

advisable. The children can then enjoy the broad cushioned seat to their full extent and can lie and look out without being bothered with fussy drapery.

The walls of one nursery made a lasting impression upon the children who were frequent visitors in a certain neighborhood. There was a blue sky fenced in by green walls, and upon the verdant background roamed apparently every species of animal that had ever existed. Taking advantage of the presence of a circus town, the mother laid in a stock of poster advertisements which she purchased from the wholesale dealers. These she and the children dissected into single specimens, and they very much enjoyed shipping and cutting out these good-sized paper animals.

Many discussions ensued as to the proper locations of the groups. The kangaroo was finally pasted in the act of leaping over the mantelpiece, the tiger was sent into the closet, which made an excellent jungle, and the other animals marched in two by two and completed the circles of the room.

A blackboard occupied the space between two windows and a bookcase filled an empty part in one corner.

It is a good idea to have one or more low cupboards to store away things which are distinctly unornamental, but which are too dear to be thrown away. The cupboards are convenient when the room is to be tidied, and are economical preservers of unbound magazines. If the window seats could be made so as to hold individual belongings, or if each child could have a special drawer for himself, he would feel very important and happy in his right of ownership.

Miss Alcott's poem about the four little chests in the attic, belonging to the "pathetic family," shows how dearly these girls loved their little boxes and make us feel that the children about us would perhaps appreciate such things as much as they did.

The room should be filled with an atmosphere of love, if with nothing else, and should be a place where all the comfort and happiness and dear possessions of the world abide, a place where father and mother delighted to visit, and a tender, happy memory long after the waves of life a sorrow have broken in and torn away its boundaries.

TETON VALLEY.

Driggs, Idaho, Jan. 4, 1898.

A party from this valley has just returned from Jackson's Hole whither they went on pleasure, the company, consisting of both men and women, went per sleighs, quite an unusual mode of travel to that country. A few years ago all the freight was carried into the Hole by pack animals in summer and on snow shoes in winter. Now a wagon road has been made, and at this time the sleighing is excellent.

The party report having had a fine time with the good people of the Hole, having feasted on elk meat and fish. They report seeing a great number of elk in the valley—about three thousand along the route. It is estimated that there are something like twenty thousand elk in the vicinity of Jackson's Hole. The animals are getting quite domesticated as the law protects them at this season of the year. The people in the hole have built a commodious dancing hall, and many signs of civilization are to be seen all through that beautiful valley.

Teton Basin is rapidly being settled and the country is a fine place for home seekers. Five townships have been laid off; six postoffices have been established in the valley; four large mercantile stores, several saw mills,

shingle mills, planing mills and a dairy are working and the people are improving the pleasant winter getting of timber. A great amount of grain, timothy and lucern seed, etc., has been grown and finds a ready market.

A model mode of travel here is to put a stove into a covered sleigh and off the people go to dances and other gatherings. Everybody seems to be "as happy as a big sunflower."

There is a good chance for a blacksmith at this point. There is land enough for thousands of settlers here and in the Snake river country—plenty of timber and every natural facility for making good homes. Lehi Pratt carries the mail and we have daily connections with the outside world. Mr. Pratt comes and goes with the regularity of the sun. B. W. Driggs is here to spend the winter from Pleasant Grove, Utah. A number of Elders from the Bannock Stake will leave for special missions to Montana in a few days. D.

FROM AN "INFIDEL."

"A Mormon Elder now in this city of 'concentric circles,' ex-presidents, ex-commodores and ex-governors, suggests that I write a short article for the Mormon Church organ, the 'Deseret News.' What an idea! I, an outspoken and blatant infidel, a sinner of sinners, a man hated and despised by thousands and thousands of 'pious' Christians from Maine to California, now writing a letter for a Mormon Church paper—a journal devoted to the promulgation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Shades of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young!

Need I say that Indianapolis is now and has been for several months 'invaded' by a small army of Mormon Elders? They came even without the sounding of trumpets or the beating of drums. I have met about all of them and they seem to be honest and well-meaning men. Elder John Foot and others of them have been visitors at my house and have shared more than once of my hospitality. They have eaten 'turkey' at my table and have also even praised the 'light bread' baked in the 'old fashioned' way by my wife.

To say that the followers of Christ in this city after the manner of John Wesley, John Calvin and Alexander Campbell's teachings are mad because of the coming of these Mormon Elders is but half telling the story. There are now in Indianapolis 'pious' and 'godly' Christians who would if they dared mob these same Elders. They hate them with even a 'holy' hatred. It is indeed a fact and one too which can be vouchsafed by all these Mormon Elders that their warmest and best receptions in this city have so far been extended to them by liberals, infidels, etc. The so-called lovers of Christ in this 'city of churches' pass them with 'pious' scorn.

Since the coming of these Mormon Elders to this city a Miss Webster, late of Utah, has made her debut. She has, as I have learned from our city papers, 'exposed Mormonism' in one or two churches to large and 'attentive' audiences. Such as Miss Webster can always get a hearty welcome in Indianapolis. No doubt her 'expose' of polygamy in Salt Lake City, as it is now 'secretly' practiced by Mormons, was quite edifying to such of her male hearers who have themselves from one to a half dozen mistresses.

It may sound a little strange even to Mormon readers but it is nevertheless true that I or Col. Ingersoll could come nearer getting into a Christian pulpit in this country and there advocate our most radical infidelity than any Mormon Elder to preach his doctrine. A few weeks ago I said to a leading

Presbyterian minister of this city, and who has given up his pulpit several times to Salvation Army colonels and captains: 'Why don't you let some of these Mormon Elders preach now and then in your church?' And he answered: 'I could not think of it.' I then told him that as between Mormon preachers, such at least as I had met in this city, and Salvation Army 'gospel peddlers' I thought the former by far the most respectable.

When I take a survey of the Christian world as it is to be seen in this nineteenth century, and as I often do, I can but conclude that Christ did, in fact, come to bring not peace but a sword. What a spectacle do we now behold as concerning even Christian love and charity; what, indeed, do we now see even in what is called Christian America? Christians, lovers of Jesus, praying and shouting church communists engaged in quarrels and ready even to cut each others' throats! Here are to be seen Catholics arrayed in a deadly combat against Protestants, and these Catholics and Protestants combined in a war against the Mormons; and still we are told that Catholics, Protestants and Mormons are all Christians!

Now, will the 'Deseret News' allow me to say it, or will it be like Presbyterian, Methodist and other Christian papers, too cowardly? Will it allow me to say that men and women of thought, men and women of the highest intelligence are now drifting away from Christianity in all its forms? If the signs of the times in this age indicate anything at all, they indicate that even the followers of Christ themselves—Catholics, Protestants and Mormons are on the road to a higher and a better religion, yea, while the world moves Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians and Mormons must move with it!

I will only add (I now see the editor beginning to frown and turning his eyes toward the waste-basket) that what is now called the Church of Christ will ere long be a thing of the dead past, Christianity must go as many other forms of religion have also went. We are now as it were in the very dawn of an age of a higher inquiry. The Spencers, the Darwins and the Huxleys are coming to the front, and soon the Christian theologian must take a back seat.

W. H. LAMASTER.
Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 3, 1898.

FROM WISCONSIN.

Oshkosh, Wis., Jan. 2, 1898.

The poet says, Christmas comes but once a year, and so it seems in this section of the county as the people spend thousands of dollars preparing for it. One hears the merry chime of bells as early as 4 a. m., and the tramp, tramp of the people going to their churches to worship the 'Child in the manger.'

We spent the afternoon at the home of Mr. Jens Jenson. After supper over we all took seats in the sitting room and listened to the Gospel for the space of four hours.

One of our listeners was a German lady of 73 summers, as bright as a new silver dollar. She was the last one to leave us.

New Year passed by with about the same success as Christmas. We found the people anxious for the Gospel and the time was well spent.

Work was commenced in this city about nine months ago, and many tracts and books have been distributed among the people and the Gospel has been preached from the street corners. We can see the seed beginning to sprout and ere long the harvest will come as was predicted by one of our leading papers in this city.

JOHN E. BOIRE.
B. S. RUPP.