

one conference, with headquarters in Christiania. Here all the Elders attended our gatherings, pleased to meet after a six months' lonely tramp among the hills and dales. We have eighteen missionaries now in this field, and while the results of their labors, as far as new baptisms are concerned, are not as gratifying as in other parts of the mission, they have certainly been the means of bringing the word of God to many homes for the first time, and we have good reasons to hope that their faithful efforts will bear fruit in the future. As in Sweden, we are here trying to send the glad tidings to the far North. Two of our brethren had labored in Tromsø, a city lying 70 degrees north latitude, over 1200 miles north of Christiania, during the summer, and two others were sent thither this fall. There are two months of the year during which the sun does not shine at all in this place, while it shines continually during the summer season or a portion thereof. Before coming to the spring conference our brethren expect to push as far north as Hammerfest, the world's northernmost city, bearing testimony to the restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Considering the hard winters, deep snows, the difficulties of travel among the Norwegian mountains, the scattered condition of the Saints and the lonely stretches of pine-decked country over which the Elders must go, they are remarkably cheerful and willing in the performance of the labor of love in which they are engaged.

I must say that the trip through the mission was a delight to me. The condition of the conference, and the reports of the Elders from the various branches, indicated a satisfactory growth, and witnessed that there is a splendid feeling among the thousands of Saints who reside in these lands.

We have a corps of one hundred Elders now in the field, of whom it may be said that they are as a rule in the possession of the spirit of their calling, showing a desire to obey the counsels of the presiding Priesthood, being zealous in spreading the truth, laboring diligently and with honor for the cause to which they have dedicated themselves. When we consider the sacrifices made by them and their families and friends, we are immediately struck with the magnitude of the work done by the Latter-day Saints for their religion. No other community on earth have faith enough in their professions to do the same; neither would the Saints, were it not for the knowledge possessed by them that God is the founder of their faith.

During the year 1892, there were 464 members added to the Church in this mission by baptism. We are encouraged in our labors, and thank God for prospering the good work. Prejudice is vanishing before the testimonies of our Elders, and as people learn to know the Latter-day Saints better, we gain influence among all classes. Our people are not as unpopular now as formerly, and in many cases our Elders are treated with quite as much respect as priests of the established church.

There are many thousands in this mission who have not yet heard the Gospel, and while our new membership, gained each year, does not seem large, it can not be questioned that the work of God is prospering in Scandinavia.

The winter here is the most severe that has been experienced for twelve years past. The ice on the Oresund is five feet thick, so that people may walk from Sweden to Denmark over the water. As a result of the severe weather, there is untold suffering among the poor.

With love to all at home, I remain,
Yours truly,
JOSEPH CHRISTENSEN,
COPENHAGEN, Denmark, February
7th, 1893.

AN ANCIENT BOOK.

It is now generally conceded that about the year A. D. 1000, Leif Erikson, or Eric the Fortunate, and other northmen visited the coast of North America, somewhere in the neighborhood of Nova Scotia. This fact gives special interest to the ancient record now being brought to the World's Fair, as described in the subjoined article from a Danish publication. The translation of the article named is as follows:

Copenhagen, Jan. 10. 1893.—It is not commonly known that in the great royal library in this city can be found a book in kildeskift, which gives the only true information regarding the original discovery of America. It is from the fourteenth century and was written by two Icelandic priests. It contains the Norwegian king's ancient history mixed with Iceland's history. This old book or writing will now be brought conspicuously before the public. It will be sent to the World's Fair in Chicago. This old book, which is named Flatobogen or the Flato book, is written on the very finest parchment, with fine artistical drawings. The book is supposed to have been written between the years 1370 and 1380, over 100 years before Columbus discovered America, and the authors are two priests from the island Flato, located in the so-called Bredefjorden in West Iceland. Their names were Magnus Thorhulsson and Jon Thordarson.

As said, it contains the ancient history of the kings of Norway, but the most interesting is the ancient history of Trygvesson, to which is added the history of Erik the Red and his son, Leif Erikson, commonly called Erik the Fortunate.

In the year 946 Erik the Red started out from Iceland. He steered westward and discovered Greenland, but his son Erik, with the name later given him—the Fortunate—went back to Iceland and took another voyage to Norway, where he, by Olav Trygvesson, was converted and became a Christian. On request of King Olav, he agreed to go back to Greenland for the purpose of converting the heathen, but on his voyage a strong wind drove him southward, and in the year 1000 he discovered, 500 years before Columbus landed, what he called "the wine land." The exact spot where Leif landed has been to some extent a disputed question among learned men, but it is now almost certain that it could not have been more than 49 degrees north, and perhaps a short distance south of Newfoundland. Two professors, unknown to one another, have both come to this conclusion. The two scientific men are a professor

in astronomy, Geelmuyden, of Christiania, Norway, and a captain in the United States marine and superintendent of the observatory in Washington.

There is clear proof of Leif the Fortunate's discovery of America and it will be of great interest, especially to the American people, as they can now see for themselves when the old book arrives at the World's Fair in Chicago. Many American professors in science have doubted the existence of that great book. The World's Fair will be opened with jubilee for Columbus and great preparations are made for a special exhibition of articles formerly belonging to him or in a way connected with him and his discovery. It is no wonder then that it was a general wish to honor the original discoverer of America and bring as complete an exhibition as possible concerning the same. But in order to have the exhibition complete, it was absolutely necessary to have the said Flato book represented, and the United States, through correspondence with the authorities in Denmark, attempted to secure the loan of the book. The librarian, Lord Brunn, refused to have it go out of the library, but through the Kultus ministry the request was granted. An American man-of-war will be sent, the object being to bring the Flato book.

Dr. Phil. Valtor Gudmundson has agreed to accompany the Americans over, and will go to Chicago. All his expenses will be paid by the United States government. He will have to give a full explanation of the contents of the great book. At the Chicago exhibition it will be watched with great care, and be placed in a building erected especially for that purpose, surrounded on three sides by Lake Michigan. United States soldiers will be on guard night and day. The book is insured by the United States government for 75,000 kr. When the United States man-of-war arrives in Copenhagen the transfer of the book will be done in this manner: From the great royal library it will be handed to the Kultus ministry, and from there to the ministry on foreign affairs. They will hand it over to the American ministry to Denmark and he will turn it over to the captain of the ship.

ST. GEORGE TEMPLE NOTICE.

The Temple at St. George will close on Friday, March 24th, and re-open for the performance of ordinances on Tuesday, April 25th, 1893.

JOHN D. T. MCALLISTER.
ST. GEORGE, Feb. 10, 1893.

RETURNED ELDER.

Elder M. L. Corbett, of Kamas, Summit county, was in Salt Lake today, just having returned from a mission to the Northwestern States, for which part of the country he left his home on the 31st of March, 1891. The first three months of his mission were spent in Southern Illinois. The remainder of his mission was spent in Indiana. Elder Corbett did not enjoy the best of health, but performed good work notwithstanding.