After dinner speeches delivered at the home of James M. Elsworth, on Michigan Ave. Oct. 10th, 1893.
The dinner was given to H. W. Park, Commissioner of the Fair, to talk to Mr. Lake Fruit Master.

On the day of the dedication of the Fair, the Spanish Commissioner, Mr. Du Puy De Lome, said: "I found in Paris such an exposition as I would have looked for here in Chicago, and I see here what I would have expected Paris to do." His surprise arose from the fact, that a city known for rapid growth and as a commercial center, and which was disassociated in men's minds from all thoughts of the fine arts, should, without warning, blossom out into the full glory of high architectural expression, and in a manner to elicit the praise of critics and of the scholars of the whole world. His surprise was not logical. Had he studied the past, looking for that condition that generally precedes an epoch of marked artistic expression, he would have come to Chicago in '93 expecting to see just what he actually found here.

The past shows plainly enough, that the great flowers of fine art are born on the stalk of commercial supremacy. It has ever been so, from Athens to Chicago, and the precedent conditions have never been stronger than they are to-day with us. I dare say that, taken as a whole, the Athens of Pericles' day would, if revivified, have more sympathy with the population of this city than with that of any other which has existed since the Greek wars of Syracuse ended.
the Attic control of the Mediterranean. The fundamental quality of life here is the same as was that of Athens. It took that people centuries to reach the development which we enjoy to-day, and which we have attained in less than sixty years. The pace of development is accelerated, but apart from this, we have arrived at the same stage that marked Athens under Pericles.

Athens, in her best days, was the center of the commerce of the world; her name was a synonym for success. Everyone believed that he had but to reach her in order to reap the benefits of her enormous activity. One can well believe that she set on fire the blood of the youth of all nations; that, listening to tales of the deeds and of the gains of her citizens, the young men of remote provinces were stirred up and were made to long for this favored land. From the Bosphorous to the Pillar of Hercules, every family who possessed a restless, ambitious son, had to let him go; for the bravest and most-clear-sighted youngsters were just the ones most sure to seek the advantage of a wider field. It took nerve to pull oneself up by the roots and leave one's native place, probably forever. The communities from which these men emigrated lost their likeliest sons, and Athens opened her arms and took them in and assimilated them. These splendid adventurers possessed, each, some
special knowledge and skill, brought from his home, and which was unknown in Athens, but was wanted there to correct or to round out and complete what was already set on foot. These men were like a bag of flints shaken together, and among them the fire danced merrily, so that the life of the people of Athens, that is, the life of the admixture which really made up the population, became both intense and brilliant. No wonder Athens was noted for quickness of thought and its corollary - perception and love of the beautiful. She not only held within herself a wonderfully bright population, but she attracted all the swift and virile thinkers of her day. In this respect, Chicago equals, and, I believe, surpasses her. We, also, are a city whose population is made up of adventurers - I use the word with no mean sense. Very few of us were born upon this soil. We have come here from all states, from England, Ireland, France, Germany, Scandinavia, Italy, Russia, from the Orient, and from the isles of the Sea. Those who have come to us and have swelled this mighty population are the ones among the tribes from which they sprung having the greatest bravery and the greatest foresight. Our men are not the dregs of the peoples they have left behind, but are those who might have become the intellectual and dominant princes.

Fearlessness, intrepidity, independence, clearness and
quickness of mind mark the spirit of adventurers such as I speak of. Here they meet, and under conditions most favorable to bring out the strongest points of their characters. Under the commercial competition for material gain, the stimulation of body and brain is excessive; nor does this competition stop when wealth is attained. It passes on into the higher reaches of man's being and there arouses longings for lovely surroundings and conditions harmonious with the best that is in him. The works of Pericles' day were the direct result of conditions brought about by the intensity of Athenian commercial activity, and the World's Fair in 1893 could not have been thought of nor built by any other community except our own.

Our people were not long content with mere money gaining and laying-up of goods. They have shown this in no uncertain way, and they are confirming the impression made in '93 by works of importance and value which will surpass their previous achievements. In 1893 the people constructed the Fair. This was no accident, but was a logical outcome of the commercial life preceding that period. It was not an exotic; it was an orderly expression of the people's concrete vision and consequent desire. They had come to want such a thing, and what such a community wants it will obtain. The spirit of this people did not sing once and then die forever. The World's Columbian Exposition was but an announcement of a simple theme, of which
the people will henceforth have much to say. A man of influence among us, who is honored for public spirit, said last week: "Don't suggest anything more for our day; we have had enough. Let posterity take up the next great work." What does he ask? That the irresistible stream of Chicago life shall be turned backward? It is impossible! The day of selfish rest either for a single man or for societies, has passed away. While we live, we must advance; when we stop, we are already dead. The next great work of the people and for the people must go on, and it is already here. Our self-respect before our neighbors and all nations and the world, must be maintained, and to this end we must proceed without delay to clean up and make inviting our front-door yards.

A foreigner of distinction said last week, while looking at the lake front from his window in the Auditorium: "Can one shoot snipe in that marsh down there; it looks like a good place for it"? He was quite in earnest. He was not surprised that we should have a slough bordering Michigan Boulevard. Such a condition seemed rather to be in accord with his ideas of the avenues of Chicago. Can the people stand this any longer? The front of our city should be very beautiful, and it can be made so. From a disgusting ash heap, fringed with rotten piers and unsightly fishermen's derricks, should spring, within the next few years, lagoons and wooded terraces,
unsurpassed in loveliness.

Let us connect our noble parks by viaducts, by tunnels, by cross-town boulevards. Let all these be placed in the hands of the Commissioners as quickly as possible. Let us take the margin of the Lake for the people, to whom it properly belongs. This move will contribute to their health and happiness more than anything which is in the power of the city to do. It will make the rich content to learn to live and spend their money among their own people. If the rich will stay on their own shore, the poor will be benefited by it; and to keep them here, there is nothing so efficacious as the building up of delightful surroundings. Merry, happy and valuable families grow in pleasant homes. It is full time for intelligent men to turn their energies and means toward the counteraction of the growing discontent among all classes. We have wealth, let us stop squandering it feverishly, abroad and at the watering places; let us commence to settle down and learn to like and take care of each other, and let us make things beautiful about us, so that the happiness we seek as individuals and as a community may be helped on, so far as they affect us, by harmonious external conditions.