

Utah, returned yesterday from Denmark, where he has been laboring as a missionary for the past fifteen months. Elder Christenson was president of the Aalborg conference and reports it as being in splendid condition. His coming home at this time was occasioned by the news of the sickness of his wife, Mary H. Christenson, who died recently of appendicitis. Elder Christenson was en route for home when the sad news reached him. He will have the sympathy of the entire community in his sad bereavement.

Elder Jacob Schultness, of the First ward, this city, called on the "News" Saturday, having just returned from the Swiss mission. He left home on the 6th of June, 1896, and reports having enjoyed his mission very much.

Elder J.H. Brinton of Big Cottonwood, returned today from a mission to the Sandwich Islands. He left home May 26, 1896, and has labored while absent on the plantation, on the island of Oahu. He reports things there in a very thrifty condition and says they have just completed a large pumping plant with three artesian wells supplying sufficient water for 350 acres. Elder Brinton visited Maui and other places while on the island, and enjoyed his labors very much. He also saw the famous volcanoes and made a trip to a coffee plantation. He says there are about 300 Church members on the island of Oahu, and all are living their religion. Elder Brinton had good health and is pleased to be home again.

#### FOOD FOR REFLECTION.

The Lincoln Leader some time ago contained the following report of a street meeting, held by Mormon Elders in that city. It contains much that should give ministers in other countries food for reflection:

"About two years ago some Mormon missionaries visited Lincoln, and conducted services in the streets, meeting with a certain amount of success. Obeying orders from headquarters, they were called away to undertake work in another part of the country, and since then the few followers they gathered round them had been left to themselves, although a few families left England for Utah. Recently, however, two of the Elders, who had been laboring in Nottingham, were directed to proceed to Lincoln, and they arrived in the city about a fortnight ago. The Elders are Stephen Parkin and Chester F. Campbell (who is accompanied by his wife). They have held meetings in St. Benedict-square, Mint-street, St. Mark-square, and other convenient public places in the city. Until Monday last they had held their meetings peacefully and quietly. Probably most people who heard them would not be able to distinguish them from members of any of the Evangelical churches. Had they not owned themselves to be Mormons, the disgraceful scene which occurred in St. Mark's-square on Monday night would never have taken place. The noisy crowd, among whom were a number of drunken men, which gathered round the preachers would never have collected together but for the intervention of the Rev. W. H. Osborne, the ever-present vicar of Stainton. While one of the Elders was speaking, this clergyman of the Church of England stepped up to Mrs. Campbell and asked who the speakers were. He was told that they came from the states, and were Elders of the Church of the Latter-day Saints. 'Mormons?' said he. 'We are sometimes called Mormons,' replied the lady. Here was an opportunity dear to the heart of this doughty champion of the Church of England. Raising his voice, he shouted: 'It's a piece of im-

pudence for you to appear in this nineteenth century on the streets of Lincoln.' 'I'll tell you who these people are,' he added. Then he began to talk in an excited manner to the people round him, telling them that men and women had been murdered in Salt Lake City; that girls had been dragged away from their homes in England and forced to become the wives of Mormons. When Mr. Parkin had done speaking he called upon Mrs. Campbell to bear testimony to the manner in which women were treated in Utah State. Mrs. Campbell, who is a tall, delicate, refined-looking woman, with a Burne-Jones face, in a few words spoke of the life which her sex live among the Mormons. She told them the tales they had heard of the murder and ill-treatment of women and girls were utterly false. No where in the world would they find girls more virtuous and chaste. From their early childhood they were taught to believe that immorality was a sin only second to that of murder. The girls and women were perfectly happy; and they lived under much brighter and happier conditions than many of the women she had seen in other states. Apparently silenced on the question, the Rev. W. H. Osborne then stepped up to the speaker and began to question them respecting certain passages in the "Book of Mormon." He declared that he had a copy of the book thirty years ago, but he had left it at Stainton. Quoting from memory he asked the speakers hether that book did not state that Adam was their father and god, and that Adam had more than one wife? In a very excited manner he proceeded to ask numerous other questions which were by no means of an intelligible nature. He loudly demanded proof for this! and an answer to that! but carefully giving no time for reply. When the reverend gentleman was obliged to stop for want of breath, Mr. Parkin replied that his questioner had traveled from Genesis to Revelation and that it was impossible to answer his questions all at once. Then the vicar broke in again and amid cries of "Go it Billy!" "Give it 'em!" "Rub it in!" he entered on another long string of questions, ending by expressing his pleasure at having an opportunity of upholding the truth. "How long will you be here?" he demanded of the Elders. "About two years," was the reply. "I'll fetch my bood from Stainton," he prove what I say" said he. "Everybody knows me, the vicar of Stainton," he continued amid loud laughter and cries of "Don't we Billy?" The reverend gentleman again proceeded to tackle the Mormons. The Elders stood the badgering with a good temper and fortitude that showed them to immense advantage over their raving opponent, who was evidently endeavoring to stir up the crowd against them. However erroneous their opinion may be considered on some matters, the Mormons certainly showed a calmness of demeanor under the most trying circumstances which spoke well for the sincerity of their faith. Of course to attempt to answer the Rev. W. H. Osborne was worse than useless, and the missionaries were wise in holding their peace. They eventually worked their way out of the crowd and beat a retreat amid the jeers and groans of the crowd. What a glorious victory for the Rev. W. H. Osborne, of Queen's College, Birmingham, and vicar of Stainton, in the diocese of Lincoln! May the bishop be proud of him!

Perhaps, writes a correspondent, there is no religious body about which more misconception and ignorance exists than the "Latter-day Saints." "Mormons" is a nickname, derived from their belief in the "Book of Mormon," which they regard somewhat in the light of a second Bible. Many

people seem to suppose that Mormons have only one idea; that the one end and aim of their existence is to preach and practice polygamy. Such an idea is as incorrect and narrow as it would be to state that the whole and only purpose of Christianity is to maintain monogamy. Of course to the unthinking orthodox mind, the idea that any religion should have at any time countenanced or enforced polygamy, is more than sufficient to condemn the rest of its creed unheard. This has very largely been the attitude of English people towards the dwellers in Salt Lake City. Nobody in England will seriously undertake to defend plurality of marriages any more than they uphold prostitution. But while people are so willing to condemn those who believe in the one, it must not be forgotten that as a nation we are most apathetically guilty concerning the other. Looking at the past and present condition and position of Mormon women, the general health and strict morality which has existed in the State of Utah, there can be little to choose between the lot of the Mormon wife and that of thousands of married women in England. If anything, the position of the Mormon woman has been far better and far happier. She is looked up to and respected in a way that our English women do not understand, while her general intelligence and capacity for undertaking the full duties of citizenship is testified by her having the vote. If against these we place that awful, endless and increasing army of degraded British women, who, by the sin of men, have made their bodies the merchandise of lust; those thousands of England's pure daughters whom we sacrifice every year to falsely maintain the Christian idea of marriage; if we throw these into the scale against the Mormon ideal, on which side will the balance strike? Legalized polygamy is at least as moral as unlicensed prostitution. Seven years ago the United States legislature intervened and prohibited plural marriages. Why pains, penalties and imprisonments were not similarly put upon the libertine we are not told. After a struggle the Mormons gave up polygamy, in obedience to the command of their Prophet. It has been stated that they have only done so outwardly. Such a statement can only be made by those who are in entire ignorance of Mormon ideas. One of their first laws is obedience to all kings, princes, and governors. In support of this they furnished a regiment five hundred strong to assist the states in the Mexican war. At the word of their Prophet they have loyally adhered to the state decree against polygamy.

There is little in this creed of theirs which will be questioned by the orthodox. Where it is found to vary from that held by other churches, may be explained in a word. They believe in the literal interpretation of Scriptures. Hence, the promises of healing the sick, speaking in divers tongues, descent of the Holy Ghost and prophecy they hold to be possible today as ever. But their interpretation goes beyond mere beliefs; it leads them to carry their religion out of the narrow sphere of private life into the whole system of social relationships and state government. Briefly, they may be described as Christian communists. They believe that one of the first duties incumbent upon them is to promote the best possible conditions under which their people should live. Under individualism, which must necessarily create selfishness and jealousy, they consider it would be impossible to secure the needs they desire. Salt Lake City is probably one of the best governed and most prosperous towns in the