

mans, who are valiant workers in getting friends interested. One or two missionaries who can speak German fluently are needed very much. A local Elder, Bro. Sudderlund, presides over the branch. Bro. John N. Davis, of Vernal, is president of the conference, with headquarters at 1469 Milwaukee Avenue. Prest. C. D. Fieldsted, with a number of helpmates, looks after the Scandinavian interests, and has a general supervision of the work. Much good is being accomplished in allaying prejudice and preparing the way for fruitful harvesting. We are not without open and avowed enemies, however. Elder Canute Peterson used to say, "When the wolf shows his teeth you may know there are lambs near by." Yesterday we were assured of this fact. Friday and Saturday the central West Side, a part of town where the well-to-do middle classes live, was thoroughly "billed" for a great Baptist camp meeting. Dozens of large posters were scattered around, announcing that Mrs. Grace Wilbur Trout would lecture on Mormonism. Seven of our Elders were fortunate enough to get the news in time to attend, and they scattered around in the audience so as not to arouse suspicion. After the usual preliminaries, Mrs. Trout began by saying that if Mormonism were dead she would "let the dead bury the dead," but Mormonism is not dead; contrariwise, it is very much alive, and is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, question that the statesmen of this country and the religious world generally have to solve. It is rearing its serpent head, and would sap the life blood out of Christianity; and said she, "It is spreading so rapidly that thinking men and women, the press and people alike, are fearful that unless something is done, it will eventually control the northwest." She then re-hashed the old tales of Joseph Smith being an indolent, ignorant boy, the crookedness of the Kirtland bank, the Danites, the Mountain Meadows massacre, the danger of living in Utah unless one was a polygamist, the atrocious butchery of men, women and children who dared to disagree with the leaders, the blessed gift of a sixteenth wife to John D. Lee for the noble part he took in the killing at Mountain Meadows. She spoke of the Church property that had been taken, but now returned "because of corrupt influence at Washington;" and of the franchise given women. She said this only made matters worse in regard to polygamy, as the women are kept in such ignorance that they obey their lords. Regretted the fact that proselyting is going on in all parts of our land, and that car load lots of young girls were being shipped from Brooklyn and other populous centers to swell the number of polygamous victims.

The federal and district judges in Utah will smile to hear that they are all responsible to President Woodruff for their every official act—at least Mrs. Trout says so. She referred to President Joseph F. Smith's sermon at Richfield, and to the resolution adopted by the Utah Presbytery at Spanish Fork, and in rabid anti-Mormon style, with all the venom at her command, made a stirring appeal to all good Christians to crush the monster who will sustain such a man as Joseph F. at its head. She made known our belief of baptism for the dead, and said it was a great source

of revenue to the Church, as every one who is baptized for Gentile ancestors must pay a certain sum for each one. People who visit Utah are treated with so much courtesy by the Mormons, she said, that they come away with a wrong impression of the real condition there—for the Mormons have learned the art of deception.

This same Mrs. Trout recently wrote to President Woodruff, signing herself G. W. Trout, making believe that she was an investigator after truth, so as to get matter for her anti-Mormon crusade.

At the close of the lecture one of our number asked for the privilege of saying a few words, but he was not allowed to give even a short notice. He, however, managed to say that he had been a Mormon forty-five years, and a resident of Utah forty years, and that he had not known what Mrs. Trout had been telling. Many of the people were indignant because our side was denied a hearing, and the seven Elders had seven groups of eager questioners at the close of the service; and no doubt much good was done. One man with his family came right away to our meeting last night and was very much interested. Thus we see that God is blessing His work, even through our enemies.

Prest. Fjeldsted wishes to extend an invitation to all Utah people and Latter-day Saints generally who may happen to visit Chicago, to call on the Elders here and attend our meetings. The mission headquarters are at 1496 Milwaukee Avenue, and the meetings at 953 Fairfield Avenue. If any have friends or relations in the city, the Elders will take great pleasure in visiting them on request from Saints at home.

We are all well, and are trying to do our duty. God is blessing us, and we rejoice in the progress of the work.

ENOCH JORGENSEN.

### LETTER TO AN APOSTATE.

MISSISSIPPI,

July 10th, 1896.

MR. M. L. OSWALT.

Dear Sir:—What I wish to say to you is in unfeigned sorrow. I do not wish to excite your animosity, or hamper you in any of your privileges, but if possible to direct your thoughts in a different channel, and be an humble instrument, through divine interposition, of saving you and your family from utter overthrow in the great day of reckoning. I shall use plainness that will not admit of a double meaning, because the occasion demands it.

To say that I am astonished at the course you have taken in relation to the principles of the Gospel which you formerly said you knew were true, does not half express it. What have you recently learned that you did not find out during a residence of nearly three years among the Mormons, or for a number of years after coming back to Missouri? And even after you began to try to preach under the Baptist standard you said, so I learn, that the worst of your preaching was Mormon doctrine. But whether you said so or not, let me tell you that all the truths you ever did or ever will preach are parts and parcels of Mormon doctrine, so called.

It seems that you have recently found, by reading false history, that Mormonism is a terrible bug-a-boo. You know, or ought to know, that if a tithe of these

false histories were true, the government of the United States would have wiped it out long since. Out of this vile trash you have created a bug-a-boo and are spreading yourself to put it down. You know, or ought to know, that the false statements and the coloring given to what has the semblance of truth in these false histories, are as far asunder from the facts in the case, as light is from darkness.

You also try, with all the ingenuity you possess, to pick flaws in the Doctrine and Covenants. Let me tell you, and you ought to know it without being told, there is not a paragraph in the book but that there are passages in the Bible equally strange and unaccountable to human wisdom. You can swallow without an effort Samson's catching three hundred foxes, tying firebrands to their tails, etc.; the whale swallowing Jonah; the witch of Endor raising Samuel; and hundreds of other things equally strange and entirely outside of and beyond human wisdom and power. But to find anything purporting to be modern revelation you spurn from you.

Let me tell you—and you once knew it yourself—that the doctrines of the Latter-day Saints are the very same as the former-day. Saints; and the New Testament is a faithful history of the same. You can find nothing there but what is in strict accord with the teachings of the latter-day work. Modern religionists spiritualize scripture and strip it of its common sense meaning, so much so, that almost any kind of creed can have a pretty fair showing. New sects spring up under such renderings—which have been so notorious that the world of Christendom is full of creeds. This you once knew, but it seems now that you have entirely lost that knowledge and you are at sea.

It would be well for you to heed the declaration of St. Peter: "No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."—II. Peter i: 20. The everlasting truths of God will live and roll forth until they accomplish that whereunto they are sent, in spite of men or devils.

It would be wise in you to heed the admonition of Gamaliel, as found in Acts v: 34-39. My constant desire and prayer is that you may see where you are drifting and call a halt before it is too late. You may and probably will be able to excite the baser passions of those who have a mobocratic spirit to acts of violence on some of us. You know very well that there are thousands of the more ignorant who think it all right to rob a Mormon. Stop, think and consider well over this matter. Ask God to direct you before you go too far. Your course will doubtless gain for you some notoriety and popularity, but remember, such popularity will not weigh a feather in your favor in the great day of reckoning, but will be as a great weight to drag you to perdition.

In sorrow I subscribe myself,

H. P. DOTSON.

John Geary, a teamster, 34 years of age, was killed Wednesday, at San Francisco, by a descending elevator. Geary deliberately thrust his head under a chain that bars entrance to the elevator shaft. The elevator was coming down rapidly at the time and struck him on the back of the head, crushing his skull and killing him instantly.