

the State. Should the people decide, after due and careful consideration, that prohibition ought to be tried in the State, the legislature could so provide by the enactment of a suitable law.

The attempt to forestall legislation, by an article in the Constitution, such as is contemplated, might, and probably would, result in the defeat of statehood.

H. D. JOHNSON.

### ONE YEAR IN THE FIELD.

The following letter from Elder A. Owen Woodruff, written from near Dresden, Saxony, on the 9th of February, and addressed to his father, mother and sister, will be read with interest, as giving the work and experiences of a young missionary during the first year of his labors in the ministry in a foreign land. The writer begins with a reference to letters received, one of which contained a list of the tithe-payers of the family—an examination of which gave him much pleasure—and he continues:

I am converted to their principles, being thankful to President Smith for the best sermon on tithing paying I ever heard, in the old bowery at Granite. His earnest remarks made such an impression on me that I shall never forget them, though I may live many years.

My dear parents, this letter will reach you about the time of your birthday; and probably on account of what I have done (in part) during the last year would be of interest to you, so I will try to give you an account of my work since entering the Swiss and German mission on Feb. 17th, 1894, almost one year ago. You asked me once "what I was doing." I will endeavor in part to show you what I have been doing. I have received 344 letters, have written 317 letters, about ten per cent of which were written in German. I have read the New Testament through from beginning to end three times, and have learned, by heart, over 50 passages, containing more than 75 verses; this does not include reading some of the books through several times and a general study of this book. I have also read the five books of Moses, Daniel, etc., and learned many passages off by heart; have read the Book of Mormon from beginning to end, the Voice of Warning twice and partly the third time, the Pearl of Great Price twice (the first book I read in German); the Doctrine and Covenants once; Parley P. Pratt's works (English); The Gospel, by Roberts, not finished; history of Dr. Martin Luther, not finished; my German grammar, Part I with writing exercises; the Stern twice a month; the Beobachter; the English SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS. In the latter I have only read the headings, sermons and special points of interest, as my desire has been to confine myself to German reading as much as possible.

These are some things which have occupied my time during the past year. Outside of this a missionary must know his Ready Reference pretty well, and be prepared as far as possible to find any valuable passage of Scripture which he needs to substantiate his words and his doctrine. I have also spent a good many hours in the splendid library here in Dresden,

studying up the condition of Jerusalem at the time of Lehi's flight into the wilderness; and the history of the Assyrians and Greeks, and have been able to find some very good points in substantiation of the Book of Mormon. My eyes have hindered me from reading as much as I should like to have done; and I find I can do but little reading by lamp-light, even with glasses. My health has been excellent and I feel to thank God with all my heart that the year has passed so pleasantly and profitably.

I cannot give you a detailed account of how many tracts I have given out, families visited, etc; but will say that that has been my chief occupation. I am thankful for the blessings I have enjoyed in acquiring the language, to such an extent that, if necessary, I am now able to stand before a German assembly over an hour; but I have great fears that I could not entertain an English one for five minutes. I may, however, be able to learn to preach the Gospel in English when the time comes.

So much for time and labor. Pa will soon see his eighty-eighth birthday, and I pray I may be permitted to enjoy your sixtieth with you. How wonderful are the blessings of God in sparing your life to your family and people! How grateful I am to my Maker that he has blessed me with such noble and blessed parents. Would that I could live such a life as you have lived, and when this life is ended, meet our Judge with the report that you will bear to His throne.

Probably unnoticed by a great many of the happy dwellers in the valley of Utah, the world is in a heated race to destruction. Sin and crime have increased to an alarming extent in the past few years. The reports show that here in Dresden there are more illegitimate children born every month than by honorable birth; and beings in God's image boast of how many girls they have ruined. It is a fact that these conditions are to be found existing throughout the world, so if the generation has fallen so far below the preceding one in virtue and all that is godly, what can we expect of the generation that will be born of these parents who are of illegitimate birth and born in the depths of crime? Is not the present condition of humanity something terrible? When I scan the world and see how few the number who ever wish to do right, and think how great is the temptation of a depraved generation, and realize how great the responsibility of those who bear the Holy Priesthood, my soul is raised in humble prayer to God that He may not permit me to live to bring shame and disgrace to His Priesthood and people. When we realize how many men who have been great and good in the eyes of God have fallen from their mark and went the way of the world, it makes one's blood chill in his veins as he beholds the path of life laid out before him, lest a viper from some hidden place should wound him with its deadly poison. It is my greatest wish that I may keep myself humble and ever devote my energies to the building up of God's kingdom on earth.

Dear parents, I wish you a joyous birthday and pray you may both see many more. It would be a great

pleasure for me to spend a birthday with you, and I trust the Lord will grant us that gracious blessing. With all my heart, I wish you the choicest blessings of heaven and earth; that you may drink at life's silvery fountain until you are satisfied with life and every desire of our hearts is fulfilled. May God, who governs all the lives of men, grant that you may be spared many years to come to us your children, and all who love you so dearly. God bless you and fill your hearts with joy on this your birthday and grant you life and all that you may wish. Affectionately your son,

A. OWEN WOODRUFF.

The birthday of Elder Woodruff's parents, to which he makes frequent allusion, is the 1st day of March. President Wilford Woodruff attaining then the ripe age of 88, and Sister Emma Woodruff completing her 57th year. Their absent son concludes his letter with a tender and affectionate little poem to his mother.

### A HAPPY TIME AT HERRIMAN.

HERRIMAN, Salt Lake Co.,  
Feb. 28th, 1895.

One week ago today the boys of our quiet little town chose up staves for a Jack rabbit hunt, the losing side to get a box of candy for the Old Folks party that was to come off on Washington's Birthday. Of course the result was that one side lost, and they immediately ordered the candy. On Wednesday the young men and boys turned out in mass and got wood for the poor. Next came the Old Folks' party, which commenced at 2 p. m. Friday, with our meeting house filled to overflowing with the members of our ward and some from other wards, from about 80 years old down to our little ones. Our exercises commenced by a song by our ward choir, prayer by Bro. Cump. Singing again by the choir. Opening speech by our Bishop, remarks timely and encouraging to the promoters of the party. The afternoon was spent with dancing for the little folks interspersed by songs, recitations and speeches, Bro. J. R. Freeman giving a short sketch of the life of the founder of the freedom that we enjoy. About 5:30 all were invited to take their seats and presently in marched about twenty young ladies, wearing white caps and white aprons. They had been chosen to take charge of the picnic and wait upon all; and they did their part well. After they had all satisfied their appetites, the Jack Rabbit came, also peanuts (the winning side paying for the peanuts) which were distributed amongst all present, the little ones enjoying it to the fullest extent. Then came recess for all, the little ones going home to give more room for the older ones at night. At about 7:30 our evening program commenced, and there was dancing, singing, recitations and dialogue on the Book of Mormon given, as well as another supper at 10 o'clock for all present. The midnight hour seemed to come too quick for our older brethren and sisters, they having all thoroughly enjoyed themselves, both in the afternoon and at night, which gave great satisfaction to the committee.

As this is the first party of the kind that we have had for a long time, great