

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper

## A MORMON MISSIONARY.

April 6th, 1855, at a general conference held in Great Salt Lake City, I was appointed to take a mission to Europe. April 28th I was set apart by Elders Orson Hyde, Orson Pratt, Geo. A. Smith and Wilford Woodruff, at my house in G. S. L. City, being ill with the rheumatism and unable to turn myself in bed. On May 7th President Brigham Young called and blessed me and said I should begin to amend from that very hour. At 2 p. m. I was lifted into the wagon and laid on a bed, being unable to sit up. Thus I started for Europe. While going down East Canyon creek, the wagon was overturned. I was still on a bed and unable to help myself. At Fort Bridger the horses ran away and the wagon was only saved from being dashed in pieces by the the horses breaking loose from it.

June 20, we met Seth M. Blair's company from Texas. Many were sick and some dying with the cholera. I had just got able to walk about. We laid hands on several of them and pursued our journey to Atchison, or Mormon Grove, on the 21st. On the 22nd, in company with Elder David A. Curtis, I started for St. Louis, leaving the other brethren to sell our part of the horses and wagons of our outfit. On the 26th I arrived at St. Louis in the morning, and spent the day with Elders Erastus Snow and Daniel Spencer. On June 27, we took steamer for Keokuk, where we arrived on the 28th and made considerable inquiry for Mormons. After spending most of the 29th inquiring for Saints, we found some and got out an appointment in order to attend to the business Elder E. Snow had entrusted to us. On the 30th we met with about thirty dried up Saints. We preached to them what the Lord gave us. While speaking the house was surrounded by a mob, who declared they would give us a good pounding. We, however, escaped unhurt.

On July 2nd we went to Nauvoo, to visit cousin Joseph Smith's family. Frederick treated us kindly. Emma was both cool and distant. Joseph was at Peoria and we did not see him. In the evening we went to Plymouth and remained until the 5th, visiting with John Cleveland and family, my wife's parents. On the 5th we went to Quincy and held a meeting there. We arrived in St. Louis on the 7th and found the brethren we had left at Mormon Grove had arrived and were ready to start for New York. We went with them, via Chicago, Lake Erie, Albany and the Hudson river, and arrived in New York on the morning of the 12th and spent a few days visiting the Saints with President John Taylor. On July 18 we sailed for Liverpool on board the packet ship Isaac Wright. 29. By request of the passengers and permission of the officers we preached on deck on the 29th. John Kay spoke on the first principles of the Gospel and I followed on the Book of Mormon and Joseph the Prophet.

August 11th, we arrived in Liverpool. In company with five of the brethren I went direct to Elder Franklin D. Richards, presiding over the mission. He met us with joy and bade us welcome to England. August 14, a council of Elders was held and most of the Elders were appointed to their fields of labor. Elder Franklin D. Richards set me apart on the 16th to take the presidency of the Swiss and Italian mission. On the 17th I went to Leeds and spent a pleasant and profitable time with Elder Joseph A. Young, visiting and preaching in the Bradford conference. On the 29th, by letter from Elder F. D. Richards, I was instructed to repair to London, where I arrived in the evening. I spent the time in company with Elder Wm. H. Kimball, preaching in the London pastorate until the 8th of September.

On September 8, accompanied by Elders F. D. Richards and Wm. H. Kimball, I started for Switzerland via Bologne, Paris and Dijon, and arrived at Geneva and met Elders Daniel Tyler and John Chislett in good health and spirits on the 12th. On the 15th, in company with Brothers F. D. Richards, Wm. H. Kimball, Daniel Tyler and John Chislett, I left Geneva for Italy via Chambery, in Savoy, Lanslebourg, Mount Cenis and Susa, to Turin. On the 18th we went to the Waldensian valleys and visited the Saints, about thirty in number. There we met Elder Samuel Francis, who had been laboring in Italy two years, and it was with great difficulty that he could speak English, having become so accustomed to speaking French and Italian. On the 20th we held a council on the rock of prophecy as to the best course to be pursued for the forwarding of the work of the Lord in those lands. On the 21st and 22nd we visited the Saints in the mountains. The 23rd, we held a conference in a barn belonging to Mr. Gardiol. Much good instruction was given to the Saints. On leaving the meeting in the evening to go to our lodging at Pignerol, about three miles, we were followed by a mob who declared they would give us a ducking before we left; we were accompanied by many of the Saints and arrived safely about 9 o'clock.

While visiting among the Saints of the Italian mission I witnessed some of the worst scenes of poverty I ever saw. Whole families often sleep with the hogs and sheep belonging to their richer neighbors to keep them from freezing to death. On September 24 we started on our return to Geneva. Arrived there the 26th. We there received letters from home, being the first I had got since leaving. On the 27th a conference of Elders was held at Geneva and the brethren were instructed relative to their duties. I was set apart on the 29th as counselor to Elder Tyler while he remained, and as president of the Swiss and Italian mission when he left, which was calculated to be about the first of January, 1856. At 2 p. m. Brothers Richards and Kimball started on their return to London.

I immediately commenced studying

the German language and in six weeks could ask for things that I needed, although I lived among the French-Swiss where German was but little used. Elder Tyler threw the responsibility of editing the *Darsteller* entirely upon me, also considerable of the correspondence necessary to carry on the work through the mission. We were also busily engaged getting out a history of the Swiss and Italian mission from the first organization, according to instructions from Bro. F. D. Richards.

On November 16, Elder D. Tyler was taken seriously ill, and Elder John Chislett and myself had all we could do to keep him alive. On the 21st we were agreeably surprised by the entrance of Elder William Budge from Dresden. The persecution had become so great that it was necessary for him to leave the country. On the 23rd Elder Tyler had a second severe attack and came near dying. Brothers Budge, Chislett and myself held a consultation and decided it best for him to go immediately to England on his return home; accordingly, in company with Brother William Budge, he left for London on the 28th.

July 4th, 1856, by invitation from F. D. Richards to attend a general council of Elders in England, I started for London via Paris and Bologne; arrived on the 9th and on the 13th attended the London conference. On the 20th I went to Birmingham, and on the 21st and 26th attended a two days' council of Elders in which nearly all the conferences and missions in Europe were represented. There were present of the Twelve Apostles, Orson Pratt, Ezra T. Benson and Franklin D. Richards. On the 23rd went to Liverpool and settled up some mission business, and on the 31st started on my return to Switzerland.

August 7th I arrived at Geneva.

October 18th, I left Geneva for Zurich on a visit to the German conferences. On the 19th addressed the Saints at Zurich through an interpreter. The 23rd I went to Winzelen and addressed the Saints in German, being my first attempt in that language. On the 23rd I returned to Zurich, addressed the Saints in German in the evening, and from this time I had no difficulty in making the people understand me.

November 4th I returned to Geneva. About this time we emigrated some fifty Saints.

In 1857, on January 4th, I had a great desire to commence a reformation among the Saints, and on the 12th, at a small conference in Geneva, I proposed rebaptizing the Saints. The proposition was unanimously received and I commenced accordingly. I went to the passport office after my passport in order to go to Zurich, and was informed that it had not been returned since I came from London. Remembering the date as well as the page on which it was recorded, I referred them to it, when they found it was entered as I had stated. I then demanded a new one, in case mine could not be found. After considerable delay the officials offered me a Swiss one to go to London. I informed them I did not wish to go to London, nor to travel under any pass but an American one. They