



COMPOSITE PHOTOGRAPH OF FORTY-FOUR OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN IN THE WEST.

" 'And what is your fortune, my pretty maid' ?
 ' My face is my fortune, Sir,' she said."



WHILE the faces of forty-four of the most beautiful women in the West may not be their only fortune, they may materially assist in the fortunes of others; for a composite picture of their beauty adorns one side of the

medal which commemorates the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition. The assertion has been made that if a number of women from a certain section of the country were to be photographed, and the result converted into a composite picture, a representative type of that section of the country would be the result. This is in many respects both a novel and a true idea.

When the plans for the exposition were yet in their infancy, the question of a souvenir medal was raised, and it was decided to employ some unique idea in its conception, which, when completed, would show also an artistic sense in the selection of design. Thus it was suggested that the services of the composite photographer be put into requisition. The idea had its birth in the incident connected with the removal of the Cleopatra Needle from Egypt to America. It will be remembered

that the profile of Cleopatra was sought for, to be used for one side of the medal that was to be struck off in commemoration of that event. The great difficulty arose in securing a perfect profile. Commander Gorringer, the engineer, gathered a large number of Egyptian coins, more or less mutilated, and by the aid of photography secured the desired result. This was used from which to make the die.

The same idea has been used to make the exposition's souvenir medal. Word was sent to the respective Vice Presidents of the trans-Mississippi States to forward photos of the two handsomest women within their borders.

Forty-two photos, "on profile," were received, and the composite picture made. The result is an ideal American head, full of the combined force, intellectuality, vivacity, and beauty of the typical American girl. The work reflects much credit upon the photographer, George G. Rockwood, of New York.

On the obverse side of the medal is an artistic reproduction of the American Indian in the act of spearing a buffalo. The medal as a whole is indicative of and fittingly illustrates the strides that civilization and culture have made in the West during the past fifty years.