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Sweden Day, July 20, 1893

at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago

Midsummer Day, a popular festival in Sweden, was chosen for the beginning of the three-day celebration by Swedish Americans. These three days were originally set apart for the biennial meeting of the American Union of Swedish Singers, and, with this society as a nucleus, the Swedish citizens of Chicago combined in an effort to do themselves credit as the third nationality in the city in point of numbers.



Sweden Building.

The parade on the morning of the first day, numbering twelve thousand five hundred men in line, was an impressive spectacle, with its long ranks of drilled and uniformed



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societies, its bands of music, historical and allegorical floats, companies of young girls in national costume, and the colors of the United States waving as proudly as the blue and yellow of Sweden.

The place of honor in the van was given to the singing societies, from many cities and towns, under their national leader, Mr. John R. Ortengren. Among the floats a thirty-foot model of Ericsson's Monitor recalled the dark days of the civil war ; another showed the first settlement of Swedes in Delaware, September 6, 1638; and, of Scandinavian subjects, one float portrayed the Vikings, and another, drawn by six horses mounted by Valkyries, represented a feast in Valhalla.

A musical program was given in Festival Hall by the Swedish-American singers, assisted by the Exposition orchestra and the soloists Madame Caroline Oestberg, Conrad Behrens, and Mr. C. F. Lundquist, of the Royal Opera in Stockholm. Mr. Artur Leffler, Royal Commissioner, made an address on America, and the Hon. Thomas B. Bryan, appearing for the Exposition, spoke of the Swedes in America.

The proceedings of the second and third days of this celebration consisted of informal receptions at the Swedish building and of concerts by the choral societies and soloists.