

meetings were dangerous to the peace of the government; that they had trouble to watch us and it was unpleasant to us in being watched, and that we could not censure the police, for all they had as a criterion were the slanderous, blood-curdling reports that found circulation in America forty years ago and now being translated for the German papers. The consul then ordered his clerk to write us a letter of introduction, in which it was stated that we were citizens of the United States and the wish was expressed that in the future we (the Mormons) be allowed to hold public meetings. We presented the letter together with our petition to the city officials and after signing a paper, at their request, that we did not teach polygamy or use false presentations to cause emigration to North America—the petition, after a few days consideration, was granted.

With the above preliminaries and after securing a beautiful hall, we advertised the first public meeting and first conference in the conference district of Stuttgart, embracing Wurttemberg and Bavaria. We held three meetings, each being tolerably well attended. Besides our presidents, Wells, McMurrin and Lautensock, there were in attendance the following Elders:

Brigham T. Cannon, who has completed his German mission and was on his way to France to learn French; H. S. Jenkins, who labors in Saarbrücken; Le Rol C. Snow and Geo. W. Meldrum of Munich and Chas. H. Miles and John Heiner of Nuremberg, Bavaria; I. R. Barton and Jos. R. Naegle of Backnang, and the undersigned of Stuttgart, Wurttemberg. The city addresses are: Munich, "Nymphenberger Str. 182; Nuremberg, Wills Str. 4; Backnang, Weisacher Str. 40; Stuttgart, Schwab Str. 56.

The editor of the leading newspaper in Wurttemberg wrote an excellent article concerning our conference and we can feel a change of sentiment in our favor. Excellent private instructions were given us in Priesthood meeting and we all feel to work with renewed zeal believing that Germany is destined to be a great missionary center.

Yours truly,

ARTHUR W. HART, President.
R. EUGENE JONES, Secretary.
Stuttgart, Aug. 14, 1897.

A DEFAMER DEFEATED.

Sturges, Miss., Aug. 14th, 1897.

During last winter, or some eight or ten months ago, a Rev. M. L. Oswalt wrote out a "Pen Picture of Mormonism," which has been and is being as extensively circulated as the facilities of its author will admit. In the advertisements which are inserted in several newspapers the author says he knows whereof he has written. What may be considered the historical part of his little book, consists of extracts and quotations from other books, purporting to expose the "Dark deeds of Mormonism." The fact is—of which the author knows nothing, Mormon Elders being pretty widely distributed over the state, and having made inroads on "orthodoxy" in various places—the ministers of this same orthodoxy began to cast about for weapons to fight it, and trumped-up charges, that had been exploded time and again, were unearthed. Mr. Oswalt's book is mainly made up of such extracts and quotations. Parties unacquainted with the facts in the case, were led to believe that all the charges made in this book against the Mormons were true; and hence its tendency is to engender a mobocratic spirit. The better informed in the surrounding country, however, began to denounce the main features of the book as untrue. This

coming to his ears from time to time, he threw out a bold challenge to the Elders to prove publicly his mistakes (to call them by no harsher terms) or hush up. A day was set at Sturges to take up the matter and he was invited to be present and defend it.

The good citizens of Sturges forced the matter on four days earlier than was anticipated, thus not giving the Elders time to thoroughly digest its contents; so on Saturday, August 14, at 3 o'clock, there was quite a crowd assembled to hear the discussion. Elder F. T. Pomeroy took up the little book and for an hour and a half handled it without gloves, yet in a mild, Christian spirit, to the sixteenth page. His array of evidence was so overwhelming that Mr. Oswalt in his reply made such a poor defense that all could see how it would end if carried out. Seeing this one of his friends made a motion to close the discussion, which was carried by a few of his friends, no one voting on the other side, as they considered that when "enough" was announced it would be cruel to press him further. It had been decided before, in the morning, that this discussion should close the meeting, and hence the Elders and their friends withdrew.

However obnoxious Mormonism may be to the masses, it is sheer nonsense to try to uproot it by an array of false witnesses, however respectable they may appear in the eyes of the multitude. If no more powerful weapons can be used than Mr. Oswalt uses against Mormonism in his little book, somebody is going to believe the Elders who are preaching the truth; and indeed the honestly disposed part of the community, when they can be induced to listen to what the Elders have to say, are willing to accept their teaching as Bible truths, Oswalt's book and all others of like character to the contrary notwithstanding.

H. P. DOTSON.

IN THE TOWNS OF IDAHO.

Pocatello, Idaho,
September 14, 1897

Since my last I have been through the northwest part in Cache valley and also through Marsh valley. Among the ranchers scattered up and down every creek of small stream. They live miles apart and in order to reach them I took advantage of a fruit peddler's conveyance and while he gave them the luscious fruit I attended to the improvement of their mental faculties. We found people who name their towns after the old world. And when I passed through such classified towns as Oxford and Cambridge, I missed the students' three cornered caps and gowns. I don't know whether or not I am entitled to any degree by visiting such cities, but on second thought and remembering that every pill venter and pedagogue is either an M. D. or D. B., I am still content to be a plain American citizen especially as the late Judge McKean in admitting me to citizenship said I was entitled to everything in America except the presidency and while I am striving to obtain it I must draw the line somewhere so I shall leave all the L.L.D.'s to some other fellow who likes a title better than I do.

Oxford is a quiet village and before reaching it we passed through Trenton, a string town ten miles long, here are found thrifty, well-to-do people all busy harvesting their grain. I should here state that Mr. Chanterill of Alto has a couple of flowing wells, one for family use and one that not only gives water for the stock but furnishes him natural gas that he conveys to his kitchen range and does all his cook-

ing and warms the house all the year round and will in the near future furnish him light just as soon as the pipes can be put in. Others on these bottom lands not only have water but gas and they heat and light their homes and barns, thus saving fuel and coal oil. With money I am satisfied much better results could be obtained.

Clifton, Card, Thatcher, Downey, March Center, McCammon and Nine Mile or Cambridge are all small hamlets, but around them for miles are the ranchers. You see a small bunch of houses and a neat church or school house, and you ask where are your people. The answer is, O, they live for miles up and down the creek. Garden creek is a nice ward. Bishop Joseph E. Capell has a nice ward, and Oneida forms part of it. Here I met many old friends from South Staffordshire, England, and the friendship formed in the early fifties when I traveled as a missionary were renewed. The cold north wind of Wednesday and Thursday nights last brought a heavy frost and potato vines and unripe oats suffered. We then passed through the Indian reservation and while my friend, the fruit dealer, done a land office business, I had to look on, but as my motto is nil desperandum, I looked forward to civilization for better results and I have not been disappointed.

Pocatello was reached Saturday morning at 8 o'clock, and after camping in Port Neuf canyon and sleeping three or four nights on the soft side of some of the immense hay stacks, the comforts of home and a hearty welcome made everything pleasant again. In Pocatello I expected to find a small town surrounded by a large railroad terminus, but here is a large city that within the past five years has grown to a beautiful place.

The Latter-day Saints have one of the largest Bishops' wards in the Oneida Stake of Zion. Elder C. J. Cannon, formerly of Hyrum, Cache county, is the Bishop. He has a fine people to preside over. They are mostly young people, numbering 400 of 80 families. They have built a neat church elegantly fitted up at a cost of \$2,500.

On Saturday evening I attended a lawn party at the residence of Brother and Sister Oran in honor of Elder Daniel Clark, who is leaving for a mission to England. This beautiful home was illuminated with Chinese lanterns and a sumptuous feast was spread by a committee, Sisters Hopkins, Stone, Walton and Davidson. Elder Clark's pocket book was larger before he left. On Sunday Elder Andrew Kimball and myself attended Sabbath school and meeting at 2 p.m. I occupied the pulpit in the afternoon and Elder Kimball preached to a packed audience of Saints and strangers in the evening. Prof. Todd of the B. Y. College, Logan, who had missed train connections on his way to Idaho Falls conference, also spoke and much good will result. On Monday evening I am to lecture to the Elders' quorum who have invited the public.

Pocatello is in a very happy frame of mind just at this time, as there is every prospect of the Indian reservation being thrown open. The chiefs have signed the agreement and it is believed that Congress will pass the act next session. Then Pocatello will boom and become a large center, not only for business, but a large population will settle here as there are many thousand acres of very rich farming and grazing lands will be occupied.

The change from the U. P. R. R. to the Oregon Short Line which is doing an immense business has also benefited Pocatello.

Four prisoners broke out of the new