

particular view that may have constituted his subject. It would look exactly like such and such a place if almost everything were not different. San Simeone Profeta appears to hang there upon the wall; but it is on the wrong side of the Canal and the other elements quite fail to correspond. One's confusion is the greater because one doesn't know that everything may not really have changed, even beyond all probability (though it's only in America that churches cross the street, or the river), and the mixture of the recognizable and the different makes the ambiguity maddening, all the more that the painter is almost as fascinating as he is bad. Thanks, at any rate, to the

white church, domed and porticoed, on the top of its steps, the traveller emerging for the first time upon the terrace of the railway station seems to have a Canaletto before him. He speedily discovers indeed, even in the presence of this scene of the final accents of the Canalazzo (there is a charm in the old pink warehouses on the hot *fondamenta*), that he has something much better. He looks up and down at the gathered gondolas; he has his surprise after all, his little first Venetian thrill; and as the terrace of the station ushers in these things we shall say no harm of it, though it is not lovely. It is the beginning of his experience, but it is the end of the Grand Canal.

TWO BACKGROUNDS.

By Edith Wharton.

I.

LA VIERGE AU DONATEUR.

HERE by the ample river's argent sweep,
 Bosomed in tilth and vintage to her walls,
 A tower-crowned Cybele in armored sleep
 The city lies, fat plenty in her halls,
 With calm, parochial spires that hold in fee
 The friendly gables clustered at their base,
 And, equipoised o'er tower and market-place,
 The Gothic minster's winged immensity;
 And in that narrow burgh, with equal mood,
 Two placid hearts, to all life's good resigned,
 Might, from the altar to the lych-gate, find
 Long years of peace and dreamless plenitude.

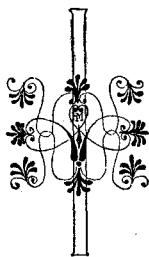
II.

MONA LISA.

Yon strange blue city crowns a scarpèd steep
 No mortal foot hath bloodlessly essayed;
 Dreams and illusions beacon from its keep,
 But at the gate an Angel bares his blade;
 And tales are told of those who thought to gain
 At dawn its ramparts; but when evening fell
 Far off they saw each fading pinnacle
 Lit with wild lightnings from the heaven of pain;
 Yet there two souls, whom life's perversities
 Had mocked with want in plenty, tears in mirth,
 Might meet in dreams, ungarmented of earth,
 And drain Joy's awful chalice to the lees.

CHICAGO'S PART IN THE WORLD'S FAIR.

By Franklin MacVeagh.



T will aid the editor of SCRIBNER'S, who wishes to inform the readers of the MAGAZINE as to the relations of Chicago and the great Exposition, if I state that this article is written at his suggestion by one who has no connection with the World's Fair management; because then it need not be read as if it were the doing of an enthusiast. The truth, however, is that it is much easier to keep within the facts, in this case, than it is to get beyond them, if one has only the usual imagination; and the editor in trying to get an unbiassed article might have saved himself some of his trouble. Moreover, there is probably nothing new to be said at all, which is another protection against enthusiasm; for everything touching Chicago's relations to the Fair has probably been said many times over—both as to her part in making the Fair, and as to how she will care for the people who visit it. But the facts have not been put all together, nor for the general public, in any more deliberate form than news items of the daily press.

In measuring the discharge of responsibilities by Chicago one should be careful to know what her responsibilities are. She has practically taken the work of the Fair upon her hands entire, even, in large measure carrying on her shoulders the Government's own Commission. But strict limitations to the responsibilities of whatever city might be chosen as the place of the Fair, were clearly fixed by the Government. The theory of the law was that the World's Fair should be controlled and administered by the Government's Commission; while the city was simply to furnish, to the satisfaction of the Commission, a site and buildings, and then to conduct the mere business administration. The scope of the Fair, and all intercourse with exhibitors and with foreign nations, and all matters of

award and the general control, were to be in the hands of the Government. To carry out the engagements of Chicago a corporation was formed, the members of which are the shareholders, who fairly represent the entire community, and whose work is done by a board of forty-five directors. There are therefore two executive bodies, admirably contrived for conflicts of authority and general confusion and delay; all of which promised at the beginning, but have been for the most part averted by the uncontrived dependence of the National Commission and its admirable good sense and patriotism, and by the youthful readiness of Chicago to do unlimited work and assume unlimited responsibilities. Perhaps any other American city would have done this, and felt obliged, by the Government's reluctance, to pay the way of its Commission, to discharge its own responsibilities and those of the Government, too. Chicago, at any rate, accepted very willingly the work which threw upon her an almost exclusive responsibility for the success of the Fair. And it has certainly had the excellent effect of unifying the management, by breaking down in practice the double authority fixed by the law. Since the Government would not adequately support it, the Commission had to look to the Directory for a part of its subsistence; and as in all governments the real power goes with the purse-strings, so it was in this. Possibly the power might have resided in the National Commission, if Congress had generously sustained it; and yet, looking back now, it is difficult to imagine the absence of the profoundly individual impress made upon the Fair by the characteristics of the city; nor does it seem possible that the remarkable power, energy, and public spirit which were so ready to devote themselves could have been declined. At any rate in this way, and in this alone, by indefinitely exceeding Chicago's responsibilities, has the World's Fair secured the advantage of the astonishing