

praise and adoration to God for the glorious opportunities enjoyed. May the future bring many more such happy reunions.
J. JOHNSON, clerk.

SOUTHERN IDAHO ITEMS.

MINK CREEK, Idaho,
May 23, 1896.

We are having some of the most peculiar weather here this spring that your correspondent ever remembers seeing since he has been in the country, and quite a few of the neighbors say that they never saw such a spring—first snow and then rain, a d then snow and rain again, and so on; and that is the way it has been going on all the time. It has also been very cold along with it, and nothing seems to grow. The spring wheat is up, some places it is three or four inches high; but it seems to stop there on account of the cold and wet. And talk about roads—why we simply have none, they are as the boy once said, "they are good when you get down to them," but in some places it is half deep in mud, and the people cannot get out to market their grain.

There is quite a little light sickness, such as bad colds and so on, but nothing dangerous that I know of.

Quite a misfortune happened in the family of one of our amiable and respected sisters, Sister Helen Zinck. Her son Harold, who had been living in Chicago for the last six years, left there on the 9th of May to come home to his mother, who resides here, and arrived at Preston on Wednesday, May 13, at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon. His mother went to Preston that same evening, arriving there about 9 o'clock, but he only lived till a little before 5 o'clock Thursday morning, May 14th. He caught a heavy and cold, about the middle of January. It set in so what the doctor in Chicago told him was a tuberculous disease; the doctor told him to go west, as the climate in that section of country was not good for him, and his mother expected he would get well when he came out here. The young man started for home and mother, leaving Chicago May 9th, arriving at Preston on Wednesday, May 13, at half-past 1 o'clock p.m. and departing this life at a little before 5 o'clock on the following morning. They brought him to Mink Creek for interment.

The funeral services were held in the meeting house on Saturday afternoon, May 16, 1896, at half-past 2 o'clock; quite a number of people assembled to show their respect for the bereaved mother and her family. Her many friends who may read this will feel to sympathize with Sister Zinck and her family in their sad bereavement. The deceased was cut down in the prime of life, being 24 years and 10 months old.

Praying for the welfare of Zion, I am your brother in the Gospel,
BENJAMIN EDWARDS.

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, MAY 23.

SCANDINAVIAN METHODIST CHURCH
MURDER MYSTERY.

Salt Lake City continues to be a fruitful field for sensationalism. It has had its county boodle cases, furniture farce, celebrated trunk mystery

and other unusual developments within the past few months and now it is in the throes of an excitement which is the outgrowth of what seems to be a murder in one of its churches. The victim's name is unknown and the identity of the perpetrator will yet have to be proved. The mystery will be difficult to solve. Its principal characters, however, are suspected by the police and prosecuting attorney. These officers have a theory which they believe is susceptible of proof. In fact it has been all but absolutely demonstrated in their minds now. Briefly the facts are these:

A Miss Clausen, a young woman, suddenly disappeared from her usual haunts, in this city, in September last. She was an attaché of the Scandinavian Methodist church at 168 Second East street—that is she took care of the study of Pastor Francis Herman. Recently the pastor himself left for other parts and therefore his version of the story which follows cannot be obtained. He, however, appears to have related a story to the young woman's friends that allayed their suspicions when she so unceremoniously disappeared. But a gruesome discovery in the basement of the church made on Wednesday midnight of this week is accepted as very strong proof of her having been murdered. The truth or falsity of this belief is what the officers are now endeavoring to establish. If she was not murdered, then who was? That is the all-perplexing question for the discovery referred to resulted in the light being thrown on the mutilate, charred and cremated remains of a human being, whom a number of leading physicians declare beyond any question of doubt to be those of a female. These ghastly relics are now in the office of the chief of police, where with the photographs of the missing girl and departed preacher, they were seen by a News man today.

Miss Clausen came to Salt Lake from Omaha seven years ago. She was born in the old country and had no relatives in the United States so far as known. Herman, while of Scandinavian extraction, was born in England about forty years ago. He was a man of extraordinary will power and possessed many eccentric characteristics. His educational attainments are said to have been of the very highest order. He was a student of medicine as well as a minister of the gospel. By the Rev. E. E. Mark of Brigham City, who is the president elder of the Scandinavian Methodist church in Utah, he is represented as having an exceeding likeness for the study of medicine, anatomy and kindred subjects. The officers have been informed that the Rev. Mr. Morke, on coming to Salt Lake as he frequently did on the midnight train while in the discharge of his ministerial duties, repaired to Herman's study to spend the remainder of the night and had found him diligently perusing some anatomical or medical work. On their retirement together, it is further stated, that he would continually deliver himself of unquietions on the human form. This was such a hobby with him, it appears, that Mr. Morke came to regard him as an extraordinary individual.

In his studio he had a collection of

powerful drugs and medicines. Among these, the officers say, were various kinds of poison. What use they were to him as a preacher they do not know and say that probably he might be able to explain were he here to do so.

It seems that Herman has been married threetimes. His first wife died in England under circumstances not known. His second passed suddenly away in Minnesota. Her demise was of such a character as to have, it is said, necessitated the holding of an inquest. His third wife died in this city in April of 1895. A post mortem examination was held.

While there is a mystery about Miss Clausen's disappearance there is also something very strange about the sudden dropping out of sight of another young woman who was also, it is claimed, on intimate terms with Herman at one time. The police refuse to divulge her name at present and are exceedingly perturbed over the matter getting into the press.

So far as known the last Miss Clausen was seen by any of her friends, it was on Sunday night, September 30th of last year, on which occasion, after the regular evening service, she bade good-bye to a Mr. and Mrs. Hanson, of Center street. She was at that time in company with Herman and the parting took place in front of his study. It appears that the girl was engaged to be married to the pastor and said something to Mrs. Hanson about going up there on the following Tuesday to do some sewing. In fact she said "I'll be up there Tuesday morning, sure." When Tuesday morning came, instead of Mrs. Clausen presenting herself at the residence of the Hansons, Herman was there instead. He had heard the girl's promise and wanted to explain why she didn't come, therefore his visit in person.

Mr. Herman said he had a secret to tell the Hansons—something that must be kept absolutely inviolate as his honor depended upon it. Then under the strictest injunctions he proceeded to say that after the parting at the study door on the Sunday night previous they entered his room together and chatted over various matters. Finally, he said his ministerial modesty was tremendously shocked at a proposal on the part of Miss Clausen for him to share her bed with him that night. He declared that he became indignant and informed Miss Clausen that her conduct was most disgraceful and that one of them must quit the place at once. Miss Clausen, he says, broke down and sobbed bitterly and said that he would go, whereupon he informed her that he did not mean to be unduly harsh or cruel to her and that she need not go that night. But he further declares, that the girl smarting under her shame, put in her wraps and left and that after that he saw her no more.

Of course the pastor's story was believe and the young girl was openly rebuked for her alleged waywardness. A strange coincidence is that her trunk remained at the preacher's study for several weeks. Then it, too, disappeared. Herman said an unknown expressman called for it with a note from Miss Clausen and that he gave it to him without asking any questions at