

Copy of a letter by Joseph Christopherson while he
was on a mission to Norway

Mar 4th 1900

My dear old friend

I have been waiting ^{patiently} ~~patiently~~ for a letter from you but it has never come yet so I will just write myself. I will begin by saying that I am well and fat, though I suppose you knew that before as I have written this fact to several friends in Burlington.

As a rule I do not want to fill up my letters with religion but now I am at least going to tell you how I feel about it. I have been laboring lately in a city known as ~~Hammar~~ It has about 5 or 6000 population and not a single Mormon among the lot. I have one of the best friends in the world and him and myself have been laboring there distributing tracts. We met with all kinds of receptions both good and bad. On one occasion I was completely thrown from a house with oaths and threats, but it did not break any bones so I did not care much. On another occasion I came in contact with a congressman's wife, who did not like my company at first introduction but I got into a good gospel conversation with her and of course it was an easy victory for me because the Lord always helps his servants, but the conversation drifted into polygamy and that is a question we have practiced on. So we just get hold of them in this way. Yes ~~##~~ our people have practiced polygamy but though we believe the Lord will again establish it. He has however recalled it now, and we don't practice any more, But, says I, it seems to ^{me} that such a law would be a fine thing in your land as ~~you have~~ a majority of 10,000 women in your pretty land. In Christiania alone you have a majority of 6,000 of the feminine sex (which is the case) Now will you tell me what these women are going to do for men? The answer comes,!! let them do without!! "Yes but they have not done without for there is about 4000 illegitimate children born every year which would not be the case if you had a law that supported plurality of wives. As it is there is bound to be 10,000 old maids in this country. which is not the ^{nature} nature of woman said I, You would not like to be one of these old maids would you? She confessed she would not and we ^{that} parted better acquainted.

Over

We have been holding meetings at Hammar. We hired a hall and paid 4 crowns per meeting, and we held 15 meetings with an average attendance of about 200. After we got through or rather after we had spent 5 weeks tracting and preaching at Hammar we went to a place called Moelven and held two large meetings there. When we returned to Hammar we found the rottenest article in the paper about us that I have ever seen. While it accused the missionaries of being well learned in scriptures and being able to use the Bible as a fish hook and to fit our doctrine, it cursed the doctrine itself and referred the people to a book written by Pastor Mortensen on the earby days of Utah as his authority.

God bless you and yours, Regards to all your family, Joe Christopherson
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