

other objects of special interest, were halted at, and the party entertained with a description of the modes of doing business which obtain in our young giant city. The tug having performed its duty, the party proceeded to the Board of Trade rooms, and tarried a few moments; there were, however, no speeches made, those being reserved for the formal reception of the afternoon which was given at the Opera House.

At two o'clock the doors of the Opera House were thrown open, and the few who were waiting in anticipation of that act walked in. A little later came Vaas' Light Guard Band, preceding a delegation from the Board of Trade. They entered the hall, and took their places in the orchestra, and while playing the overture—a selection from Massaniello—the citizens came. The attendance was not large, but eminently respectable. Many of our oldest citizens were there, but the great mass of the business world was too much occupied to be able to spare an afternoon on so short a notice. The lower part of the house was nearly filled, and a few ladies and gentlemen occupied the balcony circle.

The platform was occupied by the excursionists, the Committee of Reception, and a few other prominent citizens. The scenes were thrown open to the extreme rear, exposing the full depth of the magnificent stage.

INTRODUCTORY.

Hon. J. B. RICE, Mayor of Chicago, called the assembly to order, and delivered the following address:

“LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

“I was very much gratified this morning when I was informed by one of our citizens that I should be permitted here this day to speak a word of welcome to the ladies and gentlemen who have just returned, and who have been on an excursion to the Far West, and are back now in the city. It is very gratifying to me, as the Mayor of the city, to find this demonstration made here to receive with welcome and heartfelt kindness these gentlemen who are so