

ing and filling you with His Holy Spirit? In hours of sorrow, of affliction and of deep trial, did He ever fail to respond to your cries? I know He never did. No faithful man, no faithful woman or child ever went to Him and poured out their sorrow unto Him without His coming to their aid and their deliverance, and filling them with inexpressible peace and joy. He has lifted their burdens and He has lightened their sorrows and given them all that their hearts could desire.

Brethren and sisters, let us continue to put our trust in God, and I can testify to you that if you do so He will lead you onward until He will bring you into His presence and crown you with glory at His right hand; which I ask in behalf of all of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A MISUNDERSTANDING.

WE publish below a communication from Elder Theodore Brandley, correcting some inaccuracies which appeared in a statement published in the NEWS some time ago regarding the conversion, labors and experiences of Brother Walter Dietrich. The latter being unable to speak English our reporter was under the necessity of conversing with him through the medium of an interpreter. It is more than probable that most of the discrepancies to which attention is directed by Elder Brandley occurred in the process of transmission to a third party, and were inadvertent. The statement did not suggest to us that anything like even a seeming reflection upon President Stucki appeared in it. Probably the failure to observe it was because of our knowing him to be a large-hearted man and the soul of honor.

LETTER FROM SWITZERLAND.

THE DESERET SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS of Nov. 1st reached us in due time and contains an article which appears under the heading of "Remarkable Experience," regarding the conversion and labors of Brother J. W. Dietrich, late of Bohemia. Several inaccurate statements are made therein. One of them is of such a nature as to cast a shadow upon the character and judgment of our esteemed President, J. U. Stucki, and we therefore ask you to kindly permit us to correct it. The statement reads thus:

"He (Brother Dietrich) was sent to Bohemia as a missionary and there preached the Gospel most earnestly. As a result of his labors fifteen persons were baptized into the Church within the space of two months. On April 21st Brother Dietrich was visited by Elder Beck, by whom he was ordained an Elder. At this time, in Stuttgart, Elder Beck fully organized a branch of the

Church, which at present numbers upwards of thirty persons. By the secession of Brother Dietrich from the Catholic Church (which took place twenty years before) and his subsequent work in behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, quite a stir was created among the people, and a system of persecution began. In this the Bohemian government played an active part. There exists a law in Bohemia prohibiting baptism except by authorized persons belonging to the Roman Catholic faith (or any other recognized by the government), and it is likewise provided that no other religious doctrine shall be publicly taught besides that appertaining to the Catholic Church. Hence, no fewer than sixty-two charges were brought against Brother Dietrich. He was arrested but afterwards released to appear on a subsequent date and answer the allegations laid against him. At this time he took flight to Switzerland, and there remained for about a month, at the expiration of which period he was sent back to Bohemia by President Stucki, where he rejoined his family. While absent from his wife and children they had all been afflicted with small-pox and one of the children died from the disease. After his return to Bohemia Brother Dietrich eluded the vigilance of the authorities for upwards of the four weeks he continued there. He sought shelter in the woods, where he was almost daily visited by his wife."

Now it must certainly appear from the above that to send a man who had become an exile for the Gospel's sake, and against whom 62 charges were preferred, after a lapse of four weeks, back again to the place from whence he fled, was an unwise or cruel act on the part of President Stucki. But here are the facts in the case: After Brother Dietrich was baptized into the Church he expressed a desire to return home to his family, and in order to do some good he wished to receive a portion of the Holy Priesthood. At the request of Elder Beck, President Stucki gave permission to ordain Brother Dietrich to the office of a Priest. This was accordingly done, and Brother Dietrich returned to Bohemia, baptized the members of his family and several others. Then Elder Beck was asked to go to Reichenberg, where Brother Dietrich resided, and confirm the baptized believers, look after the labors of Brother Dietrich, and, if deemed wise, ordain him an Elder. This was also done; but no branch was organized. Another man was ordained a Teacher. Matters seemed to go on all right. President Stucki paid them a visit and called Elder Lewis M. Cannon to labor there and supervise the work in Bohemia. A few days after, the man who had been ordained a Teacher became a traitor. He revealed the work which had been done by Elder Dietrich to the pastor of the Protestant church at Reichenberg, and from these two originated—so we were told by Brother Dietrich—the persecution on the part of the government.

Hearing of what was going on, we at once telegraphed Brother Dietrich to come to Berne for safety, which he did as stated. While Brother Dietrich was at this office, President Stucki, the Elders and Saints did all in their power to alleviate the wants and suffering of the distressed family, and knowing that they would have to suffer greatly if allowed to remain in Bohemia—where every avenue of making a livelihood had been closed against them, to some extent even before they joined the Church—President Stucki and myself issued a call for help upon all the German speaking Saints at home and in this mission for the deliverance of Brother Dietrich and family from their distressing circumstances in Babylon.

In the meantime Brother Dietrich had been here for about a month, and not having any papers, it became necessary for him to change his location. In a conversation which he and President Stucki had upon the matter of his going to work and the choice of his field of labor, Brother Dietrich stated that he had many friends in South Bohemia whom he would like to visit and bear testimony as he considered himself safe for a few weeks. Thereupon President Stucki concluded to let him go and see what he could do. He was set apart, and told to be careful. A safe return was promised him, and the means for the journey furnished by this office. About three weeks after Brother Dietrich wrote to President Stucki that he was on his way to North Bohemia, where his family resided, and was penniless.

President Stucki sent him, advising him to return to safe quarters and also necessary funds to do so; but during the time Brother Dietrich had gone into the neighborhood of Reichenberg and made arrangements for one meeting with his family in an adjoining forest. As soon as that was over he started on his return trip and arrived safely in Berne. The Saints had by this time responded cheerfully and liberally to our call, one sister, Anna Kuehn, who is in service in the city of Paris, France, giving permission for the use of all her hard-earned savings for the family of Brother Dietrich. They were supplied with everything needed to make the journey to Zion, where according to all accounts they arrived safely, though we have not heard from them personally.

We were not aware that sixty-two charges had been preferred against Brother Dietrich, but were told by him that quite a few could be preferred under the law. Previous to Brother Dietrich and family and five other souls leaving, the mission in Bohemia numbered twenty-four adult members and eight children. A few have turned away, and two have been added by baptism.

We submit this to your judgment, but feel that this statement of facts, as we know them, is necessary in order to do justice to our President. We do not believe the inaccurate statements to which we have referred were made with the intention of injuring anyone, but they