

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

MORMONISM IN PORTLAND.

About the opening of this year, Elder W. C. Parkinson, Bishop of Preston, Idaho, and his brother, Elder Samuel C. Parkinson, went to the city of Portland, Oregon, on a short winter mission to which they had been duly appointed, intending to labor in that city and vicinity, for two or three months. They encountered much difficulty in making an opening, and felt as if they were laboring under a cloud. They met with an intense anti-Mormon prejudice, and in fact found the city about twenty years behind the times in the views of its people regarding the Mormons. One of the first moves the missionaries made was to visit the editorial rooms of the Tribune and Oregonian. The former paper promised to treat them fairly, but soon afterwards published a vicious article in relation to them. The editor-in-chief of the Oregonian assured them that it was the policy of his paper to give everybody fair play, and that they would be satisfied with the treatment it would extend to them. The city editor was even more friendly in his assurances.

Several times the Elders rented a hall and advertised a meeting, but the attendance was very slim, and sometimes no audience at all appeared. They were informed of a Methodist church which was frequently used by other denominations, and thinking they might have more listeners in it, they applied to the minister for it. He refused to let them use it, was very bitter in his conversation with them, and refused to listen to their explanations or to read the literature they offered him. A few days later there appeared in the Oregonian an interview with this minister, in which he denounced the Mormons, gave garbled quotations from sermons of some of their leaders and grossly misrepresented their theology. The Elders wrote a reply to what the preacher said, and it was published in the same paper. At about this time several other articles relating to the Mormons also appeared in that paper.

This newspaper agitation, though mostly hostile to the Elders, resulted in creating an interest in their work. A meeting announced by them soon after the publication in the Oregonian of the interview with the Methodist minister, was attended by a large audience and a fair report of it was printed in that paper. The ice was now broken to an extent that convinced the Elders that Portland offered a promising field, but duty required them to leave for San Francisco on the day after the meeting. Pending the developments in Portland above narrated, the Elders visited and held meetings in a number of towns in the vicinity, making many friends and finding several old time members of the Church who still retain some faith and will probably renew their covenants.

The missionaries left Portland by steamer on March 25, and on Sunday, the 27th, by invitation, preached to the passengers. After a brief stay in the coast metropolis they came home and are now attending Conference in this city. The large meeting they held just before leaving Portland occurred on the evening of March 24th. On the following day the Oregonian sent reporters to interview a number of ministers of the city in regard to Mormonism, and the next morning, the 26th, devoted two and a half columns to the sentiments upon the subject said to have been expressed by ten expounders of salvation who talked for publication.

Such an advertising as those ministers gave of Mormonism, and of their own ignorance respecting the real nature and teachings of the religion they were assailing, was something wonderful. The series of interviews with them is prefaced by the following paragraph:

"News that two Mormon Elders are holding missionary meetings on the East Side has aroused intense indignation among local ministers and others. The idea that Mormonism should be taught in Portland with a view to proselyting members of the various churches is denounced as outrageous. The Mormons are charged with being traitors and blasphemers, and with attacking the fundamental principle of American society. From every quarter come earnest and vigorous protests, and there are indications that more are to follow. Of the ministers who were interviewed by Oregonian reporters on the subject yesterday, there was not one who was not emphatically opposed to the methods of the Mormons, and who had not very decided opinions on their teachings."

With one or two exceptions, the ten preachers interviewed expressed themselves in line with this introduction to their remarks, and according to an old Mormon missionary tradition, where the adversary stirs up such a fuss, there will be found some honest souls waiting for the truth. According to this sign, so often verified, a flourishing branch of the Mormon Church may be expected to arise in Portland in the near future.

APPENDICITIS.

A few years ago the diagnosis of appendicitis produced great consternation, and there were very good reasons why it should, the chief one being the high mortality attending the disease. But science has been dealing with its difficulties and dangers with such success that the disorder is fast losing its terrors. If things go on as they are going now, an operation for appendicitis will be but a trifle more serious than the pulling of a tooth. In a late issue of the Medical Record (New York) is a paper by Dr. A. C. Bernays of St. Louis in which he gives an account of his experiences and success in dealing with the affection. He begins by saying:

"May 15, 1896, Dr. Robert E. Wilson became my first assistant. I instructed him to keep an account of my work, with particular reference to my operations for appendicitis and for pus tubes. I felt that in these very common affections I had passed the experimental or rather developmental stage, which every operator must pass through so far as the method and technique are concerned. I had done two hundred and seventy operations for appendicitis, and made one hundred and eighty-five sections for the removal of pus sacs. I had employed many different methods, particularly with regard to the antiseptics that were used, and many different methods of drainage had been tested. After about twenty years of this work I finally arrived at a method of treatment the results of which I will now report, and it has given me a measure of success that I can scarcely hope to excel in future. "Since Dr. Wilson has been with me I have operated in eighty-one cases of appendicitis, and in all but one of these the appendix or its stump was re-

moved. Of this series of cases, seventy-one were done in succession, with entirely satisfactory result, all patients making a perfect recovery. They were all, with a single exception, acute cases; all suppurative or gangrenous; some complicated by general peritonitis. In that exceptional case there was no pus, the appendix being found in a dense mass of cicatricial tissues, and there was no kind of acute infectious or febrile disturbance. The only indication for the operation was pain, and this symptom was completely relieved by the removal of the offending organ. The patient had passed through an attack of acute appendicitis several times before she came to me. I am so averse to operating upon a febrile patient that I had sent this patient to her home, a distance of over one hundred miles, telling her to put off operative interference for three months, in order to see whether or not her pain would disappear under a regime of diet and regular purgation. The pain, however, persisted, and she was finally cured by appendicectomy."

The seventy-second patient died on the third day after the operation, but he was in an almost hopeless condition, due to delay and other causes, when it was undertaken. In only two of the eighty-one cases was any foreign substance found in the appendix; in one of them there was a piece of solder, probably swallowed with canned food of some kind, and in the other was a piece of oyster shell. It is not shown that the disease originated from the foreign substance in either case, and this record goes far to disprove that grape seeds, etc., are the usual causes of the trouble, as has been popularly supposed.

Dr. Bernays describes at length and in detail the operation of appendicectomy as performed by him, but his language is too scientific and technical for the ordinary newspaper reader. A record of seventy-one such operations without a death shows remarkable success, and that his method is worthy the attention of the faculty.

COPYRIGHT SUIT WITHDRAWN.

Some days ago the "News" gave the particulars of a suit planted by the New York Herald against the San Francisco Chronicle to obtain an injunction against the latter paper prohibiting it from reproducing news matter copyrighted by the former. The Chronicle took the ground that news is not subject to copyright, and that no paper, merely by paying a dollar, the copyright fee, can prevent all other papers from publishing a piece of news.

The Herald evidently was not prepared to withstand the storm of journalistic censure which its attempt on the Chronicle raised, and a few days after the press of the country began to comment on the matter withdrew the suit. Since the withdrawal it has published an announcement that it does not object to the reproduction of its news dispatches on the following day, provided due credit is given to it; but it protests against their publication in any other paper on the same morning on which it prints them. Relative to this phase of the subject the Chronicle says:

"From this we infer that our New York contemporary has been investigating the matter of copyrighting facts and has come to the conclusion that its position is not so strong as it at first imagined it was. The permission to print on the ensuing day is in the nature of an admission that it is a manifest absurdity to assume