

men and women threatens to kill him and with much difficulty he is rescued by the police. Such is a trial at which the honor of France is at stake.

What the final outcome will be is not possible to foresee. It is believed that if it can be proven that the government has sacrificed an innocent man in order to shield corruption in the army, a revolution may be looked for, and if this is seen coming, the temptation to plunge the country into a foreign war will be very strong. In the meantime hatred against the Jews is being stirred up and mobs take advantage of the situation and band together for violence and plunder.

#### SIMPLY MURDEROUS

The Alcorn Democrat is a weekly paper published at Corinth, Mississippi, by the "Democrat Publishing company," of which George B. Brown is manager. The editor's name is not given, but he is capable of expressing sentiments that are downright murderous. In the issue of the paper named dated Jan. 14, appears an editorial article under the caption, "Mormonism in Mississippi," in which reference is made to a Mormon conference shortly to be held in Jackson in that state, and to the Elders that are traveling in that section. Of them the article says:

"Should one of these detestable, infernal and hellish dastards, that seek to blast the hopes and wreck the lives of the poor and ignorant under the guise of religion, attempt to explain the debased creed of the Turkish libertine to a lady relative of ours, we would kill him as quick and with less compunction of conscience than we would the most poisonous reptile which ever crawled upon the earth."

The writer claims to have been in Utah and Idaho "when polygamy was openly practiced," deploring the fact that the "Mormon Church has a membership of 500 in Mississippi," and declares that "where Mormon Churches exist polygamy will be practiced." In harsh language he brands as false the declaration that plural marriage has been abandoned, and his article throughout is coarse and brutal in the extreme. Following is its closing paragraph:

"Now is the time to act. If a Mormon Elder calls at your home, order him to leave. If he does not get a lively move onto himself, get your gun and do your duty. The man who will not, or fails to protect his household, is not only a disgrace to the state but a menace to civilization."

In times past the license of the press has been carried to the utmost limit of toleration in some portions of the United States, notably in the mining regions; but such utterances as these from the Alcorn Democrat would have outraged public opinion in the wildest mining camp in America in the roughest days of vigilance committees and lynch law—even in those places and in those days some respect was paid to liberty of conscience and free speech. That an old and presumably order-loving and law-abiding commonwealth like the state of Mississippi should maintain a newspaper which, in highly inflammatory editorials, advocates deliberate and wholesale murder as the means of checking the spread of a religious faith, is astounding.

The time has been when such a publication, in portions of the South, would have caused massacre. The life of a Mormon within the influence of the excitement occasioned by it, would have been sought and taken eagerly. More than one awful tragedy, instigated by similar means, bears historic

testimony to the truth of this. But such murderous agitators as the Democrat's editor have had their day and have done their work. Their occupation is gone. The American public has thrown off the mood that made their utterances tolerable, or their influence effective, and public opinion throughout the United States is conceding to Mormons the same rights of worship and propaganda that other sects enjoy.

There is little fear that the blood-thirsty exhortations of the Democrat will produce the result desired by their author; on the contrary, there is every reason to believe that he will lose both prestige and patronage, and ultimately sink into oblivion, unless he repents.

#### A REMARKABLE CONVERSION.

The Almighty has His own methods of bringing to pass the conversion to the Gospel of such individual members of the human family as have been fore-ordained to that destiny; and often His ways are utterly inscrutable to mortals. Illustrations of the truth of this are familiar in the experience of most members of the Church, especially such as have labored in the mission field; but an instance in which a man was convinced of the truth of the teachings of the Latter-day Saints has just come to the knowledge of the "News," which is unusually interesting.

It will be remembered that in the year 1884 the popular prejudice against Mormonism and the Mormons was very strong. The historic "raid" on polygamous families, that continued with such severity for several years, was just being fairly inaugurated, and Mormon Elders in various parts of the United States, notably in the South, were meeting with much and bitter opposition, and not infrequently they were victims of mobocratic demonstrations. In that year Elders C. F. Christensen and W. F. Garner were laboring in Carter county, Tennessee, when they were arrested on a charge of "teaching polygamy, and inducing people to move to a country where it was practiced." Of course the charge was an absurdity from a legal standpoint, but it served as a pretext for placing the Elders in jail.

One of the men who aided in arresting the Elders was named Wm. C. Sutphin, and he has written a letter to Elder Garner, whose home is now in Clifton, Idaho, which the recipient forwards to the "News." Mr. Sutphin is evidently a man of fair intelligence though not of finished education, and while his letter may be open to criticism from a scholastic standpoint, it tells a story of the providences of the Almighty, and bears a testimony, that far more than redeem its literary defects. It is dated Hale, Mitchell county, N. C., Jan. 11, 1898, and slightly revised for the types, it reads as follows:

Mr. Wm. F. Garner:

Dear Sir and Brother—For the first time in this life I seat myself to drop you a few lines to tell you something perhaps, that will do you some good. I am one of the men that were with the officer in Carter county, Tenn., when Elders Christensen and Garner were arrested, and if you remember, one of you said to the other: "We might preach to these men as they did to the janitor of old."

Little did I think that I would find your words of any benefit to me; but God, for my sake, put me in that wicked officer's hands to help do that work, that my prejudiced heart might be softened; and I can bear my testimony that from that very day I commenced to search for the truth.

But I never saw another pair of Elders until 1893, at which time I was

ready for the water. Elder Thomas W. Sloan baptized me, and Elder John R. Terry baptized my wife last spring. I had been a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in belief for four years before I or my family had heard a Mormon Elder preach. The little book known as the Voice of Warning did all the preaching to me except what you and Brother Christensen did that lonesome night, going from the head of Shell Creek to Roan Mountain.

I am the oldest man that was in that gang and the one that did the most of the talking, and asked so many questions. But it was God's will for me to be there; one reason was that I should protect you from harm, and the other was to show me the way of truth, for without that I would perhaps be today where I was before that notable night.

Now brother, as you know, God always sends His judgments on those who will not heed His teachings but seek to do evil. That wicked constable who had the papers for you Elders, came to his death on the railroad at the station. He was standing on the road and did not seem to try to get away. His body was torn to pieces and he filled a drunkard's grave.

We can only pray that our Heavenly Father will hasten the time when His Spirit will cover the land as the waters do the sea, and when there will be no drunkards.

We send love to you all. Your brother in the Gospel.

WM. C. SUTPHIN.

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church," and the sufferings of the servants of God form an important portion of the testimonies and evidences that will either convert or condemn the world. No doubt Elders Garner and Christensen feel rewarded for the night they spent in riding to jail, and for the imprisonment and other forms of persecution they endured while in Carter county.

#### A SIGN OF DEATH.

With many people there has always been a haunting fear of the possibility of being buried alive, owing to numerous instances related to the effect that such has been the fate of some. A Chicago oculist, Dr. Chalmers Prentice, now announces that the appearance of the veins and arteries in the human eye is a sure indication of whether life is extinct. The claim is that during experiments covering a period of twenty years, the simple test has never been found to fail; in cases of suspended animation, his observation had sometimes saved the patient from being buried alive. The test is said to be based on the fact that in life the veins and arteries of the retina have a distinct difference in color. The veins contain a dark, blackish blood, while the arteries contain a bright crimson. At the black part of the eyeball these two shades of blood may be seen under the light of the ophthalmoscope dividing the retina. Even in the case of the blind this distinction in shade may be seen, unless, of course, an opaque film has formed over the injured eyes, or the eyes have been entirely destroyed. In death, however, Dr. Prentice has found that the shade distinction entirely disappears. The blood in both arteries and veins is transformed into a pinkish color of uniform shade. It is confidently claimed that this simple test is infallible.

A half-breed Indian named Thomas Welch, convicted recently at Helena, Mont., of murder in the second degree, was removed to the state penitentiary Monday. Welch was implicated in the murder of Winnie Brown, a Tongue river rancher.