

## A WORD TO THE YOUNG.

Christians. They believe in the Bible, though not just as we do. I saw a number of them during my stay in Egypt and I met quite a crowd of Abyssinian Christians at Jerusalem during an Easter week several years ago. These Abyssinians had come to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage. They wanted to worship in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. They were tall fine looking men with regular features and with faces of a dead black. Their complexion was not only like that of a negro, but it was of a rich dull black. There are a large number of priests in Abyssinia. There are said to be at least twelve thousand monks in the country. These men have a great deal to do with the government. The Abyssinians have no literature worth mentioning. They have neither painting, sculpture, nor architecture. There is no foreign commerce, though there are some imports, upon which the king collects an immense duty. A mule load of goods pay \$5, a donkey load \$2, and a porter's load \$1.

General Dye saw something of Abyssinian surgery during his stay in the country. He says that when a limb is broken in battle the Abyssinians pound that part of the limb below the break into jelly. Sometimes they pound it up as far as the next joint, and he says that in most of such cases the men get well. They know nothing of ordinary amputation. While Dr Johnson was in captivity he was asked to treat a soldier who had been wounded in the hand. He knew that if he touched the man and the man died he would be responsible, so he refused. A few days after this the man returned. His hand had been crushed with stones up to the wound, and to Dr. Johnson's surprise, he was recovering. During the battle a number of Abyssinians were shot, and in some cases they extracted the bullets by placing a tube just large enough to cover the hole into which the bullet had gone, and sucking it out with their mouths.

The rainy season will soon be on in Abyssinia. The country is, you know, very high. It may be called the Switzerland of Africa. It is made of broken plateaus, great ravines and narrow passes. It is generally healthy, but it lies so near the equator that it is very hot in the summer, and the lowlands of the country are full of miasma and fevers during the wet season. This season begins about the middle of June, and if the Italians should make war they will have to fight the climate as well as the people. At this time the winds from the Red Sea bring heavy rains. The days are hot and the nights are cold. They will have to pass over the lowlands near the Red Sea before they get to the mountains, and the broken nature of the country is such that it is doubtful whether the Abyssinians can ever be conquered. There are, all told, about four million of them, and these are scattered over a territory four times as large as the state of New York. During the rainy season the ravines and gorges are filled with water. It will be almost impossible to carry heavy guns, and in addition to this the troops will have to fight with the lions and leopards and other wild animals which infest the unsettled parts of the country.

*4 rank G. Carpenter*

For many years, in the early history of this Territory, when all merchandise had to be brought from the frontiers by ox or mule teams, the publication of the DESERET NEWS was frequently disturbed by the uncertainty of a paper supply. This annoyance, with the fact that machinery for paper making was lying idle only a few miles south of Salt Lake City, suggested to the far-seeing eye of President Brigham Young the importance and necessity of one of the Elders of Israel, devoting a few years' time to the gathering together the only material then in the country suitable for the manufacture of paper, namely, rags. Hence the origin of what thousands of the old settlers will still remember as the "rag mission," and I was the one whom President Young called upon to fill that important labor for between three and four years. This was in the year 1861, while I was then doing business, and had been for years on Main street, when President Young suggested as the only method to achieve success, would be to go round from house to house, I must say, was a severe blow to my native pride, which I suppose is more or less common to all humanity. But after being known in the community for years, as a merchant and auctioneer, and then to be seen on the streets going from door to door with a basket on one arm and an empty sack on the other, enquiring for rags at every house. Oh, what a change in the aspect of affairs. It must be realized to properly sense it. When President Young first made the proposition, the humiliating prospect almost stunned me, but a few moments' reflection reminded me that I came to these valleys of the mountains from my native country, England, for the purpose of doing the will of my Heavenly Father, my time and means must be at His disposal. I therefore answered President Young in the affirmative, and for over three years, from Franklin, Idaho, in the north, and Banpete in the south, my labors extended, not only visiting many hundreds of houses during the week days, but preaching rag sermons on Sunday. The first time I ever spoke in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, between thirty and forty years ago, was a rag discourse, and President Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball backed it up by their testimony and enlarged upon it. The result of my labors, in responding to the call of President Young and in supplying material for the manufacture of paper, not only for the DESERET NEWS, but wrapping paper and other kinds, and opening up a market for an article of no value heretofore, is ample compensation to me for the time and energy I devoted to it. The only thing of a numerous nature connected with it was with some mothers, who were bleated with crying children, when all other means failed to quiet them, would say, "Now if you don't hush up, I'll give you to the rag man." This, though a terrible resort, had the desired effect. The chief object intended by this communication is to illustrate a grand underlying principle in the gathering of Israel, for the benefit of thousands of our young Elders and sisters throughout Zion. Many

years ago, hundreds of teams had to be sent from here to Omaha to assist the emigrating Saints across the Plains. This necessitated hard work for hundreds of our young men; hundreds of others were called to go and open up new settlements, and in this labor of trial, exposure and hard times, the sisters had to bear a heavy share. Some of our Elders while on a preaching mission (if mechanics), have had to assist in rock or brick laying, carpentering, plastering, etc., toward the erection of a meeting house, and many other kinds of labor has had to be performed in that dispensation, and is just as important and acceptable to our Heavenly Father, as praying, singing and preaching. No matter what kind of labor any man holding the priesthood may be called on to perform by the servants of the Lord, let it be done by a cheerful response, and God will sincerely bless you. Cultivate a humble and self denying spirit, and I will promise you, the yoke of Christ shall be easy and his burden light upon you.

Many years have passed away since that rag mission was performed. I have never regretted it, and instead of its having been humiliating in its influence among the community, it only increased their respect and confidence towards me.

I therefore beg of all my young friends to hold themselves in readiness for any kind of a mission they may be called upon to fill, and never say no.

GEORGE GODDARD.

## THE EUROPEAN MISSION.

[Millennial Star, March 12.]

Arrivals—The American Line Steamer Penland arrived in Liverpool on March 5, having on board for the British Mission—Alvin B. Kempton of Cortis, Arizona; George Humphreys of Paris, Idaho; Christopher Wilcock of Huntington, Utah; Robert Winn, Francis C. Sells and John H. Brough of Nephi, Utah. Elder Thomas J. Smedley of Paris, Idaho, also came on the vessel, for the purpose of obtaining genealogical information. The weather was quite stormy during three days of the voyage, but except this there was nothing unpleasant experienced. All are well.

Appointments—Elder Alvin B. Kempton has been appointed to labor as traveling Elder in the Cheltenham conference.

Elder George Humphreys has been appointed to labor as traveling Elder in the Nottingham conference.

Elder Christopher Wilcock has been appointed to labor as traveling Elder in the Sheffield conference.

Elder Robert Winn has been appointed to labor as traveling Elder in the Liverpool conference.

Elder Francis C. Sells has been appointed to labor as traveling Elder in the London conference.

Elder John H. Brough has been appointed to labor as traveling Elder in the Leeds conference.

Joseph H. Ashworth of Berkeley, Cal., butcher, became despondent because of some stories circulated about him, and on Monday committed suicide by drinking carbolic acid. He leaves a wife and five children, the eldest five years of age, in destitute circumstances.