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AN HONEST EDITOR.

When Informed of Being a Wrong He Makes Restitution.

The *Deutsche Warte*, printed in Chicago, is one of the greatest and best German newspapers in America and most ably edited. For years, however, when this paper had anything to say about the "Mormons" it was done to an unfriendly spirit. The paper was misinformed in a high degree. Its readers who live in the Rocky Mountain region kept writing to the editor in regard to misstatements about the "Mormons," and once several Germans sent over their signatures a long letter to the editor stating the true condition of the German "Mormons" and inviting an examination of the facts.

The paper acted nobly. Extracts from our letter were published, wrong reports were corrected and for a while all was quiet. Last week, however, one of the editors thanked us in a few friendly lines, and yesterday came the number dated September 30th with a long correspondence about Salt Lake, Provo, Utah and the Mormons. The editor had sent a reporter to Utah, and at last, for the first time, over a million souls, understanding German, will know the truth about that long slandered people in Utah.

The gentleman visited Provo, and later came to Salt Lake, staying at the Knutsford, which he rates "seven with the best Chicago hotels." While here he evidently had a guide with him that is well enough informed about places, but who told him some yarns. He gets the Assembly Hall confounded with the Endowment House, and false stories about the Tithing Office and Church cattle are put into his ears; still he seems to use his eyes more than his ears. He makes a very minute and correct description of the Temple, Assembly Hall, Tabernacle, Tithing yards, Lion-house, etc. About the sensational stories given out by foes of the "Mormons" he seems to be a little sceptical. But he dismisses his guide, and here are the words of the reporter himself as near as his beautiful language can be translated into English:

"But we must hurry if we want to get room in the Tabernacle. It is 2 o'clock, the hour of divine service. From all sides the people are streaming in, not only from the city, but also from the vicinity." Now follows a description of the Tabernacle, and how different it is from what we read in 1885 in the German papers, which were served by a reporter who himself declares he took his information about the "Mormons," not from a "Mormon" but from a very friendly and accommodating gentleman going by the name of a notorious anti-"Mormon."

He continues: But now the services begin. The mighty organ sends forth her powerful strains; all at once the noise and hum in the giant assembly cease. The hymn is given out, which, however, is sung by the choir alone. But how is it sung! Grand, powerful, soul-thrilling! That is a choir with none but excellently schooled voices, and we can understand why the Mormons are proud of that music, and why the people of other denominations come Sunday after Sunday to hear it. I assert there are few places in the United States where such a choir song is heard. When the last note of that wonderful song had died away, one of the Apostles offered a prayer, but the congregation did not arise. Then the sacrament was administered, and another Apostle delivered a discourse about the necessity of the outpouring of the Holy Ghost. He was followed by a venerable looking gentleman who had taken his place behind the honeycomb. This was George Q. Cannon, one of the counselors to the President. He presented a very intellectual discourse in which he explained to the attentive listeners that also in our days revelations from God to mankind are necessary. Joseph Smith received such revelations and according to them the Latter-day Saints have founded this Church as the only bulwark against growing infidelity."

The reporter has no comment to make upon either "Gentiles", or "Mormons;" he simply reports what he sees. How different is this article from the slandering statements that went all over Germany and Switzerland in 1885? Bishop Scheuchzer, and others who were there on a mission will well remember what fabulous were going around about the Mormons. It took much willing, many an interview with editors, policemen, city fathers and leading men to dispel and try to counteract these lies. When Nicholas Sommer and myself, in April, 1887, went to the mayor of Berne, Squire Wirth, he gave us an impartial hearing, although he declared himself opposed to the Mormons since he read so many evil reports. After an hour's interview he gave us an introduction to Mr. Stockmar, chief of the police and director of justice. This gentleman gave us audience for two hours and asked many questions. He said he had by his detectives watched the course of Messrs Schoenfeldt and Moench and found them blameless. He gave us then a few lines to the highest authority in Switzerland to get a hearing.

All the Saints in that country handed in a petition to the government, denouncing the false reports, politely asking examination, and in respectful but earnest words claiming their rights and liberties. The most rigid examination was set to work. The outcome was that even very bitter editors declared that nothing could be found against the Mormon missionaries. Preachers and teachers demanded information. I knew of such men that spent whole days in friendly conversation with Elders. Old, venerable Emperor William, in Germany, a few months before he died, wrote to a pastor in Silesia (the Southeastern part of Prussia): "If these Mormons are from God, they will go [illegible]; if they are from God, it is not necessary that I fight them." Remarks did the same by one of his generals more than fifteen years ago, but not until today could a true report about the Mormons reach the mass of the Germans. I am happy that I also worked at the spreading of the truth.

J. STOHL.

Pennsylvania Conference.

Following is a brief report of the conference held at Littleton, W. Va., Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27.

Conference convened in the Littleton school house. There were present of the Priesthood: C. W. Stayner, president of the Northern States Mission; W. H. Freeman, President of the Pennsylvania Conference, and Elders Geo. Skinner, Jos. Waite, David Sudworth, Heber C. Keetch, Geo. W. Johnson, Thos. Houston, Albert U. Miner, and H. F. Thomas.

After opening with singing and prayer, President Freeman addressed the conference, saying in substance that much valuable labor had been done and much prejudice allayed. The Articles of Faith were read as a text upon which the Elders might address the people.

Elder Skinner spoke a short time on the labors performed, and conference adjourned till 2 p.m.

The speakers in the afternoon were Elders Thomas, Sudworth, Miner, Houston, Waite, Johnson and Keetch, all of whom felt encouraged to go forward and proclaim the message of the Gospel, the opportunity for which was open, especially in the fields lately gone over in West Virginia. President Stayner said that he greatly appreciated the meeting with the people, and encouraged the Elders to continue their labors.

The reports show an increase in membership, with prospects of additional membership in the future.

Meeting was held in the evening, at which the speakers were President W. H. Freeman and Elder D. Sudworth.

On Sunday the conference was addressed by Elders Waite and Skinner and President Freeman in the forenoon, and by Elders Keetch and Sudworth and President Stayner in the afternoon.

At a Priesthood meeting, between 4 and 5 o'clock, reports were given by the traveling Elders of their labors since the last conference.

During this meeting the general authorities of the Church, President of the Mission C. W. Stayner, President of the Conference W. H. Freeman, and Clerk of the Conference H. F. Thomas were sustained.

Appointments to several fields were made as follows: Elders Thomas and Johnson to labor in Barbour County, W. Va.; Elders Waite and Houston to labor in Tyler County, W. Va.; Elders Sudworth and Keetch to labor in Calhoun County, West Virginia; Elders Freeman and Miner to labor in Wetzel County, West Virginia; and Elder Joseph H. Denis to labor in the Long Island (N. Y.) branch and in the State of New Jersey.

Elder George Skinner was released to return to his home in Arizona.

In the evening President Stayner addressed a crowded house on the important subject, "The Second Coming of Christ," which was earnestly listened to.

President Freeman followed with an explanation of the situation of the Latter-day Saints before the United States and the country and the manner of receiving applications for membership.

Conference closed with a benediction by Elder Thomas.

H. F. THOMAS,
Clerk of Conference.

LITTLETON, West Virginia, September 28, 1891.

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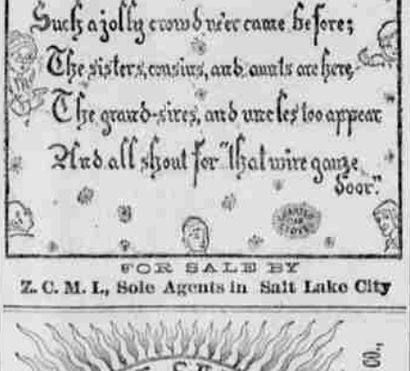

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