

the game. I have known in my experience where young people would wake up in the night and get out of bed to have a game of cards. I believe that it leads to evil, and I do not think it a good thing for our people to indulge in to the excess that it has been and is being indulged in throughout the Church at the present time. We ought to exercise our judgment and consider the welfare of our children; for because of this some have turned out to be gamblers. We would not have to go far to find such cases. They have lost their faith, as well as their money, and many have died in disgrace. I am not prepared, my brethren and sisters, to condemn this amusement in toto; but I say where it goes to excess it is a bad thing. Where people sit up to unusual hours in the night to indulge in these games, I tell you it is a bad thing, because the wine and the beer have to be brought forward, that the players may be stimulated to continue the game, and whenever that occurs you may set it down that it is wrong. I believe we can run to excess in these amusements that the Lord has kindly permitted us to indulge in. We can go to excess in round dancing, for instance. It is all right and proper for people to have social gatherings and amusements; but let us see to it, my brethren and sisters, that we do not go to excess in these things. When we do, we grieve the Spirit of the Lord, and it will take its departure, "and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the Priesthood or the authority of that man. Behold, ere he is aware, he is left unto himself, to kick against the pricks; to persecute the Saints, and to fight against God." — Doctrine and Covenants, Section 121 and verses 37 and 38.

We should be considerate in these matters and look well after the welfare and the proper training of our children, because we want to see them honorable men and women in the earth. Our hearts are swelled with joy when they go abroad to preach the Gospel and they write back and tell how prosperous they are and how the Lord has listened to their prayers. What a joy it brings to the soul of the father and mother and kindred! We ought to have an anxiety in this direction. Instead of feeling, when our sons are called to go abroad, "Oh! I don't know where to raise the means, now how to send him," we ought to feel like making every effort to send our sons agreeable to the commandments of the Lord. I believe the great majority of the people do feel this way.

The Lord has called us to build up Zion and to establish His kingdom. He has called us to labor in the ministry. He did not call us here to aggrandize ourselves. Here we have veterans before us that have labored a lifetime to build up Zion. They have gone on missions, without food or raiment being left for their families; but God has sustained them. They have not labored for the wealth of this world; but they have labored for the salvation of the souls of men. Now God is honoring them; He is lifting them up before the Saints and the world, and giving them blessing and glory, and eventually will give them eternal lives. And this will be the case if we labor with all our might to sustain Zion and the work of God. I hope this may be our lot, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

THE WORKING IS SPREADING.

The following letter to Elder Joseph Hall, of Ogden, from Elder Thomas L. Cox, who is laboring among the Europeans in the New Zealand mission, will be read with much interest. It shows that the DESERET NEWS has done much good in that distant section:

MILTON, Otago, New Zealand, April 12, 1894.—I have recently received the papers—DESERET NEWS—you sent and am well pleased to note the prompt attention you gave to the matter of advertising in the News for Sister Elizabeth Casto. I have received a letter from her with one enclosed for her brother, Mr. Daniels, in which she expressed her great pleasure at hearing from her relatives of whom she had known nothing for between forty and fifty years. On receiving the letter from her, I went immediately to the house of her brother with the glad news. I found Mr. Daniels sick in bed, but when I related to him the intelligence I had received and gave him the letter, he could hardly contain himself for joy. He nearly leaped out of his bed with the excitement. The following day he was up, having forgotten his illness, and could be seen around among his friends relating to them the joyful news he had received. This is the fourth incident of the kind wherein I have been the means of rendering assistance to my fellow men, where I was the instrument of bringing together long lost friends and relatives. On my travels I have frequently met people who have relatives in Utah. At our quarters in Milton we are often called upon by people of this kind, and which often leads to conversations on the principles of the Gospel, and which has resulted in adding to the list of our friends.

When we go into a place and locate, it does not take long for us to become widely known. We have a sign painted on cloth, which we tack up over the door of the place where we locate. On it is this inscription in large bold letters: "Latter-day Saints' Headquarters. Meetings held every Wednesday and Sunday; commencing at 7:30 p.m." Thus we soon become extensively known. We do a great deal of traveling in all parts of the country surrounding our headquarters, and hold meetings wherever we go as we get opportunities to do so.

Elder Charles Peterson, who is laboring in this district, has recently returned from a trip through what is known as the Tiviat country, giving a fair report of his labors in that section of the missionary field. He held a number of meetings on the route, and he feels that much good can be done in that section by active missionary labor. A good feeling was extended towards him by all with whom he came in contact. In stopping in a town called Roxburgh he made the acquaintance of an old gentleman called "Captain John Russell," who gave a very interesting history of himself. He said he had been a member of the Church shortly after its first organization. He said he had heard Joseph Smith preach many times. He said also that he was with the saints when they were en route for the Rocky Mountains, and were overtaken at

Council Bluffs by Captain Allen, who made the call for five hundred men from the camp of the Saints. He said he became a member of the Mormon Battalion and marched to California with them. He did not go back to the Saints when the battalion was discharged, but became a traveler in the world. He had been engaged in many occupations, among others that of the slave trade. He is now a merchant. His mind has become dark concerning the Gospel, but still he says if there is any truth on earth the Mormons have it.

Elder Peterson also gives a romantic description of the scenery and facilities of that country. It is mostly noted for its extensive gold fields. Many princely fortunes have been washed out of the earth in those places and carried away. The principal work is carried on by hydraulic power. By that process mountains are being removed from their natural position, and the gold contained in the dirt is separated. There are hundreds of men engaged in the business on a small scale, washing the dirt by hand, using for the purpose a pan that holds about two gallons, and it is presumed the miners are netting fair wages. The Chinaman has also found his way to those places and is coining cash out of the leavings of his white brothers. That section of country is also noted for its excellent farming facilities—the climate being more favorable than in other parts. It is both warmer and drier. Fruit raising there is also a great success. All the larger towns of Otago are supplied from there.

But what we value more than the natural productions of the place is the disposition of the people towards us. It seems that wherever we go the good feeling that is extended towards us is uniform and universal; and from what I hear the same disposition is manifested towards the Elders throughout the world. It would seem that the time has fully come for us to thrust in our sickle and reap—to labor with our might to bring the people to the knowledge of the Gospel. I have been acquainted with the missionary labors and have been intrusted with them ever since the Gospel was first preached in New Zealand. About eight years ago the European labors were discontinued on account of the bitter feelings that prevailed against the Mormon people, and the Elders were unable to accomplish anything. The work was then directed to the conversion of the Maoris. But things have now taken another change. The European labor is beginning to be resumed. I was the first Elder that was assigned to recommence the work, and I was sent down onto the island to direct the labors of the ministry here, about one year and seven months ago. I can say that the work of the Lord is progressing favorably. We have preached the Gospel to thousands, and I feel with good results. We have been the subject of comment by the newspapers. Some of them have spoken fairly of us, and some have not; but I am surprised to know that some of the ministers of various denominations have spoken well of us.

We are now nearing the New Zealand winter again when the cold, chilly rains will descend almost unceasingly for several months. The