

planted and the grass gets big enough for their ponies to live on, they gather together in bands and dance, feast, gamble, etc., the rest of the season.

They are Catholics in name, but are ignorant of what the Catholics believe. They have no one with them to teach them anything. When they gather at the agency once in three months the priests talk to them in Latin. It is very seldom anything is said to them in a language they can understand. We do not consider that their being nominal Catholics is necessarily a bar to doing a good work among them. They are much holder to meet and try to talk with the white man than the full bloods among the Cherokees. In fact they would sometimes call to us half a mile away and come running to ask what we wanted, where we were going, where we came from, etc., when they couldn't talk a word of English but had to do all by signs. As before stated, they are very badly scattered. The most thinly settled portion of the Cherokee country is no comparison.

As ever, your Brother in the Gospel,  
J. J. HILL.

#### IN WEST VIRGINIA.

Though peace and prosperity generally prevail in the West Virginia conference, and the Elders here are usually the recipients of the kindness and hospitality for which the Southern people are justly noted, yet we are not entirely free from those scenes of lawlessness which have disgraced too many of the States of our great Union. A few months ago two of the Elders visited the county seat of one of the counties in which they were laboring. While at a store there purchasing some articles a man entered and requested them to go with him to another store where, he said, a dispute was going on about the "Mormons," or Utah, and he wanted the brethren to decide it. After a short delay the Elders proceeded to the place indicated, but instead of having a problem to solve, they found themselves surrounded by a mob of armed men. One of the number told the Elders they must leave the town. The Elders inquired:

"On what grounds do you make your demand? We have not disturbed the peace of this community, nor in any way infringed upon the laws of the town or State. We are American citizens, and are entitled to the protection of all good men until we break the law; and then we are amenable to the law."

"We don't believe in your doctrine," was the reply.

"What is our doctrine?" asked the Elders.

This somewhat checked the mobocrat, for "Mormonism" had not yet been expounded in that locality. All they knew of it was what they had gleaned from the lying accounts with which the country is flooded.

"We don't know anything about your doctrine," stammered the leader of the gang, "and we don't

want to know anything; only you men must leave!"

This is the case with nearly all those who oppose "Mormonism." Like the mob who rushed with Paul's companions into the theatre, the "more part" know not what they are howling about. It is probable that not a man in the mob knew just why he wanted the Elders to leave. One of them would occasionally draw out a large butcher's knife and slip his thumb along the edge, as if testing the keenness of the blade. He would leer upon the brethren like a veritable Shylock thirsting for blood. Finding it useless to waste words with such unreasonable people, the Elders walked leisurely away, to seek a more congenial spot.

A few weeks after this incident the following paragraph appeared in the newspaper published in the town where it occurred:

"Several Mormon Elders are, we understand, holding services in the school house in Fayette county. If the people of this State possessed the 'grit and backbone' that the citizens of this place do, Mormon Elders would make themselves scarce in this country. Several weeks ago two of these Elders were notified by parties residing here that if they did not absent themselves in ten minutes they would leave wearing a coat of tar and feathers. Further warning was not necessary."

This presents a mournful spectacle in our beloved land of religious toleration and liberty. An armed mob, in broad daylight, drive from the town two men whom they were compelled to acknowledge, and who had conducted themselves as gentlemen. A newspaper, the duty of which should be to defend the Constitution and uphold justice and liberty, takes sides with a mob, encourages lawlessness, and applauds the actions of men who, if the law were to take its course, would serve a term in the penitentiary.

The same paper also published an account headed "Mormonism," from which the following extracts are taken:

"We print below, by request of the members of the Clear Creek Literary Society, a copy of an article adopted by said Society, which is mighty interesting reading."

For several months past the Mormon Elders having been among us disseminating their false doctrines and teaching, and well knowing the danger of their errors and practices to society and our people, we, the members of the Clear Creek Literary Society, present the Elders with the following indictment and request them to leave our district.

"You have disseminated false doctrines among our people."

You have held them as exiles in a Western land. You have treated them as slaves of a bonded faith. You have squandered their property, reduced them to want and required of them tithes and high taxes.

You have compelled infants to kill their own mothers because they attempted to escape from your territory. You keep constantly on the road spies and detectives to prevent your dissatisfied people from leaving and exposing your crimes."

The people at home will smile at

such nonsense as this, and it will seem to them impossible for any sane person to entertain belief in such stuff for a single moment. Yet there are people here who, while exhibiting more than ordinary intelligence on other matters, say they believe these statements, and spread them abroad as facts.

The "article" from which the above extracts are taken was sent to the Elders by the so-called "Literary Society."

As a result of the publication of these falsehoods and numerous other untrue statements circulated by our enemies, frequently from pulpits by Christian (?) ministers, mobs have been organized in the neighborhood of Fayette County. On the evening of February 27th, the Elders laboring in that county were warned that a mob had prepared to call for them that night. After dark the brethren left the house at which they were staying, and went through the woods to a stranger's residence, where they were kindly entertained. In keeping with the warning, a mob visited the place the Elders had left and searched it, but in vain. The Elders were at that time slumbering peacefully several miles away. The mobbers posted up the following notice: "We hereby notify the 'Mormon' preachers that they must leave Raleigh County within twenty-four hours from the date of this notice, or we will hang them to a tree. Given under our hands this the night of February 27th,

VIGIL COMMITTEE.

P. S. We further notice you that you must not stop within the State of W. Va."

The brethren continue to attend to their labors, having many warm friends and some earnest investigators in Fayette County.

Shortly after this, while the brethren were at the house of a friend, they saw a band of men with blackened faces advancing stealthily up the hill toward the house. Leaving the house the Elders went down the hill on the opposite side *presto presto!* Having again escaped the mob they proceeded to another locality, where they are now quietly performing their duties. Though mobocracy bears away in the district named, hopes are entertained that reason and common sense will yet supplant the religious hatred and bitterness of feeling that now prevail.

Other portions of the Conference are enjoying quietness at present. The Elders are raising their warning voices and extending their labors into districts where the "glad tidings of great joy" have not previously been heard. Some are accepting the truth, out "straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Though persecution and slander are now and again met with, instead of discouraging the "fishers and hunters" whom God has sent out, they tend to cheer and strengthen the Elders. They know that these same things followed their Divine Master and the ancient Saints, and will be met by all who will "live