

## CELEBRATION AT EPHRAIM.

For a whole week a committee assisted by a number of willing helpers, have been busily engaged erecting a fine bowery in the rear of the Ephraim Tabernacle. It was used today for the first time for holding two very interesting and well attended meetings, preparatory to the celebration tomorrow of the fortieth anniversary of the organization of the first branch of the Church in Scandinavia. For some time past several suggestions have been made in regard to commemorating this event in some suitable manner, but our brethren in Ephraim were the first ones to carry the idea into practice, and the occasion promises to be a success in every way. Yesterday afternoon about two hundred visitors arrived from the settlements in the northern part of the Territory, and are now being entertained in a manner suggestive of true Scandinavian hospitality. This morning the roads leading south and north of Ephraim were lined with vehicles of all descriptions wending their way towards the pleasant little burg.

Before 10 o'clock every seat in the spacious bowery was occupied, and the stand was filled with grey-headed veterans of both sexes, representing the firstfruits of the preaching of the everlasting Gospel in the countries of the north. Great enthusiasm prevailed, and everybody seemed to comprehend the importance of the occasion and were expecting a real spiritual feast. In the extreme north end of the bowery and above the stand was suspended a large piece of canvass on which the word "Velkommen" (welcome) was very neatly painted in green color. Under it hung a large portrait of the late Apostle Erastus Snow.

To the right was suspended a large American flag together with the Swedish national colors; and on the left the Danish and Norwegian flags likewise suspended from the ceiling of the bowery.

While the congregation were gathering the Manti brass band played a number of pretty airs, both American and Scandinavian, which at once filled the hearts of the people with thoughts such as those who have loved both native and adopted country only can comprehend.

At the first meeting there were present on the stand: Apostle Anton H. Lund, Counselor Daniel H. Wells, Presidents Knud Petersen and John B. Maiben, of the Stake Presidency, a number of Bishops and representative men from the different settlements in the Sanpete Stake, and other parts of the Territory. President Petersen presided. The proceedings at 10 a. m. were opened by the Mount Pleasant choir singing "Morgenrødens Straaler bryde," etc. Prayer was offered by Elder Christian Christiansen, the first ordained Elder in the Scandinavian mission. The choir next sang: "Kom alle Zion's sønner," etc.

Apostle Anton H. Lund then addressed the congregation. He expressed his pleasure at meeting with

so many of the Saints on the present occasion—the commemorating of the introduction of the Gospel into Scandinavia. In the beginning of the year 1850 there was not one Latter-day Saint in either Denmark, Sweden or Norway, but before the end of that year the songs of Zion were sung in the plains of Denmark as well as in the forests of Sweden. In the summer of that season it was that our beloved Apostle, Erastus Snow, whose portrait hangs on the framework of this bowery, in compliance with a call from the First Presidency in Zion, wended his way to the shores of Scandinavia, accompanied by three other brethren, one of whom (P. O. Hansen) is with us today. At this time not much was known at the headquarters of the Church of the countries of the North, but when then our brethren began to preach about the restoration of the true Gospel in Copenhagen they found a people prepared to hear their testimony, and two months after their first arrival they had the pleasure of baptizing fifteen souls in the clear waters of Oresund, near Copenhagen, as the first fruits of the Gospel in Denmark. Previous to this, however, a few had been baptized in Sweden. It is a strange coincidence that on the same date as the first baptisms by divine authority took place in Denmark, 314 years before (on the 12th of August, 1536), the Danish people formally accepted the Lutheran Protestant faith in lieu of Catholicism, which they renounced. In the same year that the Gospel was first preached in the Scandinavian countries, it was also introduced into France, Italy, Switzerland and the Sandwich Island. Hence that and the four following years may be considered very important missionary years for the Church. Previous to this (in 1842) a large branch of the Church was raised up in La Salle County, Illinois, consisting mostly of Norwegians, who previously had emigrated from their native country and settled in that part of Illinois. Among those baptized at that place was young Knud Petersen, now grown gray in the service, one who presides over this Stake of Zion. When a call was made for donations toward the erection of Nauvoo Temple in the fall of 1843, the La Salle branch contributed liberally, horses, cattle, sheep and money, and when Joseph the Prophet received their donations he was filled with a vision of the future and prophesied that multitudes should embrace the fulness of the gospel in the Scandinavian countries and gather to Zion.

The raising up of the La Salle branch was actually the introduction of the Gospel to the Scandinavian race.

The speaker alluded to a great many historical facts and referred to the great results of the preaching of the Gospel in the Scandinavian countries.

Elder P. O. Hansen, one of the first and only survivor of the four Elders who first introduced the Gospel in Scandinavia, and now 72 years old, next gave an interesting

account of his early experience in receiving the Gospel, after emigrating to America his first trip to the Great Salt Lake Valley in 1847, and his mission to Scandinavia in 1850, leaving the valley in the fall of 1849. He referred to the glorious experience he had in Copenhagen while laboring together with Brother Snow in translating the Book of Mormon into the Danish Language and doing other missionary labor at that early day.

Bishop C. C. N. Dorius, of Ephraim, chairman of the committee of arrangements, bid the visitors from distant parts of the country welcome, and requested the people of Ephraim to make them as comfortable as possible.

The choir sang, "Se Morgenstjernens Straalers Glands," etc.

Benediction by F. C. Sorensen, of Ephraim, one of the first members of the Church in Denmark.

At the second meeting the choir sang "Vor Gud, vi til Dig raabe," etc., and prayer was offered by Ole Svendsen, of Manti, one of the first native missionaries who preached the Gospel in Denmark.

"O Helligaand, mit Liv, mit Lyst," etc., was sung.

Elder John M. Bohn, of South Coltonwood, author of the first Latter-day Saint hymn book published in the Danish language, addressed the congregation. His heart was almost too full for utterance, he said, in reflecting upon the past and present, and the meeting with so many of his former associates and co-laborers in the missionary field was indeed a feast for him. He then read a lengthy poem composed by himself for the occasion, and concluded by exhorting to faithfulness and renewed diligence.

Patriarch O. N. Liljenquist, of Hyrum, the first Elder among those who embraced the Gospel in his native land to return as a missionary, addressed the meeting in a very interesting manner, bearing a powerful testimony to the outpouring of the blessings of God upon those who yielded obedience to the Gospel in sincerity. His experience in the missionary field had been long and pleasant, and he felt to rejoice exceedingly on the present occasion.

Elder A. W. Winberg, of Salt Lake City, one of the first missionaries in Sweden and the organizer of the first branch of the Church in that country, gave an interesting account of his early experience as a missionary, both in Denmark and Sweden. He rejoiced in the results of the labors of the Elders in the countries of the North and in the integrity and faithfulness of those who had gathered to Zion from those lands.

Elder Christian Larsen, of Logan, one of the first missionaries to Denmark and Norway, spoke in a spirited manner of the gifts and blessings of God poured out upon the early Elders laboring in Scandinavia. Many of the brethren called in its beginning were illiterate boys, but the Lord strengthened them and assisted them to open the door of salvation to thousands