

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### CONFERENCE IN SWITZERLAND.

Loulsen Str. 36, Darmstadt,  
Hessen, Germany, Jan., 1898.

Trusting it may prove of interest to the readers of your valuable paper, I pen you a short account of the East Switzerland conference: On Christmas day three public meetings were held in Winterthur, and the following day, Sunday, December 26th, two public meetings and a Priesthood meeting were held in Zurich. President Peter Lautensack of the Swiss and German mission, Secretary William F. Olson and Adolph Merz, translator for the Stern, were present. The following named Elders were also present from the Swiss mission: K. Muller, C. C. Nagel, W. R. Zollinger, W. B. Mathis Otto Rohner, Adolph Hafen, C. E. Gerber, N. Bumgartner, F. Neuschwander, J. Jacob, F. W. Penrose, C. Vaterlaus, C. H. Miles and Bruce L. Brown; and the writer as visiting Elder. Many Saints from the neighboring branches and conferences and a large number of strangers were present, so that all the meetings were well attended.

The first meeting was held Christmas morning at 10 o'clock in the hall of the Gasthof zum Lamm at Winterthur. The speakers were Elders Otto Rohner, N. Baumgartner and C. C. Nagel. The main subjects spoken upon were: The mission of Christ, His atonement and its importance to mankind; a close comparison was made of the teachings of men with those of Christ; the necessity of authority to administer in the ordinances of the Gospel was clearly shown; and the subject of the restoration of the Gospel through Joseph Smith was dealt with at some length.

The afternoon meeting was opened at 2 o'clock. Although the hall was very large, there were no vacant seats. Elder Adolph Merz was the first speaker. He expressed his joy and testified of the presence of the Spirit of God; emphasized the fact that the word of God has again been revealed to man; and bore a strong testimony to the truth of the Gospel. Elder Peter Lautensack occupied the remainder of the time, and spoke under the influence of the Holy Ghost to such a degree that strangers and Saints unitedly testified to its being one of the happiest meetings they had ever attended. The kingdom of God was the subject of his remarks. After giving a clear definition, the speaker brought forth with great distinctness the signs by which one may know the kingdom of God, and plainly showed what the laws of this kingdom are. He then proved that the kingdom of God is not to be found among the man-made religions of today, and that the Gospel of Christ, as revealed to Joseph Smith and now taught by the living oracles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is the only religion of today which possesses the necessary laws and characteristics to distinguish it as the kingdom of God. The speaker was particular to bring forth Scriptural proof to substantiate each statement made in his argument. He bore a strong testimony to the mission of Joseph Smith as a Prophet of God and to the restoration of the Gospel in its fullness.

The evening meeting was opened at 6 o'clock. Elder Le Roi C. Snow spoke on the importance of revelation and W. T. Olson on the subject of prophecy.

Sunday morning at 9:30 o'clock a Priesthood meeting was held in Zurich. Reports were given by the Elders of the East Switzerland conference, and without exception the Elders testified to the onward advancement of the work of the Lord in this portion of the

world. The missionaries are full of zeal and, strengthened by the wise counsel and encouraging words of our president, we shall return to our fields of labor with renewed energy and vigor.

The public meeting was held at 2 o'clock, Sunday afternoon, in the commodious hall of the "Casino Hottingen." Elder Charles H. Miles was the first speaker. The Book of Mormon was the subject of his remarks. He gave a short but lucid synopsis of its contents and cited passages in Holy Writ to prove the divinity of the Book of Mormon. Elder C. Vaterlaus was the next speaker, testifying of the "apostasy" of the earlier church from the Gospel, and its restoration through the Prophet Joseph Smith. Elder C. Muller spoke of the general plan of the Gospel and the first principles.

The evening meeting was opened at 6 o'clock. Elder Lautensack occupied the time. His remarks were very interesting, bearing directly upon the subject of prejudice. Many articles were read showing the views of great men of today regarding the Latter-day Saints, and clearly proving that the Lord is bringing about a great change in the minds of the people, and that public opinion is becoming favorable.

During the entire session of the conference, excellent music was furnished by the local choir, and a quartet by Elders Olson, Penrose, Miles and Brown.

Before closing I wish to testify to the great joy experienced by the Elders when in the path of their duty. Although thousands of miles from our loved ones in Zion, we can all truthfully say that last Christmas was one of the happiest of our lives, and I doubt if we could have enjoyed ourselves more had we been at home. We know our president is filled with the spirit of his mission and is "the right man in the right place," and his inspired words of advice are enough to encourage any Elder to give heart and soul to the advancement of the glorious work of the Lord.

LE ROI C. SNOW.

### WORK ON LONG ISLAND.

Jamaica, L. I., Jan. 19, 1898.

When last I corresponded "the little isle of truck farms" (outside of Brooklyn) was the exclusive territory of your humble servant, and I could exclaim with the shipwrecked mariner,

"I am monarch of all I survey,  
My right there is none to dispute;"

and certainly "the young Mormon Elder" (as I was familiarly known) had no one to dispute his claim to that title. But my solitary state is ended, for I have three brethren now with me to assist me in my duties. Our little band comprises the working corps of the newly-created Long Island conference, and our field of labor is extensive enough to keep us busy the rest of our mission. Within the month we have thoroughly tracted the villages of Hempstead, Mineola, Garden City and East Williston. At Hempstead we hired a hall for one meeting, and after visiting the people at their homes, personally inviting them, and distributing five hundred tracts, stating place and time of meeting, we succeeded in inducing a dozen persons to come and hear us. We afterwards held a cottage meeting, but not a soul came to it, so we preached to the lady of the house and a boarder. In justice to other parts of Queen's county, I will say that the village of Hempstead is exceptionally indifferent to the truth. The peo-

ple are, for the greater part, retired New Yorkers, who having made a success of business, are enjoying its fruits in fashionable idleness, and evidently feel indisposed to trouble themselves about their future condition. While on the subject of Hempstead I will add a few other items. The town (or properly speaking, township) is claimed to be one of the richest in the Union. It has no indebtedness, and has a surplus of \$450,000 in the bank. This desirable financial condition has arisen from the sale of several hundred acres of Hempstead land to the late merchant-millionaire Alexander T. Stewart. Upon the land he built a whole village of fine residences for city people, which is known by the very appropriate name of Garden City. One incident in the life (or rather death) of Mr. Stewart is worth recalling. About two years after his burial in St. Mark's churchyard, New York, 1876, the body was stolen from its grave. A ransom of \$20,000 was demanded for its return, and no questions to be asked. Although detectives were employed to search for the abductors, no clue to them could be obtained, and finally the full ransom was paid over in a prescribed way safe to them, and the body restored. The thieves were never discovered.

The body now lies under the church of the Incarnation, a fine cathedral erected in Garden City, by Mrs. Stewart, in memory of her husband. It cost one and a half million dollars and was presented to the Protestant Episcopal church. We had the pleasure recently of visiting this grand edifice. The virgins were most courteous to us, and seemed to take pride in showing his "Mormon" visitors the famous cathedral in all its details, even to the elegant communion service, and the bishop's robes of office. We appreciated his kindness, and repaid him in kind for his information, by telling him of our famous structures—the Temple and Tabernacle. We also gave him our cards and some tracts.

Compared with St. Patrick's cathedral in New York I consider the Garden City cathedral to be much superior. It is not quite as massive, but is richer in its material and furnishings, the display if sculptured marble and carved mahogany being quite imposing. The musical appointments also impress me. The building contains five organs—one on either side of the altar, called chancel organs, one in the chapel below, one in the tower, and one concealed in the lofty roof, called the echo organ, used for responses and distance effects. All the organs can be played simultaneously from one of the cathedral organs. This main instrument has four key-boards, and 124 stops. The five organs have 7,500 pipes. The total cost \$50,000.

As I have already stated, the remains of A. T. Stewart lie under the cathedral. His wife's remains are also there. Both bodies are now practically out of danger of any human molestation, for their metallic caskets are imbedded in a five foot layer of concrete, then covered with marble slab a ton weight, and the whole surmounted by a beautiful marble urn, weighing 3,600 pounds. The graves are enclosed in a circular marble mausoleum, and the privileged visitor can approach no nearer than to peer between polished steel bars, or through the fancy iron-work of the strongly-bolted door. Upon the stained-glass windows, which light up the grim abode of death with its vari-colored sunshine, are depicted the incidents connected with the glorious resurrection of our blessed Redeemer. All the surroundings contribute to make the sepulchre an ideal resting-place—the beauty of color and form, the purity of the chaste marble, the brightness of the burnished steel, the subterranean silence, the sacred edifice over head—all combine to in-