

person, may be re-instated in the position from which he or she has resigned or been removed, without undergoing examination."

Naturally, many persons would not hesitate to play a trick on the government in order to get into office. A dishonest examiner, who had full control of the papers, could loan them in advance to his friends who wished to study up the questions, or even make a penny by selling copies of them; and it sometimes happens that a man who took the examination in one city and thus learned the examiner's schedule, sent a copy of the questions to somebody in another city who was going to take the same. But all these frauds have been rendered impossible by the new system of civil service. The commission is composed of three men, selected by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate; and these are assisted in the details of their duties by a large corps of examiners and clerks. It is impossible for all the details connected with the examination, markings and gradings of the papers, certification and appointments of a candidate to be kept in the hands of any one man. These details, in each case, probably pass through the hands of fifty men, and this vetoes the chance of doing anything against the law, because no fifty men could be found who would so trust each other. The examiners, going from city to city where examinations are to be held, are not trusted to carry their own papers. The sets of questions which he is to use under regular conditions are mailed from Washington to the office at which the examination is to be held, and will not see them until the hour they are to be used. Different sets of examination papers are prepared for use on different days, although the same papers are used on the same day in every city where examinations are being held. A Philadelphia judge has just handed down a legal opinion which makes cheating in civil service examinations a punishable offense. Hitherto a dishonest applicant's papers were confiscated and he was simply disbarred from eligibility; but a couple of would-be post office clerks in Philadelphia, charged with conspiracy to defraud the U. S. by presenting false writings, were sent to jail.

After the ordeal of examination day is over, the candidates generally go home light at heart, sure of success, to wait for the official report of the result. This comes in the course of five or six weeks, the work of inspecting and rating papers and making entries on the eligible list being apparently deliberate.

The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly small. If the candidate has "passed," the next step is certification for appointment—and another slow and tedious business, during which he must possess his soul in patience as best he can, with the outcome yet in doubt. And so must we leave him until another week, when we will follow the successful candidate through the rest of the labyrinth of red tape, safely into office.

FANNIE BROUGHAM.

PROSELYTING IN SWITZERLAND.

The following letter, dated Neuchatel, Switzerland, Nov. 24, 1897, was sent to a well known resident of this city, and is handed the "News" for publication:

Dear Brother: Often since on a mission here in Switzerland I have thought of you and your family, and your great kindness and help to me when I was in Salt Lake City about to leave for a mission to Europe. I should have written you much sooner, but I have a great deal of correspondence to do and can hardly find time for letter-writing in connection with my

duties here. In a few days more it will have been a year since I left Salt Lake City, so my time is beginning to count now. When I reached here last January, after a pleasant voyage, I was placed to work in Biel in the Jura conference of west Switzerland. Here I started to learn to speak German, as that is the prevailing language. A month later, just as I was beginning to speak with some ease, I was moved to Chaux-de-Fonds in French Switzerland, as it was thought I would soon learn French, too, as I had learned the two languages in the B. Y. College at Logan. I was put to live with a French family, and two months later spoke French with considerable ease. Since then I have labored mainly with the French, though I often have to speak German, too, and when the arrangement of these Swiss conferences was changed recently I was included in what is called the French conference, which includes all the French-speaking part of Switzerland and some little of France. However, we are practically unable to do anything in France yet, as their laws are unfavorable to us. For four months past I have labored alone in Neuchatel, where I was sent August 1st to open up missionary work. It has been many years since missionaries resided in this little city before I came, and at first I was almost an entire stranger, as there were only three members here, and they were about asleep as to the Gospel.

Soon after coming here I started tracting from house to house, preaching this Gospel of the kingdom wherever any one would listen to me. At first it was a very difficult task for me, as I was all alone here and felt some timidity. But I put my trust in God and tried to do my duty as I understood it, and I gradually became bolder and bolder in the work, until I began to like it. The people here live in large tenement houses, usually two families on a floor. I always go to the top of the building and tract from door to door as I go down the stairs. By this means if I get chased anywhere it is all on my way. I ring the door-bell and when it is answered I announce my message and give a tract to the person answering, requesting he or she to read it and tell them I will call again and if they will receive me and listen to me I explain further on this Gospel that has been again restored to earth and give them another tract. Thus I visit time after time until they will admit me no longer and then I go again sometimes even when forbidden. I have thus found some earnest investigators after truth and have made a number of friends. However, while many listen and tell me it is true and say they know it is of God, they do not seem to want to go to the trouble of changing from their present condition. They seem to think they are doing well enough if they live morally and do not bother their heads much whether or not they have the true religion among them. It is often discouraging to me, but, "Many are called, but few are chosen."

My experiences are quite varied at times. There are many kinds of people in the world with many peculiar ways of treating a person, and all this tends to make tracting sufficiently interesting to keep it from getting monotonous. Sometimes I am very well received and other times have the door slammed at me. In most cases, however, people will listen to me at the door. Nearly two months ago an article about me appeared in a little paper called the Ane. The paper has a pretty wide circulation but is not much thought of, as it annoys everybody. In this article, headed "Mormon Propaganda," they gave a pretty tough account of me and my methods of proselyting here in Neuchatel. It finished by a fervent appeal to all fathers to

"throw him down stairs, squarely, if ever he attempts to enter your house." However, no one has attempted that yet. It described me as "a being all dressed in black resembling a raven of sinister augury," a "dirty Mormon," an "illuminated sensual," etc., and stated that I was here to lead astray the wives and daughters of Neuchatel. I don't think they did me any particular harm and it furnished some amusement for me and my friends here.

My district to labor in also embraces considerable of the surrounding country where we have some few Saints. I make trips around the district monthly as near as possible, visiting Saints and investigators. Once a month I hold meeting at Lamboing, a little village about 15 miles from here, where we have two or three families of Saints. There is lots of walking to do in laboring in the country districts. Sometimes I have to walk twenty to twenty-five miles a day several days in succession, and sometimes I get rather lonely at it alone. I hold meeting here at Neuchatel once or twice a month but no strangers come.

We are five Elders in this conference now with Brother George L. Graehl of Brigham City as our conference president. We are obliged to work single-handed thus as we are so few in numbers. We see each other at intervals, as this is but a small country and the cities are not very far apart. We need lots of missionaries here but it is hard to find any one who has studied the French language. I have been greatly blessed of the Lord in my language and now speak French fluently and with a good accent. It is a beautiful little land and reminds me strikingly of my own mountain home in the blessed land of Zion. I have been much blessed on my mission with good health and protection from harm, and my testimony of the truth of this work has been abundantly strengthened. I rejoice that I am thus privileged to take part in this great latter-day work and I ever pray my heavenly Father to keep me humble and worthy to bear trials and persecutions for righteousness' sake. The work is ever progressing in this quarter of the Lord's vineyard and we are endeavoring to preach the Gospel to everybody. We cannot always see the immediate fruits of our work but we sow the seed and God will see to the harvest. Converts are added from time to time in different parts of the mission and, altogether, a great work is being done.

Missionary life is different here to what it used to be in New Zealand. We are not allowed to travel without purse or scrip, but must pay for all we get. Thanks to the kindly providence of our Heavenly Father, I have not wanted so far for necessities nor have I any fears in that respect while I do my duty. We are promised that if we seek first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness all other things will be added; and so I have found it.

Your friend and brother in the everlasting covenant,

ARTHUR PORTER.

Chez M. Fritz Weber Au Plan 14,
Neuchatel, Switzerland.

FROM WASHINGTON

The "News" has been requested to publish the subjoined extracts from a private letter from Mr. H. Clarke of Pangulth. Mr. Clarke is attending Gallaudet College at Washington, D. C., on institute of learning for deaf and dumb. The presence of a Mormon boy in that college is something new, and his experience so far from home is novel to him. Brother Clarke writes under date of Washington, Dec. 12, 1897:

I have undergone great trials here, but the time I suffered most was this