

# A HISTORY OF THE GREAT LAKES

By Crockett McElroy.

## THE COLUMBUS FLEET.

No fleet of vessels that ever crossed the waters of the Great Lakes that attracted the interested attention of so many people as the caravels, Santa Maria, Pinta and Nina, which represented in appearance and so far as possible in detail the world famous little vessels that carried Christopher Columbus from Spain across the Atlantic ocean to the greatest discovery ever made by man for the world's progress.

The story of how the building of the caravels and their exhibition at Chicago was brought about, is thus related in the Graphic History of the Fair:

"In a plan for a historical exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition prepared by William E. Curtis, director of the Bureau of American Republics, and submitted to Congress by the Honorable Jas. G. Blaine, it was proposed to reproduce in miniature the fleet of Columbus, and anchor the vessels off the shore of Jackson Park during the exposition in such a manner as to place them in contrast with the model battleship which represents the naval architecture of this country. The plan having received the approval of Congress, the responsibility of carrying it into effect was impressed upon Mr. Curtis, the author, and at his request the secretary of the navy detailed Lieutenant W. McCarty Little as an expert to take immediate charge of the work.

"After several weeks of investigation it was determined that the caravels could not be constructed with either accuracy or economy in the United States and Lieutenant Little was sent to Madrid to secure the co-operation of the Spanish Government in making the designs and constructing the vessels. At his request the Minister of Marine appointed a board of naval architects and archaeologists, who, after several months of study and investigation, prepared plans for the reproduction of the Santa Maria, which was the flagship of Columbus, and, with the Pinta and Nina, composed his fleet. The Spanish Government also agreed to undertake the construction of the first model and larger vessel, provided the United States would build the two smaller caravels. Congress having failed to provide funds for the purpose, Mr. Curtis appealed to Julian C. Gage of Chicago, who advanced a sum sufficient to make the first payment and agreed to furnish much more as was necessary, with the understanding that, in case an appropriation was made by Congress, it should be refunded to him. The board

of directors of the World's Columbian exposition afterwards assumed the responsibility incurred by Mr. Gage and the work on the caravels was begun at Barcelona. Congress made an appropriation to pay for them and the money advanced was refunded.

"The three vessels were completed in time to take part in the festivities at Huelva, Spain, on Oct. 12th, 1892, and were the chief attraction on that occasion, being visited by the queen and royal family and by thousands of visitors. The Santa Maria was commanded by Captain Concas of the Spanish navy and the other caravels by Lieutenant Howard and Lieutenant Coffin of the United States navy.

"On the 6th of February, 1893, the Santa Maria started from Cadiz for a voyage across the Atlantic, and on the 19th of the same month the Pinta and Nina followed, being convoyed by the flagship Newark and the man-of-war Bennington of the United States navy. They were delivered to the Spanish authorities at Havana, and were towed to Hampton Roads by Spanish men-of-war. They afterward participated in the naval review at New York, where they were the most interesting vessels in the great international fleet.

"The Santa Maria had three masts, square sails on the fore and main masts and lateen sails aft. She was high out of water, with castles at bow and stern, and carried the royal standard of Spain at the main (quartered with the lion and castles of Leon and Castile), a flag with a green cross in the centre at the fore and the royal pennant at the mizzen yard."

"The rigging of the Pinta was similar to that of the Santa Maria and the Nina carried lateen sails.

Soon after the review at New York, the caravels were towed to Montreal and thence through the St. Lawrence canal and river to Ogdensburg, where they were taken in tow by a freight propeller, which towed them to Chicago. At every point they touched they created great enthusiasm. They lay at anchor in front of Detroit for several hours on July 1st, and were reviewed by a great many people.

"On their arrival at Jackson Park, Chicago," says the Graphic, "they were greeted by Samos in war costumes, Esquimaux in ka-ak and by fair visitors in electric kumbyes and gondolas, and the flags of all nations saluted the banner of Spain that floated proudly from the Santa Maria. In this honoring the caravels sent by Spain is her most interesting contribution to the Columbus Exposition, all the nations represented honored

the great Genoese."

At the exposition the caravels were placed alongside of the building erected to represent the convent of La Rabida, where Columbus called and begged for bread for his little son, Diedo, who was with him. This bread was the best illustration ever given of the proverb, "bread cast upon the waters returneth after many days." The

prior of the convent, Juan Perez de Marchena, became interested in Columbus. He had been Queen Isabella's confessor and it was mainly through his influence that she was induced to furnish Columbus with the means to fit out his fleet. And following Columbus's success the bread was returned a thousandfold.

To Be Continued.

## Hospital Ladies Hold Their Monthly Meeting. Chief of Police Caught Blind Pig Operator.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the C. & M. Hospital was held in the Board Room on Monday, Feb. 15th, at 3 p.m. Those present were Mesdames Meacham, Bassett, Williams, Leask, Gregory, Begg, C. E. Stephens, Knight, A. L. Stephens, McKay, Smith, McFaul, Enright, Byrnes, Irwin, Hogg, Bryan, Connolly, R. A. Stephens, Telfer and Birnie. The president, assisted by Mrs. Williams, conducted the opening devotions.

The usual secretaries' reports were received. The expenditure during January amounted to \$583.50. Bills were read and on motion of Mesdames Stephens and Knight ordered to be paid.

Mrs. Bryan presented the visitors' report and Mesdames McKay and Bassett were appointed visitors for the present month.

A letter was read from the Hospital Helpers, assuming the charge of the women's ward linen for a year.

The lady superintendent reported for January as follows:—The Hospital work during the month has been comparatively light, not many patients being admitted. At present there are only five patients in the upper flat private rooms and four in the men's ward, but the women's ward and obstetrical department are well filled. Considering the number of patients there has been a good deal of surgical work done, the patients convalescing well. There were three deaths, all aged people and incurable, and two births. Patients' fees amounted to \$835.

The season of the year is now here when it is customary for us to have some interior decoration and other work done. Some of the small private rooms would be much improved by a new coat of paint, while the most of the white furniture needs re-enamelling and going over generally. Rings are badly needed for a few of the rooms. Toilet sets are incomplete in others. It would be well to consider the advisability of getting a stock pot in bedroom china as the unavoidable breakages could then be replaced at very much less expense. New Ennis sheets and pillow cases particularly are badly needed. To make the Hospital completely modern for present-day surgical work, it is contemplated that a new steam-pres-

Chief Borthwick made an unexpected visit to the bar of the Central Hotel on Saturday, Feb. 13rd. As he entered, he told the police magistrate last Saturday morning, he saw one Alex. McMillan, a young man probably under twenty-five years, make a quick move in regard to a glass which was on the top of the counter. Increasing his pace, the chief says, he soon got behind the bar, but to see McMillan spill the contents of a pitcher into the sink. He smelled the glass and believed it had contained whiskey. He also ran his fingers through the liquor which was quickly disappearing, through the holes in the grating of the sink and, according to his sense, this also was of the flavor of the pure stuff. He remarked to McMillan that "That was a quick move you made." McMillan in rebuttal swore that the contents of the pitcher, a brown jug, were not whiskey, but cider of an old vintage. He had served a couple of men with it just before the arrival of the chief and both had refused to drink or pay for it. Noble Smith was also called and said he had been in the bar and was on his way out when he met the chief. He had had cider out of the very same jug, but no whiskey. Charley Train, who was convicted a short time ago of selling liquor and fined \$200, was also called. He said that there was no question as to the liquid in the jug being cider. He had brought it up from the cellar a short time before the visit of the chief. Mr. Birnie for the prosecution argued that the chief was an uninterested party and that it was not a question of numerical strength of evidence, rather reliability. Col. Bruce argued against such a contention and also that it was impossible for the chief to run his fingers through a quarter of an inch of liquor in the sink in question. The magistrate said he did not doubt the credibility of the chief, yet he hesitated to convict on a mere smell. He would go and examine the sink and reserved judgment until Monday morning.

Judgment was given on Monday morning when McMillan was found guilty and fined \$25 and costs, in all \$29.70. The usual option of spending 30 days in Barrie was given, but the cash was produced, hence the defendant may remain in town. To assist in arriving at a decision the magistrate visited the bar and examined the sink. In rendering judgment he commented upon the fact that the main entrance of the street to the bar, whence business might be expected, was closed. He also found the sink