REPORT FROM TENNESSEE.

Thoughtful Letter From an Elder's Friend—Work in Knoxville.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., December 8, 1894.

Editor Deseret News:

Permit us to express our thanks for and appreciation of your valuable paper, which, like a sweet messenger, brings the glad news of affairs in our mountain home.

This conference (the East Tennessee) is in a prosperous condition, having increased its numbers from six (when we came here) to eighteen. Not only has it increased in number but in energy and success. The climate is delightful at all seasons of the year, and our Elders are all enjoying the best of health and spirits. We are laboring amongst the most warm-hearted and hospitable people on the face of the earth. Those who have dear ones in the Southern States need entertain no fears concerning their safety, for they are among people who would lay down their lives for our protection. The people of the South have been greatly misunderstood, as has our cause among them, but the thinking classes begin to see something among our people which attracts attention. To illustrate this fact we will (with the author's consent) furnish a copy of a letter received by us after finishing the city of [illegible].

"My Dear Mr. Sloan—Your appreciated letter of the 27th inst. shall have reply. Thank you for it. It breathes more the spirit that ought to advise humanity the world over. It is a gratification to find such evidence of adherents of any religion, or those of no religion. Humanity more ever to wider than any combination within or of it. When I was but a boy (I'm 58 now) I read a book that told of the Mormons and their trials. (I forget the author.) The course of the Mormon life somewhat lighted my own from that time, though this is not referable to any particular, or general affinity, with the religious belief, but I discovered a certain indefinable halo in the life sphere of your people that has ever remained a more distinct fascination; one that I never sought to repress or dissipate. I can discover that Mormon association and influence develop character, which is becoming more needed every day for the maintenance of republican institutions in this land. All is certainly at this moment in a precarious state. Our nation has not yet, if we'll think of it, developed distinctively national character; up to now all remains a conglomerate. The thought has come to me in this connection that the evolution of that 'national character' may be by the Mormon community of Utah—moment as the conjecture would be regarded by most persons today. Certainly there is in Mormonism (you'll understand I use the term to my meaning of contemplative way—it comes familiar, is the reason), certainly there is a subtle (mystic we may term it) power in the life-habit, customs, socialism, of the Mormons that impresses the individuals of that community, as a peculiar people; and withal, one possessed of sterling virtue and essential beneficence, wise conservatism, yet noticeably safely progressive in this age of progress. It has been for me an interesting inquiry latterly, where lurks the germ in all this American system made up of odds and ends of conveyed mankind, where will germinate and whence will hatch a typical, appropriate American character? The country lacks and needs it today. Mormonism assimilates the diverse and smooths all to a homogeneity and harmony that is most wonderful—no other socialism, or socialism in these last centuries has done the like, with any such marked and unerring effect and completeness as has, and does Mormonism. Indeed it behooves the world to stand in respectful awe of a society that presents such results. 'By their fruits ye shall know them' is an apt scriptural assurance just here, as you have, no doubt, often thought.

"The package of pamphlets you so kindly sent me I have read—President Cannon's 'History of the Mormons'—with a deep interest and a fierce indignation on account of the outrages it tells of. Much if not all of these were before known to me, but aggregating these enormities in this compact way is overwhelming to realize whose sense of humanity and justice has not become wholly effete, dead, in fact. With here, terrible words the harrowing tale is told in small space. It is due to revered and still extant human instinct that remains to the race, we rejoice to know that the story of Mormon wrong be openly, bravely, unflinchingly given to the wide world as that story veritably is. I don't hesitate to receive as creditable the remains of the pamphlet. I would, for my country's sake, they were exaggerated. My views as to religious matters are not likely to change. (I make no attempt to proselyte.) [illegible] be asked to say, 'work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.' If I can help my brother, I ought to gladly try, not to get him to accept my view, but to find for himself that view to which the very highest in him assents. The work is then done. Each of us holds relation to the central cause of all causes, that is unique, no other exactly the same. I do violence to the individuality of my fellow to try to crowd and force him into my place, when there is a place, which is single and sole, to and for himself. I am sure I could live among Mormons, with no further participation in their religion than a sincere respect for it and for them in the observance of its rites, yet never be obnoxious to one of its adherents.

"But this discursiveness is making my letter long. I'll hope to see your Elder Hayes when he will visit this place next. Thank you for kindness received as regards to reading matter. I've written somewhat freely, as I [illegible] [illegible]. I guess that you see [illegible] [illegible]

"Yours [illegible] and kindly a friend, and that of your people,

"[illegible] M. McKEE."

The above will give you an idea of the [illegible] of the people we meet. We are now blessed ready to canvass Knoxville, a city of [illegible], and it may have [illegible] of [illegible] been [illegible], we would appreciate a letter of information, as [illegible] frequently [illegible] up. A channel of communication [illegible]. We would be pleased to hear from any one in this [illegible] so many as convenient. To canvass a city of its size is no small task and a few years ago would be [illegible] but such is the progress of our work that we are no longer confined to the mountains and backwoods, but the wealthy and the great are hearing our message. The harvest truly is great but the laborers few. It seems that every young man in Zion should have this opportunity to defend his cause before the world.

Ever praying for the onward progress of Zion, we remain your brothers in the cause of truth,

WILLIAM L. HAYES,
THOMAS W. SLOAN.

Address P. O. Box [illegible], Knoxville, Tenn.

FOOLING WITH [illegible].

Only One of the United States Deputy Marshals Came Back Whole.

It was [illegible] in the United States marshal's office at Knoxville that wild [illegible] was coming down the Cumberland river. The marshal was new to office, and therefore was determined to do his duty, which, of course, was to see that the illicit distilleries, [illegible] should be destroyed, and that the distillers should be brought to justice. His predecessor in office had been less [illegible] and had sent [illegible] to the mountains, but [illegible] continued to come down the Cumberland river. The present marshal, Captain Hayes, an old Confederate officer, said that he thought that when the boys found out that he really wanted them to quit they would do so. He understood them, he knew their natures, their ruggedness and their disposition to yield to persuasion. So he sent a deputy and four men to tell the boys to quit. One night about a week later some one rang the doorbell, and the marshal himself went to the door.

"Why," said he, "have you got back, Casey?"

Casey answered. "Yes, just about."

"Where is the deputy marshal?"

"Well, he's back too."

"Why didn't he come around?"

"Well, I [illegible] that his folks needed him more than you did, so I unloaded him there."

"What, you don't mean that he's hurt?"

"No, not hurt now, but he was. He's dead at present. I'm the only one that got back whole."

"Well, I declare! Didn't you tell those boys that I wanted them to quit their foolishness?"

"Yes, and they must have been hard of hearing, for they kept on a-shootin'."—Opie Read.

Torture.

Colonel Pobdowitzi (of the Russian police)—Has the prisoner [illegible] confessed?

Sergeant [illegible]—No, your highness. We have [illegible] him with our [illegible], cut off one of his ears, burned the soles of his feet with hot [illegible] and tried the thumb screws on him, but he absolutely refuses to confess.

Colonel Pobdowitzi (sternly)—Then, as a last resource, try the effect of a [illegible] by a young lady [illegible].

Nihilist Prisoner (screaming)—Have mercy! I confess, I confess!—London Tit-Bits.

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