

COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

The work of preparation at Chicago for the great exhibition is said to be steadily progressing. The finances for the prosecution of the work are reported to be in a satisfactory state. Designs are already in hand for many of the buildings, and from present appearances the exposition is destined to be one of the largest the world has ever seen. One of the most remarkable structures on the grounds is to be a tower higher than the celebrated Eiffel tower at Paris. The external appearance of this tower is shown by the engraving on this page. The tower is to be 1150 feet high at the base of the flag-staff which is 150 feet higher than the Eiffel tower. It will be known as the Proctor tower, bearing the name of the designer. The lower portion of the structure will be built of railroad iron and concrete, and the superstructure, which will be manufactured at the Carnegie Iron Works at Pittsburgh, will be entirely of steel. It will be shipped in sections ready to be fitted together on arrival at the grounds. The design has been endorsed by some of the most eminent engineers of the world. The following description is from *The Graphic* of Chicago:

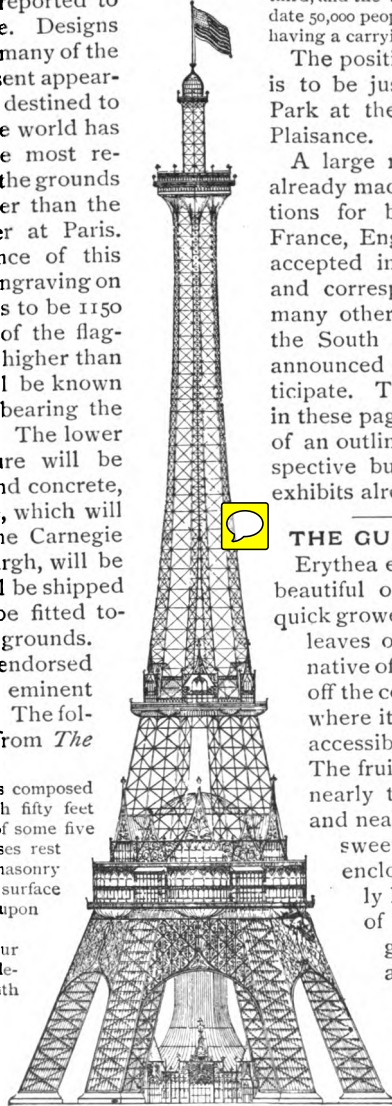
The bottom of this tower is composed of six substantial bases each fifty feet square enclosing a surface of some five acres in extent. These bases rest upon a foundation of stone masonry sunk seventeen feet below the surface of the ground and resting upon hard clay.

A central space, some four hundred feet square, will be elegantly floored and walled with marble, and within it will be located the huge engines operating the elevators and dynamos, the ground space at the sides being taken up with booths, refectories and the like. The elevators, which will move a central shaft, will ascend from the base to a distance of a thousand feet in two minutes time. These elevators, ten in number, will be constructed and guarded in such a manner that accident will be impossible. Four of the cars will ascend to the second landing, and two will make the journey to the dome, one hundred and fifty feet from the top. At this point an observatory will be located, containing telescopes, and, it is not unlikely, an exhibit of the signal service of the United States.

The second landing will cover an area of 6,400 feet, and booths, restaurants and the like will be located here for the refreshment of those who desire to view the city from an altitude of 400 feet. The area of the first landing exceeds the total area of the second and third, and the three together will accommodate 50,000 people at one time, the elevators having a carrying capacity of 8,000 per hour.

The position of the Proctor tower is to be just outside of Jackson Park at the head of the Midway Plaisance.

A large number of States have already made handsome appropriations for buildings and exhibits. France, England and Spain have accepted invitations to take part and correspondence is open with many other countries. Several of the South American States have announced their intentions to participate. The space at command in these pages will not admit even of an outline account of the prospective buildings and the varied exhibits already announced.



THE PROCTOR TOWER.

THE GUADALOUPE PALM.

Erythea edulis is one of the most beautiful of ornamental palms, a quick grower, with large fan-shaped leaves of a dark green. It is a native of the Isle of Guadeloupe, off the coast of Lower California, where it is found in almost inaccessible cañons near the sea. The fruit is jet black when ripe, nearly two inches in diameter and nearly round. The pulp is sweet and pleasant eating and encloses a large and extremely hard seed about the size of a marble. The wild goats eat the fruit with avidity. Occasionally men visit the island to kill goats for their hides, and when they run out of provisions—as they sometimes do, as the island can only be

approached in good weather—goat meat and palm fruit or “wild dates” as they are called, comprise their only food. The blue palm (*Erythea armata*) with its beautiful silvery or glaucous white foliage, is a near relative of the Guadeloupe palm, and is found in the cañons bordering the desert on the mainland. C. R. ORCUTT.