PITTSBURGH's Sanitary Fair was not the first of its kind, nor
the last, nor the greatest, nor the one to receive the most
national publicity.

Pittsburgh's Sanitary Fair it must be acknowledged seemed a
trifle homespun when compared to the Great Central Fair in Phila-
delphia.

No "large volume of nearly six hundred pages" remains to
record the glories of our efforts in behalf of the United States San-
tary Commission in 1864 as may be found in Cincinnati reporting
the wonders of the Great Western Sanitary Fair. But when all the
quarters and dimes had been counted and all the costs deducted
Pittsburgh's donation to the cause was $3.47 per capita. In this
we were first. No other community gave so much.

Sharp penned critics "allowed as how" Pittsburgh could afford
to give generously since she had grown fat on munitions ordered
for the Armies of the North. Less prejudiced observers noticed
that the bulk of contributions to Pittsburgh's "San'tary Fair" came
from women and children, farmers, miners, grocers, saddlers, teach-
ers, ministers, artists, musicians, and others keenly motivated by a
desire to alleviate suffering.¹

Our Sanitary Fair was unique as Pittsburgh is unique. It
followed the general pattern suggested by a Mrs. Hoge who started
the whole fair benefit idea in Chicago in January 1864, but under
the leadership of Felix R. Brunot, the Pittsburgh Sanitary Fair be-
came a community enterprise the benefits of which left their mark
on charitable endeavors hereabouts from that day to this.

At first the do-it-yourself methods of Mr. Brunot and his
committees were ridiculed by more sophisticated entrepreneurs as
amateurish and bungling. When the general committee reported
net receipts of $322,217.98—which is a great deal of money to

¹Mrs. Daniel, a valued member and trustee of the Society, has written extensively
in other fields.—Ed.
raise in eighteen days in any decade—nothing more was said of method, emphasis swinging happily to accomplishment.

"Sanitary" as a word, meant something more in 1864 than the more or less limited non-microbious connotation of 1958. Its first meaning "relating to the preservation of health" had been useful in describing the astounding loss of life among the British troops during the Crimean war. As a result of epidemics more than half the British soldiers in the field would never go home again.

At the beginning of the Civil War it became starkly plain to the Medical Corps of the Army of the Potomac that caring for a small national army in peace times was not the same problem either in application or scope as administering to the needs of hundreds of thousands of inadequately equipped volunteers.

The Honorable Simon Cameron, who was then the heartily unpopular Secretary of War but a Pennsylvanian withal, at the suggestion of the medical bureau at Washington appointed the United States Sanitary Commission on the 9th day of June 1861.

In his orders Secretary Cameron directed that the Sanitary Commission "direct its inquiries to the principles and practices connected with the inspection of recruits and enlisted men; to the sanitary condition of the volunteers; to the means of preserving and restoring the health, and of securing the general comfort and efficiency of the troops; to the proper provisions for cooks, nurses and hospitals; and to other subjects of like nature."

The United States Sanitary Commission became a volunteer organization with offices in the Treasury Building in Washington. It was committed to cooperation with the army medical staff but independent of it. Mr. George T. Strong of 68 Wall Street, New York became the treasurer of the commission and the first big scale, all out, community level, health betterment, fund raising campaign began.

It was generally understood that the Sanitary Commission did not want government funds because such subsidy would make them prey to political patronage and control. A government agency that was self supporting was a novelty. Its fine humanitarian purposes and its high ethical code of financing and administration appealed to the hearts of those mothers, sisters, aunts, cousins and grandmothers left behind. The men folk, fathers and the like served
on committees and helped to organize the events, fetched and carried, climbed the ladders and paid the bills. Even so, the Sanitary Fairs of 1864 were generally conceded to be accomplishments of the women folk.

It is easier to declare independence than to sustain it and support for the commission had been spotty and disappointing.

The whole amount collected by the treasurer of the Sanitary Commission from its organization in 1861 until October 1863 was a little over $800,000. Of this $500,000 had come from California. Costs of the Sanitary Commission were running almost double the income.

Lotteries, auctions, and cotillons had been sponsored by the various committees of the Sanitary Commission but as willing as the people were to contribute, nothing seemed to bring substantial results until Mrs. Hoge of Chicago got her committee together and set up a bazaar in Bryan Hall on Clark Street, opposite the courthouse.

"Mrs. Hoge’s fair was little more than a glorified church bazaar. Every variety of fancy and useful article was for sale on the main floor. The lower part of Bryan Hall was turned into an immense dining room, where hot dinners were served daily to 1,500 people. Mrs. Hoge and Mrs. Livermore were the managers of the great undertaking which continued for two weeks with evening entertainments, the exhibition of rare relics and trophies and everything that could be arranged to give variety to the program."  

Mrs. Hoge’s Sanitary Fair was an immediate success and representatives from the executive committee of the Woman’s Pennsylvania Branch of the Commission went out to Chicago to see how it was done.

Pittsburgh’s representatives were Miss Rachel W. M’Fadden and Mrs. Felix R. Brunot. They studied the Chicago technique and then returned to announce to Mr. Brunot that Pittsburgh should have such a fair only one that would be much, much better.

Mr. Brunot talked with Thomas Bakewell about it. Everyone talked to Thomas Bakewell about everything. He was, next to the venerable Judge William Wilkins, Pittsburgh’s most distinguished and civic minded citizen. Moreover he had been appointed, early in the war, President of the Pittsburgh Sanitary Committee, a branch

or local chapter of the larger United States Sanitary Commission in Washington. Felix Brunot was first vice president of the committee. R. Miller, Jr. was second vice president, J. R. Hunter, secretary and James Park, Jr., Treasurer.

The "Ladies' Branch" of the Sanitary Committee was organized with Miss Rachel M'Fadden, President, Miss Anna Jackson and Miss Mary L. Jackson, Secretaries and Miss Martha P. Bakewell, Treasurer.

The committee met and listened to Miss M'Fadden's report of Mrs. Hoge's Chicago bazaar. For Pittsburgh to undertake such a fair on an equal scale of grandeur seemed pretentiously ambitious but Mr. Brunot and some of the others felt sure that if money was ever to be raised for the Sanitary Commission some means must be found of generating unusual generosity and at the same time converting the gifts of food, and merchandise into cash on the local thresholds of these charities.

Thereupon it was moved and seconded that such a Fair take place in June of 1864 and that Mr. Felix R. Brunot be the General Chairman of same.

Mr. W. S. Haven volunteered his services as printer and his first assignment was to issue the "Address" which was the 1864 equivalent of a general announcement.

ADDRESS

The Pittsburgh Sanitary Committee, a branch of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, established for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers, announce to the public that a Great Fair will be held at Pittsburgh, Pa., commencing on such day as the Executive Committee will hereafter make known.

The object of the Fair is to obtain money to enable the Sanitary Commission to proceed with their good work with increased energy and usefulness. The practical workings of the United States Sanitary Commission have been of such incalculable good, and have met such high approval from the entire people, that an enumeration of its claims is useless.

Every one feels it a duty to succor the wounded, sick and disabled soldier. The promptings of every loyal heart speak clearly, that we, who do not bear the dint and turmoil of the battle, should provide liberally for the 'war-worn sons of the Republic'. Christian charity speaks trumpet-tongued to each and every one, telling us to tender to the wants of those who are sick, wounded and disabled in our country's glorious cause.

The duties of our common humanity teach us that all should unite in the cause; and if a cup of cold water is not to go unrewarded, what immortal favors will not be bestowed on those who are the liberal donors to so deserving and charitable a work.

This is no merely local matter. We cordially invite the donations, contributions, aid and co-operation, not only of Allegheny City, Birming-
ham, Allegheny County and the State of Pennsylvania, but of Ohio, and all the States of the Republic. The recipients of the care of the Sanitary Commission are the soldiers of the United States, without regard to what special State enlisted from, citizens or foreigners, old or young and without respect to sect, creed, faith or color. All who fight and are disabled in the cause of our common country, are embraced in the management and care of the United States Sanitary Commission. We therefore ask the hearty cooperation and aid of all.

Donations of money will be thankfully received by the Honorary Treasurer of the Fair, N. Holmes, Esq. Contributions of merchandise of every nature will be received by the Committees appointed for that purpose.

The Fair will be under the control of the Executive Committee, F. R. Brunot, Esq, Chairman, and replies will meet prompt attention addressed to S. F. VON BONNHORST, Esq.
Honorary Corresponding Secretary Pittsburgh U.S. Sanitary Commission Fair, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Executive Committee

Miss Rachel W. M’Fadden, President
Mrs. Felix R. Brunot
Mrs. Tieran
Mrs. Paxton
Mrs. Price
Mrs. Wm. Bakewell
Mrs. Kay
Mrs. Jno. Watt
Mrs. Brady Wilkins
Mrs. Algeron Bell
Miss Susan Sellers
Miss Mary Moorhead
Miss Ella Stewart, Honorary Secretary
Mrs. M’Millan, Assistant Secretary
Miss Bakewell, Assistant Secretary
Felix R. Brunot, Chairman
Jno. H. Shoenerberger
Thos. M. Howe
J. L. Bennett
John W. Chalfant
Chas. W. Batchelor
B. F. Jones
James O’Connor
James Park, Jr.
Mark W. Watson
Jno. Watt
W. S. Haven
W. D. M’Gowan, Secretary

Headquarters and offices were established at 96 Water Street, with J. E. Brady, Jr. as Secretary and the work of organizing committees began at once.

In March, Mr. Brady was still trying to conquer the mountain of work before him in longhand. Even with volunteers from the women’s committee, the work became arduous since it was considered important that each committee appointment be specific:

Rooms of the Executive Committee,
Pittsburgh Sanitary Fair.
21st March 1864

Hon. James Veech.
Dear Sir:

The executive committee, Pittsburgh Sanitary Fair have appointed you a member of the Foreign Corresponding Committee. A meeting of the Committee was held at the rooms of the Sanitary Fair on Saturday 19th March at 3 p.m. when the following business was transacted.

Veech papers, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania
On motion the following division of labours of the Committee was made.
To address Generals, Official Personages of U.S. Prominent Statesmen, Merchants and so forth: Hon. W. F. Johnston and James O'Connor, Esquire.
To address Governors of States and State Officials: Hon. E. H. Stowe.
To address Poets, Literary men, Authors and men of Science: Rev. W. A. Passavant and Prof. Barker.
To address distinguished Protestant Divines of Europe and U.S.: Revd. Dr. Jacobus.

Prof. Barker asked if the intention of addressing letters (as above classified was 1st to obtain autographic replies to be sold for benefit Sanitary Fair. 2: to obtain an expression of sympathy for the Cause and 3: to obtain (if possible) donations of money from the persons addressed and in reply it was stated that such were the purposes and intentions of the Committee.

On motion it was resolved that all manuscripts be carefully engrossed by Mr. J. E. Brady, Jr and after being signed by all of the members Foreign Corresponding Committee be forwarded to the parties to whom they are addressed. On motion immediate action was resolved on and the Secy. requested to advise all the members of The Committee. On motion adjourned to meet Tuesday 29th March at 3 P.M. at rooms Sanitary Committee. Hoping you will bear the meeting in mind and that all your energies and sympathies may be enlisted in the Cause so that we may make the Foreign Correspondence one of the most interesting departments of the Fair.

I am very respectfully yours,

J. E. Brady, Jr. Sec'y.

Committee appointments began to pile up and it was discovered that for the good of all many individuals served with equal effectiveness on several committees. James Veech, for instance, was an author, a lawyer, an historian, an art collector, and a mature man who was easy to get along with, yet one who could be counted on to speak his mind, have original ideas, and do more than his share of the work.

Thomas Bakewell had agreed to be chairman of the Private Libraries and Literary Contributions Committee and he asked that James Veech also serve on this committee as one of Pittsburgh’s authors.

By the time this committee was appointed Mr. Brady had got writer's cramp and his volunteers had gone about their business setting up the Art Committee and working furiously to assemble the curios for the Old Curiosity Shop.

Mr. Haven came to the rescue with a dignified notice printed

* Ibid.
in script with spaces left for the name of the committee and its proposed member to be filled in by pen. This notice read in part:

The general management and responsibility for success in this Department depend mainly on the exertions of your Committee.

You are requested to secure, if you can, the co-operation and contributions:
1—Of every person or firm in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio engaged or in any way interested in the Department allotted to you.
2—Of all in the chief cities and towns in all parts of the loyal North, or in any Foreign Country, should the latter seem to you practicable or proper.
3—You are requested to appoint co-operating Committees wherever you may deem it best to do so.

There will be general meetings of all the Committees called from time to time, at which you are requested to attend, or be represented by one of your members, to report progress.

The Head Quarters of the Executive Committee will be at the Rooms of the Iron Association, No. 96 Water street, where the Secretary will be found at all times, and the Chairman or members every afternoon, until the opening of the Fair.

Should you be unwilling, or for any reason unable to serve, please send a written notice to that effect. Hoping to receive such active co-operation from you and your Committee as will insure success in your Department, we are, Very Respectfully, Yours:

The Executive Committee.

And so it came about that every man, woman, and child in Pittsburgh and Allegheny City became in some way involved in the Sanitary Fair. This was not the usual method of organization. Other cities had committees, it is true, but no other community could boast of the unconfused and unconfusing organization that contributed to Pittsburgh's success.

Mr. Haven found it necessary, in the absence of telephones, to print up a series of committee meeting announcements and these fluttered like confetti on the desks of bankers, lawyers, industrialists, merchants and the wives and daughters of committee members who were themselves members of committees.

Henry Kleber wrote a "Relief Polka" dedicated to the "Committee of Ladies of the Sanitary Fair"; and Miss Emma K. Ogden, the first woman medical missionary to India, made a flag with 36 stars to fly from the flag staff above Monitor Hall.

Providentially Allegheny City was in the process of building a new city hall strategically located on the edge of the Common. The upper floors of the new city hall were allocated at once for the Art Gallery, the Old Curiosity Shop, and the Photograph Gallery. Means

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5 Ibid.
6 Archives, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania
then had to be found to build the necessary sheds to house the
dining room, the industrial and agricultural exhibits.

At this moment of dilemma members of the executive com-
mittee learned of an old exhibition building about to be torn down
in Cleveland.

A volunteer corps of drays, horses, wagons, carpenters, boys
who were handy with hammers, men who could sling sledges, and
committee members interested in seeing a job well done, left early
one morning for the west.

The returning expedition looked more like pilgrims setting out
to build Solomon’s Temple than volunteers with a dining hall in
mind. But they were greeted with cheers and encouragement at
the Commons and men who couldn’t get away from work to drive
all the way to Cleveland joined up on the construction work. The
resulting buildings had a jaunty, gay, here-today-and-gone-tomorrow
look which delighted the people and made them very proud because
not one penny of “the funds” had gone into their construction.

There was talk for a while of publishing a daily newspaper on
the grounds but this idea was abandoned because the Pittsburgh
papers had contributed so generously both in advertising space and
editorial content. For weeks before the opening of the fair the
Pittsburgh Gazette and the Post carried columns of names from the
Treasurer’s report. Company names were listed under their cate-
gory of manufacture. The Flint Glass Manufacturers Association
contributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bakewell Pears and Company</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James B. Lyon and Company</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKee and Brothers</td>
<td>250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillips and Best</td>
<td>250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryce Richards and Company</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. D. Dithridge</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams and Co.</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King and Co.</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atterbury and Co.</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. A. Evans and Co.</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepard and Co.</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. S. Hamilton and Co.</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$2,400.00
Solicitation was also made to the employees of corporations and foundries and when these lists were turned in to the treasurer they were printed in full in the newspapers. N. G. Bigley’s Coal Works had ninety-five workmen. M. J. Bigley started off the list by giving $1,000 and his employees, all of which are listed, gave two and three dollar donations totalling $274.50.

By opening day $84,059.37 had been raised in this way and each name and organization had been printed. Iron City Commercial College gave $500.00. Mr. Avery’s Philomathean Institute gave $75.00. Captain W. Smith’s Tow Boat, the Bengal Tiger, gave $100.00.

While the finance committee and the publicity committee were hard at work other activity was frantically in progress. The newspapers carried appeals from the various committees of which the Horticultural and Floral Department was most detailed:

The committee on Plants and Fruits and Flowers confidentially appeal to the aid of all Horticultrists and Florists both Amateur, Commercial and Professional. The laudable object of this Fair and the apparent exigencies of the time, and the development of each day alone, will urge the Patriot and Philanthropist.

We solicit your donations or contributions of such articles as will adorn and render attractive the Department under our charge, which is of ample extent and where careful attendants will always be at hand that the owners of plants may rest assured that their collections will be daily cared for. In addition to the ordinary products of the green-house and garden the Committee also solicits contributions of Bouquets, Baskets of Flowers, Floral Designs, Hanging Baskets, Flower Stands, Pern Casks, Aviaries, Gardening Implements, Native Wine, Garden Seats and Vases, Horticultural Iron Work, Cut Flowers, Dried Flowers, Wax Flowers, Leather Flowers, Phantom Bouquets, Autumn Leaves, Aquaria, Seeds, Gardening Books, Fountains, Horticultural Wire Work, Horticultural China and Glass, Horticultural Pottery, Foreign and Exotic Fruit, Dried Fruit, Wax Fruit and Garden Statuary.

In short, Rustic Ornaments of every kind, or anything of a rural or rustic character that does not strictly belong to the Agricultural Department.

Daily contributions of cut flowers, bouquets, designs, baskets etc so as to insure a constant and regular supply during the Fair, will be very acceptable and contributors will please arrange with the chairman of the committee at Floral Hall.

Wm. S. Bissell, Chairman.

The Old Curiosity Shop made a similar appeal and long before the buildings were ready the exhibits began to arrive. Although the Fair had been announced for the first of June it looked for a time as though nothing would be ready.

7 *Pittsburgh Post*, May 30, 1864
The editor of the Post observed a little nervously on May 30th, "though the buildings of this Fair are rapidly approaching completion, yet the time for the opening ceremonies is coming as rapidly, and it will require all the exertions of the mechanics employed to have it prepared for the reception of the many contributions now arriving."

The Art Gallery and the Old Curiosity Shop were delayed in getting into their quarters in the New City Hall but since there was little involved but the hanging of pictures they quickly recovered and were photographed opening day with the women's art committee and the participating artists, George Hetzel, Trevor McClurg and William C. Wall.

The bazaar itself was a little more difficult to put together. Under the general direction of Mr. Eaton the newly erected hall presented its problems. "The long range of counters is being covered with white muslin, on which are placed strips of red and blue paper, making the red, white and blue conspicuous. Flags are suspended from every arch and pillar and beautiful wreaths of evergreen from every rafter. The building is furnished an abundance of gas pipes which, when lighted up in the evening will add a peculiar brilliancy to the other decorations."

These evergreen wreaths and braided bands of ground pine and ivy were contributed by volunteers. Notices were issued through the newspapers and the committee that evergreen wreaths and woven strips of decoration would be used. People living in the wooded sections of Westmoreland and Fayette counties brought wagon loads of woven evergreens and yet it was not enough so that a second appeal was made almost at the last minute. Since there was no longer time for weaving the intricate garlands, the committee had to settle for boughs of hemlock, cedar and spruce which made the Bazaar hall smell tantalizingly like Christmas Day in June.

In the south end of Floral Hall stood the Garden of Eden of which the Gazette reports: "The gardens are elaborately wrought specimen of rustic scenery. There are trees and rocks, fruit and flowers, sticks and moss, hills and dales, groves and bowers, and indeed everything that could make a place enchanting and lovely. There stands the forbidden tree, around it is coiled the serpent,}

*Pittsburgh Gazette, June 1, 1864*
and near it stands Adam and Eve in matchless innocence." Included in the scene of our ultimate beginnings were two parent pheasants with young, a squirrel on a limb, assorted birds and the nose of a ground hog.

James P. Barr, editor and publisher of the Daily Post, was a man of considerable cultural attainments. He liked to do his own reporting of events which interested him and his editorial criticisms of concerts, recitals and theatricals are classic commentaries on his contemporaries and their way of life. His preview of the Fair is typically leisurely:

One of the most unique and peculiar constructions is the "Union College" for children. This little building is not more than ten feet square, built in true cottage style, and finished with beautiful and expensive cornice. Attached to it will be a little garden about ten feet square, around which will be an iron railing fence, and in the center of which will be a beautiful fountain, throwing up continual jets of water which will fall again in a basin below. In the garden will be a variety of choice flowers. The "Union College" is designed and superintended by Mrs. Bell.

At the west end of the Bazaar is a beautiful gallery or platform, erected for the accommodation of musicians. This place has regular stairways and is finished in good style.

Another object of special attraction is the Scotch Booth on the south side of the Bazaar which is built in true rustic style and thatched with straw. There are many other stands variously decorated with different kinds of tinseling, red paper, with silver leaves and golden vines.

To describe Floral Hall is a task for which our pen is inadequate. The peculiarities of almost every nation, will here be represented in grotesque and appropriate scenery. There will be the German Grotto near the Rhine by which a river or stream representing a river will flow during the continuance of the Fair. The buildings of English, Scotch, Irish, French, Swiss, Chinese and almost every other nation will have a representative here in miniature size and characteristic style.

Monitor Hall was the largest of the buildings constructed for the Fair and the ugliest. It stands out as the building with the tower in photographs of the Fair. It was also the most popular of all exhibits with boys and their fathers for reasons Mr. Barr previews:

In Monitor Hall is already a pattern of the mammoth guns cast at the Fort Pitt Works and specimen of cannon ball and bombshell. Small ordnance and mortars are also represented here. And then the canal on which will proudly ride the little gunboat or Monitor and other curious and attractive sights can be witnessed here.

Audience Hall is not yet completed. The workmen are just nailing down the seats. They will consist of four rows or tiers, thirty in each row making in all one hundred and twenty seats. Each seat will hold twelve persons at least—perhaps sixteen. Then there is a large space between those seats and the platform so that the hall will have capacity for a great number of patrons. On the outside or out-end, eastward is a kind of portico or raised platform which will hold about twenty musicians.
Mr. Barr sadly related that Mechanics Hall was not ready yet, with only two days to go, but despite his gloomy apprehensions by noon the first day of June the committee in charge declared the Fair officially open ready or not.

The day had dawned with a misty, muggy red sun rising over Grant's hill and the worst was feared for the procession.

The air was tingling with a high state of excitement. Farmers began to arrive early with donations for the dining hall and their teams of horses and lines of wagons stretched all the way down the river road as far as General Robinson's back gate so that no one could find a place to hitch to.

Notice had appeared in the papers for the Vigilant Steam Fire Company to meet at the Engine House at 2 p.m. fully equipped to be ready to march. The "Boiler's Union" had apparently misunderstood the general orders or else wanted to get there first with the loudest. Just as everyone else was assembling the Boiler's Union lined up in front of their hall at the corner of Smithfield and Fifth Avenue and then, preceded by a brass band of their own, started out toward Wood Street and thence to the Fair Grounds marching and singing away to beat all. Somebody shooed them back up toward the Monongahela House and there they had to wait, sweating out their shirts and damping their thirsts at the Mechanic's Pub, until four-thirty when the procession finally began.

The Mayors of both cities, Pittsburgh and Allegheny, had issued proclamations suspending all kinds of employment from three to seven so that the streets were lined with people from Water Street where the procession was forming to the very gates of the Fair. This delayed the event somewhat as did the marshals who found themselves overwhelmed by a number of fire companies who had arrived with their engines polished to participate without either an invitation or a previously announced intention. The longer the delay the more the marchers seemed to disappear into thin air. At last it was decided to start out with the West Chester Cadets and Band who were still in order, and let the fire company units and the Boiler's Union catch up the best they could.

At four-thirty in the afternoon of June 1st, under a cloudy but clearing sky, the procession moved away from the Monongahela House, bands blaring, thousands cheering, the Governor of Penn-
sylvania, the officers of the Fair, the Mayors and the Councils followed by Smith's Brass Band splitting ears and lifting hearts as nothing in the whole wide world but a brass band can do.

There were nine engine companies as it turned out: The Eagle, Allegheny, Duquesne, Neptune, Hope, Good Intent, General Grant, Relief, and the Vigilant.

After the fire engines and their companies came more bands and that part of the Boiler's Union still of a mind to march, followed by citizens.

When they got to the Fair Grounds in Allegheny City the Governor, officers and their party went immediately to Audience Hall. Here the ceremonies were to take place.

Unhappily for the record, no member of the press found admittance. It was with greatest difficulty that Governor Curtin was squeezed into the hall among the two thousand people filling the area designed for little more than half that number. Reporters, editors, and very important persons stood helplessly outside with the other twenty thousand first-dayers. And the Governor's well chosen words are lost to the ages.

Mr. Barr took a dim view of this apparent success:

If this estimate is correct (22,000) and as large a crowd attend today at the opening of the Fair, it will be impossible to keep any kind of order, and damage to the stands and goods may result from the eagerness of the excited tumult to witness the sights in the different apartments of the Fair.9

The editor was reckoning without the West-Chester cadets whom Felix Brunot had with remarkable foresight invited to camp on the Commons for the eighteen days of the Fair.

These young men of "good" families were a kind of honor guard for the Governor. They wore handsomely tailored uniforms, singularly of gray color, and they marched with precision and dignity. There were one hundred and twenty in the cadet corps and they added their own attraction to the exhibits at the Fair, particularly for the young ladies.

The Dining Hall was one of the chief attractions at the Fair and one requiring a high degree of organization. The supplies for the dinners were donations from farmers and others in the district who were unable to give cash to the Cause or who found in their

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9 *Pittsburgh Post*, June 2, 1864
surplus meat or vegetables or fruit to share with the committee. Mrs. B. F. Jones was in general charge of the dining room and Mrs. Samuel McClung supervised the kitchen. The ladies had a basic menu which they endeavored to follow from day to day but they could never be sure when they arrived at the Fair at six o'clock in the morning, just what would have been left on their doorstep during the night. Meals were served family style. The members of the committee waited on the tables, peeled the potatoes, set the tables and prepared vegetables. The actual cooking was done by professional cooks whose services were donated by their employers.

Many of the tables in the large dining room had banners above them: Butler, Washington, Uniontown, Greensburg, Etna, and Wilkinsburg, so that visitors from those towns might eat together.

Another novelty of the dining room was the confection Pagoda in the center of the room where candy was sold at all times. The daughters of the committee prepared homemade candy and brought it to the Pagoda where it sold almost as soon as it arrived.

Mechanics Hall was popular because of the variety of its modern inventions, and home improvements:

In passing around we noticed card frames of a peculiar structure, spring mattresses; patent desks; magnificent stair rods carved and ornamental glass ware; circular saws; all kinds of patent pumps, one of which is doubled geared and is propelled by a crank throwing a continuous and beautiful stream of water. There are also near these pumps patent shower baths of a novel construction. Then there are apartments of trunks, whips, saddles, leather, saw plates, brass kettles, the most exquisitely finished cutlery and hardware; gold plated sword sheaths, an iron plate from the Sligo Works one hundred inches in diameter; washing machines of every description samples of flour in the sack, cooper's barrels and kegs; grain drills, hay rakes, and reaping machines of different patterns, farmer's portable grist mills, patent cider and grape mills, the best specimens of chewing tobacco, and a thousand other curiosities that may have escaped our notice.10

Nor was this all! In the Old Curiosity Shop were other wonders: "a conical shaped steel pointed cannon ball that had been captured at Fort Donaldson; a military trophy captured at Falling Water; fans contributed by rebel prisoners, a large chain the links of which were made out of one block of solid iron; an Indian pipe that belonged to the chief of the Creek Indians, swords that had been at different times presented to Brigadier General Hays; Bibles one hundred years old, a printed public notice of the first grant of

* * Pittsburgh Post, June 3, 1864
lands in Pennsylvania to planters in America; specimens of Continental money, autograph of Robert Fulton, a Chinese hat, table upon which the Declaration of Independence was written, the chair in which John Hancock sat when he presided at the meeting of Delegates that framed and signed that instrument, Indian beads, dress worn by Queen Victoria at her coronation, image of the Virgin Mary cast in Rome one thousand years ago; a Mexican hat, a Rebel Jewel-case, General Washington's piano . . . These form but a small portion of curiosities to be seen in the Old Curiosity Shop, but they may serve as a kind of index which will point out the peculiarities of the things to be seen there.\footnote{Ibid.}

One would think that with everything from kitchen to curiosity shop going so much better than had been anticipated, folks would have been as merry as a wedding bell, but such was not the case. Although the Cause was humanitarian, the committees were human.

The first big and public problem arose because of David Blythe. Back some months before when they were tearing down the Old City Hall in order to make way for the New City Hall, the town council of Allegheny City decided to have a picture taken of the building and it was further decided that each member of the governing body should stick his head out of a window.

The picture resulting caused no little comment, some bordering on the ribald.

When it came time to take a picture of the Sanitary Fair procession the committee decided to commission the artist David Blythe (his prices being less than those of other local artists) to do a sketch and then a painting of the procession, the committee, Governor Curtin and the West-Chester cadets.

Unfortunately Blythe had friends among the members of the fire engine companies and the Boiler's Union and during the hour and a half wait for the festivities to begin the artist joined his more mechanically minded friends at the bar. While some of the firemen and a few of the union members managed to catch up with the parade poor Blythe never made it.

Several days later, reprimanded by the officers, he determined to make amends. So he painted a picture of a parade as he en-
visioned it with the Democrats, staid Presbyterians that they were, taking the place of the bibulous members of the Boiler’s Union. So deft was Blythe and so devastating his art there was not the faintest shadow of a doubt which gentlemen were thus included in the mass portrait of a parade.

It is doubtful whether Felix Brunot saw Blythe’s painting before it was hung in the Art Gallery. Blythe was already represented by “The School Master” and “Robert Burns,” but because Mr. Brunot was both general chairman and a Republican he was suspect. Our friend Mr. Barr was first to call attention to the painting in the columns of the Post. Mr. Blythe replied in the Gazette. Feelings flared and then to add to it someone walked off with a life sized portrait of General McClellan from the East Liberty booth and there were accusations of factionalism of the worst kind.

David Blythe’s letter published in the Gazette on June fourteenth, did, as it was intended to do, sprinkle salt on the open wounds of Democratic dignity. “I never thought of the difficulties which—lay in the way, but was led along simply by the idea that modern Democracy, to be truthfully represented, must exhibit three fold compound, viz: ‘washed, unwashed, and unterrified.’ To reach these points of excellancy with the pencil I know of no way, but to adopt the ‘representative principal’ one which the Post as yet has not denied me.”

Poor Mr. Brunot was catching it from all sides.

His brother-in-law, George Hogg, had been raising Cashmere goats on his farm near Brownsville and he persuaded Brunot to build a pen for twelve of the creatures at the end of the Audience Hall for display and possible encouragement in the breeding of goats. Rumor had it that Hogg had paid a thousand dollars a head for his original stock and this in itself made his goats something of a curiosity. Normally the most docile of creatures the thundering of oratory, the crashing of brass bands and the fluted notes of the local sopranos stimulated the animals to the exercise of talents long dormant. Such bleating and baaing had never been heard west of the Alleghenies. The daytime performances were after a time discontinued, the goats giving ground after nightfall.

In spite of General McClellan, and David Blythe and the
Boiler's Union and the Cashmere goats, and a hundred other incidents that really only served to brighten the excitement, Pittsburgh's Sanitary Fair was an outstanding success.

It was a busy eighteen days that left the committees gasping with fatigue on the final day but as long as anyone lived who had been a part of it, his memory of "The San'tary Fair" brought a sparkle to his eyes.

Our friend W. S. Haven, the printer, published a little pamphlet entitled "The Pittsburgh Sanitary Fair," dated June 1, 1864 and authored by "An Old Citizen."

Say! what is that building that stands on the green,  
Where the Stars and the Stripes proudly waving are seen?  
Is it meant for a market, or storage of grain,  
A political caucus, or theatre vain?  
'Tis neither a market, nor grain elevator,  
A party convention, nor yet a theatre;  
Its purpose is one every heart must approve—  
Sweet Charity's Temple, the Bazaar of Love;  
Where, with zeal patriotic, the rich and the poor,  
All sects, and all parties, may mingle their store;  
Where all may contribute, by giving or buying,  
To succor the wounded, the sick or the dying—  
Our brave Volunteers, who in camp or on field,  
Like Napoleon's old vet'rans, may die! but ne'er yield.  
To recount all the articles here to be sold,  
Would a story as long as old Homer's unfold;  
But surely their taste most fastidious must be  
Who nothing to please it before them can see.  
Here are lots of substantials—bread, butter and cheese,  
And bright airy trifles the fancy to please;  
Here are carts, wagons, harrows, ploughs, mattocks and hoes,  
Shoes, notions, boots, stockings, and all sorts of clothes.  
For the ladies are ribbons, pins, cotton and lace,  
Bright mirrors where each may behold her sweet face,  
Embroideries, trimmings, thread, needles and tape,  
Chintzes, muslins, sacques, circulars, mantles and crape  
Handsome frocks for the children, fine shirts for the men.  
Don't you want a portfolio, or nice silver pen?
Here are frying pans, gridirons, refrigerators,  
Churns, cheese presses, saddles and Japanese waiters.  
Of Iron there's pig, bloom, bar, boiler and rails,  
Anchors, anvils, spikes, log chains, and ten-penny nails.  
Should your favorite daughter desire a new toy,  
Here's a smartly dressed doll; or a horse for your boy.  
Chessmen, dominoes, ninepins, toy coaches and barrows,  
Skipping ropes, kitchen furniture, tops, bows and arrows,  

Here are clear crystal fountains, the thirst to assuage,  
While neighbors and friends in sweet converse engage,  
Old acquaintances meeting to part soon again;
Here are cups that oft cheer, ne'er inebriate the brain—
Coffee, chocolate, tea, with bright ladies to wait—
Sure never was royalty served in such state.
Ere we close, let us proper acknowledgments make
To all who have labored and toiled for our sake;
To the ladies, who gracefully here have displayed
Their genius and taste our exertions to aid;
To the children at school who have given their toys.
To comfort and cherish our Volunteer boys;
To the rich who have freely dispensed of their wealth;
To the givers in secret, who do good by stealth;
To the farmers, the merchants, mechanics and banks,
To each and to all we would tender our thanks.
And the blessings of those whom their labors have cheered
In whose memory their names will be ever endearing.
Oh think on the Soldier far distant who roams
And when to his country restored through your care,
Will grateful remember the San'tary Fair.12

12 Veech papers, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.
General sources: United States Archives; files of the Pittsburgh Gazette,—May and June 1864; and files of the Daily Post (Pittsburgh) May and June 1864; Records of the United States Sanitary Commission.