

A LETTER FROM DENMARK.

Hjoring, Denmark,
Feb. 2, 1898.

Some time ago it was decided as convenient by all concerned to change from the old branch office to larger and more suitable quarters. After some searching the missionaries found rooms which were satisfactory. The proprietor hesitated some at first about letting Mormons move into his house, as there were several families occupying others parts of the building and he did not know how they would like it. However, he concluded it would do no harm to try them. Well, the moving in was followed by a meeting together of the very indignant tenants, with a view of seeing what should be done to resent the intrusion of such unwelcome neighbors. But after having been in session a short time the little convention adjourned without having decided on anything more serious than that they would be one in ostracising from their company and treating with silent contempt those Mormons.

For awhile they did not even look, let alone speak, but this did not seem to affect the missionaries at all; they treated their neighbors with civility, and minded their own business. Thus their indignant friends gradually began to think that those Mormons were not really so bad as they supposed them to be. This thought was followed by a salutation on meeting, and so it went on a little longer. But in this case, as in all others, a climax was reached. It came about in this way: One quiet afternoon we were attracted by somewhat loud sounds proceeding from the back yard. Imagine our surprise when on opening the door we beheld two of the main promoters of the anti-Mormon feeling arrayed in a battle of words, which grew warmer and warmer till one of the contestants loudly accused the other party of violating the fifth commandment. This caused retaliation. Soon after this occurrence we received a call from the landlord, who asked our opinion about the matter, and said if we thought it proper, he would have them move. Such things, said he, were not fit for respectable folks to witness. The other people took great pains to invite "Hr." missionaries (no longer those Mormons) in and explain that they did not wish us to have a misunderstanding about the affair, for they knew that we were not accustomed to see such things, etc., etc. And now we are wanted quite often. The property owner says, "Those Mormon missionaries are the best people I have in my house."

PARLEY P. JENSON.

SOME CELEBRATED CROWNS.

"Who would not risk his life for a crown?" one of the French conspirators was reported to have exclaimed to Napoleon, when that mighty man shrank back from the coup d'etat which would either place him on the throne of France or submerge him in overwhelming disaster. If the question were asked today, the ordinary man would reply that it depended upon the crown, for of late years many of the lesser diadems of Europe have actually gone a-begging. Considered merely from the standpoint of intrinsic value there are many and various kinds of crowns extant in the world at the present time. For instance, the crown of Roumania is composed of gun metal, made in fact out of a bit of old cannon captured at Plevna; that of Portugal has gems in it which have caused it to be valued at \$8,000,000.

The iron crown of Lombardy, which by the way, is the oldest diadem in Europe, is only six inches in diameter. The question usually asked by those who behold it for the first time is, Where is the iron? for to all appear-

ances the crown consists of the broad circle of gold ornamented by an enamelling of flowers. This, however, is but the outward case; with the coronet rests the iron itself. It is fashioned out by one of the nails by which Christ was fastened to the cross. The crown now rests on the cathedral of Monza, Italy, and is under the care of the monks of the establishment. These holy men call attention to the fact that while no attempt has ever been made to clean the baser metal, still there is no sign of rust upon it—a fact which conclusively proves its sacred origin.

England possesses but two crowns which are ever used. One of these is the British state crown, the other the crown of England. The former is reserved for important occasions, while the latter is used at times demanding less magnificence. The state crown, the one used by Queen Victoria when ascending the throne, was made especially for that purpose, and weighs but thirty-nine ounces. It is valued at \$1,800,000. The jewels with which it is studded were supplied mostly from older diadems of the realm, and include nearly 3,000 stones. The cap is of crimson velvet, lined with white silk, and has an ermine border. To some of the gems blazing in this insignia of royal power gressome and romantic legends are attached. For instance, the famous ruby given by Pedro the Cruel to the Black Prince is said to have come into the former's hands by foul means. The story runs that Pedro invited the Red King of Grenada to his palace and murdered his guest for the sake of the wondrous gem. Perhaps the sinister influence which might attach itself to this jewel is counteracted by its companion, the immense sapphire which is famed to come from the ring of Edward the Confessor. So great were the virtues it was supposed to have gained through its contact with this holy man that it was generally believed that the stone endowed its possessor with power over various diseases. In connection with the diadems of England might be mentioned the ancient crown of Scotland, which still may be seen in Edinburgh castle. It was made in the fourteenth century, and, of course, was used at the coronation of Mary, queen of Scots.

The Russian imperial crown is a wonderful piece of workmanship. The czar being regarded by his people as to a great extent a religious as well as a temporal lord, it is not surprising to find the badge of sovereignty modeled after the patriarchal miter. Five beautiful diamonds resting on a magnificent ruby form the cross which composes its summit. Diamonds and pearls of the utmost perfection and a sapphire which, it is claimed, has no rival, render this diadem one unsurpassed in magnificence.

The crown possessed by the German emperor is of peculiar shape. The cap rests upon eight shields, four ornamented with diamond crosses and the others with the figure of the imperial eagle while above this four hoops sparkling with diamonds support a globe surmounted by a golden cross.

Singularly beautiful, both in shape and ornamentation, is the crown of the emperor of Austria. From the coronet there arise eight jeweled ornaments, each topped by a superb pearl. The hoop of the cap is surmounted by an enormous sapphire. The lining is of ruby colored velvet. The emperor is also the possessor of the sacred crown of Hungary. This is, in fact, two crowns, which have been welded together. The first is a golden diadem ornamented with pearls and precious stones, the other a Byzantine coronet is an enormous sapphire surrounded by four oblong green stones of some unknown kind. Lapidaries disagree as to what these remarkable gems may be. This crown has been the subject

of many extraordinary adventures. In 1848 it fell into the hands of Kossuth and mysteriously disappeared. Rumor had it that Kossuth had carried it off, broken it up and sold the jewels in Turkey. Others declared that it was taken to London. A government commission was appointed to inquire into the mystery, but discovered nothing until 1853, when a countryman offered to disclose the secret of its hiding place, and led the searchers to a tree near Orsova, in the roots of which Kossuth had caused it to be buried.

One of the most beautiful crowns in Europe is that of the King of Denmark. This, while comparatively simple in design, is of most artistic workmanship. The leaves by which the circlet is surmounted are curved and veined by precious stones, and each leaf is ornamented in turn by a magnificent jewel.

The king of the Belgians is an uncrowned monarch. There is no coronation function in the exact sense of the word. The feature of the ceremony consists in the king's swearing to preserve the constitution and laws of the country.

Spain had in early times no royal diadem, nor does its crown today figure in the coronation services, the sovereign taking an oath similar to that which forms the chief feature of the Belgian installation.

The vatican treasures contain a variety of papal tiaras, some of enormous value, which, from the beautiful workmanship and precious stones that adorn them, are rendered priceless. Among this collection is one presented to Pius IX by Queen Isabella of Spain. It is valued at more than \$1,000,000, and weighs over three pounds. Another treasure is the papal tiara presented by Napoleon to Pius VII. One of its gems is the largest emerald known.

The sultan possesses no crown, coronation being unknown in Turkey. In place of this is substituted the investiture of the monarch with the sword of Othman. The saber is girt around the new sultan with the words: "Take it with faith, for ye have received it from God."

Outside of Europe the crown becomes a rarity. The crown of the Shah of Persia, if such it may be called, is of an altogether exceptional shape and size. Indeed, it is most frequently described by those who have seen it as a bonnet. It is composed of cloth of gold, adorned with strings of hanging precious stones, with here and there tufts of feathers ornamented by diamonds, rubies, emeralds and pearls.

THE SAINTS IN TEXAS.

P. O. Box 597, Walla Walla, Wash.

Lane, Texas, January 18, 1898.

We have a branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints here, consisting of twenty members. We also have an interesting Sunday school organized May 31st, 1896, by Elders S. H. Wells and George Dunbar. My mother and one of my brothers and uncle embraced the Gospel April the 5th, 1890. They were the first to embrace the Gospel in Hunt county. The Elders are always welcome visitors at our home. We are always pleased to see them and enjoy reading the "News" and particularly the letters from the various missionary fields.

MANTIE E. AARAM.

The Western Union Beet company held a meeting at Denver Monday and reduced its capital from \$15,000,000 to \$408,000. This makes necessary the payment of a large amount to the stockholders, but the change will in no wise affect the operations of the company.