

American travelers, who arrive here a short time before Christmas and stay from one to two weeks or sometimes a whole month after the holidays. Those are the naturalized Swedish-American citizens, who come to spend Christmas with their relatives and friends.

You can often see them go shopping in the large stores, and you will also find them in the theaters and large concert saloons, where they make themselves observed by reason of their custom to put in some English words while carrying on their conversation in Swedish.

Last summer I became acquainted with several American gentlemen among others three merchants from New York, who were stopping at the Grand. The conversation drifted, as it often does, when you have a good talk with Americans, to politics, and the Cleveland appointments were especially the subject we discussed.

I took great pleasure to inform them how the present Swedish-speaking American minister was one of the most popular men in King Oscar's domain, and how the whole nation, from the king himself to the humblest subject, took a keen and lively interest in the question of Mr. Thomas's retention as minister of the United States to Sweden and Norway.

The three New York merchants were red-hot Democrats, as I believe you call it. One of them was also a politician of note, who had taken a very active part in the Presidential campaign of 1892. They did not know Mr. Thomas before their arrival at Stockholm, but had become acquainted with him during their stay in the capital, and it goes without saying, that he made the most favorable impression on them. The democratic politician was the most enthusiastic of the three, and he made us all smile when he most emphatically stated: "To the victors belong the spoil, but the American ministry in Stockholm ought to always belong to Mr. Thomas. I will tell Cleveland all about it when I see him."

I do not know if the gentleman has "seen Cleveland and told him all about it." I suppose the President has a will of his own, and is not very easily influenced even by more prominent politicians than our New York merchant. Even if King Oscar himself should ask for Mr. Thomas's retention, as a rumor here says he has already done, I believe that Cleveland would care very little for His Majesty's wish, if he had made up his mind to appoint some other man for the position. The hope of everybody here is, that Minister Thomas will be his own successor. There is no doubt that President Cleveland would gain many friends both in the United States and in Sweden by retaining him.

I have interviewed a great many other American travelers on the subject and I have also tried to get the opinions of naturalized Swedish-Americans. They have all agreed in expressing their belief that a person who is more fit to represent the United States in Stockholm, does not exist. As one of them put it, "Thomas is the right kind of man for that position. He never enquires whether a man is a Democrat or a Republican. All he wants to know is that he is an American, 4,000 miles away from home, and he will immediately offer him his hospitality and kindly services."

The Stockholm *Aftonbladet* quotes the following from a private letter by Anders Zorn, the celebrated painter and Sweden's art commissioner at the World's Fair, to one of his artist friends in Stockholm. "I do not say too much if I declare that never before has the Swedish art celebrated such triumphs as in Chicago. All European nations were represented by the best works their art had produced, and then Sweden sends only one and a half hundred paintings, and comes out victorious. I have not been asked to make any report, but other commissioners have sent reports to their governments, and as I have heard, in favor of Sweden. Lectures on Swedish art are now being held both in New York, Boston and Chicago. I would have preferred to write on this subject in the newspapers, but I am too timid to see my thoughts in print."

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There is an anecdote about Zola, Alphonse Daudet and the Loncourt brothers once coming in a dispute about the importance of a name. Daudet, always idealist, proposed to demonstrate practically that it was not the name of the author but the work itself, which decided its success. He sent anonymously one of his novels to his publisher, but the manuscript was returned. Other publishers treated it in the same manner. The novel was sent back by everyone, seldom read, always refused. He did only need to put his name on the front page, and the publishers tried to outbid each other in order to obtain the right of publishing the work.

A variation of this theme was recently discussed in a newspaper article published in the magazine *Ord och Bild* (Words and Pictures). The article, the author of which is Mrs. Helene Nyblom, one of Sweden's most prominent female writers, treats a very delicate subject. Mrs. Nyblom asks namely in full earnest, whether Henrik Ibsen is a poet or not, and she answers the question with no, insisting upon that many of his latest dramas would not have been published, had anybody with a less famous name than Ibsen written them. How she arrives at the conclusion—well that would take several columns to relate. Enough may be said, however, that Mrs. Nyblom gives many good reasons for her opinion which undoubtedly is shared by many people who do not take the trouble of studying closer the most mysterious and incomprehensible of modern authors.

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The fact that the Swedes are a musical people is best proved, says an author, by their national melodies, their songstresses and their students, choruses being each in their kind admitted to be the finest in the world. Rossini is stated to have declared that such a melody as Neckens Polska, neither he nor any other composer then living could have written. Jenny Lind was the most gifted singer that any country has ever produced, and other Swedish songstresses have won a world-wide celebrity, e. g. Christine Nilsson. In 1867, at the World's Fair in Paris, when the Upsala Students' chorus carried on the competition in singing, it was unanimously adjudged the first prize. Singing and its cultivation generally forms the focus of musical life. Ever since the royal opera was founded in 1773, it has had plenty of good voices, more especially sopranos and tenors.

## NOTES.

Glenwood, Colo., papers announce a coming coal rate war. New Castle dealers threaten to bear the market with \$3.50 coal.

Reno, Nevada, is enjoying a season of old-fashioned winter, with superb sleighing; and the merry jingle of the bells is heard on every side.

Buffalo, Wyo., rejoices in the possession of booming times. Ninety per cent of the taxes have been paid and business is brisk, writes an exchange.

At New Castle, Colo., the kind-hearted farmers bring in loads of vegetables as donations to the families of the idle coal miners.

At Kingman, Ariz., an estimate is published by the *Mineral Wealth*, showing that the mineral output shipped out of Mohave county, Arizona, for 1893, was \$600,000.

At Ouray, Routt county, Colorado, the standard price for wheat is \$1.50 a bushel. This has been the price for two years. Plenty of vacant land in that region.

Three thousand rabbits were donated to the poor of Pueblo by the citizens of Cadden and Lamar last week. The Arkansas valley below Pueblo has been overrun by rabbits.

A lemon tree is flourishing in Long Beach, Southern California, within a quarter of a mile from the ocean. A number of lemon trees will be set out this year at the seaside.

The Silverton and Red Mountain railroad line has been kept open thus far this winter by railroad men "buckling snowdrifts" each day. Fears are expressed that the road will close.

Casper, Wyo., can now boast of a full blooded Lincoln buck which took the prize at the World's Fair and fifteen blue ribbons at other fairs. It weighs 275 pounds and will be used for breeding purposes in Wyoming.

Alamosa, Colo., is assured of the location of a packing house at that point next spring. The surplus grain of the San Luis valley will then be converted into clear sides and sugar cured hams, lard and canned corn beef.

At Antlers, Garfield county, Colo., Messrs. Horan and Moore raised 828 pounds of potatoes from one pound planted. They also produced sixty-five bushels of oats from one bushel of seed. They challenge the state to beat that.

A Monte Vista, Colo., inventor named Mead has perfected and patented a light, durable and economical hay baler. It weighs only 2,400 pounds and can be loaded on a wagon by two men. It is said to be a great improvement in hay bales.

A fatal lung disease has broken out among the horses in Northern Wyoming. Those that do not die are worthless when the disease leaves them. The Eureka Cattle company, near Rouanza, has lost some valuable thoroughbred horses.

Johnson county, Wyoming, the scene of the tragic cattle baron raid of 1892, is producing pork. At Buffalo last week several hogs were marketed weighing over 600 pounds. One Johnson county beef was killed weighing 980 pounds dressed.