact that, whereas in 1843 Peacock's jewelry store had moved from 155½ to 195 Lake Street, by 1849 it was found at 199 Randolph Street, a sure sign that thither the tide of trade had turned.

The passing of primitive agriculture and transportation

While this noting of the movement of the business district, and of Peacock's with it, may seem dry detail of interest to the statistician only, if one read between the lines, it will be understood how vital to the young recruit among cities was the maintenance of taste in dress and adornment to keep pace with her overwhelming advance in other directions. To understand what is meant, one need only remember that between these two dates, 1843-1849, the Chicago region round about had passed out of the era of primitive agriculture and stage coach transportation only, into that of "the iron horse" and "mechanical man," otherwise of railroads and reapers.

The Reaper and the Railroad

On the very site where stood Chicago's first homestead, the du Sable and Kinzie cabin, in 1845 was erected the great McCormick Reaper factory—the reaper that was to revolutionize agriculture throughout the world. Cyrus H. McCormick, having secured his patents, chose Chicago as his base of operations, and entered into partnership with William B. Ogden, who at that time was earnestly working for railroads to replace plank roads. By 1848 there were ten miles of railroad, leading from the factory on Kinzie Street out

Emily Beaubien—A Debutante of the '40's

over the prairie to Des Plaines, nucleus of the Northwestern Railroad system. Thus was the "mechanical man" met by "the iron horse," and the development of the great West begun.

Chicago's first theater

Progress was not all mechanical, however. On June 28, 1847, John B. Rice's theater—a frame building forty by eighty feet—was opened at the corner of Dearborn and Randolph Streets; Dan Marble was the star, and the *Journal* of July 1 observes: "We notice a large number of ladies—the beauty and fashion of the city—in nightly attendance."

Chignons and sapphires

Blessed be "the beauty and fashion of the city"! In an era when the minds of men were engrossed with rival reapers, "colossal railroad mergers," or "the iron horse vs. the stage coach" was it not well to let the *fancy* rest for a while, not only on Shakespeare but on *chignons* caught up with jet ornaments, or fair necks encircled with garnets or sapphires?

Hamlet and Othello

In August of that year appeared John E. Murdoch in "Hamlet," and in May James H. McVicker; Edwin Forest following in June in "Othello," and Junius Brutus Booth in the heavier Shakespearian roles in September. The question is, could we put on a better dramatic season nowadays?

Concerts and Curios

Counter attractions were concerts at the Saloon Building (not what its name implies), General Tom Thumb at the Court House, and David Kennison, aged 112, the last survivor of the Boston Tea Party at Mooney's Museum, 73 Lake Street.

A débutante of the '40's

Brilliant social events in Chicago of the '40's took place quite frequently at the Lake House, at Rush Street and the river. Here it was that Emily Beaubien, by that time a young lady, made her début. At ninety she recalled the scene. She said that she was blue-eyed and blonde, her hair done in ringlets, with a wreath of roses around it, and that her dress was low-necked and sleeveless, with a full skirt ruffled from waist to hem. As she entered the room, the center of all eyes, her first impression was of a dazzling blaze of light. It seems that the management had placed around the walls, wooden brackets from which flashed, as she put it, "a myriad of candles." At first her head swam, and she closed her eyes; then—and here she exhibited her good Chicago common sense—she steadied herself with the thought, "What a dreadful waste of candles."

First telegram and founding of Board of Trade

Chicago and Milwaukee first got into telegraphic communication on January 15, 1848, and by April 6 Chicago had received her first through message from the East. Imagine the state of mind of a people whose mail matter had been anywhere from a week to a month in reaching them from New York, finding that they could "outrun the wind" with words! The Chicago Board of Trade held its first meeting in April, 1848, and at its first annual meeting in 1849, appointed a committee to confer with the telegraphic companies on the possibilities of daily market reports.

When "West" became "East"

In the year 1849 the "California fever" began to rage in Chicago. The makers of covered wagons worked overtime. Revolvers went up fifty per cent in price, Mack-

inaw blankets were literally "out of sight," and salt provisions "lamentably scarce." The first two expeditions were fitted out and started March 29, 1849, and from that time on many names of early citizens disappeared from the annals of Chicago to reappear in those of California. In other words we had done our bit in "opening up the West," and we were now "The East" to those folks!

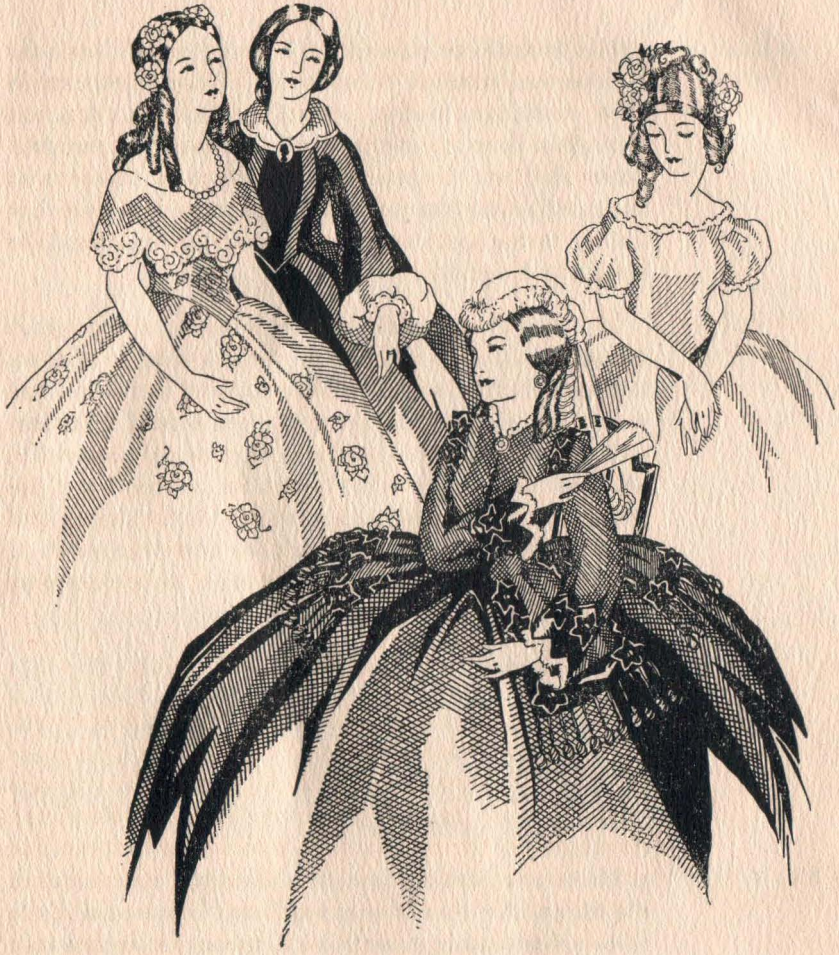
Outdoing Noah and the Ark

To top off with, and just to keep things going, in 1849, Chicago had a flood in which the river tried to engulf the land, cast great ships high up our shore, and did a deal of damage apparently, but which, in reality, only served to make our name more widely known as the city that "never did things by halves," and the people who, standing with one foot in the water and one on land, succeeded in "holding down the ground" and forming as it were a living island of refuge between the two oceans.

The Fifties

Trains, trestles and artillery

Another link was added to the Queen's necklace binding us to the Atlantic seaboard when, in 1852, trains of the Illinois Central and the Michigan Central railroads began to come in at the former's depot at Randolph Street, while the first through trains over a trunk line were entering the city via the Michigan Southern and were greeted with a salvo of artillery. The tracks of the Illinois Central, being laid on a trestle out in the lake as they entered the city, visitors arriving in rough weather were apt to be greeted with an involuntary bath.



1855-1865

Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, Mrs. Robert W. Patterson, Mrs. N. H. Brown, Mrs. Edwin Booth

All aboard for Liverpool!

The first direct clearance by boat from Chicago for Europe was made by the steamer *Dean Richmond* in 1856, carrying a load of grain for Liverpool. A noted arrival of July 14, 1857, from Liverpool was the *Madeira Pet*, which entered the Chicago River and anchored at the North pier. At that time it is said that Chicago's harbor was like a forest for the masts of vessels and our lake tonnage was enormous.

Patti and Ole Bull

Meanwhile, what of the "refinements of the provinces?" Well, we had our first opera season in 1850, at Rice's theater, with Manvers, Lippert and Brienti as stars. The piece for the opening night was "La Sonambula," and everything was going along peacefully, when, as the curtain was rising on the second set, the place took fire and burned to the ground. That was a trifle discouraging, but by 1853 we had Adelina Patti and Ole Bull in Tremont Music Hall, with tickets at one and two dollars, to be very metropolitan.

Jewelry keeps pace

Jewelry was, of course, in great demand. The fact that the House of Peacock had moved from Lake Street to larger quarters on Randolph at number 205, where it remained from 1854 to 1859, when it again moved southward, shows the trend of trade, as well as the progress of our people in the amenities of life.

What they wore

There was nothing random about "the amenities" in the fifties. A "man of standing" was expected to have three golden studs down his shirt front, a large watch fob, and a gold-headed cane. His wife must wear something "neat but not gaudy" in the way of a brooch to

fasten a bit of lace about her throat in the daytime (with earrings to match), and a "cluster" of pearls or diamonds at her breast in the evening. Where there had been a death in the family she might substitute jet or a breast pin and earrings made of the hair of the departed, mounted in gold, and sometimes set round with pearls.

The war cloud begins to lower

The year 1857 marks the entrance of a new era in Chicago, the era of strong political feeling, when theatrical performances were preceded by the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner," and speakers were mobbed that were giving voice to pro-slavery sentiments. "The Little Giant," long a popular idol, had been forced from the platform in '54 for his compromise measures, and "Long John" Wentworth, a Republican-Fusionist, was elected Mayor of Chicago on an Abolishionist ticket.

"Long John" and the Ellsworth Zouaves

One of the popular diversions of "Long John"—who was nearly seven feet in height and wore a tall "stovepipe" hat—was to stand on the steps of the Court House and harangue the Chicago Light Artillery. Others did their speechifying in the newly erected Bryan's Hall or McVicker's theater, with an occasional solo from Jules or Frank Lumbard by way of stimulus. Great enthusiasm was evoked by the evolutions of the Ellsworth Zouaves, a unique Chicago organization under Elmer E. Ellsworth. They used to perform in front of the Tremont House and in 1859 toured the country with tremendous success. Little did they think that their skill in bayonet practice and in scaling walls and the like

athletic exercise was one day to make them drill masters for the United States Army.

The Lincoln-Douglas debates

From a balcony of the Tremont House in 1858, took place the speeches preliminary to the Lincoln-Douglas debates, those debates which were to change the fate of the country from disintegration to a closer bond of union.

The Sixties

Lincoln nominated for President, 1860

The great event of the '60's—probably the greatest of our history thus far—was the nomination of Abraham Lincoln for President of the United States, the nomination taking place in "The Wigwam," a large frame building on the site of the old Sauganash Hotel at Lake and Market Streets.

Chicago in the war for the Union

When it came to Lincoln's inauguration, it was young Ellsworth of Chicago, by that time a student in his law office, who accompanied him to Washington as his bodyguard. It was young Ellsworth of Chicago who, at the head of the New York Fire Zouaves, which he organized, was the first officer killed in the Civil War, falling in a gallant attempt to haul down a rebel flag in Alexandria. It was a regiment from Chicago that began the first official action of the Civil War, at Cairo, Ill., key to the control of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Chicago furnished more than its quota of troops and did its bit, as might have been expected. Women were called into prominence as nurses—among them "Mother Bickerdyke"—their efforts supported by the Northwest Sanitary Commission, of which Mary A.

1865-1875
Mrs. George Manierre, Mrs. Sidney Sawyer, Mrs. John Dean Caton

Livermore of Chicago was head, and by such means as the Sanitary Fair of 1865.

Pullman sleepers and Chicago streets

Two events of unique importance followed the close of the war in Chicago—the first selling of berths in his newly invented sleeping cars by George M. Pullman, in April, 1865, incident to the arrangements for attending the Lincoln funeral at Springfield; and the undertaking by the same gentleman of the contract for straightening up Chicago streets, which hitherto had been on many different levels, necessitating little flights of steps at frequent intervals.

The World's meat supply

Another event which might be said to be of world importance, was the opening of the Union Stockyards in Halsted Street on June 1, 1865. All the railroads entering Chicago made connections with the stockyards, and hence it might be said that the world was nearer to its meat supply than ever before.

Crosby's Opera House and its audience

In the realm of the amenities of life, was the opening of the Crosby Opera House on Washington Street, near State, on the evening of April 20, 1865. Colonel Crosby had spent a fortune on the house, which was built, in the popular phrase, "regardless of expense." They say that the interior, all white and gold, with superbly fitted boxes—and the *beau monde* of the time, in all the elegance of décolleté and diamonds, elaborate coiffures and fans or hand-bouquets, on the part of the ladies, yellow kid gloves, a tight-waisted dress coat, a curl on the forehead and "Monet" or Dundreary whiskers for the men—would awaken envy in the heart of any manager

An Opera group of the '60's

of today. The chief singer was Clara Louise Kellogg, and the opera *Il Trovatore*.

Oysters and chicken salad

The appropriate place for after-the-opera suppers was Kinsley's restaurant, on the ground floor of the Opera House, and old Chicagoans will tell you that never were refreshments more recherché or head waiter more high and mighty than at Kinsley's.

Pearls and diamonds

The appropriate place to purchase the jewelry to grace the occasion was Peacock's, and whether it were a rope of pearls for the hair or a spray of diamonds for the corsage, the proper thing was always forthcoming.

That entertainment was not all painfully "highbrow" in the sixties, is to be gathered from the fact that a little lady by the name of "Lotta" having won the hearts of the Nevada mining camps, took Chicago by storm with *The Seven Sisters*, *Little Nell*, *Topsy*, *Musette*, and *Bob*. How much people loved her piquante but ever lady-like personality, may be judged from the fact that when, in 1891, Miss Charlotte Crabtree of Boston retired, she was worth a cool $2,000,000.

The Seventies

Chicago a second Paris in the '70's

The general aspect of Chicago in 1870 is said to have been not unlike that of Paris, with many buildings of moderate and graceful proportions, built of light colored stone—Lamont marble in our case—and topped off with mansard roofs or fancy cornices. This with respect to the business center. As to the residence portion, we had several very notable "blocks" of houses, the hand-

somest of which was "Terrace Row" on the Lake Front. It is to be feared that the "merciless grandeur" of these "marble fronts" had obscured our recollection of the humbler frame houses—relic of rapid advance from the pioneer period—on the West Side and even in the heart of the city.

The Great Conflagration

At all events, on the evening of October 8, 1871, when ladies in silken train dresses and gentlemen in broadcloth coats were returning from church, an alarm of fire was turned in at Bruno Gall's drug store on the West Side. Nobody thought much about it. There had been a fire the night before. The firemen were worn out, and besides there was some mistake in the first signals, so that much time was lost. The consequence was that by the time the first stream of water was turned on to the little barn in De Koven Street, near Jefferson, the fire had its head. The wind was very high, following a drouth of weeks, and the frame shanties of that part of town were like tinder. Moreover they led directly to extensive lumber yards that lay along the river.

Story of Cow that kicked

To make a long story short, a cow—by whom annoyed, history hesitates to say—kicked over a lamp in that little barn. The barn burned and lighted the region of the lumber yards. The lumber yards, aided by the high wind, threw some burning brands across the river at Adams Street where there was a gas tank. The gas tank exploded, putting out the lights downtown and kindling the financial district and the Court House. The Court House gave off some sparks which were deposited by the wind on the Waterworks. The Water-

works burned, cutting off the city's water supply. And so on, just as if it had been planned.

"Marble fronts" that melted

Growing stronger with every instant, the blast from the fire was like a blowpipe, before which "marble fronts" melted like wax, and wood crumpled like paper.

A blackened desert

By Monday night almost every one within the limits of Chicago proper was without a home, and where a city had been there was a blackened desert.

Rise of the Chicago Spirit

That Chicago was something more than wood, brick or stone was the great fact proved by the fire of '71. It was perhaps worth while to let everything burn up to find this out. What before had been a somewhat unrelated accumulation of peoples from all parts of the country and Europe, deposited layer on layer by successive waves of immigration, was now fused together and welded into a unit. The fellowship engendered by the common disaster, gratitude for the generosity of the world at large, melted men's hearts and there arose, not a wan wraith, but something very substantial and indomitable—the Chicago Spirit.

Jewelry and bank vaults intact

Reconstruction followed as if by magic. The first building to go up in the still smoking ruins, was Kerfoot's real estate office with its buoyant signboard, "All gone but wife, children and ENERGY!" Peacock's, which had been at 221 Randolph Street, was supposed to have lost everything, when, standing like an altar among the hot embers, was found the jewelry vault, intact. Bank vaults were likewise found secure, and

bankers, even before they opened them, decided to pay dollar for dollar to their depositors.

Cumbersome "Charms"

A lady's watch-chain in the seventies often measured a yard or two in length, while a gentleman's—what with the little projections for the key, and sundry "charms" to dangle therefrom—was rather formidable when it came to storing or even carrying it about. As for the family silver—well, if not stored in the vault, it had to be buried under ground at the time of the fire.

Flight of the House of Peacock

The House of Peacock, phoenix-like, flew over to 96 West Madison Street, after the fire, before watches and clocks had time to run down, one might say, and by 1873 was found "holding down the ground" at State and Washington Streets.

Chicago invents structural iron

This was typical of what went on throughout the business district, and moreover, Chicago, the inventor of "balloon-frame" architecture, became the inventor of the structural iron skeleton with stone, brick, concrete or tile facing, known the world over as "Chicago construction" and the foundation framework of "sky-scrapers." One such fireproof building existed before the fire, the Nixon Building. It stood the test, and a portion of it is built into the fireplace of the Chicago Historical Society, in everlasting remembrance.

The old Exposition Building, 1873

The most evident mark of Chicago's being on her feet after the great fire, was the erection, in 1873, of a big building on the Lake Front known as "the Exposition Building." It was for interstate purposes, and a gallant sight it was, when with flags flying from many masts

above it, a giant fountain crashing inside, bands playing, jets of perfume flowing, and free refreshments on every hand, it invited all the world and his family to visit Chicago.

Thomas' Orchestra and the "World's Greatest Market"

Our first annual art exhibit and our first May festival of music took place there, with the Thomas Orchestra and W. L. Tomlins' big chorus. Later Patti and the Metropolitan Opera came, and exhibits of agricultural implements, corn and wheat, dry goods, furs and jewelry demonstrated what the Middle West was up to. As Chicago was the middle of the Middle West, it did not take her many years to build up her reputation as "The world's greatest market" for corn, hogs, lumber, furniture, clothing and most of the other necessities of man.

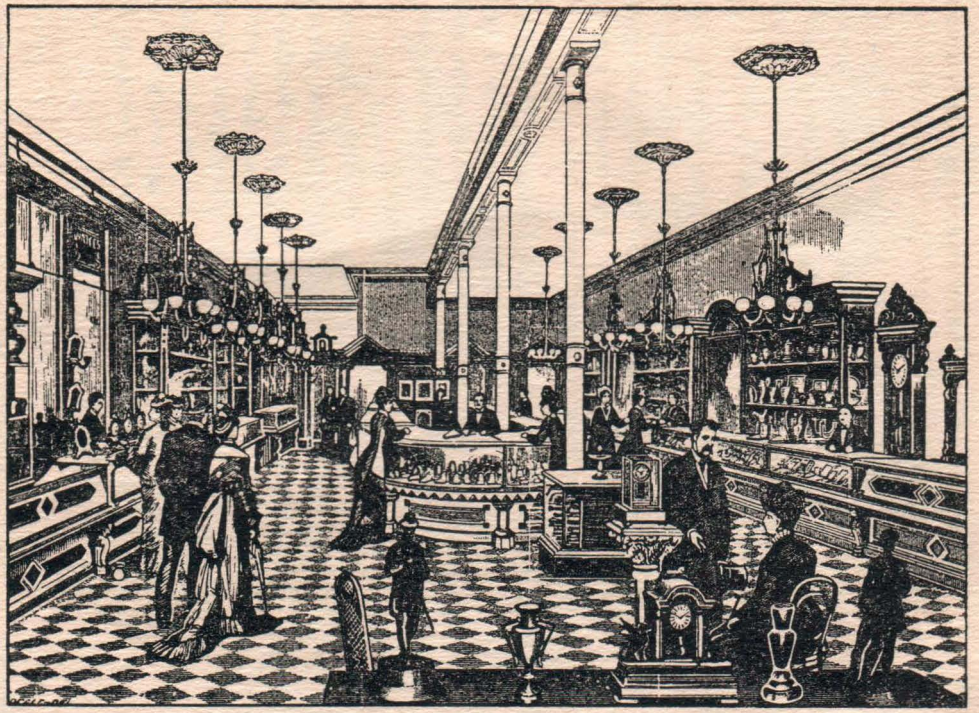
The Eighties

The Age of Electricity with Chicago in the lead

How Queen Isabella would have laughed with delight could she have seen the electric lights begin to shine out in Chicago in the eighties! In 1880, there was a 50-light dynamo in the basement of the Y. M. C. A. Building. The first theater in the world to use incandescent lamps was the Academy of Music on Halsted Street, and the first theater to be completely lighted with electricity was Haverly's on Monroe Street. It is said that the audience rose and cheered for fifteen minutes when the lights flashed on for the first time.

Telephones and cable cars

As for telephones, they began to tinkle in Chicago in 1881, and we immediately began to think about talking with Australia. Cable trains began to rattle in the year



C. D. Peacock Store in the '80's; State and Washington Streets

1882, and we realized that with a dynamo strong enough we could start for the moon.

Derby Day

Nothwithstanding these modernisms, Chicago still stuck to horseflesh for its fashionable means of propulsion. Derby Day at Washington Park was magnificent with four-in-hands, and milady's daily drive in barouches or Victorias, was a sight to charm the beholder.

Fashion notes

"Bangs and bangles" were the order of the day among débutantes; "toothpick" shoes, tight trousers, and high bicycles, among the so-called "dudes;" bonnets and mantillas among the mamas; and massive seal rings among the "men of means" in the '80's.

Home decorating

Home decorating, in which Peacock's always strive to assist, included often a bronze group or a bronze clock and a pair of vases for the mantel-piece, and we passed insensibly out of the "Early Victorian" into the era of Eastlake and Oscar Wilde.

Various divines and opera bouffe

As for "elevating influences," there were some of the best preachers ever put out of the church, preaching from the platforms of various theaters on Sunday—not to mention those in the pulpits. Then there were the "Divine Sara," Ellen Terry, Henry Irving and Lawrence Barrett on week day nights. As for the "tired business man," he was borne upwards on the wings of "opera bouffe," to the tunes of *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Pinafore* and *Patience*.

The Nineties

Those doors and how we got them

At the outset of this narrative, we mentioned the

1875-1890
Mrs. Henry Farnham, Mrs. John V. Farwell, Mrs. William Daggett

doors of the house of Columbus's father-in-law as being in Chicago. Now, they were not exactly cast up by the sea at this spot. It took considerable fishing, not to say dragging, to get them.

Concept of the World's Fair

As far back as 1885, a group of Chicago business men, directors of the Chicago Interstate Exposition, resolved "That a great world's fair should be held in Chicago in 1892, the four-hundredth anniversary of the landing of Columbus in America." Four years later the World's Exposition Company was organized, by Chicago people, with a capital stock of $5,000,000, and by 1890, Senator Shelby M. Cullom of Illinois introduced a bill in Congress providing for the holding of the World's Columbian Exposition. He forgot to mention that it was to be held in Chicago. Consequently New York, Washington, and even St. Louis came horning in, and we had the tussle of our lives, but we won. In print, we said that "Central location, superior transportation, and capitalization awarded us the World's Fair of 1893." Privately, we knew it was the Chicago Spirit.

Chicago the heir of the ages

However that may be, Chicago proved herself "the heir of the ages," the true America, by the magnificent manner in which she gave back to Columbus and Isabella the enterprise and the generosity which they so lavishly expended in discovering us, plus all the marvels of the modern world.

World's Congresses

In the great congresses of science, religion and art with which the Fair was inaugurated was Columbus lauded, because he had made practical use of the ut-

most knowledge of his time, and by the unprecedented prominence given to women was Isabella crowned again.

American Queen

By Mrs. Potter Palmer, the beautiful Bertha Honoré of French-Southern extraction, much traveled, experienced in society, and the wife of one of Chicago's "princes among men," together with Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, inaugurator of Federation among women's clubs in America, wife of the former Minister to Belgium, and epitome of womanly graciousness, must the Board of Lady Managers be typified. It were impossible even to mention by name the truly royal group of women who officiated. Working shoulder to shoulder with the men, yet independent in their own sphere, a result was achieved which inaugurated a new era.

Tailor-mades and tiaras

Contrasting the outward aspect of the women of the World's Fair era with those of the previous periods of Chicago's history, it may be said that it was the triumph of the tailor-made. It is doubtful if the great results achieved by the Board of Lady Managers would have ensued in the time allotted had they not adopted what has been called "the American uniform," a tailored coat, skirt and shirt-waist for business occasions. On the other hand they transcended the wisdom of mere man in that they did not insist on wearing their uniforms in the evening. For festive occasions, they donned a sheath-like armor of silk, satin or velvet, with abundant sleeves, clasped round their throats the queen's necklace of pearls, and placed on their brows the American woman's rightful sign of empire, the diamond tiara!

The Court of Honor

The Court of Honor at the Columbian Exposition, with its palace-lined lagoons and its peristyle through which flashed the waters of the inland sea, has never been surpassed for beauty of conception in any age.

Chicago meets the World midway

The Midway, with its Streets of Cairo, its Ferris Wheel, its Dahomey Village and its Old Vienna—its unceasing stream of mankind from every nation under heaven—perhaps came nearer to proving the human race "of one mind" than any institution since the Ark. The world had come from far, and we had met them midway!

Jewels from afar

Jewelry exhibits at the Fair included everything from "L'art nouveau" of France with its semi-naturalistic treatment of flower-forms to the conventionalized types of the Orient with their barbaric splendor of design and poor materials. Neither style appealed strongly to American taste.

A phantom of "The Fair"

The idea of the Fair as a whole lingered in the supposedly unromantic minds of Chicago people and would not be downed. Its loveliness, its "festive" quality had taken possession of us. Daniel Burnham, the great architect of the Fair, gave expression to this when, in 1894, he made a drawing in which the scene of enchantment was transferred from Jackson Park and made to extend all along the edge of the lake to the city proper. This idea was indulged in at certain club dinners, as a thing to dream about—a thing to wish for—but—

"The City Beautiful"

Well, at any rate it was given a name, if not a local

1890-1900
Mrs. W. W. Kimball, Mrs. Charles M. Henrotin, Mrs. Potter Palmer I

habitation, and the name by which it was then known was "The City Beautiful."

Substantial progress

Meanwhile certain substantial changes were transpiring in the center of town, evidenced conspicuously by the fact that in 1894, the House of Peacock left the region of State and Washington Streets and was found, where it still remains, at State and Adams, "holding down the ground" in the cause of beauty and betterment.

Chicago shops on State Street again

Although we have been so far away from every-day affairs as to make this statement something of an anti-climax, it must not be forgotten that the panic of '93 succeeded the exposition of that year. Only by the stability of the banks of the better class and of the great mercantile houses was Chicago kept on her feet. Not only that; it was something to learn, when all was said and done, that, at the point of purchasing an article of adornment of considerable cost, the Chicagoan really preferred, as against the whole glittering array at the Fair, to buy with the conservative advice of an honest house known "from the ground up" as we say. And so, when it was all over, and, firm on her two feet again, Chicago was able to walk down State Street, it was reassuring, after having shopped at Marshall Field's for her new frock, to step into the spacious aisles of Peacock's at State and Adams to buy her a new tiara.

The Twentieth Century

The Chicago Plan

It was reserved for the twentieth century to bring to fruition the plan—reminiscent of the Columbian Expo-

1900-1920

Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, Mrs. Cyrus H. McCormick II, Mrs. James M. Flower

sition, but going into the deeper, broader phases of city-building—which was originally called "The City Beautiful" but which is now being put into practical execution as "The Chicago Plan."

The Commercial and Merchants Clubs brothers in arms

"Credit for first giving publicity to this idea," writes Mr. Charles Wacker, "is due to Mr. Franklin McVeagh, Secretary of the National Treasury, who in 1901 suggested it to the Commercial Club of Chicago. At almost the same time the Merchants Club of Chicago became interested in the subject through Mr. Charles D. Norton, its president, and Mr. Frederic A. Delano. Work on the plan was formally undertaken by this club in 1903, and was under way when the two clubs merged in 1907 under the name of the former."

Association of Commerce aids

Mention should also be made of the organization of the Association of Commerce in 1902, because, in addition to its great endeavors in other directions, it has distinctly aided in keeping before the public the objects of this Plan.

Chicago means business

And right here is something peculiarly creditable to Chicago as a whole. Mr. Charles H. Wacker, who was vice-chairman of the Commercial Club's Plan Committee in 1907, became its chairman in 1909, resigning that office to become permanent chairman of the Chicago Plan Commission, an integral part of Chicago's government.

"On the Square" and "Above board"

The essence of the Chicago Plan seems to conform in a way to "the city that lieth four-square" of the Scriptures, brought down to earth and made practical. It

consists, first of all, of a quadrangle of improved thoroughfares formed by Twelfth Street or Roosevelt Road on the south, Halsted Street on the west, Chicago Avenue on the north and Michigan Boulevard on the east, all designed for the freer movement of traffic through the city. Widening and grading their way out from this quadrangle the workers are crossing the river at various points with double-deck bridges, further facilitating traffic. Double-decking South Water Street will make of the old river-front, where Fort Dearborn stood, one of the wonders of the world, where, instead of a produce market reeking with odors, and crammed with drays, will be a promenade and a thoroughfare, worthy of our "Riviera."

The Lake Front transfigured

As for the Lake Front, our dreams are being realized in the form of a park of 1700 acres, including lagoons, islands and outer drives of ideal beauty, with bathing beaches having a capacity of 200,000 people daily. In connection with this, a new commercial harbor is contemplated, making us in actuality the world port which we are potentially now. The great Stadium near the Field Museum, and the new Illinois Central Depot at the point of erection, are earnest of the scale upon which improvements are to be made.

Palatial Depots vs. Pioneer Trails

Farther west, the magnificent pile of the Union Station, with the Northwestern near by, seem like fantastic dreams when we think of their small beginnings which we have just learned; but they are very real, diurnally proving Chicago's position as the railway center of the continent, where so short a time before were only the

noiseless footsteps of the pioneers along the Indian trails.

Underground and overhead projects

Subways, the zoning of the city to prevent congestion, the development of commercial and domestic community centers, the extension of airplane mail service, of the wireless telephone, the realization of all the powers of radio communication and ever and always the education of the young, besides making the Chicago Civic Opera pay, are matters in hand and in mind.

Patou proclaims the new champion

But how and by whom are all these things to be accomplished? Will Chicago men alone—already burdened with business—be able to do it all? When the warriors of olden time were going forth to battle, we are told they "kilted up" their tunics and set their helmets firmly on their heads. M. Jean Patou of Paris—who by the way recently came to Chicago to study the American woman—is of the opinion that the present day short skirt and bobbed hair are really a preparation for her task—a freeing of her limbs and a shaking off of "the languid coiffure" for her life of active transition from one thing to another.

The Chicago woman a warrior in a "one-piece"

When the Chicago woman, therefore, buckles on her short "wrap-around" and crams her cloche hat down over her cropped hair, she is really a warrior in disguise, getting ready for battle, a fair warrior who does not forget to bedazzle the enemy by a pair of pretty eardrops and a necklace or two. And the men folk are beginning to think "not a bad ally to have," when, in the face of difficulties, it needs a flash of the Chicago

Spirit to put the foe to flight or open up new avenues of interest.

The Woman's World's Fair and the House of Peacock

In this connection it may be said that no more striking development of the Chicago Spirit has been evinced in this twentieth century than the one for which this booklet is devised, the Woman's World's Fair of 1926. The House of Peacock, the oldest jewelry house in America, lays at the feet of this young representative of Isabella this little necklace of facts about Chicago. If Chicago's history has furnished the necklace, the Woman's World's Fair will, we trust, pardon our audacity in asking it to be the pendant and chiefest ornament.

MABEL MCILVAINE.