

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### OVERRULED FOR GOOD.

It is not often in the recent history of the Church that members of an entire branch are arrested, yet such an event occurred recently at Munich, Bavaria, the particulars being furnished in a letter to President Lorenzo Snow from his son Le Roi C., now on a mission to Germany. The incident is quite interesting, and illustrates the strictness of the law in Bavaria in regard to religious meetings, and also the lack of information and prejudice that prevails there concerning the Latter-day Saints; but beyond this, it also illustrates a fair and kindly disposition among the German officials when the facts become known to them, and over all the providence of the Lord in opening the way for the delivery of the Gospel message, and in overruling for good circumstances which seem to threaten ill. In assembling as the members of the Munich branch did there was no violation of the law, yet so strict is the statute against meetings at which foreigners are permitted to be and talk, that prejudice might construe the meeting so as to bring some of those who took part under the ban of the law. It was in this adverse view of the case that the police made the arrests and confiscated the books of the Saints. An unwise course on the part of Elders and Saints might have resulted in an unfortunate manner, but the other course was pursued, and the requirements made of Elders and Saints to appeal in such matters were complied with promptly, with the most satisfactory effect. Not only was the seized property returned, but those who had been arrested were relieved from any prospective punishment by fines, and the whole incident opened the way for the Elders to preach the Gospel to people whom, without something of the kind having occurred, it would have been impossible to reach. The effects may go very much farther and more favorably yet, judging from the present outlook. But in any event, the Munich incident adds one more to the many experiences of the Latter-day Saints where, when apparently untoward circumstances threatened, their obedience to counsel and their trust in the Lord that follows a consciousness of being in the line of duty, has brought a much richer blessing for the progress of the work than could have been attained by the ordinary processes when no such adversity appeared in sight.

### IT IS AN AIRSHIP.

From the telegraphic report from Nashville, Tennessee, it appears that Professor Barnard of that place really has an airship that will do something. The vessel sailed out fifteen miles and returned eleven, when the supply of gas failed, and the aerial navigator was compelled to descend, which he did in safety. That the vessel cannot overcome all the air currents is shown

by the fact that a sudden gust of wind broke one of the spans of the ship; but even the strongest steamship is sometimes at the mercy of the sea, and in this case terra firma was regained without injury to the occupant. A further and excellent opportunity is given, in the continued use at the exposition, to ascertain what the Barnard ship will do. As its action is described at present, it looks as if another step had been taken toward an achievement reasonably certain of attainment, when men shall fly through the air as well as skim over the surface of the waters.

### THE ETHNIKE HETAIRIA.

Reference has often been made in the dispatches to the Greek patriotic society, the Ethnike Hetairia, whose leaders seem largely responsible for the outbreak of patriotic enthusiasm that forced the Greek government to go to war with Turkey. Very little is known, however, of that organization; but it is believed its members consist of the most highly educated Greeks at home and abroad, and that their ultimate aim is the liberation of all Hellenes now living in the Turkish provinces. As one of the chiefs of the society is mentioned George Gussio, the manager of the Anglo-Egyptian bank. He personally attended to the equipment of the revolutionary corps which entered into Macedonia. Michael Mellas who is an ex-mayor of Athens is mentioned as president of the council of the Hetairia. He belongs to a noble family of the Epirus. D. Stefanon, who is also a member of the council, is a former minister of foreign affairs of Greece.

The Hetairia undoubtedly is a revival of the so-called Friendly Hetairia founded in 1814 and active in the struggle for Greek independence. The New York Tribune says this society divided its members into seven degrees—friends, the recommended, priests, shepherds, arch-shepherds, devotees, and the chiefs of the devotees. When a member was admitted to the Hetairia he was commanded to have ready his arms and fifty cartridges, so as to be prepared when the orders of his chiefs should be issued. While advancing to the higher degrees the member was taught that he must fight to the death the enemies of the religion of the Greek race and his fatherland, and during the initiation a sword was intrusted to the candidate with the following admonition from the chief: "Thy country hands thee this sword, so thou canst unsheath it for her sake." The membership certificate which was handed to the advanced members bore the sign of the cross and underneath a reversed crescent. It is believed that the same degrees of membership and similar by-laws have been adopted by the new organization. It has signs and passwords and a cipher for correspondence between its different branches, thus insuring absolute secrecy. The power of the organization is due to several circumstances. Its leaders are men whose patriotism

and honesty are beyond doubt. They never meddle with the internal policy of the country and consequently draw support from all parties, and only tried and faithful members are admitted among the ranks. No one is permitted to join until it has been proved he is a man of honor and a warm patriot, able either by his social position or his intellectual talents to contribute toward the success of the object of the Hetairia.

Speaking of the origin of the society, or rather its revival at this time, the New York Tribune says:

Among those who follow closely what is going on in Greece it is not a secret that some of the most enthusiastic and influential followers of the National Hetairia are Free Masons. Taking into consideration the fact that the Greek Freemasonry has lately been organized, having as its main object the freeing of the Greeks still remaining under Turkish misrule, it would tend to the belief that to the Greek Free Masons may be attributed the first movement for the establishment of the National Hetairia.

### A BICYCLIST AS A LIFE SAVER.

Accounts have been published showing how careless bicyclists are a menace to life and limb, as frequently people have been hurt by such wheelmen, and in some instances fatalities have occurred. The conduct of wheelmen whose negligence causes injury cannot be condemned too severely; but because some bicyclists ought to come under the ban of the law more than they do, it is not to be said that bicycling is to be classed altogether as a threatening danger to pedestrians. In calling attention to the evils of careless riding, it is also fair to the better class of bicyclists to name some of the exploits that bring honor to the riders of the wheel; and one of these occurred in New Jersey on Saturday last.

Lawrence Long of Perth Amboy had been out for a spin on his wheel, and was on his way home. He had nearly reached the place where the Central railroad of New Jersey crosses the road, when he heard the rumble of a train coming down the grade. He moved along slowly, to let the train pass, but, looking ahead, saw a small child on the track, looking with wonder at the approaching train. In an instant he calculated the distance between himself and the child and between the child and the train. Bending low over the handle-bar, he started on his errand of life-saving. The engineer saw the little one, and blew his whistle to alarm her. It looked as if the engine would win, but, putting on an extra spurt, Long dashed over the crossing just a few yards ahead of the pilot of the engine. The train hands were hanging over the cars with blanched faces. When Long passed in front of the engine he caught the child in his arms. The trainmen burst into a yell of delight. The momentum of the bicycle was so great that Long could not manage it, and it dashed into a gutter—man, child and bicycle in a mix-up. The child was a little frightened, and ran off home. The bicycle also came out of the affair without a scratch, but Long was painfully injured about the legs. He says he does not want another such experi-