

All that has been achieved, all the grand conquests that are recorded, are but an atom in the balance weighed when brought against the possibilities of the future. Every victory suggests new lines of effort and equips the victor for further and better work. The supplying of one want suggests means of supplying others. So long as there is work for man to do, the inventor will find employment. Unless the Author of nature has fixed an impassable barrier to the progress of man, invention will never have a vacation.—*The Inventive Age.*

LETTER FROM TURKEY.

A few thoughts regarding our labors here, and what may be required of the Elders of Israel in preaching to these non-Israel nations, have quite forcibly presented themselves to me of late; and thinking they may be of general interest among the Saints, I take the liberty of sending a few lines on these subjects. As an introduction, I will make an extract from a letter which was shown to me by one of the Elders here, wherein an experienced Elder in Zion gives some valuable advice. The words are so applicable that I begged the privilege of copying them for this special purpose. The words are as follow:

"Your mission is an important one, and you will doubtless have many difficulties to meet, but if you will keep a stout heart and trust in God, He will uphold you in every extremity. Pardon me if, as a friend, I caution you against a mistake often made by our missionaries. They get to imagine, because the fruits of their labors do not appear as fast as they would like, that they are of no use. Remember that you are a servant of God, and you are of use, and it is possible for a man to do a good work even if he should not succeed in baptizing a single soul."

The work here in the Orient has required a great deal of patience. We have met with many reverses based upon several causes. We do not know the language of these people, neither their character nor their customs. These had to be learned first, and to do this takes time, besides being imposed upon by certain scoundrels who feign a complete faith in our doctrine in order to gain some personal advantage. Hence we often get a little impatient and allow the future to be clouded over by such gloomy forebodings as "We are of no use." Now, this is surely a mistake. We are sent out to warn the nations as well as to reap the souls of men, and in patiently performing this duty we shall have performed a great work, though we may not baptize a soul.

Here in Turkey there is at present a chance to fulfil this work. The Armenians are, as a rule, very curious to know and to learn, and in warning people of the troubles to come we shall certainly find a few honest ones. We have already discovered some; and every month

brings new ones to light. This people needs reforming. The Protestants have been laboring here for fifty or sixty years, and as the lines between the Protestants and Catholic churches are pretty well defined in Europe and America, even here in so short a time the same result has been produced; thereby hindering any further progress towards a general reformation. This has been done a great deal owing to lack of zeal on the part of the missionaries. The first missionaries who came here met with some opposition, but by patiently enduring this and setting forth a Christian example they induced many persons to read the scriptures and to throw off the yoke of the old churches. But as churches were established, and fine residences built, the American missionaries housed themselves up and paid liberally for the preaching of others. In this way they killed the fire kindled, until in later years we find the churches dull and not increasing from outside sources.

Money also bought many converts. Some sought a temporal advantage, and a less desirable element has replaced the first love of reform. The example became bad, and the churches lost their reputation, so that at the present there is no advantage in boasting that one is a Protestant. Still, the labors are not all in vain. Many are now enlightened, and really seeking for something better; and undoubtedly our Elders will have here to produce that reform which is necessary to bring the people to a position to understand the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ. Protestantism has introduced no new doctrine, so to speak. The missionaries have stopped all avenues to discussing doctrinal points when these would lead to anything different than a common Methodist idea, i.e., "Believe in Christ, read the Bible, and you may be saved by any mode of baptism you like."

Hence the people here are not as those of America and Europe were found by the first Elders. There the people through three or four centuries of public discussion of Bible doctrines had brought the real seekers and the "salt of the earth" to the front. Hence when they heard the Gospel it was to them as "the voice of the Good Shepherd;" they knew the sound, at once obeyed, and became zealous workers in the work of redemption. Here all these points have to be considered: therefore when we come to a city the people are all at once brought into a stir at "the new doctrine"—every doctrine from faith, repentance and baptism to the salvation of the dead. God's just mode of judging His children is a great astonishment to them when systematically arranged.

Here, then, comes the patience of the Elders. Here we must sow and cultivate and patiently await the fruits. By our examples we must produce a desire, on the part of the people, to associate with us; by our words we must plant in their hearts the seeds of eternal life, and by our faithful and fatherly care teach them how to love and obey God and His Son Jesus Christ, in

order that they may also partake of the heavenly blessings so richly vouchsafed to us from our Father in heaven.

Therefore to my brethren of the Seventies and others who may be called to labor in these eastern countries I would say—be prepared for a new work, one much different from that in which we have formerly engaged; prepare yourselves with plenty of patience, so that when you meet with reverses and things that do not go just as you expect, you may not be discouraged. Rather be filled with the Spirit of the living God; start in again with a firmer determination to accomplish every duty and overcome every obstacle laid in your way, until the power of Satan is broken and all who will be saved may have a full chance and none be left without a warning.

Our friends in Zion can do a great work by writing kind letters, filled with exhortations and good news calculated to strengthen our young Elders and thereby furnish food for proper reflection, which will eventually terminate in strength to the young Saints here, who are eager to know how they are regarded by their brethren in "the land of promise."

The inhabitants of this place are generally kind-hearted and generous. Much that is good can be said of them, and their mental faculties are by no means below the average. They are smart, perceive a point quickly, and learn very fast; but they are not of a very solid character. Hence they may soon be found leaning to the wrong side of the balance. Our impression, however, is that under good leadership they will yet be found to possess fine qualities,—jewels that will in the future shine prominently in the great latter-day-work.

FRIS.

AINTAB, Turkey, May 30th, 1889.

A FINE COUNTRY.

This time of the year is our closest time in the season, and at present people are unable to raise money, but trust that after harvest and threshing are over, which is fast approaching completion, there will be a little loosening up of the closeness of money. Our crops are splendid, and fruit is abundant, but as yet no market.

We have one of the finest districts of country for everything desirable in the way of fruit, milk and honey that is known on this continent; a place where a man can sit under his own fig tree and vine untroubled during the short season of unpleasant, warm weather. During nine months of the year, there is the most pleasant weather known in any land. Apricots and strawberries are about gone. Peaches, figs, melons and other fruit, with no end to grapes, are coming in in abundance. Now, all that is needed here to complete our security and peace, is some of our brethren with capital to help hold the fort. As yet few are coming, and much of our valuable possessions will soon pass into other hands. It would be a splendid time for any with money to invest, or those seeking