

his wagon." He said, "bounding," and we thought "bears bounding from the pines" sounded pretty. His earnestness could not be doubted as he told of his defenseless condition, having nothing more formidable than a monkey wrench, with which he made a racket upon the side of the wagon, and at the same time, with his mouth, he made all the horrid noises that that organ was capable of. To add to his peril, whilst thus engaged the wagon gave another bump and down broke the hind axle. There he sat, holding tightly to the horses and keeping up a full band until the bears disappeared in a hollow, coming our way. He also told how the smaller of the two bears (which he thought was probably the female) looked over its shoulder—he imitated the licking of its lips and the grimaces, which plainly indicated that she, differing from some of her sex, did not desire to sample the calico merchant's goods.

After listening to the earnest narration of the above, and receiving messages to interested parties in Loa, with our eyes open for bears we journeyed on till we came to the "pines." There were about a dozen gnarled and scattered pinions, not the poetic pines through which the "breeze sigh" and in the hollows of which young bears are hidden. Here we found the wagon as described. We alighted and found that it contained the usual drummer's trunk, and in a sidepocket we observed the gentleman's lunch, which was but a trifle to one who had so recently single-handed stood off two bears. We also examined the ground for tracks, and found plenty, but, judging from the shape and size, we concluded that these bears were not vandyke, but more probably of the graded merino species. We have since learned that the gentleman continued his equestrian labor twenty miles, to Koosharem, where he arrived in the usual condition of bearback riders. We are not all Daniel Bones's, but the stimulus of heroism should be recorded, and I write that further details may find their way into an enlarged edition of "Drumming," and would suggest that those who venture into these altitudes be furnished with the necessary weapons of defense, say a syringe charged with Edison's electric water; then the paralyzed animals can be boxed, or trunked, and taken home as an advertisement to the house that catches the most bears.

Respectfully, A. BIRD.
Loa, Wayne Co., Utah, April, 1892.

SPIRITUAL CERTAINTY.

[Boston Watchman.]

Much of the religious unrest that marks our time is due to the demand for demonstrative evidence in the realm of spiritual truth. Cardinal Newman's account of the steps by which he was led to the Roman Church shows that he was in quest of some external ground for reaching an almost mathematical certainty regarding his convictions. The Roman theory of an infallible church professed to supply his need. The future cardinal's brother F. W. Newman apparently was moved by the same desire. He wished external evidence

for spiritual truth carried to the point of demonstration. He could not find it in Rome, he could not find it anywhere, and he became not only an agnostic but a thorough going skeptic. Those who demand demonstrative external evidence for spiritual truth will usually follow one of these courses; they will become Roman Catholics or agnostics. Cardinal Newman tells us that early in life he was greatly influenced by Bishop Butler's doctrine that probability is the guide of life. Had he followed that principle, it is doubtful if he could have ever entered the Roman Church. The sphere of certainty in human reasoning and affairs is much smaller than is commonly supposed. It hardly exists outside the realm of pure mathematics. In the affairs of daily life, and in the formation of convictions, we are compelled to balance probabilities. And the wise man is not one who has found some demonstrative evidence for his belief and action which no one else has discovered but he who best judges of the force of probabilities.

In the case of any doctrine of the Christian faith, for example, that of the inspiration of the Scriptures, it is palpable at once that it is useless to attempt to demonstrate it so that a man, if he have good logical powers, will be compelled to admit it. Christians are led to the conviction that the Bible is inspired by a great number of considerations, some of which, considered apart, apparently do not have great weight; others have much, but, taken all together, they throw the force of an enormous probability in spiritual truth. Such truth has a self-evidencing quality. Like the sun, it shines by its own light. This internal evidence for truth may become as certain as the facts of conscience. God gives his people the witness in themselves; they may say "I know," but outwardly here in this world they walk among shadows; probabilities are strong, often overwhelming, but external grounds for reaching demonstrative certainty are not granted. The external arguments for truth "abundantly evidence" it, but the final certainty of the truth is only reached by men when the "eyes of the heart" are opened, and the outward and inward evidences meet and sustain each other like the springing sides of a perfect arch.

FROM THE EAST.

NEW YORK, April 25th, 1892.

Editor Desert News:

On my way round the field I send you a few lines from this point. I have traveled over all the ground between Nebraska and New York, but cannot, until I reach Washington, give you a full account of our conferences and the condition of the Church in the Northern States Mission. Suffice it to say that a general inquiry is being made into Utah affairs, and much more interest in the "Mormon" question is evinced than formerly. Particularly here in New York the expressions are favorable to our people, and a feeling of condemnation is manifested concerning the proceedings which have confiscated Church property, and deprived the First Presidency of the parsonage built for them by the

Church. One prominent outsider said to me yesterday: "It is an outrage, and we have been boasting, too, of religious freedom." I excused Congress and the administration on the ground that they were misinformed by political foes," "but," he said, "they ought to right the wrong if it is possible to do so. I have been to Salt Lake and have seen what the Mormons have done there—how they made a desert into a garden, and made it possible for other people to live there."

I heard Dr. Talmage yesterday, and saw the stone relics in the walls of his tabernacle. The structure is built largely like a theatre, having two galleries, and being semi-circular in form. The doctor speaks from an open platform, without even a railing in front of him, and he keeps up a perpetual motion, walking to and fro, gesticulating and giving full force to his utterances by his energetic manner. He spoke on "lazy people."

Summer weather here in the far East is not conducive to violent exercise, but I can generally put in from ten to fifteen hours a day in a quiet way, and not suffer from the heat too much.

I visited Greenwood cemetery yesterday afternoon, and saw that great "city of the dead." Three hundred and fifty thousand bodies now comprise the population of that huge necropolis, and there is room for about as many more. It is becoming something "to look forward to" for the rich of New York to be buried in Greenwood. Many new graves now adorn this choice resting-place, and are pointed out by the drivers, as the ambulances wend their way through the thoroughfares, amid flowers, shrubbery, and elegant architecture.

Tomorrow I take the "Royal Blue Line," and behind a B. & O. flyer will ride to Washington. From there I will forward you an account of what the Elders have been doing of late, and their prospects for a summer campaign. They are all well.

CHARLES W. STAYNER.

THE EVILS OF PARTY POLITICS.

[North American Review.]

Even in the diplomatic field, where if anywhere, patriotism ought to prevail over party, the Executive, while in its struggling against a foreign power for the rights of the country, is embarrassed in its action by party opposition and traduced before its foreign adversaries and the world at large by party animosity. At a crisis which seems to threaten war experts declare that the country is defenseless, and if you ask how it comes to pass that the United States is without a navy, that their coasts lie exposed to assault and their wealthy cities to devastation, while a sum larger than the entire military expenditure of first-rate war powers is spent in army pensions, the answer is that ships of war cannot turn the party scale by their votes. Amid the distractions and fluctuations of party anything like a steady and far-sighted policy in external affairs becomes almost impossible. The treatment of the Canadian question, for instance, is a