

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

MISSIONARY WORK AND PROSPERITY.

The closing days of 1895 present an encouraging aspect in the missionary field for the promulgation of the Gospel which has been revealed anew in this dispensation. As the years roll by the magnitude of the work instituted in latter days through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith as a Prophet of God becomes more apparent, not only to those directly engaged in it by sympathetic association, but also those who have not identified themselves with the great cause as its advocates and supporters. The little stone of Mormonism, as it is commonly called, which a few years ago was regarded by very many as doomed soon to disappear in oblivion, is rolling steadily forth to its great destiny of filling the whole earth—as predicted by the Prophet Daniel.

Its missionaries are reaching every land and clime, declaring their message to the meek and the lowly and to the great and exalted ones among men. Individually they meet with many rebuffs, are called to pass through many trials, and submit to many persecutions. But they also search out many honest in heart, experience hospitable treatment from noble and generous souls, and are instrumental in initiating many into the fold of Christ. Taking the results of missionary labor altogether, the circumstances of the present find these to be of a most gratifying character.

The practical labors of the Latter-day Saints at home are exercising a most potent influence for the spread of the Gospel abroad. This is illustrated in the reports of the missionaries of new opportunities afforded and the kinder feeling manifested. The better informed among the people in various nations are coming to recognize the material prosperity that attends the Mormons, instinctively they reason from cause to effect, and in spite of preconceived ideas of Mormon doctrine are curious to know the why and wherefore of success in this community. They inquire concerning material conditions with the people here, of industrial matters, of financial, political and social relations, and they become acquainted with the Elders, for whom, under these circumstances, a friendly feeling is developed, and it is but a step more to have placed before them correct ideas of the Gospel received by the Latter-day Saints. Thus one important avenue for missionary work is opened to a field into which formerly there appeared no way of ingress. And this is but an illustration of others that might be named.

The Saints readily acknowledge the hand of the Lord in bringing about the particular development noted. The Mormons were just as thrifty and industrious in the early years of their experience, even before the days of Utah, as they are now. There has been greater opportunity to display their

works in Utah than elsewhere, because of their longer settlement here; but away back in Missouri and Illinois the contrast between what the Mormon settlements and farms were and what the same localities are now is a matter of common comment, and favorable comparison to the work of the Saints. Yet the world did not seem to recognize the distinction until a general development among the nations brought it into prominence. It is only recently that the world has come to partially understand that there is something wrong in their industrial system; that they cannot get from the earth its full richness for the sustenance of man. They are coming to see that, in comparison with themselves, the wrong they complain of has no potent force in the Mormon system. This they were unable to do until an overruling Providence taught them by severe experience that all wisdom was not with them to the exclusion of a people they generally despised. And so the Lord has compelled, in part, a recognition of the virtue of the Latter-day Saints, preparatory to still greater strides in this direction.

In this, and in numerous other ways, special and general in their course, the Almighty is opening up avenues for preaching the Gospel. A year ago, the prospects for spreading the truth were noted as encouraging; and in no regard has there been disappointment. The encouragement this year may be observed as far better than in 1894. The good reports from missionaries in all parts of the earth are many and greater; and with the best that can be done it will be impossible to meet the demand for efficient workers in the field. Truly the harvest is growing very great, while the laborers are comparatively few.

All missionary improvement is not to be noted outside of the settlements of the Latter-day Saints. In our midst the opportunities are growing better, both among those who have had no affiliation with the Church and with many young people who have taken no interest in religious matters. Local organizations and societies have done much efficient work in the past, and are not diminishing their efforts; and the ranks of workers have been and are being augmented, while many heretofore careless persons are coming to realize that there is danger in their negligence, hence they are seeking reformation.

Taken altogether, the outlook is most satisfactory for plenty of employment for those proclaiming the Gospel message. Looking at it as a whole in the past, a marvellous labor has been accomplished; viewing the future, a still more glorious work is opened out before the immediate gaze of the Saints. A vital question with them is as to whether they are prepared to put forth the necessary effort to accomplish the task. It will require energy, perseverance, indomitable courage and faith. The occasion demands more of spiritual effort as compared with temporal acquisition; more of seeking first the kingdom and righteousness of heaven and less of primal attention to

things which should follow. Now, at the closing Sabbath of the year about to pass away, is a good time for Saints to ponder over their past and future conduct in this regard.

THIS IS INTERESTING.

Today the News was shown a letter from a New York banker to his correspondent in this city, in which it is stated that the bank representative has just returned from consulting old foreign customers throughout England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Germany and France, and reports that all conservative capitalists abroad prefer investments in the United States to any other part of the world.

The letter also suggests that Congress enact an issue of \$1,000,000,000 two per cent. gold fifty-year U. S. bonds, to retire the U. S. notes, hoarded out of circulation, and used by foreign export, and also extend therewith national bank circulation, that the rich resources of the soil (the true wealth of the nation) be developed, labor utilized, and general revival of business ensue. Then, he continues, surely more of the subsidiary silver coin will be needed for retail trade. He suggests that all the United States bonds should be in \$25 sums for popular loans and circulation. It is further suggested that the bonds should be offered direct by the United States treasurer to the people who have four hundred million gold and five hundred million United States notes hoarded out of circulation, and who want more other investment security, with national bank facilities for various local uses, etc.

As to the present reports of war abroad the banker says his advices show conclusively that all are nearly for the speculative purpose of Salisbury's bank associates. The banker says Salisbury has never been a patriotic Englishman in the sense of popular interest since the Berlin treaty was obtained, but is acting with the bank party alone. It is also predicted that he must now resign by order of the queen.

This letter contains some decidedly interesting ideas, not the least important of which is that Lord Salisbury will soon have to resign the British premiership because of his not being in sympathy with the mass of the English people. This absence of sympathy for his policy was noted by the News in its comments on the President's Venezuelan message, the view being taken that the British nation generally would not support a policy which rendered possible war with America over territorial aggrandizement. If, as suggested, Lord Salisbury is so closely identified with the bank party as to create a suspicion in London political circles that he is using his position for speculative purposes, the conclusion may be arrived at that Britain will have a new premier before long.

The statements of the New York banker regarding American credit are very flattering, yet there is no doubt as to their being true. European money lenders always have found safe investment in United States securities and have had no occasion to anticipate a change in this order of procedure. The suggestion of a bond