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APOSTROPHE TO THE COMET.

Thou glorious visitant
From untold depths of wondrous space,
I hail thy presence now within the reach
Of mortal ken; and busy fancy in
Her airy flight would seek to know thy purport
As now thy brilliant streamer spans the crowning
Arch of the spangled night.

The "Book of Life" in early page hath writ
How men invoked the Gods, at thy approach,
Or such as thou They madly dreamt (and then
Their priestly artifice thy dream sustained)
That in thy train were famine, war, and blood.
No phantom dread disturbs in latter times
Our couch, but yet we feel the kindling of
That fire lit by the Gods in human breasts,
To understand, with intellectual grasp
The Universe to hold; to wrest from Truth's
Great storehouse, treasure gold can never buy.

It may be that the framing hand of an
Almighty power prepares thy face and sphere
For scenes of trial, triumph, exaltation,
Thy race for immortality to run.

It may be that thou art a world
On which the foot of man hath trod with hopes
And fears, with joy and grief, as men now feel.
It may be that the smouldering fires within
Thy frame have burst to purge from sin, and sweep
A doomed race to realms of night; or still
Again, thy mission may to purify
The fields of space now be; or messenger
From systems separated wide as the
Eternal poles!

No more we question, but content
We rest in thy majestic sweep to see
The finger of the Architect who stops
To paint the flower—in every sunlit vale
And mountain brow upon our present, our
Eternal home!

We bow the knee and grateful feel
For keys conferred in season to unlock;
Each mystery to explore; the tangled skein
Of circumstance unravel too; with every
Mysterious problem that has stirred the depths
Of noble minds for ages in the dim
And misty past!

The Priesthood we sustain:
Here light and truth, here hope and confidence
Are ours, though clothed in flesh and subject to
The fall. Its power will still extend by Truth.
The sceptre yet shall be swayed o'er the earth
As in the heaven's purified dominion,
To save and bless our race, and man by man
Exalt in time, and through the ages as
The Gods now count for evermore.

H. W. NAISBITT.

G. S. L. CITY, Oct. 3d, 1858.

[From the Family Herald, Sept. 1.]

The Mormons in Scandinavia.

Interesting Letter from that Mission—The Elders in Council—Missionaries roughly treated—Converts on the increase—Upwards of six hundred Persons recently baptized into the Mormon Faith—Statistics of the whole Mission, etc.

COPENHAGEN, July 7, 1858.

The General Council met on the 11th June, in Copenhagen; and, besides the presiding Elders, a number of the traveling Elders were also present.

I can say we rejoiced in coming together, and felt a considerable portion of that spirit which the Lord in his mercy is pouring out upon his covenant people in these last days. My heart felt to praise Him when I heard the cheering reports from the conferences, the hopeful prospects for the future, the willingness manifested to receive and obey counsels, and the prevailing union in all things.

I can, indeed, bear the testimony that the Scandinavian Saints in general are a good people, and that the condition of the work is healthy and prosperous. It is true, the different circumstances in the different parts of this mission require much discernment in the priesthood, enabling them to adopt and follow a policy suited for their fields of labor severally; but the Elders have gained considerable experience in the ministry, and though illiterate and unlearned in a worldly point of view, they are nevertheless a sect of honest, humble, obedient, and faithful men, full of the greatest desire and willingness to learn and improve by every word they receive from the servants of the Lord, and I consider it a great honor to preside over so goodly a people.

REPORT FROM DENMARK.

With regard to Denmark, the Elders can travel and preach in many places and regions without being disturbed or molested in any way, and our writings are read and patronized by many strangers. The spirit of persecution is very much abated, and we are not opposed with that bitterness and hatred that we had experienced before, as our opponents and countrymen in general begin to learn and observe that the Saints are not such a bad people as they have been represented. Though it happens still that false stories and misrepresentations are circulating, to some extent,

about us and Utah, and the Elders are sometimes mobbed, driven and beaten, but not so frequently as in past years, yet a more peaceable spirit is prevailing, and more indifference also, especially in places where the gospel has been preached for some length of time. I therefore directed the Elders as much as possible to break up new fields, that the gospel seed might be spread over the length and breadth of the country. For that purpose the conferences are divided into suitable districts, and a traveling Elder appointed in each to counsel and assist the local priesthood in the branches, and to preach and spread the written word in every direction where the Lord may open the way.

SWEDEN.

In Sweden there is a harder work for the Elders to perform. The opposition is very great; imprisonments are frequent; conference meetings have to be held in the night time, and as privately and secretly as possible. I attended such a conference meeting in Malmø, Scania Conference, the 16th instant. We assembled at twelve o'clock in the night, enjoyed much comfort of the Spirit, transacted our business, and dispersed quietly at five o'clock in the morning. From Stockholm I have lately received the intelligence that the police finding out the place of our meetings, came to the house, dispersed the little congregation, closed the door, took possession of the key, summoned the President of the Conference before the court, forbade him to hold meetings, and threatened him with banishment. We shall by and by learn the result. If they banish him, I will soon appoint another president, and the work of the Lord will roll on, in spite of all the police in Sweden.

As Stockholm Conference was too large in circumference, I found it wisdom to divide it into two, and organized another Conference by name of Norrköping, consisting of the middle provinces. In Gottenburg Conference there has also been some persecution, and the presiding elder is under trial.

The usual manner of proceeding against the Saints is, that when it is known a person has embraced our faith he or she is called before the clergy (first the parson's, then the Bishop's court) and examined, admonished and threatened. If they do not then return to the bosom of the State church the eyes of the police are upon them, watching for an opportunity to imprison them or get them sentenced and fined. The hypocritical priests have begun the seemingly Christian like conduct not alone to visit the erring sheep, but also to pray for them in the churches as they do for the sick, publishing their names from the pulpit, that their good fellow men also can pray for them. A cunning plan of the evil one and his servants. But they will not gain much thereby; the faithful will abide in the truth.

As a striking sample of the religious intolerance in Sweden, I will mention that lately six women, who have left the Lutheran church and embraced Catholicism, have been banished from their native country. If it had happened with Mormons, certainly all would have been right; but because it was done with children of "the mother harlot," a hue and cry is raised in all Christendom protesting against such cruelty of Christians towards Christians, and the subscriptions are gathered for the expelled. Poor fellows, how tender hearted they are! This case will nevertheless strike a heavy blow at their illiberal laws; it will open a warm debate about the propriety and necessity of religious liberty, and some bold and daring spirits, inspired of the Lord, will combat for the natural rights and privileges of the people. I can clearly see the hand of the Lord in these movements; and meanwhile His kingdom is spreading and gaining more and more ground.

NORWAY.

From Norway we had also a cheering report. The progress is sure, but rather slow, as the Elders are so frequently imprisoned; but as soon as they are liberated they go to work with all their strength, and are spreading the testimony as fast as they can. I had the pleasure of forming an acquaintance with two brothers from the northern part of Norway, two skippers, masters of crafts running between Norway, Sweden and Denmark, who had been lately baptized and were full of faith, spirit and love for the cause, and had come for the express purpose of attending the General Council, and desired, if it was the will of the Lord, through me, to be appointed a mission in their native country. The Spirit bore testimony that they were men of the right stripe, and they were called, ordained and set apart for the northern part of Norway. It is a rocky land, and it is rather hard work to hew the Saints out of the rocks. The substance of the reports of the Elders from the various parts showed that they have enjoyed much of the spirit of their respective callings, and the Spirit bore testimony of their faithfulness and integrity, which Elder N. Wilhelmsen and myself have witnessed under our travelings in the Conferences.

During the months of January, February, March and April, there were baptised in this mission five hundred souls.

INCREASE IN FINANCES.

The Saints in general are faithful, obedient to counsel, willing and ready to pay their tithing, with few exceptions, and to meet every necessary call for the promotion of the work. But the past and present season have been rather unfavorable for many of the Saints, who are out of employment, and are scarcely able to procure the most necessary articles for their support; and to some extent this is still the case. Some of the Conferences I found almost too weak and poor to defray the necessary expenses and pay some debts accumulated in times past, not through mismanagement, but rather on account of their great willingness to borrow money and donate to emigrating Elders, Saints and traveling Elders. The financial matters were taken under earnest consideration, and we gave them all necessary attention; and the Spirit assisted us in our deliberations and counselings, so that I believe we shall soon be able to lift, or by and by to lighten the burden of the weaker Conferences, through a good management and some assistance from the wealthier part of the mission. I was glad to learn that, from the beginning, when the principle of tithing was introduced, tithing books have been kept, and they have recorded the names of every individual and the amounts paid; and we have now improved our records by the pattern you were so obliging as to send us. In the General Council, as well as in my visits to the Conferences, I have had opportunities to give instructions and see to the financial matters; and I trust that we shall, by and by, get these things in good working order.

Our Council lasted three days, and we felt from the beginning to the end the strength and power of the spirit of Zion, of Joseph, of Brigham, Heber, Daniel and the European Presidency. We were much instructed, edified, comforted and strengthened. It was a joyful time—an affecting sight to see the radiant faces and the uplifted hands, when the authorities of the Church in Zion and Europe were represented. You could feel the votes come from their hearts; and when the Elders expressed fervent wishes for the prosperity of the authorities; for the cause of Zion, for the kingdom of God and for their own deliverance, together with that of all the faithful, and their gathering with the people of God, the tears arose in my eyes, and I responded with a hearty "amen."

The statistical report shows that we have baptized 387 souls in Denmark, 118 in Norway, and 166 in Sweden, making 671 in all.

This mission numbers at present 3,636 members, including the Priesthood, and is divided into fourteen Conferences.

Our opponents and enemies seem to rejoice over the late news in the papers concerning Utah; but there are also those who feel sympathy for the poor "Mormons." As to myself and the Saints here, we know that all is right, and that every movement of the Church will tend to the victory of the cause of Zion. All we care about is to live so that we can receive the approbation of the Lord and his servants and be prepared to abide all things. The Scandinavian Saints feel first rate; and our constant prayer is, "May the Lord bless and protect brothers Brigham, Heber, Daniel, the Twelve, all the Quorums of the Priesthood and the Saints both at home and abroad, and hasten the time for the redemption of Zion."

[From the Friend of China.]

The American Treaty.

We have received from a confidential and reliable source the following memoranda of the provisions of the new American Treaty, which was signed on the 18th of June at Tien-sin by his Excellency Mr. Reed and Kwei-liang and Hwa-shana. We publish only the items of most interest, omitting none of the new provisions. The treaty comprises 29 articles, some of which repeat the stipulations of the old treaty.

Art. 1.—Provides for general peace and a stipulation for the good offices of the United States in case of difficulty with other Powers.

Art. 2.—Provides for the deposit and record of the Treaty at Pekin and Washington.

Art. 3.—The official publication of the Treaty at Pekin, and in the provinces by Imperial authority.

Art. 4.—Direct correspondence (with obligation to acknowledge and answer) of the Minister of the United States with the Privy Council or Prime Minister at Pekin.

Art. 5.—Right of annual visit and sojourn, at his own pleasure as to time, of the United States Minister at Pekin; journey either to be by the Peiho, or overland from Shanghai, and to be provided for by Chinese Government, as well as with an official residence at the capital. His suit not to consist of more than 20, exclusive of Chinese attendants. His official intercourse to be with the Privy Council, or one of its members deputed for that purpose.

Art. 6.—Permanent residence at Pekin, if the same privilege is conceded to other Powers.

Art. 7.—Equality of rank in official correspondence.

Art. 8.—Interviews of Ministers with Governor-General, Governors, &c., always to be at official residences—interviews never to be denied.

Art. 9.—Interviews on terms of equality of naval commanders with officials of highest rank—suppression of piracy.

Art. 13.—Right to lease property without any intervention of officials. Designation of open ports, new ones being Swatow and Taiwan in Formosa, and any other granted to English, French, or Russians. Clandestine and contraband trade prohibited. Opium to be prohibited or allowed, according to Chinese law.

Art. 14.—The United States never to pay higher duties than the 'most favored nations.'

Art. 15.—Tonnage duties not higher than imposed on the most favored nation; double tonnage dues abolished. Prospective application of tonnage dues to beacons, lighthouses, &c.

Art. 16.—Regulation of pilots.

Art. 20.—Time of paying duties; to be paid in specie of foreign money; Consuls not to give up papers before duties are paid.

Art. 24.—Immunity of national flag and obligation of neutrality.

Art. 25.—Apprehension of mutineers and deserters, and punishment of criminals.

Art. 26.—Exclusive jurisdiction of United States authorities over rights and intercourse of its citizens.

Art. 27.—Mutual appeals to public officers with complaints.

Art. 28.—Recognition and absolute toleration of Christianity, and protection of Chinese converts.

Art. 29.—Comprehensive provision that all rights, privileges and powers granted to any nation, its merchants and subjects, whether political, mercantile or otherwise, and not conferred by this treaty on the United States, shall at once inure to the benefit of the United States, its public functionaries, merchants or citizens.

Treaty to be ratified within one year by the United States and by Emperor forthwith.

The claims for pecuniary indemnity, either for English, American, or French losses, neither admitted or denied, but referred to Canton.

Permanent legation of the United States Minister after settlement of pending question at Canton, understood to be hereafter at Shanghai.

"MANY MEN OF MANY MINDS."—It is strange to reflect upon the many different phases of the human mind, as developed in the matter of religion. Men speaking the same language, reared under the same institutions, and professing to draw their religious views from the same source, are yet as different in the conclusions which they draw as one pebble is different from another on the sea-shore. And what will a man not suffer for the sake of that religion, be it what it may, which has taken deep root in his heart? For example, look at the Mormons. How they cling to their monstrous errors! How they have struggled and striven, in the teeth of every difficulty, to build up a church! To us, much as we deplore their sad errors, there is something absolutely sublime in their indomitable perseverance, their never-flagging energy, their unparalleled zeal, and heroic determination. Hunted from society like beasts, driven from post to pillar for a long series of years, they made their way at last to a wilderness, and there delved and toiled, sometimes with the horrors of starvation staring them in the face, till dwellings and factories, and mills, and public buildings, and teeming fields sprang up around them, and then, just as they considered their labor at an end, lo, the Philistines were again upon them, and with a stoicism truly surprising they abandoned all, and with their wives and children dove deeply into the wilderness, to meet more startling horrors than any which had yet confronted them. We do not wish to speak in favor of Mormonism, which to our mind is the most objectionable of all modern isms, but we must in candor admit that they have exhibited characteristics of which the purest sect which ever lived might well be proud.—[N. Y. Dispatch, July 24.]

THE YELLOW FEVER AT THE SOUTH.—Charleston, Sept. 20.—The deaths from yellow fever during the past week foot up 128.

Savannah, Sep. 20.—The News says the sickness is abating, and that there is no fever in the hospitals. The weather is favorable to health.

Mobile, Sep. 18.—The yellow fever was declared epidemic on Wednesday last.

YELLOW FEVER AT SAVANNAH.—Savannah, September 20.—The Board of Health reports, there have been no deaths of yellow fever during the past week, and that there are no apprehensions of an epidemic.

YELLOW FEVER AT NEW ORLEANS.—New Orleans, Sept. 20.—The deaths by yellow fever in this city on Saturday, were 74, and for the week ending on that day 460.