

KIND WORDS FROM THE PRESS.

The newspapers of America gave much space to our Twentieth Anniversary. From New England to California they spoke kind words of Bethany. Below we copy some of these:

Dr. Swensson Is a Knight.

LINDSBORG, KAN., Nov. 12.—Bishop von Scheele conferred upon Dr. Carl Swensson, president of Bethany College, the degree of Knight of the North Star at 1:30 o'clock today. Bishop von Scheele was specially commissioned by King Oscar II. of Sweden to confer this degree of knighthood upon Dr. Swensson. In company with a number of others, Governor Stanley is to receive the degree of doctor of laws this afternoon.

The conferring of knighthood upon Dr. Swensson was an exceedingly simple ceremony. At the conclusion of the morning program Bishop von Scheele arose, apparently to pronounce the benediction, as announced in the program. Bishop von Scheele stood a little in advance of the group, including the members of the faculty in academical robes, the delegates and other invited guests in the gallery back of the rostrum. In front the audience stood awaiting the benediction from the representative of royalty. The bishop then commanded Dr. Swensson to arise, and said to him:

“In the name of my gracious monarch, I confer upon you the knighthood of the Royal Order of the North Star in recognition of your wide scholarship, your thorough training and your office as president of Bethany College, but especially in recognition of your noble personality and the cause you have served so well.”

Bishop von Scheele then took a step forward and affixed the insignia of the order upon the robe of President Swensson. In doing so the bishop added his personal congratulations, and in words of appreciation spoke of his dear friend Swensson. This ended the ceremony.

Headed by Dr. Swensson and the bishop the delegates and dignitaries present, the clergy, faculty and alumni, proceeded to the president's office where he received congratulations. Dr. Swensson is the first American born Swede to be honored with this order.

To the audience the conferring of the degree upon Dr. Swensson came as a complete surprise. They did not know that King Oscar of Sweden had instructed Bishop von Scheele to bestow upon Dr. Carl Swensson, the president of Bethany College since its organization, twenty years ago, the badge of a knight of the Order of the North Star. They all knew what it meant, though, that King Oscar had seen fit to reward Dr. Swensson with a membership in an order where distinguished service for the crown or some achievement of a scholarly character, such as the founding of institutions of learning, are the only passports of admission. Founded by King Frederick the First in 1748, it has preserved its high character. Only two others in the United States wear the badge of the order—Dr. L. G. Abrahamson, of Chicago, and M. Wahlstrom, of St. Peter, Minn.

Preceding the address of Bishop von Scheele, Dr. L. G. Abrahamson, of Chicago, read the official order of King Oscar of Sweden directing Bishop von Scheele to come to America as the representative of the King. Bishop von Scheele talked for an hour and a half. He preceded his lecture with an expression of gratification upon the welcome accorded him in the United States, especially at Bethany College. Then he delivered a formal lecture upon the subject, "Christianity and Culture." The program concluded with the conferring of knighthood upon Dr. Swensson.

The list of distinguished guests at the three days' festival includes the Right Rev. Bishop von Scheele, Ph. D., D. D., LL. D., bishop of Gothland, Sweden, representative of King Oscar II; Lady von Scheele, the Rev. M. C. Ranseen, D. D., president of the general council of the Evangelical Lutheran church; and Rev. L. G. Abrahamson, D. D., president of the Illinois conference, Augustana synod, Chicago; the Rev. G. A. Brandelle, A. M., D. D., president of the Kansas conference, Augustana synod; G. A. Andreen, Ph. D., president of Augustana college, Rock Island, Ill.; the Rev. S. P. A. Lindahl, D. D., editor of Augustana, Rock Island, Ill.; Prof. W. A. Granville, Ph. D., professor of mathematics, Yale university; the Rev. Ludvig Holmes, L. H. D., D. D., Burlington, Ia.; W. E. Stanley, Governor of Kansas; Frank Nelson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Kansas; A. V. Lindell, Topeka; the Rev. J. Telleen, D. D., general superintendent of foreign missions of the Evangelical Lutheran church; Colonel C. A. Smith, Minneapolis; F. A. Lindstrand, editor of Svenska Amerikanaren, Chicago; Anders Schon, editor of Hemlandet, Chicago; the Rev. J. A. Stamlin, vice president Kansas conference, Manor, Tex.; the Rev. C. P. Rydholm, president Austin, Tex., district; the Rev. A. W. Dahlsten, D. D., president of McPherson district; the Rev. J. Wikstrand, president Ministerial union, the Rev. Carl Wallin, Salemsburg, Kan.; the Rev. A. M. L. Herenius, Topeka, Kan.; the Rev. C. A. Engstrand,

Walsburg, Kan.; the Rev. J. A. Holmen, A. M., Morganville, Kan.; the Rev. J. Holcomb, Weskan, Kan.. S. Norelius, editor Svenska Tribunon, Chicago; the Rev Alexis Andreen, Rock Island, Ill.; Gotfrid Nelson, theological candidate, Rock Island, Ill.; the Rev. A. A. Leksell, A. M., B. D., Hutchinson, Kan.; the Rev. O. Moren, Friends' Home, Kan.; Dr. Johnson, Beatrice, Kan.; the Rev. Oden, Kackley, Kan.; the Rev. Ekman, Osage City, Kan.; G. Johnson, Osage City, Kan.—*The Topeka Daily Capital*, Nov. 13, 1901.

American Foreigners.

Dr. Swensson, president of Bethany college, Lindsborg, Kas., is one of the most progressive and influential representatives of his nationality in the United States. For many years he has been at the head of an important institution devoted especially to the education of Swedes. This college is just now celebrating its twentieth anniversary, and in the course of a notable address Dr. Swensson gave expression to some characteristic sentiments which were warmly applauded by his hearers. He declared that while the Swedes were intensely proud of their nationality and yielded to none in their love for their fatherland, yet those who had chosen America for their home were not Swedes, but Americans.

Speaking especially for the Kansas colony, the doctor declared that there were three things which the members loved above all others—the Bible, the constitution and Kansas. The trinity holds good, as a rule, wherever there is a Swede, with the merely geographical change of the name of the state in which he lives. For the Swede is proverbially patriotic and he vies with the representatives of other peoples in his devotion to the institutions of the land of his adoption. He is frugal and industrious. The blood he brings to the great stream of American life is clean and wholesome. There are no Swedish anarchists, few Swedish criminals, and, above all, few Swedish indigents. The Swede pursues the even tenor of his way, patient and hard working, fitting quietly and honorably into his place no matter how lowly it may be. He is peculiarly assimilable and at the same time unobtrusive. He never forces himself upon the community, though he is jealously insistent upon his natural or acquired rights. Keenly alive to the blessings of liberty, he is quick to demand them when he has earned them with his support and devotion.

Dr. Swensson is a vigorous representative of these qualities and all the best that is in his race. His settlement and college have done a great deal for the upbuilding of that section of Kansas where they are located. The twentieth anniversary of the founding of such an institution is an event of more than ordinary interest and it is being celebrated

as such, incidentally illustrating the special characteristics of the Swede as an American. For citizenship is a matter of sympathy and understanding more than of mere birth. Thousands of ailments and anarchists have been born beneath the stars and stripes.—*Kansas City Journal*, Nov. 12, 1901.

Major J. B. Pond's Honorary Degree.

Maj. James B. Pond of this city has just been notified by President Carl Swensson of Bethany College, Kansas, that it has conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Letters. President Swensson is noted as one of the ablest Swedish orators in this country. He has written several books, and as an orator his reputation is national.

Bethany College, which is at Lindsborg, near Salina, is the largest in the state of Kansas, and one of the first in importance in all the West. It is noted among many things for its library, which contains about 10,000 volumes, and is of a quality which ranks it among the valuable collections of the country.—*Jersey City Journal*, Nov. 13, 1901

Bethany College Celebrates.

LINDSBORG, KAN., Nov. 10.—The twentieth anniversary ceremonies of Bethany College (Swedish) today were attended by several thousand visitors from all parts of the West. Bishop von Scheele, representative of the King of Sweden, preached in the morning. In the afternoon there was a great welcome meeting, with 5,000 persons present. Bishop von Scheele paid a high tribute to Bethany and to Kansas education. President Swensson of the college and State Superintendent Nelson also spoke. This evening there was a piano recital and the anniversary concert, in which 350 voices took part, with Professor Samuel Thorstenberg leading. Dr. W. A. Granville, of Yale College, presented the bishop with greetings from Yale and souvenirs for the king and himself.—*Record-Herald*, Chicago Nov. 11, 1901.

Day For the Students.

Lindsborg, Kan., Nov. 12—The students of Bethany college were the honored ones at Monday's celebration of the institution's twentieth anniversary. The work of the school and its accomplishments were shown to the distinguished visitors, and every train brought members of the alumni from all parts of this and adjoining states. One of the impressive features of the celebration was the greeting from Yale university, brought by its representative, Dr. W. A. Granville, who comes commissioned by President Hadley.

"Yale has," he said, "more graduates of Bethany college than any other college in the world. It has a Yale Bethany club, composed of former students here. In both Yale and Harvard every student of Swedish descent doing graduate work is a former Bethanyite."

He brought from Yale Bethany club a magnificent embossed souvenir, handsomely bound, and containing views of New Haven and Yale. Only two copies were made, one going to the king of Sweden and the other to Bishop Von Scheele, who received them gratefully and will present the king's when he returns to Europe.

The exercises began with a meeting for the students which was addressed by Dr. Granville, of Yale, who spoke on "Higher Education and Its Relation to the People." State Superintendent Nelson also made an address on the educational system of Kansas. He discussed at length the plan of consolidating rural schools and the need of changes in the system of the state. This afternoon, Bishop Von Scheele delivered an address in Swedish on the rise and development of the Christian religion. It was scholarly and earnest.

A football game between Bethany and Cooper Memorial college, Sterling, followed, Bethany winning by 21 to 0.

In the evening came the students and alumni parade. Two hundred of the 500 graduates of the school were here and joined with the students in a torchlight parade through the principal streets of the town the college grounds. Afterward was a banquet in the college dining hall, at which 300 covers were laid. Governor Stanley, who arrived in the evening, responded to the toast, "Kansas." Bishop Von Scheele, Dr. Granville, Superintendent Nelson and others made responses.—*Topeka State Journal, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1901.*

Is Commissioned By King Oscar of Sweden.

Denver has as her guest today one of the most distinguished men in all the kingdom of Sweden. He is Bishop K. H. Gezelius von Scheele. He arrived in Denver yesterday afternoon and is the guest of Rev. Dr. Brandelle, pastor of the Swedish Lutheran church of this city. The Bishop comes armed with a commission signed by King Oscar of Sweden, and at the request of the most influential Swedish educators and divines in America.

The bishop is accompanied by his wife, Lady von Scheele, and since his arrival in New York, by Rev. M. C. Ranseen, president of the general council of the Lutheran church of America. They will leave for the east tonight.

Bishop von Scheele is a man of many titles. He is bishop of Gotland, diocese of Wisby; member of the riksdag, which corresponds to our congress; commander of the Grand Cross of the Royal Order of the

North Star; a doctor of divinity; a doctor of philosophy, and by virtue of a degree conferred by Yale two weeks ago, a doctor of law. He is a distinguished linguist, lecturing fluently in five languages, Latin, English, French, German and Swedish.

The object of his visit to America, as set forth by the commission given him by King Oscar, is to strengthen the Lutheran churches in this country. In the king's commission there is a statement of how in 1893 the bishop came to America as a representative of the church and that increased strengthening of the churches had resulted therefrom; that his presence was again requested, not only to visit the churches, but the institutions of learning as well. The king acceded to the wishes of the Americans and instructed the bishop to spend three months in this country beginning September 15 last, with the object of being present at such functions of the Swedish Lutheran congregations in America "in the compass and extent that time and circumstances may seem to admit of."

The bishop visited Bethany college at Lindsborg, Kan. While there he vested Dr. Carl Swensson, president of Bethany, with the knight's cross of the Order of the North Star, an order of knighthood founded by Frederick I. of Sweden in 1748, for the purpose of bestowing royal rewards for services in civil affairs and literary and scholarly attainments. There are now four degrees in the order. King Oscar I added the degree of the Commander of the Great Cross at his coronation in 1844. The other degrees are commander of the first and second class and knight of the Order of the North Star. King Oscar II at his coronation in 1873, divided the other class in two classes, the second class for foreigners. The degree is conferrable only upon those who have distinguished themselves in the service of the king or upon those who have distinguished themselves by the establishment of great institutions, or by other eminent services have made themselves worthy. The number of members of the commander's degree is limited to twenty-four and the knights to fifty.

Coming as an emissary direct from the King of Sweden Bishop von Scheele was received with every honor in Washington and New York. At Washington he was presented to President Roosevelt, who accorded him marked attention.

When asked what had impressed him most in this country the bishop promptly replied: "Your remarkable president, Mr. Roosevelt."

—*Denver Times*, Nov. 14, 1901.

The Governor is at Home.

Governor Stanley returned from Lindsborg this morning, where he delivered an address at the jubilee of Bethany college. He is Dr.

Stanley now. Bethany college conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws upon him Tuesday.

The governor says the jubilee was a great celebration and was largely attended. The auditorium, which holds upwards of 4,000 people, was crowded, which is not bad for a town of 1,500 people.

Governor Stanley's address was on "The Purpose of Modern Education." He reviewed the history of education in the past and the progress made by civilization, leading up to the present idea in education, which, he said, is the development of the individual.—*Topeka State Journal*, Nov. 14, 1901.

A third Swede in this country to be decorated by the King of Sweden with the commander's cross of the Order of the North Star is Dr. Carl Swensson, president of Bethany college, in Lindsborg, Kan., the decoration being brought to him by Bishop von Scheele. Bethany college was founded by Dr. Swensson twenty years ago. On the first morning of its existence there were only two professors and not a student. Now the college has twelve departments, forty professors and instructors, 800 students, five buildings, and \$175,000 in property.—*New York Evening Post*, Nov. 15, 1901.

The granting of titles of knighthood or what-not seems foolish to Americans, all the more so when given to citizens of this republic. There is an honorable significance, however, in the knighthood which was conferred this week on Carl Swensson, president of Bethany college at Lindsborg. The order into which the Bethany president was admitted by special command of King Oscar of Sweden is composed exclusively of persons who have either rendered conspicuous service to the Swedish crown or have founded an institution of learning for the benefit of the Swedish people. It was on the latter ground that President Swensson received this distinction, the king having sent a bishop of the church to this country expressly to confer the order upon him. Bethany celebrates this week the twentieth anniversary of its founding, and its growth during this period to a high position among Kansas colleges has been due to the tireless exertions and unwavering faith of Mr. Swensson. Swedish citizens of Kansas without exception honor Bethany, look up to it, are proud of its success and expect to send their boys and girls to get their education within its walls. Amidst trials and discouragements without number the college has grown to the foremost place in the United States as a Swedish institution of learning. The King of Sweden honors himself and his government when he takes pains to reward such achievements even though thousands of miles away and in behalf of emigrants from his country who, as President Swensson said the other day, "are no longer Swedes, but Americans."—*Topeka Daily Capital*, Nov. 14, 1901.