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SECOND SECTION.

DR. ROUSH'S RACY LETTERS

He Writes to the Whig About His Tour in Sweden and Elsewhere.

The Many Famous Men Who Have Been Born in Sweden—A Pen Picture of Stockholm—Geraniums Grow to Be Trees.

Special to the Whig.

The three Scandinavian kingdoms, like three brothers, possess certain family traits and characteristics common to all yet, as often happens with children of the same parents, Norway, Sweden and Denmark differ widely from each other in many physical, civic and social particulars. Among the similarities may be mentioned the language which practically amounts to little more than different dialects of the same mother tongue. Habits, dress and customs, while varying considerably with each country—and indeed with different localities in the same country—may also be traced to the same common origins. For mutual convenience the monetary systems of the three countries are identical, the "Krone" composed of one hundred "Ore" and equal to about twenty-seven American cents being the standard. But notwithstanding these and other similarities, Denmark, Sweden and Norway each stands out distinctly and alone. Physically Denmark is a comparatively level country wholly lacking even a faint suggestion of the towering grandeur of Norway's tremendous mountains and rugged vales or Sweden's more conventional types of rolling plains, bold hills and dancing waterfalls. These phases of nature have noticeably influenced the temperament and character of the inhabitants producing the milder moods and graces of the Danes, Norwegian austerity and possibly the love of formality, pomp and ceremony imputed by certain critics to the Swedes. While both Norway and Denmark have each furnished their full quota to the world's roll of great personages still it seems to me that Sweden rather leads her two Scandinavian neighbors in the brilliancy and numbers of her renowned men and women, among the latter being the two famous singers, Jenny Lind and Christine Nilsson.

Sweden's Many Famous Sons.

Sweden's list of scientists and men of letters is a long one headed perhaps by the greatest botanist the world has ever produced, the great Linnaeus. Among the astronomers Celsius stands prominent, but who is best known perhaps by the thermometer which he invented and which still bears his name. Scheele discovered oxygen while Swenborg followed the lines of original spiritual investigation and is best known by the system of theology which he created. The Swedes have always been an investigating nation. This trait has led them into many of the remote nooks and corners of the earth. Nordenskiöld was the first to realize the dream of nearly every early navigator and accomplish the navigation of the oft-tempted "Northeast passage." The Swedes have also been leading polar explorers, the last perhaps that attracted the attention of the world was Amundsen, who, with his two companions, sailed away from Dane's Island in a dirigible balloon never to return. Another name recently added to Sweden's list of famous explorers is that of Sven Hedin, an account of whose travels in the sealed copy of Tibet reads like a tale from the Orient's own marvelous literature. Then there was John Ericsson who invented the screw propeller and various other marine and transportation devices.

But perhaps the Swede who, more than any other, has attracted not only the greatest attention of the scientific world but through his bequests has also drawn to him the notice of the domain of philanthropy; literature and art is the great chemist and philanthropist, Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite and the creator of the Noble Foundation. Noble, at his death in 1896, left a fortune of more than eight million dollars to be used to help on in various ways the cause of humanity. According to the provisions of his will the income from this fund is to be divided annually into five prizes and awarded respectively to those persons who have made the most important discoveries or improvements in physics, chemistry and medicine and to the author of the best book with a high idealistic aim, and lastly to the individual who has done the most or worked the best to bring about the peace and brotherhood of all mankind. These five prizes, each amounting to about forty thousand dollars, are annually awarded by the authorities who have the funds in trust to those who, in the opinion of the commission, are entitled to this substantial recognition. This prize-worthy institution has been in active operation now since 1901 and its prizes for meritorious achievement in medicine, chemistry, physics and fraternalism have gone to the several civilized nations of the globe, Germany, France and England having divided first honors about equally in the number captured while America, Italy, Holland, Russia and Sweden form a second class each of which countries having had one or more representatives in the fortunate list. The headquarters and various prize commissions are located in the magnificent city of Stockholm, one of the most characteristically beautiful capitals of the world.

Arrival at Stockholm.
We reached Stockholm after an all-

day's ride from Christiania. The route led one through pleasant vales and undulating farmsteads and while not marked by scenery out of the commonplace, still the ride was restful and the day was charming and in consequence the hours passed pleasantly enough. The shades of the opalescent eve were falling when we approached the environs of Stockholm and as the scattered electric lights announced our proximity to a great city I aroused from my reverie, sat up and began to take notice. More and more numerous grew the twinkling lights and now a paved road, a row of substantial buildings and the passing of a suburban train car spoke of the end of our journey. In a few minutes the hollow rattle of the train suggested our entrance upon a bridge and at the same time a long line of reflected lights

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on a glassy surface revealed the water beneath. Other lines of stars in the azure waters appeared and still others till the stretching mirror was literally ablaze with quivering, scintillating diamonds of the sea.

"Holm" in Swedish means "island" and "stock" in the same language means "trunk," as of a tree, so that the word "Stockholm" literally translated reads "Tree trunk island" and its origin is explained by a pretty local legend in which a drifting tree trunk supposed by the founder to be guided by an unseen but benign influence finally landed on a certain island or "holm" which was taken as an omen of good and which determined the future location of the capital of the then primitive kingdom. But if the original city only occupied the site of one island it has long since outgrown its early limitations for to-day Stockholm has spread over a large number of islands in the picturesque channel that connects the lake above with the bay below, providing the unique and glorious setting for this incomparable city. Stockholm, therefore, is a kind of an inland Venice that with the additional advantage of surrounding land and while the channels of water are as azure and sparkling as are those of the queen of the Adriatic, still it is more accessible and adds to the marine charm the beauty of forest and hill and dale.

It was therefore like entering a fairy city that evening as our train rolled over long bridges in travelling from island to island till reaching the central section we found ourselves halted beneath the spacious roof of a modern station. In the Drottninggatan we found a comfortable hotel and were soon stowed away for the night.

Architectural Masterpiece.

If the night before had presented Stockholm in the light of a fairy city it was no less attractive in the radiant sunshine of the following morning. After a refreshing sleep and an enjoyable breakfast which the quaint-costumed waitress brought to our room at eight o'clock we strolled down the "gaten" in the direction of the group of peerless buildings made up of the State Bank, the Parliament, the Opera House and the Royal Palace. In no other city in the world do I know of a more striking ensemble of more artistic settings than that presented by these architectural masterpieces.

The bank and houses of parliament stand on a separate island just large enough to contain these two exquisite structures and still have land enough to spare to maintain a beautiful park-like garden. Around the border of this island a massive granite embankment extends in pleasing curves and stately masonry from the surface of the ground down to below the water's edge. In places vines and climbers are trained over this retaining wall giving the impression of the bountiful garden spilling into the crystal sea.

In this attractive little park I first noticed those ornamental apple trees laden with thousands of tiny bright red apples no larger than a filbert and which in springtime must have put forth a mass of fragrant bloom as charming as the double cherry blossoms of Japan. The ordinary flowers of the temperate zone grew here in the most perfect profusion and nowhere have I ever seen such gorgeous roses and flaming geraniums as in these northern countries. It was a matter of considerable surprise to find in these high latitudes with their long winters and short summers this wonderful floral display. Though it was September when I visited Stockholm still the roses seemed to be at the very height of their perfection. The bushes were invariably dwarfed, the gardener even using them on account of their small size, to form borders

along walks and around geometrical flower beds. These small bushes usually bore but a few blossoms but what incomparable roses they were! I have seen one of these little bushes bearing roses almost as large as a great hydrangea and varying in color from white, yellow and pink to the deepest red. And how velvety and soft were their beautiful petals in the dew laden air of the early eve! One was seized with an ever constant desire to stoop down and caress them or pluck and carry them away in sheer enthusiasm and admiration.

Tree Geraniums.

Geraniums were frequently trimmed and trained into small trees often higher than one's head with a true woody trunk supporting a spreading top literally ablaze with hundreds of great scarlet blossoms. How they managed to develop this wood-like trunk in an ordinary geranium I am not prepared to say unless it is in preserving in green houses during the winter, the same stalk from year to year till it finally hardens into a solid growth.

I observed the same treatment applied to the common daisy resulting in a trunk an inch or more in diameter and as firm as that of any other similar-sized tree or shrub. One afternoon to a native of Stockholm I expressed my surprise at the marvelous flowers found here in the latitude of Alaska, but he seemed to think it all quite natural. "For," said he, "once spring opens here the flowers never sleep but grow through the white night as rapidly as during the day. That is the reason vegetables mature here in half the time it takes them to ripen in the latitudes of dark nights." "Then too," he continued, "this uninterrupted growth produces a more perfect specimen in both bloom and fruit for nothing interferes to mar the full fruition."

So another wonderful phase of nature was presented and one that held these northern climes a kindly compensation for their long months of winter.

This park in the Parliament grounds impressed me most vividly not that

the flowers are any the more beautiful here than in the numerous other parks of Stockholm for daily we came upon these delicious gardens scattered in rich profusion throughout the city, but because I did not expect to find in any of these North land these exquisite blossoms that not only equalled but far exceeded anything I had ever seen in the warmer zones. Of course I don't include the luxuriant growth of the tropics—these are altogether different varieties—but those flowers with which we of the temperate zones are familiar—roses, geraniums, daisies and the like—I have never seen grow so gorgeous and prolific as in the neighborhood of latitude sixty, North.

The landscape gardener's art was fully up to the perfection of the plants, shrubs and flowers he tended. Even grass grew as I have never seen it grow elsewhere resembling in softness and texture the finest grade of green velvet. A favorite means of beautifying these Stockholm gardens is to form sunken designs in the grass plots scattered between beds of flowers. These figures are as perfect as if they had been imprinted by giant "litter prints" sometimes decorated with a bright patch of blossoms but often containing no flowers at all, simply outlined in closely cropped velvety grass as clear and sharp cut as the lines of a cameo, letter seal or medalion.

Emphasized Beauty.

And so the beauty of these artistic public buildings is emphasized by their surrounding gardens that spill over stone copings into the limpid waters on which brightly burnished boats ply from landing stage to landing stage where one may sail the beautiful lake-like lagoons and stately canals to his heart's desire. Or if he is partial to walking he may loiter over commodious bridges from island to island and at each turn some incomparable view bursts upon his delighted vision. Unlike the canals of Venice the narrow channels often debouch into considerable bodies of water bordered by private or public gardens or buildings and all this too in the very heart of Stockholm. One looks forth from his hotel window down upon the decks of an ocean steamer or steps across the street from his office and into a waiting launch that steams away under bridges, through little lakes and along granite-walled canals to his home. And with all this pleasure craft and shipping nothing of the freight-littered docks of commercialism is observed for only a few of the less prominent wharves have been given over to this phase of freighting and even here the crates and boxes are always seen in orderly arrangement and the granite-paved quay is always kept swept and spotless. This island-studded bay sweeps oceanward for a hundred miles or more and the summer homes of many of the business men of Stockholm are scattered along the picturesque coast between the city and the sea. These suburban dwellers travel to and fro in their smart little steam yachts so that every wharf in the business district presents a most attractive and animated appearance. Amid these most extraordinary and most fascinating city scenes it was a matter of no surprise that that first day passed before I was aware and only by the soft strains of music from the garden cafes and the subdued glow in the sky did I realize that the damask shades of eve had come and that a table canopied by trailing vines near the orchestra in the royal opera open air restaurant where one could gaze out across the light-licked water to the imperial palace beyond was the proper environment for the evening meal.

SIGEL ROUSH.

A man may go through the world on credit, but it isn't always to his credit. It's far better to be an oculist than a chiroprapist—if your patients are mules.

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