

## MISCELLANEOUS.

## LABORING IN GERMANY.

As letters from this part do not appear often in the News I thought a few lines from old Nuremberg, would not be amiss. I left my home in St. George, June 12th, 1896, and Salt Lake City the 27th of the same month; my call being to labor a month or two in Chicago, and then to go on to this mission. I labored about two months there, and on August 11th in company with eleven other young men, on the same errand as myself, continued our journey to the other side of the world. September 1st I arrived safely in Bern, Switzerland, and was assigned to labor in this branch.

Arriving here September 5th, I found Elders John Nuffer and Isaac R. Barton at the station to welcome me. A few days later Elder Nuffer left for Switzerland and Elder Barton, who had been here but a short time and spoke very little German, and I, who spoke still less, were left alone; not alone either for we felt we had one friend at least, who would remain with us, if we would but ask Him in faith. Our condition was one that indeed taught us humility.

With the help of the Lord, I have overcome the first difficulties of the language, but one who has not been "through the mill," can hardly realize, what it is to be left among strangers with a strange tongue, and the interests of a branch to look after. But it was, perhaps the best thing for us, as we had to learn, and that very quickly, to speak for ourselves and had no one to depend on but the Lord, who I can testify, is a safe dependence.

This is among the very few cities of Germany where the Elders have not full liberty to proclaim the glad tidings. Notwithstanding the fact that there are hundreds of clubs and societies (verein) and a great many religious sects here, which have perfect freedom to meet as often as they wish, still a band of Latter-day Saints, are denied this privilege. So our meetings have to be held in secret in the homes of the Saints. Through the blessings of the Lord, we have been able to meet together nearly every Sabbath, without disturbance. The saints bring their friends and acquaintances with them; so if one way is not open for us to reach the honest, another is; and so the "little stone" rolls, though somewhat slower here on account of our limited freedom.

The Easter holidays are just over. Easter, like the Christmas holidays, is a time of great rejoicing in the Fatherland, especially for the young. Schools have been closed for sometime, and Good Friday (Charfreitag) and also Easter Monday are general holidays. Good Friday is celebrated in memory of the burial of Christ, and on this day all good Christendom is supposed to abstain from the eating of meats. Fish, though, may be eaten freely, and our good house frau brought us boiled cod-fish for dinner, instead of our usual rations of meat.

The past week has been a busy one for the ministers. Services nearly every day, and various ceremonies such as confirmation of children, confession of sins, etc., have taken place.

In the churches and among the people, during the Easter holidays, there is a

series of old habits and customs, originating, for the greater part in heathen times. For instance the relating from the pulpit of an Easter-story or fable, and the Easter laughter which follows these jokes. For weeks past there could be seen on every hand beautifully colored Easter eggs, chocolate Easter hares, etc., which, together, with the unleavened bread, were among the eatibles of the old spring-feasts, and are now symbols of the death and resurrection of our Savior. The holy Easter-hare at one time dedicated to Venus, and which is baked and eaten in the form of cakes, is a symbol that is not entirely understood; but is partly no doubt in memory of the passover, (Osterlamm) a rabbit looking somewhat like a lamb.

Another superstition, seemingly handed down from paganism, is the drawing of the Easter-water, at sunrise, from a spring flowing toward the East, and this without speaking a word. This water the young people pour over themselves, believing by so doing they will be kept healthy, holy, and beautiful the whole year. This mixture of heathenism and Christianity is particularly noticeable among the Catholics, and in the country districts especially one finds the people thus priest ridden.

It is interesting for the young Latter-day Saints to note these various superstitious beliefs and compare them with the true doctrines of Christ. The youth of Israel truly should be thankful that they are not brought up under such superstition.

We are very glad to welcome spring and warm weather, as we will soon be able to go into the forest and hold our meetings, where we can raise our voices in singing praises to our Maker, which we seldom dare do in the city.

Elder John Heiner from Morgan, Utah, is my co-laborer at present. He has been here about two months, and is having his struggle with the language. We are both well and happy in our labors, and send greeting to all our friends.

CHARLES H. MILES.

## FROM TENNESSEE.

SWEET Gum, Tennessee,  
April 27th, 1897.

I have been reading an address, or rather a prophecy, by President Woodruff which was spoken some two years ago in which he says the angels spoken of in revelation have left the courts of heaven to pour out the vials of God's wrath upon the earth; then he gives a description of the calamities that would come upon the earth; still more, Elder A. Y. Duke, one of the first Elders to come to this country, has told me many times that we would witness terrible times. He said strange diseases would come among the people, diseases that would baffle the skill of the best physicians and people would die by the score. He also said that people would turn against each other; and there would be strife and confusion on every side. All of this is being fulfilled to the very letter. The true Gospel has been preached with force in this country, but people refuse to obey it, and trouble has begun. There is a strange disease broken loose in this country, which is

fatal as can be, or at least has proved so. The doctors cannot do anything with it. It began just before Christmas, and is spreading among the people fearfully. Some of the doctors call it typhoid fever in a malignant form, while others admit that they don't know what it is. There have been nine deaths in one family, and twice, there were two corpses in the same house at a time. That family is now all dead but three. I believe, the disease started in that family and has spread to others, and the end may not be yet. This is not all. People, generally speaking, are at war with each other; having law suits, quarreling, fighting, swearing falsely against each other, speaking evil of each other, getting drunk—even people who have been claiming to be Christians are getting drunk and cursing and fighting, etc. They remind me of the little boy's reply to the preacher, when asked if his father was religious. "Yes," said he, but he ain't working at it now." So if people who do these things ever were religious they are not working at it now. Such, I am sorry to say, is the true state of affairs here now.

I believe I wrote to the News some time ago about a young Divine here taking a set against the Mormons. He undertook to overthrow Mormon teachings by using the Bible, taking for his subject, the Holy Ghost; his office, and how it was conferred anciently. But he completely failed to tell us how people receive the Holy Ghost now. Of course he could not tell without teaching the laying on of hands, and that would be Mormonism. He next took the subject, "Should the Church be run on the same principle now as it was anciently?" If not? Why not?" Of course he tried to explain away Apostles and Prophets and denied the plain teachings of the Bible, and before he got through fell to abusing the Mormons. After he got through with his series of discourses, I appointed a meeting, and answered his arguments, showed from the Bible how the Holy Ghost was conferred now, namely by the laying on of hands by one having authority. I also showed what the Holy Ghost was given for, and spoke upon Church organization, proving that Apostles and Prophets were placed in the Church for the guidance and direction of the same, as Paul says. So the young divine, after his failure, concluded to try another way. He announced that on the 3rd Sunday in December last he would deliver a lecture on Mormonism, he would show up the past history of the Church, and that Mormonism was rotten to the core and was of the devil. In a few days he was taken sick, and when the appointed time for the lecture came he was not able to come, but was better; so on Saturday before he was to lecture on Sunday he wrote a note to the Elder of the Campbellite church stating that he could not fill his appointment, but on the first Sunday in January would be there and denounce Mormonism. That night he was taken worse and lay at the point of death for six or eight weeks, and is still sick; the third Sunday of December is gone, also the first Sunday of January, and it is now April and he has not lectured yet.

The Latter day Saints here are still on guard and are trying to live humble, sincere Christian lives, are earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the Saints. But there are many obstacles thrown across the pathway to