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**A LETTER FROM PROFESSOR EDGREN.**

The following letter from Professor Edgren to Professor Taylor and read by the latter in chapel a few days ago has been kindly furnished by him to the Nebraskan for publication. All Professor Edgren's friends, and their name is legion, will be glad of this opportunity to hear from him in these almost classic lines:

Djursholm, Sweden, Oct. 5, 1901.

My Dear Friend:—

We are now settled in a beautiful suburb of Stockholm, where I have bought a "ville surrounded by oaks (hence "Ektonta"), on the Baltic. But settled does not yet mean at home in any other sense than at home to our friends.

It takes time to feel at home in new conditions, and among new surroundings and people, especially where there are so many deep roots to be pulled up first. The Fall this year is magnificent in Sweden, hardly inferior to that season in Nebraska. We have had many clear and balmy days all the way up to the present, and have not yet begun lighting fires. The foliage is yet green, red, and yellow; roses, fasters, etc., bloom gaily in the gardens, and the waters dance and ripple in the sunshine (match me that in Lincoln.) The summer has been so unusually warm for Sweden, (for six weeks mostly between 90-95 per cent F'ah.) that people here have wondered whether by some Cosmic freak we are not now to have our share of southern climates. But the reports from America show that the latter are determined to hold their own relatively, whatever be our experience. I congratulate you over there to have passed safely through "The burning furnace." Miracles yet occur. For many reasons and untoward circumstances I did not spend the summer, as expected, tramping among the Alps, but quietly in a pretty town of Sweden (Orcbro) doing some literary work.

Our sympathies were strongly with America during her days of national grief, and the American flag floated over our new home at half mast. It was a sad thing, all the more as McKinley stood as a model of a manly, unostentatious, and pure character, the chosen leader of a free people; and I think sympathies were quite universal, even if distrustful, prejudiced aristocrats, and mono-manical

anarchists, for different reasons, stood apart. Yes, it was a pitiable thing in any aspect. Yet, broadly considered, the fanatical assassination of a man of his type, and chosen by the people, is to my mind far less unfortunate to humankind than the ever suspecting and Argus-eyed protection of European or Asiatic potentates. A low murder is a cause for national grief, a temporary calamity; but a constant watching of a hundred or thousand agents, secretly or openly, around one person, who should be but the first citizen, is a continued calamity. And the fact is that it is most needed in those Countries where that person is most absolute in power and sacred in general estimation. This is not quite clearly expressed, I know, but the root of it is that I admire a thousand times more the unguarded fearlessness of Roosevelt than the anxious self-protection of the Czar, and that I am so thoroughly imbued with republicanism that I sympathize far more with American than some European systems of government. We are here, only slowly and with immense difficulty approaching those details towards which America, thanks to more fortunate condition, is advancing more rapidly and easily, though not without dangers. That either shall ever reach them before they have played their part in the world's history I am far from believing. Nor would I deny that certain advantages pertain also to our older civilization. But I would hardly (unless in a very broad sense) count among them that it has a "Civilization police." Where this is ever done, it is apt to lead to a system of jealous and proud protectors on the one hand, and bee-hive drones on the other. When I am of age, I hate to feel the protecting hand everywhere. And yet, I am fully aware of the universal tendency towards organic centralization. The future problem will no doubt be the gradual reconciliation of individuals and centralization, a problem which America is only nearer solving than Europe, and whose final solution may lie in the dreamland.

The Nobel-prizes (5) will probably be given in December, all five, each amounting to very nearly 200,000 francs. I regret very much that not a single application in literature from England or America has appeared. When the first big gun is fired, I hope attention will be called more definitely to the institution. The French Academy is alive to the opportunity, and has made strong recommendations which are likely to have effect. In the sciences and the work for universal peace I don't know what the prospects are.

We have been somewhat homesick for America after our return. Despite many things in Europe, and above all the childhood associations of beautiful Sweden, it is not a day's work to be weaned away from preference for the great-hearted republic where I have spent 27 years, and from sunny Lincoln, where I had so sympathetic a field of work and as well so many kind friends.

Ever sincerely your,  
A. H. EDGREN.

Professor Edgren further adds that he intends to soon write a paper on the elective system in American schools, and especially in colleges.

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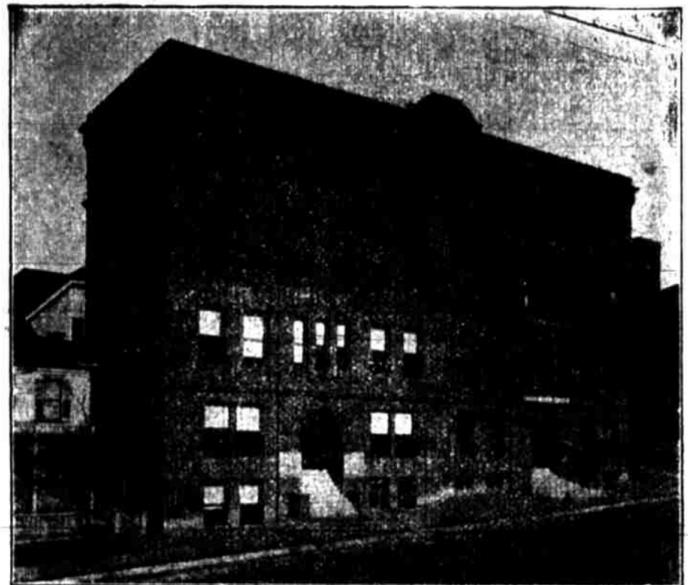
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