

dent Dahlquist, we went to Trollhætten, and on the same evening held a well attended meeting in that place, visiting also a number of the Saints. The work of the Lord is progressing satisfactorily here under the care of Elder A. G. Johnson.

Leaving Trollhætten on Thursday morning we arrived in Christiania the same evening, and were met and welcomed by Prest. John Johnson and a number of Elders. In this conference we likewise found a good spirit prevailing among the Saints. The roomy hall was beautifully decorated with festoons, garlands, mosses, natural and artificial flowers, and several varieties of beautiful evergreens, besides flags and pictures, the whole gracefully arranged under the direction of one of the local brethren, Elder A. Hansen, who is an adept in the art of decoration. The Saturday evening meeting on the 17th was devoted to reports from the missionaries. Six Elders who had lately arrived were present. During the summer this conference has been greatly in need of Elders, and hence the progress was not as marked as it would have been under other circumstances; but its membership is over 600 and there had been thirty-five baptisms. The large hall was full at each of the meetings, and on Sunday evening was crowded to its utmost capacity. The speakers explained the first principles of the Gospel to attentive listeners. Elder John Johnson, who succeeded admirably in winning the love and esteem of the Saints while he presided, was released to return home, and Elder Adolph Madsen was appointed his successor. A priesthood meeting was held on Monday, at which a number of the missionaries spoke, and the methods of presenting the Gospel were discussed, and general instructions given.

The Relief Society held a fair and social on Monday evening, which was a financial as well as an artistic success; and on Wednesday evening a farewell social was given in honor of President Johnson. There were speeches, songs, games and conversation. The choir, under the leadership of Elder C. A. Turnblom, rendered some choice songs and hymns during the conference, which were highly appreciated. Among the songs was an original song of welcome which was greatly enjoyed by the Elders and visiting brethren.

On Thursday morning, in company with Elder John Johnson, we left Christiania and on Saturday evening, Oct. 24th, met with the Saints and Elders of the Stockholm Conference. The hall was neatly decorated, and was full of people who listened attentively to the reports which the brethren from the various branches gave. On Sunday three meetings were held, and on Monday a general meeting of the Saints—all well attended. President Lundberg and his associates in the work are energetic in their labors, and their efforts are bearing fruit. The conference numbers upwards of 1400 members and during the summer 88 persons have been added by baptism. A choir has recently been organized, and during the services rendered some choice vocal selections. During the year there have been 167 baptisms in this conference. A large

district in the northern part has not yet heard the Gospel, but efforts are being made to have it proclaimed in that region as rapidly as Elders can be obtained who are capable of enduring the hard winters.

The conference in Copenhagen was held on Saturday and Sunday, November 7 and 8. A beautiful flag decoration, relieved by festoons of evergreens and flowers, graced the hall, which was full of Saints and strangers at every meeting, and literally crowded during the Sunday evening services. The large number of visiting Elders made the proceedings lively, and, as in the other conferences, a rich portion of the Holy Spirit was enjoyed. Outside of the city branch there is but little progress in Sjælland, yet the Elders are doing faithful labor in warning the people. In the city good meetings are held, which are well attended by strangers. There is a good Sunday school with an average attendance of some fifty children. The choir is one of the attractive features of the meetings, and this organization rendered some excellent songs and music during conference.

Elder C. E. Thorstensen, who has labored in the *Star* office and in the conference for two years, and through his zeal, kindness and valuable labors in the choir and among the people, has endeared himself to the Saints and won their confidence and esteem, was honorably released to return home, and Elder Harold F. Liljenquist was appointed to succeed him as president of the conference, while his place in the office is filled by Elder Charles L. Olsen.

There are fourteen branches of the Church in Denmark, ten in Norway, and twenty-one in Sweden; and in the three countries there is now a membership of 3798—1075 in the first named, 617 in the second, and 2104 in the third. During the year there were 576 baptisms, an increase of nineteen over 1890, of which number 240 joined the Church in Denmark, 43 in Norway, and 293 in Sweden. There are several Sunday schools, improvement associations and relief societies, all doing worthy labor for the cause of truth.

On the whole it can be said truthfully that there are good prospects for the work of God in Scandinavia. The results are, of course, not as great as in former years, and there is no denying the fact that missionary labor now is as difficult and costly as ever, and often discouraging to the sensitive Elder who is unceremoniously buffeted about among the people, yet with all this there is great satisfaction and joy in the work of warning the nations. We have seldom any persecutions, and with few exceptions the people and the legal authorities treat us with consideration and respect. In most fields the Elders report large numbers of people who are willing to listen to their testimonies, while others are indifferent or entirely unwilling to hear. Many are convinced of the truth of the doctrine but lack the courage to withstand the ostracism that embracing it would insure. Others make use of our testimonies to strengthen their unbelief in existing false religions, but themselves lack courage to repent and cast their lot with the Saints. But among it all the Elders preach the Gospel as a witness, and in their midst there is the

true missionary spirit—the spirit of prayer, sacrifice, union and humility, coupled with an earnest desire to further the purposes of God. Under the present circumstances, it will require some time yet before the Gospel testimony can be borne to all who are willing to hear it, and there are only few places where the people can be said to have rejected the testimony of the Elders. The Saints, as a rule, are united, alive to their duties, and are striving to live as near to the Gospel precepts as their surroundings and pecuniary conditions will permit.

We all join in thanks to God for His gracious mercies in the past, and pray that His blessings may continue to us through the dawning new year, and be made manifest abundantly to His servants and people who spend their energies for the advancement of truth and right the world over.

EDW. H. ANDERSON.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 4, 1891.

INFLUENCE AND SPHERE OF WOMAN.

The following address, reported by James Taylor, was delivered by President George Q. Cannon, at a quarterly conference of the Relief Society of Weber Stake, held at Ogden, December 17th, 1891:

Being called upon to speak, I respond, trusting that my remarks may be adapted to the conditions and circumstances of all of us who are present, that we may be edified. I do not think that any Elder in this Church would ever care to rise to speak merely for the sake of speaking. That is my feeling. If I cannot say something that will be profitable to those who listen, as well as to myself, I am not satisfied. I often think that in attending meetings and conferences where the Spirit of God is poured out, as it usually is, and I am one of the speakers, I derive more benefit myself from what I say than I think any other person does. At least, I take to heart all that I am led to say to others.

This is a very important and influential gathering. All who are acquainted with the operations in society fully recognize the influence of woman in human affairs. Her influence is far more potential in all the affairs of life than she has the credit generally of exercising. There is no man—that is a properly constituted man—that is brought within woman's influence that does not feel its impression to a greater or less extent. And though woman does not take part, as a rule, in public affairs, nevertheless, where she chooses to exert her influence it is strong in moulding opinions and views and in stimulating action among men. There are some men more susceptible than others to these influences; but I know of none who is entirely free from woman's influence—that is, who disregards it and lives above or below it, whichever term you may choose to employ. I have known many of my acquaintances in the past—unconsciously to themselves, perhaps—reflect in their remarks the views of their own families—of their wives and, perhaps, their daughters; and it is frequently the case that men will receive