# A LETTER FROM NORWAY.

## Description of a Journey from Christiania to Tromso.

"Trondhjems Domkirke."—The Most Northern Branch of the Church. —A Light in the Darkness.

TROMSO, Northland, Norway, April 1, 1893.—As anything is seldom heard through the columns of the NEWS about the "land of the midnight sun," perhaps a few notes from this part of the Lord's vineyard might not prove uninteresting.

At the last conference in Christiania Brother H. A. Pedersen from Logso, and I, received our appointments to labor as missionaries in Tromso branch, Northland, for the ensuing six months. Our prospects were not of the brightest—we naturally expected to meet unusual hardships from cold, etc., in such an extreme latitude—but putting our trust in the Lord, to whom these two years of our lives had been gratefully dedicated and we believe accepted by Him, we made all necessary preparations, bade goodbye to the Elder presiding over the conference and the few remaining missionaries in the capital, and via Nord Banen were soon on our way towards the north.

Two days' travel (400 miles) brought us to Norway's ancient capital, Trondhjem, a city of 27,000 inhabitants and situated on one of the country's most important fjords, a veritable queen of the northern seas. Behind it rises in its majesty a branch of Dovrefjeld, in front gleam the blue-green waters of a lovely bay. Much could be said of the many sights that meet the interested gazer's eye, of mountain, lake and valley between Christiania and this place, but I feel the hopelessness of an attempt at description with my poor stock of words.

We remained in Trondhjem a week, and during that time had an excellent opportunity to visit the various places of interest for which this city is noted. The greatest attraction is the cathedral. Although this majestic pile has twice been destroyed, almost razed to the ground, twice by the fires of heaven, and once by the Swedes, it now raises its magnificent spires toward the skies, a monument of former Catholic glory and present Catholic pride. The structure was commenced in the year 1000 A. D., in the days of that staunch reformer, St. Olaf (Olaf Haraldsson), who brought the light of Christian hope to these climes, only by wading through the blood of fellow creatures. The cathedral is the prominent object of attraction to the visitor as soon as the city comes within sight, but in order to comprehend the colossal proportions of it the observer must be brought within the shadows of its walls. On every arch and portal are delicate carvings and symbols of the creation, the crucifixion of Christ, etc., cut in such a manner that they became silent teachers, even to this enlightened age. Notwithstanding ten centuries having passed since the originals were carved, these ancient works of art tell us that the Catholics of those days were in possession of far better ideas concerning the hidden mysteries of the Almighty than the so-call'd Christians of today.

The crumbling statues, carvings and massive pillars of the exterior, remnants of former glory, are only "outward signs of lowed graces." Within these gloomy walls are hidden relics of idolatrous Christian worship. A hole in the ceiling above the officiating dignitary's head, from which, upon the summons of the priest, issued a "voice from the heavens" when necessity required, is no longer a mystery, nor an excuse for the superstition. Under the stone floor, near the pulpit and at the east end of the large central hall, lie entombed Norway's great heroes of earlier times, prominent among them the founder of the cathedral, St. Olaf, Magnus the Good and King Haldun, while at the opposite stand the cold alabaster statues of the Twelve Apostles of the primitive church. Much has been done to make this church a monument of interest. This has proved a success. But an air of gloom and coldness seems to pervade the entire building. As I sat contemplating the colossal proportions and magnificent architecture of this grand pile brought into existence by the wisdom and genius of man, my mind reverted to the time when I had the privilege of entering the House of the Lord in Zion, of the spirit that pervaded the very atmosphere of that structure, and the contrast was pleasing.

Wednesday morning, Nov. 22, we embarked on the large coast steamer Haakon Jarl and again commenced our journey northward, landing us at our destination, Tromso, after a rough voyage of seven days. The distance from Christiania is thirteen hundred miles. A sail along the coast of Norway is full of interest. It is a trip to be remembered with profit and delight as long as life lasts; a nine hundred mile long panorama of all that is grand, weird and romantic in nature's handiwork, mountains whose heads rise above the clouds, while their feet are lost in the surging deep; cliffs of every dye and hue, colored by Omnipotence and constantly sprayed by dashing angry waves, serve as safe foundations for the humble fisherman's cottage or as stations for the thousands of variously colored signal lights, guiding the mariner into safe ports. On we went towards the north, over that dreaded piece of ocean, "Vidsjoen" crossing the Arctic circle, past the famous Lofoden Islands, of world-wide renown, where 40,000,000 cod are caught within a few months; and at last, as stated, we land in Tromso.

This so-called "Paris of the North" is situated on an island on the mainland coast of Norway, 69 degrees north latitude. It is the headquarters of the northernmost branch of the church, extending from a short distance above the Arctic circle on the south to as far as the North Cape on the north and eastward to the Russian empire. The vast majority of the people of Norway and live by fishing.

Although situated so far north, this region is subjected to remarkable and varied changes of nature. While in the summer the sun shines the country with "eternal" day for about three months duration, inviting vegetation with a double speed, in the winter Egyptian gloom envelops the earth, the golden day disappears behind the southern horizon, hiding its face for over two long, dreary months. The glorious aurora illuminates the vaulted heavens, showing living flames of light from every point of the compass, meeting at the zenith where the wildest commotion of boiling, seething flame ensues. We fully appreciate the opportunity that we have.

Although the Gospel has been preached here for thirty years, the branch may be counted among the new fields. It has been almost an impossibility for an Elder to accomplish anything in the past on account of the counter current of opposition. The missionaries have been thrown into prison and persecuted in different ways heretofore and have been unable to rent any kind of a room for holding meetings. However, it seems that the force of opposition is decreasing in vigor and the people are becoming more humane, perhaps more careless with regard to their "outlaw" in the faith they have accepted. We have been fortunate enough to find a man who was willing to assist us. Our meetings have been well attended. We have born our testimony to hundreds of people. We rejoice at seeing the light of success loming in the distance; light which in hope will soon evolve a more substantial form. Our labors have been rewarded, let the Lord receive the honor.

G. A. IVERSON.


A Minister's Wife Much Pleased.

Elder S. S. Beaver, of McAlisterville, Juniata Co., Pa., says his wife is subject to cramp in the stomach. Last summer she tried Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy for it, and was much pleased with the speedy relief it afforded. She has since used it whenever necessary and found that it never fails. For sale by Z. C. M. I. Drug department. 4 & s

Mornings—Beecham's Pills with a drink of water.

Three figures represent the number bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, which were sold in the United States from March, '91, to March, '92. Two Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy-Two bottles sold in one year, and each and every bottle was sold on a positive guarantee that money would be refunded if satisfactory results did not follow its use. The secret of its success plain. It never disappoints and can always be depended on as the very best remedy for Coughs, Colds, etc. Price, 50c. and $1.00. At A. C. Smith & Co's Drug Store. 6*

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My wife was confined to her bed for over two months with a very severe attack of rheumatism. We could get nothing that would afford her any relief, and as a last resort gave Chamberlain's Pain Balm a trial. To our great surprise she began to improve after the first application, and by using it regularly she was soon able to get up and attend to her house work. L. H. Johnson, of C. J. Knudson & Co., Kensington, Minn. 50 cent bottles for sale by Z. C. M. I. Drug department.

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It Was a Running Sore.

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