

EXPERIENCES OF A "MORMON" MISSIONARY.

WHILE in Logan, a few days ago, we had the pleasure of meeting Elder Andrew Villet of that town. He is an Italian, and returned on the 19th of last November from a mission to Europe. At the time of his leaving his field of labor for home he was subject to a severe attack of illness, from which he has not yet quite recovered. His experience abroad is illustrative of the hardships which "Mormon" Elders frequently have to endure in the work of proselytizing. He left here on the 17th of October, 1882, and went to Switzerland, where he labored eight months, during which time he baptized four persons. The next three months were spent in France, where every effort to obtain an opening was futile.

He next went to Italy, and spent a considerable time among the Protestants of the Mountain Districts of Piedmont. He found the people poor, ignorant and more or less degraded, although they exhibited a feeling of hospitality. He taxed his faith and ingenuity in devising means of breaching through the encrustation of indifference in which they seemed to be enclosed, but to no purpose. The houses of that part of Italy are generally miserable structures, and one portion, usually the better one, is given over to the use of the family cow and other domestic animals. That part the family generally uses for a parlor in winter seasons, on account of its being warmer than the other portion of the house. The meetings held by Elder Villet were generally in private dwellings, and necessarily in those apartments where the cows were located, and domestic animals were therefore, in almost every instance, a portion of his congregation. Many of the people would admit the correctness of his statements, but they had not the stamina to stand against the opposition that follows a leaning toward, to say nothing of an acceptance of the truth. His assiduous labors were rewarded by an addition of three members to the Church, and all of them subsequently fell away from it with much greater alacrity than they accepted of the message.

Elder Villet started on a tour through southern Italy. His experience was somewhat sad. While riding on the cars he was robbed of his money, and was thus left penniless. He had his watch left, however, and anticipated raising some money on that, but he was doomed to disappointment. While trudging along weary and footsore, between Naples and Rome, a young man driving a vehicle offered him a chance to ride, which he accepted. This young fellow asked him the time, and, as he was giving him the information, he snatched his watch from him, pretended to throw it into the road, telling him to get down and get it. As the Elder insisted on his property being returned to him, the thief took a large knife from his pocket and threatened to plunge it into his body and kill him. On entering Rome the rascal stopped at a tavern, called some person to him and passed to this individual the knife, at the same time, as believed by Brother Villet, also handing over the watch to his confederate. The matter was reported to the police, but the property was never regained. Thus the victim was left in the streets of Rome friendless and without money.

He received some kindly assistance from a sympathetic police officer, and started on a long journey for Piedmont, traveling on foot, sleeping by road sides on piles of gravel or under trees, and being without food for long stretches. He had to pass through a number of cities during the prevalence of cholera in the country, and was subjected many times to a process of fumigation or disinfection. This consisted of being placed in a close room where certain substances were burned, the fumes being inhaled by the unfortunate victim. It is stated that this was an effectual cure for any person infected with the dread disease, as they never survived the ordeal as thus putting an end to the patients' ability to spread the malady. This process seemed to have a powerful effect upon Elder Villet, whose health broke down from that cause and in consequence of the exposure to which he was subjected. When he reached Piedmont he was completely exhausted, and was seized with a fever. His health on the homeward journey was also exceedingly precarious, and has remained more or less in that condition until recently, he having begun to recuperate. He is of the opinion that if an opening for the Gospel is made in Italy, it will be by no ordinary process, as the people generally are far from honest, and possessed of no desire whatever, as a rule, to investigate religious subjects for themselves.

THE WAR CLOUD BURSTING.

THE telegraph brings the startling intelligence that hostilities between the disputants upon the Afghan frontier question have begun, the Russians being the aggressors, and, as a matter of course, the victors. This appears to be equal to a declaration of war, and will in all probability precipitate one of the most gigantic and bloody struggles of which history affords any description. The army of the Czar, in hurling its

forces against the Afghans, made an attack upon the British. It amounts to about the same thing. There appears no alternative left to England except to retaliate with all the speed possible. We firmly believe she will invite other powers to help her in the bloody vortex into which she will in all probability soon be whirled. The Russian officer who took the initiative in the opening hostilities undoubtedly acted under orders from his government. Any other supposition would be absurd. It may be consistently inferred from the present aspect of the situation that the Czar has firmly resolved to fight. Should nothing interpose to prevent the further opening up of the conflict, the world will shortly be thrown from its balance, and nature stand aghast at the fearful scenes impending.

AN APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY MOVEMENT.

SOME people are naturally despondent at the first appearance of difficulty. Others are led forward by the beacon light of hope. Their lives are filled with manly endeavor, and obstacles unsurmountable in the eyes of those who view them through gloom of dejection, melt before their resolution and activity.

A few persons—we hope their number is small—are disposed to consider the appointment of the committee to draft a statement of grievances and a petition for redress of wrongs inflicted upon the Latter-day Saints, to be a work of supererogation. They seem to have the opinion that no good can be accomplished by the work laid out for them. We do not know but some of them even entertain the opinion that the proposed representation will be more harmful than otherwise, by increasing and rendering more intense the spirit of diabolical vindictiveness toward this community, exhibited by their enemies.

We are not sure but the work upon which the committee are engaged will raise a howl among the anti-"Mormon" crusaders that will be heard throughout the land. They may seek, as usual, to break the force of truth by a counterblast of falsehood, fired from behind the "refuge of lies." But suppose it should be positively known that the movement would cause the very batteries of hell to be opened and vomit forth their volumes of hate, that is no reason why those in possession of the truth should allow it, without a protest, to be crushed to earth, or to lie slumbering in the dust of oblivion. The question is whether, like poltroons, a community will suffer their rights to be trampled upon by a set of depraved, unscrupulous and designing knaves without any effort on their part to throw off the yoke. Even should the attempt prove unfruitful of the object in view, those who have been wronged should have the satisfaction that failure was not the result of their supine indifference or cowardice.

A bold, strong, resolute and pointed statement of wrongs imposed—they are numberless—and a vigorous appeal for redress—not one impregnated with the spirit of tameness and doubt, but having the ring of true manliness and hope—will not be fruitless. It is necessary as a duty we owe to ourselves; it is necessary as a duty we owe to the nation and the world at large; it is necessary as a duty we owe to God, whose cause and that of truth and freedom we, as a community, claim to represent.

Had the vigorous minds and great hearts that gave to the world the Declaration of Independence been filled with doubt, foreboding and timidity, that noble instrument would never have been given birth, and the glorious principles of human freedom inculcated in the Republic of which it was the initiatory announcement would have been smothered by the iron hand of monarchial tyranny. The enemies of the Saints have been and are seeking to re-enact the absolutism upon them that pressed upon the colonists who repudiated the right of the kingly power to thus enslave them, and the result of their resolution was the finest and freest governmental system ever instituted among men. The cause of this community is equally just with theirs, and of no less importance.

Those to whom has been confided this work of clearly and unmistakably defining the situation of this community with reference to their oppressors, have been entrusted with a duty of much greater moment than appears on the surface. They represent, in this matter the Latter-day Saints, and the result of their labors should be such as will be acceptable to them, so that it can be adopted without hesitancy when completed.

In this movement God must be taken into consideration, as the chief constituent. In His name as well as that of liberty and truth, the whole proceeding should be forwarded and consummated. By His authority and in His name the Gospel of the Kingdom is preached in all the world "for a witness." The object of the proclamation is two-fold. It is glad tidings of salvation to those who receive it. Those who reject it are left without excuse for their repulsion of the message. So with the representation under consideration. It will give an opportunity to the nation and the world generally to do justice to a wronged, maltreated and oppressed

people. If after the truth of the matter has been clearly exhibited, those in whose hands is the power to grant the redress prayed for listen to the appeal and grant the prayer of the petition, the result will be most gratifying. Truth will be vindicated and joy reach the hearts of those who have been deeply wronged. Should, on the other hand, a deaf ear be turned to the entreaty, the Saints' side of the controversy will be more or less fully in the hands of a just God. His promises, which never fail, are before the people. In any case doubting and despondency are elements that should be foreign to the present movement.

NOT AGAINST IMMORALITY.

WE have frequently in the past offered proofs of the hypocritical pretensions of those who are engaged in or are giving encouragement to the present crusade against the "Mormons." While they seek to convey the idea that their aim is to suppress immorality, defend virtue and vindicate just and wholesome laws, it is plain to every Latter-day Saint that the ruling motive with them is a desire to wreak vengeance upon a people and a religion which they hate without a cause and fear instinctively, and that the immorality plea is simply a subterfuge.

Not a few non-"Mormons" are also shrewd enough to see through the thin guise of hypocrisy with which the acts of the crusaders are clothed and discern their real intentions. Said one of this class a few days since, while talking upon the all-absorbing topic:

"Talk about the present raid upon the 'Mormons' being in the interest of morality and decency! why it is the sheerest absurdity! The men who are engaged in it really care nothing about immorality, and if the 'Mormons' knew what I know about their real characters they could easily show to the world that the immorality claim is simply clap-trap! I could name from a score to fifty of the individuals who are prominently engaged in prosecuting the 'Mormons' or urging on the prosecutions against them, who, to my certain knowledge, keep mistresses and habitually indulge in gross immorality. If proof were wanted on that score I could tell where a good many of their mistresses live, and evidence could soon be obtained that would convict them before the world, if not before the one-sided courts of this Territory!"

LUCERN.

A CORRESPONDENT writing from the south some days since made inquiry as to the raising of lucern seed. We were in hopes some of our agricultural readers, who have had experience in the business, would forward us a reply to the queries, but as none of them have done so, we will give the result of our experience upon the subject and the information gained from conversing with quite a number of practical farmers in regard to it.

To commence with we may remark that alfalfa, or lucern as it is more commonly called, may now be considered the principal forage crop of this Territory. It is not very difficult to remember when there was a strong prejudice against it in this region, due principally to the statement generally circulated that when once started in land it could not be subdued, or killed out. For a few years after it was first experimented with it gained but little favor, but its successful culture in the Dixie part of our Territory soon rendered it popular there, and the way its popularity spread after that was simply marvelous. People soon found that the dry bench land, formerly considered worthless, could, by the planting of lucern seed upon it be made to yield an abundant crop of excellent fodder, and instead of depending upon the bottom lands (which in many instances would produce but little more than one ton of the native grasses to the acre) for the hay supply, people began to turn their attention to the upland, on which from six to nine tons per acre of lucern could be raised. As a result, this Territory is now capable of supporting fully double the number of stock that it used to, notwithstanding the deterioration in the ranges, resulting from the pasturing of immense sheep herds.

So important has the crop become that the people would scarcely know how to get along without it, and if the lucern crop were destroyed, and if it is said worms of a new variety for this country are threatening the destruction of some fields in Bountiful, it would be the next thing to a failure of the grain crop.

We are unable to say what extent of area in this Territory is devoted to this crop, nor estimate the quantity raised, but from information received we are of the opinion that nearly if not quite 500,000 lbs. of lucern seed from last year's crop has been shipped out of the Territory during the past few months. Most of this has been sent eastward, a considerable quantity to California, and some to the southeast, in which latter direction—in Colorado, New Mexico and Texas—there is likely to be a good market for seed next year. Indeed, notwithstanding the great quan-

tity of seed raised here for years past, the market for it seems to be growing better, and it is commanding a higher price this spring here in Utah than it has in many years. It is now selling at from 17 to 20 cts. per lb.

Now, as to the raising of seed. If lucern be planted with a view to this object, not more than ten or twelve pounds to the acre should be sown, as it is not well to have it too thick. The most successful cultivators of lucern in this region leave the second crop for seed, as the first naturally grows too rank to yield much. In some places, however, where there is not sufficient moisture in the land to bring a second crop without irrigation, it has been found best to leave the first crop of the season for seed. In any case the crop intended for seed should never be irrigated, as the watering of it causes it to run too much to top and not blossom freely. In favorable seasons the second crop, even on bench land, produces a good yield of seed, though it may not grow more than a foot in height. There is, however, a good deal of uncertainty about raising it, as insufficient moisture causes the blossoms to drop off without developing into seed.

The quantity of seed produced per acre varies all the way from nothing up to twenty bushels—though the latter is an extraordinary yield. About 900 lbs. per acre may be considered a good yield, and the average is probably not more than 400 lbs.

In conclusion, we will say that in our opinion the capabilities of our country in the matter of producing lucern and supporting animal life have hardly been dreamed of yet. We think time will develop the fact that many of our low hills and gentle mountain slopes will produce at least one crop in the season of this nutritious fodder, and by utilizing our mountain streams in the autumn, after the irrigation of other crops have ceased, in thoroughly soaking the lucern patches, not only will the average yield per acre be greatly increased, but many of our dry, barren benches, which have heretofore been considered worthless because of lack of water to irrigate them, will yet become green with verdure and yield bountiful crops of lucern to the industrious husbandman. Possibly, too, after the soil has been enriched by the raising of this crop for a number of years, which of itself is an excellent fertilizer, and filled with water through autumn irrigation, it will be found that the formerly worthless land will be capable of producing other crops also.

THE WAR PROSPECT.

THE demon of war hangs over the British and Russian Empires like the sword of Damocles, suspended by a thread. The slender attachment is liable to be severed by a breath, and cause the death dealing weapon to descend and do its bloody work.

The situation is in brief: Russia has precipitated a conflict with an English ally, and committed a violent breach of diplomatic amenities. England must, and perhaps has, demanded not only an explanation, but ample reparation. The Czar dare not, in view of the prevalence of the war spirit in the army, accede to the British ultimatum, and England cannot and dare not recede from whatever initiatory position she assumes. There being no reason on which to base a hope of either of the principals in the dispute retreating from whatever ground may be taken in connection with it, war seems to be the inevitable result.

Owing to the present situation being the result of movements of several years' duration on the part of Russia, we have been of the opinion from the beginning of the difficulty that she intended to gain a point, to concede which would be dangerous to British Indian interests. We have therefore been of the belief that a bloody conflict would ensue. The Czar has, for a long time, been gradually massing troops in the direction of the point of contest, and his movement has at various times caused considerable concern among the European powers. All his pretensions have, as usual, amounted to nothing. Russian diplomacy is synonymous with duplicity. Its entire purport is to cover up the real designs of the government from the powers which oppose its schemes, and false professions are its leading traits. England, on the contrary, is more or less candid in its manipulation of foreign policy. While "Perfidious Albion" may be unscrupulous, in many respects, as she has been, she generally "makes no bones about it."

Even should the existing difficulty be patched up for the time being, a result unlikely of attainment, a violent rupture between the two leading powers involved can only be postponed at best for but a short time. Appearances favor the anticipation that Great Britain would whip her traditional enemy. Russia can place an immense host of men in the field, but her financial condition is not flattering. England has immense monetary resources. They are a tremendous power, and will command the necessary men as well. On the sea Russia stands no chance with her anticipated foe. But if it be true that Turkey has entered into an offensive and defensive alliance with Russia, the situation would be fraught with a most serious aspect for England.

The eyes of the whole world are now turned upon the scene of the difficulty, from which may soon spring one of the most gigantic and far reaching struggles that ever occurred on earth. The fate of nations now trembles in the balance.

THE NORTHWEST INDIAN RISING.

THE Indian rising in the Northwest is getting more and more serious. Riel, the half-breed, who is the head and front of the rebellion against the Dominion Government is daily gaining more adherents. His men are armed with rifles and nearly all of them are expert marksmen. They are fine fellows physically, capable of great endurance and remarkable rapidity of movement.

The chief rebel himself is by no means an ignorant fellow. His educational advantages have been fair, and he is endowed with much natural shrewdness. Should he fall into the hands of the government, which is more than likely, he will be summarily dealt with, by being hanged at short notice. He is now under indictment for the murder of Thomas Scott, whose execution by his order was a cruel and merciless assassination.

The Indians of the Dominion have nothing to complain of against the Dominion government. It has pursued a very different policy from that so long the rule of our Interior Department. It treats an Indian as a responsible being, punishes him for crime as other men are punished, and keeps its contracts with him as it does with other men.

Riel first rose in rebellion in 1869. His complaint then was what it is now—that the government is surveying lands for sale, to which the half-breeds have sole right because of prior occupancy. Lord Wolseley, then Colonel, now in the Soudan, whipped Riel in 1870, and little has been heard of him since, except his election to the Dominion Parliament. When the settlement was effected in 1870 the Dominion gave to the Northwest half-breeds 240 acres of land each, but this grant was confined to the province of Manitoba. Riel's present followers live in the Saskatchewan bottoms and about lakes Winnipeg and Winnipegosis. The present rebels demand the same terms accorded fifteen years ago to their fellows of Manitoba.

HE STRUCK IT RIGHT.

ONLY a short time since an Associated Press dispatch appeared in the newspapers throughout the country, based on a letter from an Idaho official to a friend in Washington. The writer of the communication denounced the anti-"Mormon" leaders, and compared the business status of the "Mormon" people with that of their opponents, very much to the advantage of the former. The dispatch was meagre, being minus particulars. The following, which we find in the Philadelphia Record, gives a somewhat fuller idea of the clear-headed and evidently conscientious Idaho official's views and observations:

"I will say that among the anti-Mormon leaders I have found men who are utterly unworthy of trust in either public or private affairs. It is, of course, preposterous to assume that I have any sympathy with Mormonism or its priesthood; yet it is due to truth to state that for business integrity the Mormons, as a class, are far ahead of the average Gentile. Hence, you of the East must look for slow missionary work out here for some time to come. The leverage of good schools—and we have a few here conducted upon Christian methods—and a strict, honest enforcement of the law punishing polygamy are the instruments to be effectual against Mormon domination. You may not remember what sort of men led the anti-rent party of thirty-five years ago in New York; I do recollect them as about as desperate in character as could have been found to manipulate a political faction in those days. These anti-Mormon partisans, in this part of Idaho have seized upon this Mormon question very much as anti-rent leaders traded upon the landlord and tenant controversy in New York, and they are simply unprincipled traders in public office."

It is in order for us to add that it is also "due to truth" that the strictures of the gentleman upon anti-"Mormon" leaders and their camp followers in our sister Territory northward, apply with equal, if not greater force to the situation in Utah, as well as to some extent in Arizona. "Traders," or in any event, would-be "traders in public office," hits the nail squarely on the head. They are also stealers of the people's liberties, and the more adventurous and desperate among them would fain be plunderers of the people's material property. Surely the leaders of the New York anti-rent movement of thirty-five years ago must have been hopelessly bad. An honest enforcement of the law against polygamy under the existing local Federal official manipulation is something as far beyond the hope of every fair-minded citizen as it is distant from the intention of those whose duty it is to accord it.