

## A GOLDEN KEY.

Pressed by the Presidential Finger  
and the Columbian Exposition  
Bursts Into Life.

Imposing Ceremonies Attend the  
Opening of the Great Fair on  
May Day at Chicago.

They Are Viewed by a Concourse of  
Delighted Spectators, Whose Num-  
bers Are Estimated at 500,000.

A Scene of Wondrous Splendor—Text of  
President Cleveland's Address—  
W. D. Croft's Poem.

**THE WONDER OF THE CENTURY.**  
CHICAGO, May 2.—A great achievement, the  
fame of which has set the world a-ringing, has  
been accomplished. Before thousands of de-  
lighted, enthusiastic spectators who gathered  
at Jackson park, despite the lowering clouds  
the president of the United States at noon  
started the World's Columbian exposition  
and unfolded all the wondrous glories  
of an art that seems inspired of  
Heaven, the highest products of man's  
handiwork, and the miracles of nature turned  
to the uses of the occasion by the hand of man.  
Around him stood the representatives of gov-  
ernments that now, for the first time, have  
joined in manifesting their friendship and ad-  
miration for a nation that looks to the rising  
sun for inspiration. Among them stood the de-  
scendants of the man whose sturdy faith against  
misfortune, whose earnestness and whose cour-  
age cut through the sea the path that led west-  
ward the pioneers of the new world.

**Dignified and Simple.**  
The nature of the opening ceremony was  
characterized by dignity and simplicity. It was  
the expression of the president that the pa-  
rade and pageantry should be cut down as  
much as possible, and that he should be per-  
mitted to perform the function for which he  
came west with the sort of simple dignity that  
is so well on the president of the United  
States. He was escorted quietly to Jackson  
park and the exposition grounds themselves  
furnished the rest of the show.

**The Great Fair Opened.**  
Some music by the orchestra, prayer by the  
chaplain of the national house of representa-  
tives, the reading of a poem and the delivery  
of addresses by the director general and the  
president were all the features of the  
ceremonies. Then came the real sight of in-  
terest. The president, declaring the fair  
open, touched a button; down tumbled the  
drapery from the golden statue of the republic,  
unveiled flags of every color from 300 staffs,  
the fountains and the band both played and  
the great Columbian exposition was formally  
inaugurated.

Before the ceremonies were half over twenty  
women and half as many children had been re-  
moved unconscious to the hospital, where a corps  
of physicians was in waiting. Most of the help-  
less ones had simply fainted, but a number  
were suffering from internal injuries received  
in the jam, and it was feared that a fatal ter-  
mination might ensue.

**A GRAND PAGEANT.**  
The magnificent escort of President Cleve-  
land to Jackson Park.

It was a magnificent procession that escorted  
President Cleveland and the duke of Veragua  
and their parties down Chicago's beautiful  
boulevards to Jackson park for the opening cer-  
emonies. Starting from the Lexington hotel,  
corner Michigan avenue and Twenty-second  
street, where President Cleveland had been  
quartered since Saturday noon, the column pro-  
ceeded along Grand boulevard to Fifty-first  
street, thence through South park by way of  
Bayard avenue to Palmer avenue, thence to the  
Western entrance of Midway Plaisance. At  
this point Col. Rige, commanding the Columbian  
guard, met the column and guided it to Jackson  
park.

Following is the order of the parade:  
Platoon of South Park mounted police.  
A detachment of mounted city police, twenty-  
seven men, under command of Lieut. C. C.  
Healy.

Company B, Seventh United States cavalry,  
under command of Capt. E. A. Varum, and  
Company K, of the Seventh United States cav-  
alry, under command of Capt. L. R. Hare.

The Chicago Hussars, under command of  
Capt. E. L. Brand.

Troop A of the Illinois national guard, under  
command of Capt. Lino.

The column was in command of Maj. T. A.  
Baldwin of the Seventh United States cav-  
alry.

First five carriages—Commissioners and es-  
cort.

Sixth carriage—The director general of the  
exposition, the director of works.

Seventh carriage—The president of the United  
States, the president of the World's Columbian  
commission, the president of the World's  
Columbian exposition.

Eighth carriage—Vice president of the United  
States, ex-President Lyman J. Gage, ex-Pres-  
ident William T. Baker.

Ninth carriage—Secretary of state and es-  
cort.

Tenth carriage—Secretary of the treasury  
and es-  
cort.

Eleventh carriage—Secretary of the interior  
and es-  
cort.

Twelfth carriage—Secretary of agriculture  
and es-  
cort.

Thirteenth carriage—Secretary of commerce,  
the first vice president of the commission, the  
first vice president of the exposition, Com-  
mander Dickens.

Fifteenth carriage—Duchess of Veragua,  
Mrs. Potter Palmer, president of the board of  
lady managers of the World's Columbian ex-  
position, Mrs. Commander Dickens.

Sixteenth carriage—Marquis de Barboles,  
second vice president of the commission, second  
vice president of the exposition.

Seventeenth carriage—Hon. Christobel Col-  
on y Aguilera, Hon. Haria del Pilar Colon y  
Aguilera, Commissioner Thomas G. Gutierrez.

Eighteenth carriage—Hon. Pedro Colon y Ber-  
nardo, Hon. Carlos Aguilera, Marquis Villaher-  
bar, Director Charles L. Hutchison.

Nineteenth carriage—Thomas F. Bayard,  
Lambert Tree.

Twentieth carriage—Major general, com-  
manding United States army, and aids.

Twenty-first carriage—Admiral Gherardi and  
aids.

Twenty-second carriage—Governor of the  
state of Illinois.

Twenty-third carriage—Mayor of the city  
of Chicago.

At 9:45 the procession left the Lexington  
hotel. At 11 o'clock Lieut. Healy's advance  
guard of mounted police reached the west en-  
trance of Midway Plaisance and in a few min-  
utes were in front of the platform in front of  
the Administration building. A short time  
later the great parade was at an end.

**HOW THE FAIR WAS OPENED.**  
Order of Exercises in Front of the Ad-  
ministration Building.

As he stepped out on the platform to declare  
the world's fair formally opened to the world  
President Cleveland was greeted by as great a  
crowd of people as witnessed the dedication  
ceremonies last October in Manufacturers hall.  
The event was of far greater importance and  
deeper interest than the one that is passed.  
Then the exposition was in great part only an  
anticipation. Now it is a gorgeous reality.

**The Invited Guests.**  
On the platform were seated the specially in-  
vited guests of the fair in the following order:  
President Cleveland, Vice President Stevenson,  
Secretary of State Gresham, Secretary of  
Treasury Charles D. Smith, Secretary of Navy  
Herbert Smith, Secretary of Interior Smith, Secretary of Agriculture  
Morton, the duke of Veragua, the  
duchess of Veragua, Marquis de Barboles,  
Christobel Colon y Aguilera, Pedro Colon y  
Bernardo, Thomas F. Bayard, Lambert Tree,  
Maj. Gen. Miles, Admiral Gherardi, Gen. Al-  
dridge, Mayor Harrison, Director General Davis,  
Director of Works Burnham, President Pal-  
mer, President Higginbotham, Lyman J. Gage,  
back."

William T. Baker, Vice President Waller of  
the commission, Vice President Peck of the  
directory, Mrs. Potter Palmer, president board  
lady managers.

**The Ceremonies.**  
All things being in readiness, the following  
programme was carried out:

Music—Columbian march for orchestra—John  
K. Payne.

Prayer—Rev. W. H. Milburn, D. D., Wash-  
ington.

Poem, "The Prophecy," written by Mr. W.  
A. Croft, of Washington.

Music, orchestral overture, "Rienzi"—Wag-  
ner.

Address by the director general.

Address by the president of the United  
States.

Starting of machinery.

Official reception of the president of the  
United States and the officials of the World's  
Columbian commission and the World's Co-  
lumbian exposition by the various foreign  
commissioners in the Manufacturers and Lib-  
eral Arts buildings.

**A Stirring Poem.**  
After the prayer by Chaplain Milburn of the  
house of representatives, Director General  
Davis led forward Miss Jessie Couthout, who  
recited W. D. Croft's poem, "The Prophecy."

The poem is as follows:  
Sadly Columbus watched the nascent moon  
Drown in the gloomy ocean's western deep,  
Strange birds that day had fluttered in the  
sails,  
And strange flowers floated round the wander-  
ing keel,  
The devil's land, And now, when through the  
dark  
The Santa Maria leaped before the gale,  
And angry billows tossed the caravels  
As to destruction, Gomez Rascon came,  
With Capt. Pinzon through the frenzied seas,  
And to the admiral brought a parchment  
scroll,  
Saying: "Good master, read this writing here—  
An earnest prayer it is from all on board.  
The crew would turn back in utter fear,  
No longer to the pole the compass point;  
Into the zenith crops the northern star;  
You saw yester eve an albatross  
Drop dead beneath the flying scud.  
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