

ARCHITECTURE AT THE EXPOSITION.

The Centennial and the Columbian Expositions, the two Fairs of international importance thus far held in the United States, were epoch-making in our architectural history. The Centennial in 1876 gave the first impulse to the revival of taste and interest in architecture since English influence ceased to be felt in the early days of our national existence. By the year 1893 some good architectural work was being done, but it remained for the beautiful Court of Honor at Chicago to arouse public interest thoroughly and stimulate architectural practitioners as a body. The enthusiasm thus awakened has not abated. On the contrary, the general appreciation of good architecture has greatly increased, and correspondingly greater demands are made upon the architect. These demands require in him a more careful education and training and inspire him to his best efforts. As a result, professional standards have been raised to higher levels during the last decade. In these various signs many are reading a prophecy of an era of still greater progress. It would almost seem that it but remained for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition to give a third impulse to American architecture, the results of which should bring about an architectural period noteworthy in history.

These conditions imposed a great responsibility upon the designers of this Exposition. How well they have fulfilled their task can only be judged when the effects resulting from their work have been revealed by time. The mere fact that many may experience pleasure on first beholding the immense architectural groups does not prove that the lasting