



As there was no letter to Ann at the

Stockholm (Sweden) den Aug 16<sup>th</sup> 1903

Stockholm. I have used this  
one to Clara instead.

My dear Clara,

I got your letter  
as Mother's and Eva's  
a couple of days ago  
and was amused when  
of Mother's having taken to weeding  
the garden. Surely it will  
flourish now. It is too bad  
that the British navy has suf-  
fered such a loss, but evi-  
dently the storm was of quite  
unusual severity. I do hope  
that Cavil will be able to  
patch up one of our punts for  
the balance of the season.  
Mother speaks of grandmama  
being somewhat better, but I had  
not previously heard of her being  
ill. I fear she has been trying to do

more than she has strength for.

Our Norwegian experiences come to an end night before last and we are now in Sweden. We have had a good deal of wet weather of late and were driving for a couple of days in pouring rain in an open gig. Still we did not get very wet as there was a good apron to cover our knees and we had an umbrella. [This was when we were going through the Romsdal.] We had fine weather, however, for the part with the best scenery. On Wednesday last we got to a little town named Otta in time for <sup>midday</sup> dinner and immediately after took the train for Christiania where we arrived late in the evening. At one of the stations we were allowed 20 minutes for supper which was certainly an amusing meal. The passengers all overhauled the refreshment room where the boards were spread out on a long central table. There were no waiters and everyone helped himself <sup>to what</sup> as he could get. One old lady <sup>sat down at a side table</sup> railed in a breath of me and for the last of a

very tempting looking <sup>3</sup>omelet.  
Then everyone rushed to a desk  
and paid the same amount,  
no matter whether he had  
eaten much or little, receiving  
a ticket which was taken  
up at the door as he went  
out. I think I did very well  
by the transaction but Conrad  
certainly had the advantage  
of me. This is the ordinary  
plan ~~here~~ and we had a similar  
experience at a railway station  
on the way to Stockholm.

Christiania is a finely situated  
town of about 230,000 inhabitants  
for the most part modern in  
aspect and well kept. It is  
on the Christiania fjord and  
surrounded by hills clad for  
the most part with evergreens.

One of the most interesting things  
which we saw there was an  
old viking ship supposed to date  
from the 9<sup>th</sup> century. When a  
Viking Chief died he was laid to  
rest with his arms & treasures  
in his ship, and this particular  
ship having been buried in blue  
clay was <sup>absolutely</sup> perfectly preserved. Some

of the vikings' bones were still intact, and portions of the ships awning, peacock feathers &c were also preserved. The rudder was placed on one side of the stern (hence our word starboard which means steering side).

I was fortunate in obtaining a number of interesting minerals for the museum & write in Christiania and also in meeting Prof. Brögger, a very distinguished scientific man with whom I had exchanged papers, &c, but whom I had not before met. He would have been away from home had his daughter not been so obliging as to take appendicitis a week or so before our arrival (I am glad to say she is doing well). He himself has been in poor health for about six months, ~~was~~ (the result of overwork) but is now gradually going stronger.

We came from Christiania to Stockholm by a night train and had a comfortable journey although we were in a second-class carriage. They gave us each a pillow and a blanket and we put in a very good night. In the same compartment were two Norwegians, on their way to Finland - one of them a dentist going to try practice in Elsingfors. The other had already been in Finland and had been arrested several times by the Russian

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authorities for being too outspoken. Both the Swedes and Norwegians are highly indignant at the treatment which the poor Finns have received at the hands of the Russians. Many of them feel too that sooner or later the Russians will try a similar game with them. Last evening the former Minister of Finance in Finland was pointed out to me ~~to~~ in our hotel. He was a wealthy man, but the Russians appropriated most of his property and banished him from Finland. Now he is in Stockholm living <sup>partly</sup> on what money remains to him and partly by writing.

I should like to tell you something of Stockholm, but fear that I must put off as I have been writing for a long time. I may say, however, that we spent last evening with Dr. Nordström a Swede who was in Montreal more than twenty-five years ago and spent several days at our house. He is now a man of 60, of more portly proportions and occupies a distinguished position as "Director General" of the Swedish Government Railways. He has gone away to-day to Gothenburg or we should

no doubt have seen much more of him. [Dr. & Mrs Clark whom we met several times in Norway are now in Stockholm but we have only seen them for a few moments as they are at a different hotel] — one largely resorted to by Americans. We have had a regular down-pour all day and have not been out much as it is so wet underfoot and besides my umbrella is in the doctor's hands and will not be cured until to-morrow afternoon.

By the way they <sup>often</sup> use the french word for umbrella here, but spell it "paraply". The proper Swedish word, however, is regns-kärm.

[Conrad picks up friends wherever he goes] He is looking splendidly now and I think you will all find him much improved in many ways. As you know he expects to sail from Liverpool by the Parkian on the 27<sup>th</sup> inst. He is urging me not to go back to Liverpool with him & to remain a little longer on this side of the North Sea & possibly I may do so. Much will depend upon weather, however. It is bedtime now and still the rain comes down in torrents. If I remain behind Conrad I will go back by way of Holland — a country which I have seen little of — and then I might see Kruger.

I am so glad that Mrs. Nelson keeps well and hope she will not hurry home. Love to all  
Father.