

REMARKS

By Elder ORSON HYDE, G. S. L. City, Bowery, Oct. 24, 1863.

[REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.]

I have listened with peculiar interest to the remarks made by our missionaries. Their remarks are truly cheering, and are a faithful index to the feelings and spirit which have influenced them during their absence from us.

I was more particularly struck with the remarks of some who said that they hardly knew what doctrines to preach when they first arrived at the fields of their labor, and others hardly knew that baptism was necessary for the remission of sins. These young men were untaught, untutored, yet the spirit of the gospel dwelt in them, it was born in them, and they have been reared under its influence to a greater or less degree, yet apparently they knew it not. How unlike the missionaries of other churches is this? They must be educated classically and theologically, and then they go forth to preach to a credulous world systematically a mass of inconsistent and contradictory doctrines—which they call the gospel.

These missionaries of ours felt very much as I did on one occasion when I first landed in Germany. I was dropped from the coach on the sidewalk; I could not tell them where I wanted to stop, for I did not know myself and, thought I, I may as well stop in one place as another. I could not tell anybody what I wanted for I did not know what I wanted. I did not remain in that situation long until I found a way to get to an hotel, where I was soon forced, by the pressure of circumstances around me and the cravings of my appetite, to make known my wants, designs and purposes in the language of the people among whom I was cast. In like manner our young men go out to preach the gospel, and although they have lived under the influence of the spirit of the gospel all their days, yet they find themselves unable at first to delineate only the principles and laws of salvation, but the spirit that is in them soon bursts asunder the fetters that seem to bind them, and they launch forth into a field of intelligence hitherto unexplored by them, and are enabled, in a short time, not only to be filled with a flood of light and truth, but to attain unto a power of utterance that astonishes themselves and their friends. God is in all this; He laid the foundation of this church and He dwells in the hearts of His servants, and He, by the power of His spirit, originates and gives power to utter the thoughts He wishes to communicate to mankind through His servants. When we trust in Him every obstacle is removed from our path.

While listening to these young brethren, my heart has burned within me with gratitude and joy; I was reminded forcibly of the days of my youth, when I went forth with others to proclaim the same gospel and was brought into many narrow and tight places. The Lord will always open our way if we are faithful, and allow us a field of operation that will be adequate to all our wants, conditions and circumstances.

Those missionaries who go abroad to labor for the building up of Zion leave their families behind them, and they were particularly charged not to beg of the poor on their missions means to send home to feed their families, and that whatever they might gain by the voluntary contributions of the people among whom they might labor over and above that which would be necessary for their immediate wants, should be dedicated to the immigration of the poor—to bring home the sheaves they had been enabled to reap. Their families are here, and have not harvested in abundance of the temporal comforts of the earth, but they have managed to live along from hand to mouth. There were contributions and subscriptions made last year to aid the families of our absent missionaries, but how many of them have been faithfully and frankly paid in and how many remain yet unpaid, I am not prepared to say, but it has been suggested to me that there are still many delinquents who did really feel liberal, but have not since found a convenient time to honor that liberal feeling by paying in what they have subscribed.

It is not too late yet, and the wants of the families of our missionaries have not abated. If we subscribe and promise to pay a certain amount to the Missionary Fund, we are under the strongest obligations to pay that amount, as much so as if we had contracted a debt with the merchants and had promised to pay it at a certain time. When we put our names to a document to sustain the servants of God and promise a certain amount to this end, I consider that we are under a greater obligation than we would be by any common business of life, because here is a promise made to the servants of God and virtually to heaven that we will do so and to sustain heaven's cause. I would not thank anybody for a loaf of bread after I am dead and gone, I want it while I am living to sustain me and brace me up that I may have strength to do good. Benefits and favors that are deferred amount to little more than a vexation—they can hardly be said to be a blessing; then do not turn your intended benefits into a vexation to vex those whose hearts and whole time are employed in traveling abroad to preach the gospel, and to gather the poor Saints up to Zion.

I will not confine my remarks to delinquents, but I will say the door is open still, for we have men in the field in foreign countries, who are pouring out their souls in testimony, and they are engaged day and night in this work

while their families are dependent upon the bounties of the Latter Day Saints at home. Every man and woman who is disposed to contribute with a heart willing to build up the kingdom of God, there will be an opportunity for you to do so before this conference shall come to a close; and let us remember that inasmuch as we do it to one of the least of God's people we do it unto our Father who is in heaven. From the scriptures it appears that the Lord is disposed to receive any favor shown to His servants as though it had been done to himself, and He will so acknowledge it in a future day when the faithful ones would seem to have forgotten all about it, for they will say "when saw we Thee an hungered," etc., and He will answer them saying "inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my servants ye did it unto me." Ye have sustained my cause yet it is your own cause, for "all things are yours," etc.

Now some persons may begin to narrow up their feelings, and to cherish in their hearts murmurings because God in His providence and in His mercy and kindness, may begin to pour upon this man and upon that man blessings by which he accumulates wealth, and by which he is made comfortable and happy; they are envious and jealous; now, if all things are ours, is there not a time when some of God's people will begin to inherit some of them? Yes. There must be a beginning to inherit all things. If we envy those that are really beginning to participate a little in the inheritance of all things, is not this a strong presumptive evidence within ourselves that we are not heirs to all things, neither are we willing that our brethren should be.

When a man of God is blessed from on high and shall begin to gather around him means sufficient to place him beyond the reach of immediate want. God hath done it—God hath blessed that person—and every saint will feel thankful to see his brethren so prospered and blessed of the Lord, feeling encouraged that his time will come sometime if he continues faithful. Instead of being jealous of the prosperity of those whom the Lord delights to bless and murmur in our hearts against our brethren and against the Lord, let us learn to be contented with that which is assigned to us, and wait patiently until the Lord shall in His mercy and kindness bless us more abundantly. I do not know any better way to hasten on our day of great blessings than to be liberal in our feelings and labor with all our might to lift up and encourage those who are bowed down, and to sustain the priesthood of God.

The Lord sees us all and knows what our feelings are—the very thoughts and intents of our hearts are laid bare before him, and when he sees that we are prepared to endure great earthly blessings, do you think that any trifling circumstance will cause him to delay and wait and put us off and make us wait for his blessings the same as we make some of the missionaries wait until their families suffer before we hand out to them what we have promised to give? God knows the time when to bless and the individual to bless; and when the time comes for His blessings to descend copiously upon this or that individual, they will come. Do you want your day to come when you can be comfortable and have about all you can desire, just hand out to this Missionary Fund liberally and consider that one evidence more that your time is drawing nigh when you also shall be greatly blessed.

I will not occupy a great deal of time. I bear my testimony, brethren and sisters, that this is the kingdom of God, and I have labored according to what little ability the Lord has given me to sustain it and to regulate and keep in order as far as my wisdom, knowledge and understanding would allow me the things pertaining to this kingdom and to the Saints of God where I have been called to labor. I love this cause, I love my brethren and fellow laborers in it; I love to speak upon the principles of the gospel—in short, I love everything that is connected with the welfare of the saints. Brethren and sisters, you have my best wishes and my prayers by day and night, are that God may shield his chosen ones as the apple of his eye.

If there is any confidence to be placed in dreams, I do not know but I will tell one [Voice in the stand: "Is there any fun in it?"] There is a little fun in it. I thought I saw a mighty car coming down from the mountains in the east, and it appeared as big as this tabernacle. I thought it was going to run over and crush everything to pieces; it appeared to be coming in contact with a house up here, and it appeared as though it would roll right over it and grind it to powder, but it just happened to miss it, and it came on towards the city, and by the time it reached the city it had dwindled down to a common-sized wagon; when I examined it more closely, I discovered that it was nothing but a load of firewood coming into the city.

May God bless his people: Amen.

[From the Cincinnati Enquirer, Sep.

HOW THE CONFEDERATES OBTAINED INFORMATION OF FEDERAL MOVEMENTS.

A few months since a fashionably dressed personage arrived in Cincinnati per railroad, and secured a suite of rooms at the Burnet House, and registered his name as "Louis A. Belville, Russia." His suavity of manner, elegance and neatness of dress, general appearance, and indeed everything betokened that the newly arrived guest was one possessing metropolitan intelligence, if not those attributes of popularity now-a-days, affluence and wealth.

His manner was reserved and firm, his conversation bland yet winning, and only a few days elapsed before he extorted from the resident guests of the house, both civic and military, a solicitude to make his acquaintance, which was somewhat difficult to accomplish, apparently. Once made, however, the wily Russian, by his social ability and lavishness with money, so completely enamored his new acquaintances that they, to use a vulgar expression, "tied to him," urged and gained his introduction to their female friends, and in short inaugurated him as the prince of society in Cincinnati. Parties were given that the foreign representative might loom out more specially as the bright particular star. He was feted to his heart's content, no pains being spared to give him ovations that would honor a higher personage in the grade of European society than that which he was alleged to be. Yankee curiosity was raised to its highest pitch as to the probable mission of this gentleman on the American continent, and the solicitude in finding out culminated in the question direct being put to the nobleman. With his usual keenness and nonchalance he responded promptly that recently in Russia he had been inveigled into a quarrel with his government of a political character, but of such a serious nature to the Emperor that banishment from the country was the consequence. His intentions were, at once decided to come to America and become one of her citizens, and after a residence here of three years return to Russia and enjoy all the privileges of that kingdom without fear of molestation. His off-hand method of briefly alluding to his complicated foreign difficulty succeeded in satisfying his American friends, and gained for him a sympathy that was really wonderful. Thus matters continued for several days. Staff officers of the various generals resident and transient were not content, in their strolls through the city and evening promenades with lady friends unless Belville was one of their number. At the various military headquarters in the city he was a welcome and constant visitor, and being deeply interested in our domestic difficulties, and sympathizing strongly with our government in the complete success of the Union arms, many of the contemplated movements were confided to his keeping. His suggestions were frankly given and thankfully received. Indeed, no American citizen and to the manor born could have learned one-tenth of the information imparted to the strange Russian. By the side of Generals he visited the fortifications, camps, etc., discovered our strength in the field and at posts, and the destination of our armies, etc., etc. His knowledge of the American States was astonishingly limited, and to particularize was a "military necessity" on the part of those with whom he conversed. He passed in and out of military prisons at all times, and had a carte blanche to visit any portion of his department. A seeming indifference to accept the many compliments that were tendered to him, and the declination of several offers, gained for him a confidence with our military chieftains and their aids amazingly marvelous. At their request he went to a fashionable boarding-house on Fourth street, adjoining headquarters, and where none but military officers were entertained. Occasionally he would leave the city for a few days to visit Chicago, St. Louis and other western and north-western cities, and to become more familiar with the American country. Although his absence was brief, he was missed by his scores of friends, who welcomed his return with unmistakable affection.

One of these absences was unusually long, and considerable misgiving was entertained as to his failure in returning lest an accident caused the delay. A few days since his absence was accounted for, the latest bubble of Queen City confidence was exploded, and the Russian nobleman turned out to be nothing more or less than a rebel spy, whose discovery was thus made. His last trip from Cincinnati was to Lexington, not far from which, in a skirmish, he was taken prisoner with other rebels in arms. He was removed to Johnson's Island, from which place he sent a letter to one of his friends in this city to go to his late boarding house, settle his bill and get his trunk, which was to be forwarded to him on the island above named. This news being imparted to the military circle generally, the terrible truth flashed across their minds for the first time that they had been entertaining and giving important information to a spy from the Confederate army. Measures were immediately taken to fasten upon this sharper Belville the charge of being a spy, and District Provost Marshal Reaney went to Johnson's Island for that purpose. Reaney has returned from Johnson's Island, bringing with him the spy Belville, who is at present lodged in the McLean Barracks, on Third street, to await the further action of the authorities. His real name has not yet been developed, the probabilities being that Belville is fictitious. The Marshal has further learned that about two and a half years ago Belville entered the rebel service under John Morgan, a portion of whose command, of which Belville was a member, was detached and ordered to report to General Humphrey Marshall. General Marshall made Belville's acquaintance, and learning that he could speak five different languages, and being exceedingly shrewd withal, had charged him to come North in the capacity of a rebel spy. Belville went to Washington, New York, Boston, Baltimore, St. Louis, and all the leading cities and posts, and adroitly succeeded in gaining the confidence of all the military authorities, from President Lincoln down. The information he gained at the Capital, from the War Department and the Cabinet

officers, was of great importance, and was continually forwarded South by the underground railway. When he had occasion to visit the armies he would purchase stores for the Union troops, and as a sutler or agent for the Sanitary Commission, always had free passes to every part of the Union camps. Such was his knowledge of all our movements that no sooner were they determined upon by our commanders than the enemy was posted at once and our plans checkmated or frustrated. It is truly marvelous how successfully he carried on his operations. He is now kept in close military confinement, and will be brought before a military Court martial, to be convened by General Burnside, and tried as a spy, and, if convicted, of which there is no possible doubt, he will suffer death by being shot.

THE POLISH REVOLUTION.

A STRANGE STORY.

The London Morning Post publishes the following on the authority of a Warsaw correspondent of the Sonntags Zeitung:

"All the attempts of the Russian Government to discover the leaders in the Polish revolt having hitherto been in vain, the Russian agents abroad were directed to leave no means untied to discover the names of those persons to whom diplomatic reports from abroad are addressed in Poland. Some time since a Russian spy succeeded in getting possession of a document which Prince Czartoryski had forwarded from London to Warsaw; and on leaving the name of the addressed, who was a Catholic priest in a village near Warsaw, this Priest, Dodicki by name, was arrested and brought for examination into the castle at Warsaw. A search made through his house produced nothing compromising, and the priest strenuously denied having any direct or indirect part in the insurrection. The Russian Committee of Public Safety knew not how to dispose of their captive, for his personality did not seem adapted for a diplomatic agent, and yet the details of the spy were so exact and precise that the man must surely be more than he seemed to be.

"Dodicki was able, however, to clear himself from all suspicion, and was on the point of obtaining his release, when the agent, reported that great consternation reigned among the London Committee, on account of the seizure of the priest, as he was the confidential agent of the National Government, and possessed important documents. It was endeavored, as threats availed naught, to extract a confession by means of enticing promises. A prebendal stall, with a rich benefice, was held out as a reward. This modified the stern resolution of the hitherto inflexible man. He swore most solemnly on the crucifix, to make revelations, yet he stipulated that a confessor should be sent to him previously, who should grant him absolution and release him from the oath he had sworn to the National Government. A priest was soon found. Dodicki remained alone with the holy father in his cell, and the committee anxiously awaited the moment when the confessor would leave the captive. As, nevertheless, the interview lasted too long, an entry was made into the cell, and a horrifying spectacle presented itself to view. Dodicki lay a corpse upon the ground, and the priest who was to have granted him absolution lay near him in the agonies of death. All restoratives were in vain, as the confessor had taken a large dose of prussic acid. This priest, whose name was Czerwinski, always passed for a faithful dependant of the Russians, and had at an early hour given proof of his attachment to the Czar. The corpses were interred in the castle itself. Dodicki is said to have played an important part. He looked very simple, and no one would have credited him with those talents which fitted him to act as chief commissioner of the National Government."

MEMORY.

Sir William Hamilton tells some marvelous stories in his lectures on "Memory." Ben Johnson could not only repeat all he had written, but whole books he had read! Niebuhr in his youth was employed in one of the public offices of Denmark, where part of a book of accounts having been lost, he restored it from his recollection. Seneca complains of old age, because he can not, as he once did, repeat two thousand names in the order they were read to him; and avers that on one occasion, when at his studies, two hundred unconnected verses having been pronounced by different pupils of his preceptor, he repeated them in a reversed order, proceeding from the last to the first uttered. A quick and retentive memory, both of words and things, is an invaluable treasure, and may be had by any one who will take the pains. Theodore Parker, when in the divinity school, had a notion that his memory was defective and needed looking after, and he had an immense chronological chart hung up in his room, and tasked himself to commit the contents, all the names and dates from Adam to the year one, down to Nimrod, Ptolemy, Soter, Heliozabalus, and the rest. Our verbal memory soonest fails us, unless we attend to it and keep it in fresh order. A child will commit and recite verbatim easier than an adult, and girls than boys. To keep the verbal memory fresh, it is capital exercise to study and recite new languages, or commit and treasure up choice passages, making them a part of our mental wealth.