

Correspondence.

The following interesting letter, dated London, May 24th, 1871, was written by Elder Laron Farr, now on a mission to Europe, to his son-in-law, Brother John H. Smith:

I sailed from New York for Liverpool December 7th, 1870, had a good voyage for the season and though I was sea-sick, an entire stranger to all on board, and a "Mormon" I was treated with the greatest kindness and had considerable pleasure.

Arrived in England I visited a number of conferences of the Saints and was everywhere well received. The people are very poor, but as a general thing, they are kind. There are many who would make good citizens in the kingdom of God and live their religion, but there are others anxious to gather who are comparatively worthless. There are many honorable and high-minded men in this country who consider Utah and the "Mormons" quite favorably, and say that they only have to be better known to be more thought of and respected; but the masses of the people are determined to keep themselves ignorant of the latter-day work and of what God is about to do among the nations of the earth. They are bound down by priestcraft and wicked and corrupt men in high places, who know that if the pure principles of the gospel of Christ were lived up to by the people, that they would have to go to work for a living. There are honest men among the priests, who are trying to do all the good they can, but now that greater light has been revealed from God and the work preparatory to the second coming of Christ has been commenced, they are under condemnation for rejecting that light.

Bro. and Sister Eldredge and I left London on the 22nd of February, to make a continental tour. We went by way of Dover across the straits to Ostend, thence by rail to Brussels, where we spent two days with our friend Gen. and Mrs. Chetlain, who treated us very kindly, and manifested the same genial disposition that they did in Salt Lake City. They will retain a warm place in my affections for a long time to come.

Brussels is a very handsome place, and seems to be well governed. It is said to rival Paris for beauty, but I hope not in wickedness. We next journeyed to Cologne, where we visited the Cathedral and saw many monuments of antiquity. From there we passed up the Rhine, saw Strasbourg in the distance, and many beautiful cities, villages, castles, towns, monuments and old fortifications, situated all along the banks of the river, and in many places extending back in the distance to the summits of the highest peaks. Here and there was to be seen a bench or slope of land terraced and planted with vineyard. All of which made the valley of the Rhine very beautiful and picturesque.

When we reached Berne, Switzerland, we were kindly received by Bro. Schoenfeldt and Henry Snell. The latter gentleman accompanied us over the Alps into Italy; he being acquainted with the German language, and understanding some little of the French and Italian, we found him of great service.

Traveling from Berne across the Alps we passed the beautiful of Lake Lucerne on a steamer; it is around this lake where William Tell used to live, and figured in trying to liberate Switzerland. We saw his statue on a monument situated on the spot where it is said he was required to shoot the apple off his boy's head. Crossing the Alps and descending into the lower valleys of Italy the scenery was very grand, and different from any I ever saw. The mountains in Italy are cultivated to their very summits, being terraced all the way up, and in many places towns are situated high up their sides. The lakes of Italy as well as of Switzerland are very beautiful. We visited Milan, one of the oldest inland cities of Italy, containing the largest and finest Cathedral I ever saw. From here we proceeded to Venice, built upon her group of islands. There is much here to interest the tourist. There are no streets for teams to travel in, but canals instead. The people do all their traveling in boats or gondolas. We ascended a tower here, some 250 feet, in order to gain a good view of the city and islands. We next visited Florence, the late capital of Italy, and saw King Victor Emanuel; and from there proceeded to Rome.

In traveling by rail through the Apennine mountains the scenery was very beautiful. In beholding the cataracts

and chasms, old castles, fortifications and places of retreat, built high up in the mountains, some of them founded before Christ, and then gazing below and at the beautiful valleys and plains of Italy, covered with beautiful vineyards, olive trees by the thousands of acres, interspersed with mulberry orchards, with here and there a little fortified village, the houses of which are several stories high and painted white, one is filled with awe.

Rome appears, as it really is, a very ancient place. There is one main street leading through the city about three rods wide, the rest of the streets are narrow and short, and some of them very filthy. We inspected many ancient structures, some of which are rather dilapidated. We did not visit France, but proceeded to Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and other places and returned to England, having had a most excellent tour.

A Sockdologer.

In one of the interior counties of Missouri, some eight years ago, a man who followed preaching for a living. He was called Elder B—, and was engaged to preach to the Campbellites. His peculiarities soon made him quite noted, and large audiences assembled to hear him. Of late he has abandoned the pulpit, and is now a justice-of-the-peace lawyer. On one occasion, when at the zenith of his fame, he preached a discourse on the deliverance of the children of Israel, in which he said: "Brethren, there are many difficult passages in the Bible, and you are likely to be led into error unless made to understand them. Now, you all have read this chapter wherein Moses stretched out his hand over the Red Sea, and the waters became a wall, and the children of Israel went over on dry ground safely, and how the pursuing Egyptians, the chariots and horsemen, and all the hosts of Pharaoh were drowned. Now, my brethren, as this reads it is hard to believe and difficult to explain; but I will explain it. It doesn't mean what it says; for I tell you I have read it in the original Greek, and it is there all explained and made perfectly plain; and in the next translation of the Bible, which our church is getting out, it will be all explained. Now this passage of Scripture when properly explained means simply this: When Moses and the Children of Israel arrived at the Red Sea they camped all night and it turned cold, and the "strong east wind" caused it to freeze over; and the truth of the whole matter is plain, as you can see, that the children of Israel passed over "dryshod," on the ice. There were no such things as great walls. The original Greek will not permit any such unjust and difficult translation. And again when the Egyptians, with their immense armies, heavy chariots and great weights, pursued the children on the ice, they broke through it and were all engulfed, drowned and lost. This, my brethren and sisters, is the true and fair explanation of this circumstance, and the original Greek, in the next translation, will explain it to you all, and make it plain."

At this point a brother setting back in the congregation arose and said, "Brother B—, I would like to ask a question, if you have no objections."

The elder, looking triumphantly toward the brother, answered, "All right, sir; ask just as many questions as you want to."

"Well," continued the brother, "my knowledge of geography and the location of the Red Sea shows that it is located nearly under the equator, and is therefore a very warm country, and never known to be frozen. Will the gentleman please tell the audience where the ice came from of which he spoke?"

The elder became excited, and answered with lofty disdain, "If the brother who has asked me this question knew half as much about the Scripture and the geography of the country as he pretends to, he would know that this circumstance which I have explained happened thousands and thousands of years ago; yes, sir, thousands of years before the age of geographies, and before there was any equator! I think, brethren and sisters, I have answered the gentleman completely!"—Harper's Magazine for July.

TAKEN UP

BY the subscriber one sorrel horse MULE, small spot in forehead, branded C on left shoulder and left thigh, also S on right side of neck. The owner is requested to pay damages and take him away.

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