

[From our own Correspondent.]

GERMAN LETTER.

NURNBERG, Germany,
April 8, 1882.

The Deseret News:

Since my last to you I have braved perils of the North Sea and the perils of a thirty-hour railway journey into the heart of the most phatic of countries, by one of the best of trains, along with the best of officials and fellow travelers among whom I enjoyed the distinction of being the only one who could speak English and only one who could not speak German. The difficulties of the trip, ever, were much more than counterbalanced by the pleasures of sea voyage and the new and strange scenes which from the car window every moment burst upon view. The usually turbulent North Sea was smooth as a river, "all the winds slept soundly," and on the land the delightful weather of the past few days had tilled the soil in the fittest condition for the labors of the landman.

THE ME OF THE RIP VAN WINKLES.

Coast fields stretched away on every side, green with the sprouting grain or grass, or furrowed in the later presence of the rude effective plow. I wondered how a progress had been made in the North Sea when I noticed the general air of inactivity that prevailed. Everybody we passed seemed to be afflicted with that laziness politely called the "ring fever," for it seemed to me that at least three-fourths of the laborers I saw were in a state of rest. A little snorter that pulled out in partook of the infection, and took advantage of every village along the line to pant, cool off and gain its breath as it were. At each station the same drowsiness was apparent, and I saw the necessity of half dozen warnings which are always given before the train starts. From the dandy official in the blue coat and red cap, who is master of the train and all its belongings, to the little porter who rings the warning signals on a great bell, and whose badge of servility is a plain white coat, I failed to see one active and awake man, scarcely one who had enough life in him to draw the smoke through his huge long-handled pipe and puff it out of his mouth. Sometimes a red-capped fellow would arouse himself sufficiently to address one of his subordinates, in violent language, which, if translated, I have no doubt would resemble the anathema of Dickens' "rate" Mr. Wardle upon the head of the fat youth: "Joel! D—n that boy, he's asleep again!"

VIGILANT INSPECTORS.

From the contemplation of such universal somnolence it is refreshing to turn to the conspicuous activity of the constabulary and their co-laborers, the detectives or spies, whose name in this country is legion. For instance, it is a law of the land, that no stranger shall remain two days in any city without furnishing the magistracy information as to his name, his name, and the nature of his business in this country. Whether he stays at a hotel or with a private family, these questions have to be answered, and anyone keeping him beyond the two days without seeing that these regulations are complied with, is liable to a heavy fine. One would naturally think that in a city of a hundred thousand inhabitants, scores of visitors could come, remain a week or two, and then go without attracting the attention of anybody, even though they or their host neglected to give the necessary notification at the burgomaster's office. Let no one delude himself into such an opinion. The spy system is so admirable that no matter how humble your stopping place, even though it be a single garret in the outskirts of the town; or no matter how little you may eat or where; or no matter whether you are large or small, old or young, rich or poor, your movements are every day reported to the chief of police by some one who knows what clothes you wear, what your habits are, where you ate or slept last, where you came from, how long you are likely to stay and where you are going next. I happen to know more about my own case than about that of any one else, so I will be excused for mentioning it by way of illustration. A friend who is employed in the building that answers to the purpose of our City Hall, tells me that he

heard my name mentioned, my appearance accurately described, even to the color of my eyes and hair, the fact commented on that I was from Utah, and more recently from London and more recently still from Munich where I had remained a week; and that I expected only to abide here a few days and then go to Berlin, Bremen and other places in the north of Germany. Now, this is just as correct an account of my doings as I could possibly have given myself; but where the officials get their information I cannot conceive, for I have only been in the city thirty-six hours, and have scarcely exchanged words with anyone. In fact I cannot speak enough German to tell where I intended to go, even if I wanted to. You can imagine how gratifying such notoriety is to a person distinguished for his williness and humility.

GUILTY.

It is sad to think that in connection with such splendid organization and with such thorough opportunities for acquiring information the judicial system should be so frightfully at fault. The rule of jurisprudence in other countries, that a man is to be considered innocent until proven guilty, is here reversed, and until he can prove his innocence his guilt is never doubted. So the credit which the courts take to themselves for securing more convictions than their fellow jurists in England and America will be easily understood.

NO WATER IN THEIR'S.

The laws are very strict against religious innovators, and they are enforced with particular severity against all such innovators as believe in the doctrine of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins. Not long ago this ordinance was being attended to near the city in the quiet of night when the police appeared on the scene. This was the signal for a general scattering and in the darkest all escaped capture. However, a man living here who is well known for his devotion to that principle and others equally obnoxious to the religious opinions of the country, was summoned to appear and answer to the charge of baptizing contrary to law. He obeyed the summons, and though he stoutly maintained his innocence and though the police could not swear that he was in the water or even present, yet the magistrate decided that unless within three days he could produce testimony that some one else did the baptizing, he should pay a fine of 40 marks (\$10). It is this negative sort of evidence accepted in all cases, that helps wonderfully in keeping the prisons full; because, though a man may be entirely guiltless, as in the case quoted he undoubtedly was, if he is the victim of circumstances his conviction and punishment is assured.

UNHOLY BONDS.

The United States is not the only nation which has taken it into its head to make laws respecting marriage, as to what forms are legal, etc. One of the latest achievements of the Bavarian government is the passage of an act, which goes into effect this month, declaring all marriages illegal which have not been or shall not be performed by a judge. A couple who are so unfortunate as to have been married by a clergyman, no matter how they may have lived together as man and wife for half a century, are required to appear before the magistrate, once more make their vows to each other and have the ceremony performed over again. If this is not done, both parties, if they continue to live together, are subject to fine and imprisonment. It will, however, in all such cases—and in this view they may be considered fortunate—render easy the matter of divorce, which is a luxury, under ordinary circumstances, far beyond the reach of plebeians; for the simple neglect of a man or woman to submit a second time to an infirmity which they have been regretting from the first, is enough to constitute, to all intents and purposes, a lawful separation. Some of the weaker vessels who have by reason of acting the part of good, obedient servants to their husbands become desirable property to retain, insist, with a return of maiden coyness, but with vastly more experience as to the deceitfulness of mankind, on a second wooing with all its accompanying pleasures in the shape of invitations to theatres and ice cream or sour kroust, and the usual presents and love tokens which cease with marriage, when with hesitating bashfulness they may again be overcome by the vain pro-

mises of forgetful lovers. So the new law, with all its outrageous requirements, is not without some beauty. The measure was designed, it is said, to bring more money into the state coffers which are sadly depleted notwithstanding the enormous taxes and license fees already imposed. Each judicial marriage will bring about 100 marks clear profit to the treasury, whereas the priest would tie the knot just as securely for one tenth or twentieth of that sum. On the other hand the large income from divorce fees will be materially lessened; and, finally, it is not unlikely that a goodly number of the men throughout the kingdom will love a hundred marks better than they do their wives, and will rather cling to the one than to the other. As a financial move, therefore, the success of the law is open to question.

THE WAR PATH.

Figuratively speaking, Germany is the character who struts around Europe with fists doubled up, ready at any moment to take up a quarrel, and sometimes even trailing his coat tails on the ground, inviting somebody to step on them. Truthfully speaking, it has an enviable military prestige, the most skillful generals, and the most cunning diplomatists in making favorable alliances with its neighbors. So there is not nearly the fear over the late belligerent utterances of the representative of the Czar that one might expect to find. There is, on the contrary, a feeling of the utmost confidence and security. The army was never in better condition as to the class of men; its number was never so large in time of peace, and was never susceptible of such rapid increase in case of war; while the improved arms, the splendid discipline of the troops, the thorough knowledge of the officers in all the elements of modern warfare, and the constantly increasing strength of the fortifications of the military towns, together with the ambitious desire to acquire further possessions and an enlargement of territory, all combine to make this nation not at all averse to the idea of picking up any gage the Great Bear of the north may see fit to fling down. It seems incredible that a country like this, with so poor a population, can maintain such an immense standing army. The secret lies in the fact, that the law makes it necessary for every man, no matter what his condition, to serve a part of his life as a warrior, for which service he receives, if a private soldier, the magnificent salary of three cents per day, his clothing and board found. Those who can pass a satisfactory scientific examination are only required to remain one year in the regular army, while those whose education is not so good, have three years to stay there. After that, each one is for twelve years liable to be called for in the reserve, the Landwehr and the Landsturm. In case of war all these are called out, but the latter class are more privileged in that they cannot be required to go out of their own country.

CUMULATIVE PRIVILEGES.

The following strange piece of information has been given to me as a positive fact: for every fine imposed upon or term of imprisonment suffered by an individual here, it is the custom to deprive him of some of the rights and privileges which the more law-abiding citizen is said to possess. (It may be mentioned that it requires a keener eye than that of your correspondent, and indeed than that of most of the law-abiding class themselves to discover where these extra privileges are). But exactly the opposite, paradoxical as it may seem, is the case. The oftener a man is punished for breaking the law, and consequently the more rights he loses, the greater liberty does he acquire; until the freest men out of state prison are those who have been inside the most. How this conclusion is reached I cannot tell, unless by the same system of logic as that which convinced the Israeliite clothes dealer, who lost two dollars on every coat he sold, that he was only able to make a living because he sold so many.

KIEW.

Correspondence.

St. Louis, Mo.,
April 19, 1882.

Editor Deseret News:

Trees, shrubs and the infinite variety of plants situate in St. Louis

and surrounding country, have for the last two or three weeks been busy in producing an effect that plainly bespeaks the arrival of spring. The markets abound with varieties of fish, such as the majestic Mississippi contains in profusion, also radishes, onions and asparagus, strawberries and blackberries and other early fruits and vegetables. Interspersed and surrounded with floral exhibits of varied hue and almost countless variety. The several parks in different portions of the city have come out clothed in the raiment of spring and present a very attractive appearance with their statuary and other ornamental acquisitions. But the pleasurable sensation produced while in the vicinity of these tastily arranged spots abruptly terminates when you continue your line of march beyond into the narrow contracted streets of innumerable angles, devoid of those pleasing features that characterize the broad and cleanly streets of Salt Lake City.

Our labors in the City of St. Louis have been attended under the blessing of the Lord with encouraging results, since our arrival here we have baptized 12 persons and blessed 6 children besides scattering the seeds of life among others of the inhabitants of this State which we have reason to believe will sprout and produce fruit. One of our number, Elder Geo. C. Parkinson, whose mission when set apart called him to the Southern States and thence to England, took his departure for Europe the 18th of last March after having labored assiduously in the Southern States mission between eleven and twelve months. He left the port of New York on the 28th, aboard the S. S. Nevada, trip 10 days.

On the morning of March 24th, President John Morgan arrived in St. Louis with a company of 118 souls from the South and was joined at this point by six more from Prairie Co. Arkansas. After transferring 102 of them from their respective trains on the Wabash, St. L. & P. to Kansas City, President Morgan placed the balance of the company, whose destination was Utah, in my charge with instructions to see them safely aboard the U. P. R. R. with their baggage, tickets, etc.

Bro. M. F. Cowley accompanied Prest. Morgan with the major part of the company to Manassa, Conejos Co., Colorado, they left St. Louis in the morning, and the Utah company and myself left in the evening, at 8.20. Owing to the R. R. bridge over the Missouri River at St. Charles being considered unsafe to run over, our train was obliged to go by way of East St. Louis, up through Illinois and cross the Mississippi at Louisiana, which greatly prolonged the hour of arrival at Council Bluffs, instead of making the trip in 14 hours we were over 20, bringing us so near the time of the U. P.'s hour of departure that I was obliged to prevail upon the R. R. officials to defer the trains leaving until sufficient time had elapsed to enable me to procure my tickets, etc., that I might obviate the necessity of having the Saints lay over a day at Council Bluffs. A great deal of credit is due the R. R. officials and employees whom I met while in charge of our people on this occasion for their affable and kind treatment.

I returned to the smoky metropolis of Missouri, where I labored in the ministry for three weeks alone. Much to my joy and satisfaction, on Friday 14th inst. Brothers Morgan and Cowley arrived in St. Louis from Colorado; the same morning brought Elders Charles F. Martineau, Walter G. Paul, Nathaniel W. Haws, and Jos. L. Hunter, four missionaries called to the Southern States at the recent Conference. Elder Adam Wilcox, of St. Charles, Bear Lake, also arrived the same morning on route home, having labored in the State of Alabama for the last 18 months.

The Missouri Conference convened at Union Hall, 1,310 Broadway, Saturday and Sunday, April 15th and 16th, 1882, at 2.30 and 7.30 p.m. each day. There were present eight Elders from Zion, including Prest. John Morgan.

Saturday, 2.30 p.m. After the usual exercises and prayer by M. F. Cowley, the time was occupied by Elder Howe, who made a few remarks on the object in coming together in a conference capacity, followed by Elder Cowley, who gave an interesting description of his visit to the Saints in Colorado, reporting them as being well, both temporally and spiritually, and in a flourishing condition; stated they had while absent assisted in administer-

ing the ordinances of baptism and laying on of hands to 50 persons.

At 7.30 p.m. the assembly was addressed by Elders Hunter, Martineau and Wilcox in a very brief but spirited manner. They were followed by Prest. Morgan, who bore a forcible testimony to the establishment of God's kingdom upon the earth, never more to be thrown down; read from 1 Corinthians, first chapter, commencing at the 17th verse, and made some very appropriate remarks thereon.

Conference then adjourned till next day.

Sunday, 2.30 p.m.—The hall was well filled by Saints and strangers. Following the usual services and administering of the sacrament, Prest. Morgan alluded to the oneness of spirit always actuating the Latter-day Saints in their conference deliberations, and also the perfect freedom enjoyed by them in all these affairs.

The general authorities were then presented in order. Also John Morgan as President of the Southern States Mission, Matthias F. Cowley and Geo. E. Howe as traveling Elders in the Missouri Conference, all of whom were unanimously sustained.

Brother Morgan concluded by giving the Saints some good advice.

Brother Cowley occupied the balance of the time speaking though briefly, yet with power and precision upon the four fundamental principles of the Gospel of Christ.

At 7.30 p.m. the hall was again well filled with Saints and strangers who listened with rapt attention to a discourse delivered with power by President Morgan who took for his text the 5th verse of the 3d chapter of St. John.

The conference was then brought to a close by Elder Howe.

Monday night President Morgan and the four Elders from Utah continued south to their respective fields of labor, they were well and in excellent spirits. The health of the Saints as a whole in St. Louis is quite fair considering the abrupt changes of the weather which St. Louis has been heir to this season. The outlook for good resulting from our conference is very promising.

Ever praying for the welfare of Zion and wishing to be remembered in the prayers of the Saints, I remain your brother in the Gospel of love,

GEO. E. HOWE,
1114 Cass Av.,
St. Louis, Mo.

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