

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE GOSPEL IN GERMANY.

Louisen Str. 36, Darmstadt,
Hessen, Germany, Feb. 15, 1898.

It is more than a year since the work of the Lord was commenced in this city, of which I think nothing has yet appeared in your columns, and trust therefore that a short account of the opening, present condition, and future prospects of the work here may be of interest to the readers of the "News."

Darmstadt is the capital of the Grand Duchy Hessen and the residence city of the royalty, has a population of about 65,000. It is a very aristocratic city, being the home of many of the wealthy business men of Frankfort-on-the-Main, and is only about twenty miles from that city. The streets are clean, wide, and are, as a rule, straight. The state church is Protestant.

Elders Bushman and Naegle each labored here a few weeks in the year 1896, but no missionaries remained any length of time until Elders Seegmiller and Stevenson were sent here from Frankfort in November, 1896, and with but few ceremonies obtained the privilege of distributing tracts from door to door and holding public in-door meetings. Since Brother Seegmiller was called to preside over the Frankfort conference, Elder Sperry Lawson labored here a short time.

After spending nearly 15 months in Munich, Bavaria, I was called in November, 1897, to continue my labors in Darmstadt and, with the exception of a few weeks' absence to attend the Switzerland conference, I have been here since that time. Elder T. W. Y. Stevenson is my companion and, with the help of the Lord, we are endeavoring to continue the good work which has been begun in spreading the seed of the Gospel in the hearts of the good citizens of this city.

The number of members is, as yet, small, but we have many warm friends and sincere investigators, several of whom are about ready for baptism. The city is being tracted systematically. We take one street at a time and do not leave it until we are either accepted or rejected by each family. About 3,000 tracts have already been distributed.

We feel to thank our Heavenly Father for opening the hearts of the government officials, for they have given us perfect freedom and we do not feel in the least checked in going ahead and doing all we can. The people as a rule accept our tracts, but a great majority feel indifferent as to the contents of the pamphlets, and many of those who do read them answer: "Oh yes, it is very nice, but I shall remain with the church in which I was brought up, it is good enough for me." When we bear our testimonies to them of the divinity of the great latter-day work it arouses their attention for a short time, but this interest is soon crushed by indifference. But this must not be said of all the people. Here and there we find an honest soul to whom our glad message brings great joy. Only those who have had the experience of a mission can understand the great joy of an Elder who hears: "Thanks to the Lord, this is just what I have been looking and waiting for, for years, the Gospel in its purity as taught by our Savior." Yes, dear readers, such an expression fills heart to overflowing and adds one more proof to my testimony that the blood of Israel is scattered among the people of this nation, and when such a descendant of the great Patriarch Abraham hears

the true Gospel of Christ it thrills his soul and he recognizes it through the workings of a power from on high in fulfillment of former and latter-day prophecy.

President Loutensock was with us last week and we had a glorious time. A large public meeting was held Thursday evening in Schaffershof, and the Priesthood meeting Friday morning. There were present: President Loutensock, Secretary Wm. F. Olson and Elders Frank Penrose, Bruce Brown, Sperry Lawson, F.K. Seegmiller, David Heigh, Ernest Schettler, T. W. Y. Stevenson, Tring and the writer.

The subject of President Loutensock's address was: "The social and religious character of the Latter-day Saints in Utah."

He handled the subject very well and proved clearly that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only Church on earth which possesses the necessary features to distinguish it as the kingdom of God. He spoke to a very attentive and appreciative audience. Too much cannot be said in praise of the sweet singing rendered by Elders Olson, Penrose, Lawson and Brown. Such meetings result in much good in removing prejudice and in opening the way for the Elders.

The prospects of doing much good here in Darmstadt are very encouraging. We now hold Sunday school and a public meeting every Sunday, and a Bible class every Wednesday evening. We shall soon endeavor to make openings in the surrounding villages and not devote all our time in the city.

We feel that the work of the Lord is progressing with greater strides than ever before, and I as a missionary feel thankful that I was thought worthy to bear the great Gospel message and add my little mite to the furtherance of the great work of calling mankind to repentance, and proclaiming the true plan of salvation.

I wish to say to the young men in Zion who have not yet received calls, study the Gospel, take advantage of the young people's organizations and be prepared after receiving your call, to enter upon missionary duties on reaching your field. The humble missionary who spends his entire time in fulfilling his duties must admit at the close of his mission that it has been the most advantageous and happiest time of his life. I trust we are never forgotten in the prayers of our dear friends at home.

LE ROI C. SNOW.

PAYSON'S PIONEER VETERANS

Payson, Feb. 22, 1898.

Please give me space to say through the paper a few words concerning a meeting and party of the soldiers of the Black Hawk war and how it took place in Payson last week. A committee of seven was made and instructed to report on some plan to have a good sociable time together. There are but few of these old fellows left in this place, so the committee suggested that all over fifty years old who were here previous to 1868 should be invited and so it was decided to make arrangements for the opera house. There were committees on reception, invitation, music, etc., and all went to work with a vim for a lively time. The program appeared rather hastily made but the response to the call of the manager was prompt, and each performed according to their talent; in singing they were supported in the chorus, the errors in the speeches were charitably considered, and in the blunders in dancing no ex-

ceptions were taken. There was an offer for a round dance, but no one responded between 2 and 11 o'clock, at which time your correspondent left; he is told, however, that the dance continued away into the sma' hours. There were a few fine speeches made—one on the growth and progress of Utah in education, and one on the military arrangement in early times and during the Indian troubles, the loss of property, the time and means spent, the prospect of remuneration from government possibly in the future; the liberality shown to other states in the past for time and money spent in the protection of life and property gave the speaker faith that our petitions would yet be favorably heard and acted on. These utterances bordered on a degree of eloquence and true logic.

The results of the reunion, judging from expressions heard since, are good, tending to a closer fellowship and love for the integrity and fidelity manifested in a willingness to sacrifice all if necessary in the interest of country and the commonwealth of the house of Israel. CAMBRIAN.

FROM WISCONSIN.

Fond du Lac, Wis., Feb. 18, 1898.

Since our conference held in October, 1897, I have been traveling with Elder E. W. Croft of Paris, Idaho, in this, Fond du Lac county, and the experience we have gained during this time has been very profitable to us, and the kindness with which we have been treated by the good people of this part of the "Badger state," shall never be forgotten. How often, when we have been almost worn out walking and fatigued by the cares and worry of missionary life, has the Lord softened the heart of some good people until they have given us rest for the night and started us on our journey in the morning fully refreshed. We think we are laboring among some of the best people of the world.

I have been away from home about twenty-three months, and during that time have met many honest people, who have ever been ready to listen to the principles of the Gospel, while on the other hand there are thousands whose minds are poisoned with stories published by unscrupulous men and women. They will not listen to the humble servants of God.

At South Byron, eleven miles south of this city, special interest is being taken; people are providing themselves with the various Church works, and studying the plan of salvation as revealed to Joseph Smith; many of them have been heard to say: "We believe in baptism, that it is essential to salvation; we believe that continued revelation is necessary; we are of the opinion that God will send messengers to this people today if He has ever done so."

Our meetings in the above named place have been well attended and the people pay for the use of the hall, and while a few of the members of the lodge which owns the hall are raising objections to the Mormons using their building, we do not think they are in the majority. However, the people tell us they will provide a building, if they have to erect one. Some have applied for baptism.

Our conference president, Elder John J. Simmons, returned to his home recently on account of sickness in his family.

Elder E. W. Croft of this city has been appointed by the authorities of the mission to fill the vacancy caused by the return of Elder Simmons. I leave this city today for the city of Appleton to travel with Elder Edwin Lindsay of Bennington, Idaho, and Elder O. K. Nansen of Fairview,