

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Written for this Paper  
IN MUNICH, GERMANY.

MUNICH, July 18, 1895.

With an idea of contributing something to the columns of the News which will probably prove interesting to some of its readers, I send the following description of Munich, consisting of some of the most important and interesting features to be seen here, together with some of the happenings, incidental to missionary life in this part of the world.

It is now some six months since the writer arrived in this very interesting city of Munich, the metropolis of the Bavarian kingdom and of all German cities, a follower of Berlin in size. The arrival was in the depth of winter and he was given a hearty welcome by the members of the Church who are to be found here, consisting of some thirty-eight souls the majority of whom are glad to be identified with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints, and who in most cases rejoice exceedingly in the knowledge of the truth and in the strength of the testimonies which they can bear regarding the genuineness of the gospel, as restored to the earth through the prophet Joseph Smith. This knowledge and certainty of having taken the right course in numbering themselves with the people of God, serves our members as an impulse to the performance of good works which are indeed characteristic of every good Latter-day Saint.

At present in the Munich branch there exists the greatest peace and union, especially among the good members who are all zealous in the spreading of the Gospel and work for the welfare of the cause of truth. There are some few, however, who have become lukewarm in their religion, in most instances as a result of their disappointment in not being able to emigrate, for which special object there are some who join the Church and for no other reason than the bettering of their worldly condition. To this end they generally want to emigrate and when they fail they have, as a rule, no more use for Mormonism. But on the other hand those who have become baptized for the Gospel's sake and with the sole idea of serving the Lord and working out their salvation, let come what may in other respects, it is generally the case that they come through all trials, hardships, persecutions and privations victorious and they feel that they can serve the Lord here with as much contentedness as in Zion.

The greatest disadvantage with which we have to contend here is the lack of religious freedom as a result of especially discriminating laws which have been passed against us, and which are at present in full vogue. The only thing to do in this situation is to wait patiently for a turn in affairs, and we believe it must inevitably come soon; and then with unlimited freedom existing nothing can arrest the progress of the work we have before us of warning this nation from which no doubt will be gathered many thousands of honest souls. At present, however, we dare not distribute a single tract for if we did, it would

mean banishment, and considering "discretion the better part of valor" we withhold our tracts until the outlook is more propitious. We are compelled to hold our regular Sunday meetings in the greatest secrecy and behind closed doors. The holding of meetings of any kind, political or religious, is in conflict with Bavarian laws, but under the present conditions we think we are justified in not obeying the letter of the law, in this respect, as long as it does not come to the ears of the police.

Our greatest enemy in this regard is the clergy who though professing to be teachers and followers of Christ, are often the greatest persecutors of His Church, as well at this day as they were at the time of the Savior Himself. Last Sunday in the Royal Theatiner church, one of the largest in the city, was given a highly colored tirade against the Mormons and their teachings which of course without judgment were all condemned with high-sounding words and wild gesticulations, but which for point of proof fell flat to the ground. The clergyman stated that two American Mormon preachers were in the city, teaching their pernicious doctrines, against which he wanted to warn all those belonging to his fold. Among other things he stated that he would give a reward of 200 marks (\$50) to the person who would betray us into his hands. "But," added he, as a finishing touch to his declamations, "the Lord will stretch out His arm and break the bands of darkness," and it would be better for the gentleman to leave it to the Lord and not bother himself about it. He does not seem to realize that when he calumniates the Mormons and their teachings, he also slanders the teachings of Christ, for it He were on the earth at the present time would certainly advocate the same doctrines which He laid down to us 1800 years ago. As to the carrying out of the plan of betrayal, we will do all in our power to prevent it, and if it is possible will foil their designs.

When the weather is favorable and will admit of holding meetings in the open air, we generally betake ourselves to one of the many forests surrounding Munich, and seating ourselves upon the grass we hold our meetings with nothing but a canopy of green for our tabernacle. You may be assured, though, that we enjoy the Spirit of the Lord, and when we come together in this way, we indulge in the singing of hymns which we dare not risk doing in our indoor meetings. Last Sunday the writer held meeting in the forest, and in the middle of the services, one of our clerical friends walked past at a distance of but a stone's throw from where we were assembled. Had he cast his eyes toward us he would undoubtedly have seen us and caused trouble, but it seemed that the Lord averted his glance and he disappeared in the trees, leaving us entirely unmolested for which we were very thankful.

There have been several of our Elders banished from the portals of the Bavarian domain, as a result of having been "caught in the act" of preaching the Gospel. After the policeman has found the meeting, the Elder is summoned to appear at police headquarters where he

is compelled to "acknowledge the corn" (of which, by the way, our elders are not ashamed, but only too proud to be preachers of Mormonism) and then he is given his "walking papers," and when he has received these, he generally requires no passport to take him over the Bavarian boundary line.

The proselytes which we obtain here generally receive their impetus in seeking the truth through the efforts of our active members, who of course are more or less acquainted among the people, and in this manner, probably through incidental conversations, they scatter the seeds of truth and often instill an interest in the breasts of the people which ends in baptism. In such a place as this we have great cause to appreciate the exertions of our members, who when they have the right spirit can often "start the ball rolling," where it would be impossible for an elder to do so.

The reason of the great probability of there being a fruitful field opened here some day is the favorableness with which the people listen to our teachings, although there are few who have an opportunity to hear. Judging from this one would be led believe that the people would be very friendly disposed towards us if they had the chance, but they are so under the ban in religious affairs that a great change must take place, in order to allow the people to bring about an exercise of their own free will and agency. Within the last six weeks we have baptized four people, who all seem to be really honest in their intentions, and it was a joy to hear the testimonies which they bore at our last fast meeting. The writer intends visiting a man to-night who expresses the desire to enter the waters of baptism, which ceremony will probably be performed next Sunday evening. We have to do our baptizing in a secret place and by night when the darkness shields us from detection. However, with all this care we were once betrayed by some person who was evilly disposed towards us, and an article appeared in one of the newspapers concerning it. It happens that the canal in which we baptize runs through the King's grounds and the water is used for his private bathing and the journal spoken of made much ado about this.

At present we anticipate with great joy a visit from President Anthon H. Lund of the European mission and President Geo. C. Naegle of the German mission, who will probably reach us in the course of two weeks, and spend a few days in our midst. This will give us new encouragement and cheer us greatly. The companion of the writer, Elder C. D. Schettler, is at present in Vienna, having gone there on missionary work as well as to see the town. He will return in time to be here when our visitors come, who during their stay will probably take in some of the sights of the town, and there are not a few. Munich, to the close observer, is as full of things worth seeing as it could very well be. It is indeed a centre of art, and many artists of note maintain that it is not excelled by Paris, although the latter place contains the largest art gallery. It is said, however, that for fineness of art display and music, Munich cannot be surpassed.

The Royal theatre here is one of the features worthy of notice, where are