

element. He left that in England two or three years ago. He has now only his head to take care of, and he seems capable of doing that.

In the New Year we are to see some remarkable political changes. But religion, the thing that claims to be all in all, will go on grovelling in the maze of cobwebs, as before. O, for a man! A whole man who can stir the people from their rust and rot of selfishness into doing something unitedly for humanity!

To pass the compliments of the season and wish your friends "a happy New Year" is stale and unprofitable. There is nothing in it and we all know it, if we know anything. I wish my friends a universal earthquake that shall shake cowards and hoarders of gold into a conviction that this earth and all on it is but a chip floating on the sea of time that may be ground to pulp at any unexpected minute and all its inhabitants sent to hell unshriven. I have done the best I could and ready to take my chances. I have wronged no living being, but have suffered wrong. In my opinion, profession of faith in Christ amounts to less than nothing if you have not been Christlike, and there are millions of professing "Christians" who will wake to the awful mistake that faith alone can save. Faith without works is deadlier than a last year's maggot! Works without faith will beat it out of sight! So I can only say to my friends: Get in the Christlike works, even if you neglect the faith. In that way your lives will count for the benefit of your posterity, no matter what becomes of you.

CHARLES ELLIS.

## THE WORK IN MISSOURI.

Nevada, Dec. 15, 1897.

The work of the Lord is progressing in this part of His vineyard and many are investigating the all-important message that God has sent us with, being surprised and astonished to find us so unlike what they had always heard of us. One lady in particular that I have in mind, who lives in the country, where we have been holding meetings, said, after attending five of our meetings, that she wished the people would turn out and we could continue our meetings for another week, for "I know that if anybody will only live up to what you have said they will be saved." Thus the honest in heart receive with joy the message of glad tidings, while the wicked tremble with rage and fear.

We attended a Methodist revival in town not long ago. The minister, during his remarks, took occasion to cast very unjust reflections upon the name of Joseph Smith and the Mormons, so as soon as he dismissed his meeting, we stepped up to him and asked him for the privilege of making a few remarks, but he said, "No, I don't want you in this house." We asked him if he was a Christian. He braced up and said: "Yes, sir." We then asked him if he believed in the Bible. He replied, "Yes, sir; I do." We then reminded him that that book said: "Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good," and asked him as a Christian to let us have the use of his house one night to present the testimony which we said we had to bear to him. But, no, he would not have us in his house at all. He finally, however, invited us to come and see him and bring the Book of Mormon. We accordingly called at his house the next day. He met us on the porch, but would not let us in. He said that he had a Book of Mormon, but failed to produce it when asked to do so, but proceeded to read from a notebook the names of the books in the 'Book of Mormon.' He said that he didn't recognize us as forming any

part of Christianity and showed us the gate. We plead with him as a Christian and being a much older man than ourselves, to show us the error of our way, if we were wrong, as we desired to be in the right, and stated that if he would prove one point of our doctrine wrong from the Bible, we would give up. But, no; he preferred showing us the gate.

Not long ago we called on a man by the name of Bricker, who lives about ten miles southeast of town. He said that he had been in the "Mormon War" and had helped to drive the Mormons from Nauvoo. He could not tell why they were driven from their homes, although he helped to do it. He said he had no doubt that a great deal of stealing was done on their credit, also that there was just as much stealing and plundering and lawlessness in general carried on after they were driven out as before. He was very nervous all the while we were there and answered our questions very briefly. He also said that he bought some furniture from Saints when they were driven out, for almost nothing. We gave him some tracts and a Voice of Warning and invited him to read them and see what the Mormons really did believe.

We are having considerable winter here for this section of the country, but we are feeling well and enjoying our labors. May heaven ever prosper and bless the cause of truth.

CHAS. H. OWEN,  
JESSE L. MORTENSON.

## PRIESTHOOD MEETING.

The monthly Priesthood meeting of the Salt Lake Stake was held in the Assembly Hall, Saturday, Jan. 1, 1898, at 11 a.m. There were present Patriarch John Smith, Elder George Reynolds of the First Council of Seventies William B. Preston, Robert T. Burton and John R. Winder of the presiding Bishopric, Elders Angus M. Cannon, Joseph E. Taylor and Charles W. Penrose of the Stake Presidency, five patriarchs, three High Councilors, Elder George B. Wallace of the presidency of the High Priests quorum, eleven presidents of Seventies, fourteen home missionaries, representatives of all the wards except the Ninth, Twelfth, Twenty-third, Farmers, Mountain Dell, Bluff Dale, East Jordan, North Jordan and Pleasant Green, presiding officers of the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Seventeenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second, Twenty-third and Twenty-fifth quorums of Elders, the Stake superintendent of the Y. M. M. I. A. and representatives of the Aaronic Priesthood from a number of wards.

After the usual opening exercises ten brethren received authorization to be ordained to the office of Elder, first promising to magnify the calling. Elder Angus M. Cannon stated that a call had been made for young men of intelligence and consistent lives to take missions to the various nations. For that purpose blanks had been provided which it was expected the Bishops would fill out with names of suitable men, from which proper selections could be made by the First Presidency.

Elder George Reynolds spoke briefly on the above subject, stating that the decision was to select a large number of missionaries of integrity and superior mental and spiritual acquirements to perform important missions abroad. The need of missionaries had grown to such an extent that urgent action had to be taken. Something like half a million dollars a year were taken out of the inter-mountain region, all things considered, for missionary labors, yet the speaker thought the money well

invested. The greatest difficulty in the way of this missionary labor was the financial question, but the need had now arisen for men of knowledge and experience, who would of necessity be called, even if they had to leave families at home. Special need was felt for men already familiar with foreign languages.

Bishop William B. Preston stated that a high standard was required for missionary work abroad, as also for important labors at home. Deficiency in these requirements was manifest in the case of many now occupying prominent positions, and all should weigh themselves at the opening of the new year and attempt to make up any deficiency they might discover. Many difficulties in the way of the performance of important duties could be overcome by all seeking the possession of the spirit of their various offices, which would render the fulfillment of onerous labors much easier. In addition to this was the necessity of all bearing with the weaknesses of others.

Meeting adjourned until Saturday, February 5th, at 11 a.m.

## HOLIDAYS AT HOOPER.

Hooper, Dec. 29th, 1897.

Everybody is or have been celebrating—individuals, wards and organizations. There have been music, feasting, dancing, reviews and anniversaries—in fact, anything that could find excuse for special and lengthened festivities at this seasonable close of year. Birthdays, wedding-days, old and new, have been accounted and recounted, until a time of rest will everywhere be welcomed except by the giddy and persistent dancers, who seem to partake of the spirit of the dancing dervishes, of whom we know little and hear so much.

It is a good thing that there is ambition and disposition enough in some places to supersede this everlasting whirling by mental and intellectual exercises, such as the Sunday school review attended yesterday in the isolated village of Hooper. This is an annual affair and usually held between Christmas day and New Year. The one alluded to, while of the usual character, was almost par excellence. The superintendent, John Manning, and his corps of teachers did well; the primary in a little song or two were delightful; the first intermediate were quick in response and unexpectedly correct, and the theological class on the external and internal evidences of the Bible and New Testament, the young men taking the former under Teacher James Bues, and the latter under Teacher Mrs. Elizabeth Manning, were both good, really praiseworthy, indeed. Sister Bues, Hardy, Parker and others exhibited wonderful patience and success. The Bishop and Counsellor Olson were present and hosts of the fathers and mothers to their credit witnessed the exercises of every grade.

The Mutual with its new missionaries and all the newly enrolled have a big meeting this evening. Most of the young people, if not exhausted by the inevitable dance (four this week and theater twice), will surely feel that the new year will inaugurate a better thing.

It is regretted that the "Deseret News" is not as widely taken here as it should be. More of the Latter-day Saints should be readers and subscribers of the "News," in some edition or another, to say nothing of other periodicals, all intent on propagating the spirit of the Gospel among young and old.

A terrible accident occurred at Riverside, Cal., Friday afternoon in the Santa Fe yards by which E. W. Smith will probably lose his life. The lad attempted to cross the track in front of a switch engine.