

to a man for a donation, and if the person thus visited should happen to be cross or out of temper for some cause, the likelihood is that while in that state of feeling he would refuse to give anything; and so a variety of causes would operate to render the mission an unsuccessful one. But let a sister appeal for the relief of suffering and poverty, and she is almost sure to be successful, especially if she appeals to those of her own sex. If you take this course you will relieve the wants of the poor a great deal better than they are now dealt by. We recommend these Female Relief Societies to be organized immediately.

Another thing I wish to say. You know that the first Thursday in each month we hold as a fast day. How many here know the origin of this fast day? Before tithing was paid, the poor were supported by donations. They came to Joseph and wanted help, in Kirtland, and he said there should be a fast day, which was decided upon. It was to be held once a month, as it is now; and all that would have been eaten that day, of flour, or meat, or butter, or fruit, or anything else was to be carried to the fast meeting and put into the hands of a person selected for the purpose of taking care of it and distributing it among the poor. If we were to do this now faithfully, do you think the poor would lack for flour, or butter, or cheese, or meat, or sugar, or anything they needed to eat? No, there would be more than could be used by all the poor among us. It is economy in us to take this course, and do better by our poor brethren and sisters than they have hitherto been done by. Let this be published in our newspapers. Let it be sent forth to the people, that on the first Thursday of each month, the fast day, all that would be eaten by husbands and wives and children and servants, should be put in the hands of the Bishop for the sustenance of the poor. I am willing to do my share as well as the rest, and if there are no poor in my ward, I am willing to divide with those wards where there are poor. If the sisters will look out for rooms for those sisters who need to be taken care of, and see them provided for, you will find that we will possess more comfort and more peace in our hearts, and our spirits will be buoyant and light, full of joy and peace. The Bishops should, through their teachers, see that every family in their wards, who is able should donate what they would naturally consume on the fast day to the poor.

You have read, probably, that we are starting the school of the prophets. We have been in this school all the time. The revelations of the Lord Jesus Christ to the human family is all the learning we can ever possess. Much of this knowledge is obtained from books, which have been written by men who have contemplated deeply on various subjects, and the revelations of Jesus have opened their minds, whether they knew it or acknowledged it or not. We will start this school of the prophets to increase in knowledge. Brother Calder commences to-morrow to teach our youth and those of middle age the art of book-keeping and impart to them a good mercantile education. We expect soon to have our sisters join in the class and mingle with the brethren in their studies, for why should not a lady be capable of taking charge of her husband's business affairs when he goes into the grave? We have sisters now engaged in several of our telegraph offices; and we wish them to learn not only to act as operators but to keep the books of our offices, and let sturdy men go to work at some employment for which by their strength they are adapted; and we hope eventually to see every store in Zion attended by ladies. We wish to have our young boys and girls taught in the different branches of an English education, and in other languages, and in the various sciences, all of which we intend eventually to have taught in this school. To-morrow evening we shall commence our course of lectures on theology. To that class I have invited a few, but not many. I believe I have invited the First Presidency, the Twelve Apostles, Bishop Hunter and his Counselors, the first seven presidents of Seventies, the Presidency of the High Priests quorum, the Presidency of this Stake of Zion, the High Council, the Bishops and their Counselors and the City Council. A few more will be invited, enough to fill the room. I wish us to profit by what we hear, to learn how to live, to make ourselves comfortable, to purify ourselves and prepare ourselves to inherit this earth when it is glorified, and go back into the presence of the Father and the Son. God bless you. Amen.

## Correspondence.

St. IMIER, Switzerland,  
November 5, '67.

*Editor Deseret News:*—Realizing the interest you have for the welfare of the Kingdom of God and the spread of truth in these latter days, and thinking a few items from this far off country might be of some little interest to you, I venture to write a few lines for your perusal, although I am rather a poor hand to communicate my thoughts on paper.

In company with br. John Hoagland I arrived in Switzerland about the last of August, 1865. We were welcomed by brothers Wm. P. Nebeker and George B. Spencer. At first we were entirely ignorant of the languages spoken here, could not even ask for the most simple though indispensable necessities to sustain life, but we found good and kind friends who administered to our wants we applied our minds to study, the Lord blessed us and our efforts, and we soon began to talk a little, though very slow and broken. It was some weeks before we could attempt to speak in public, and my first trial was a task for me; yet I hardly knew who had the most difficult task, I to speak a few words in broken and patched up sentences, or the hearers to make sense of what was said, and understand my meaning. By diligence and practice the difficulties began to disappear gradually, and I became firmer as my knowledge in German increased; but I am still unable to converse as freely as I should like to do; nevertheless I shall not complain, but will rejoice in doing what I can.

From April until August of this year, br. Hoagland and I were the only valley Elders in this mission. We did what we could for the good cause, and were assisted by some good, faithful native brethren. In August we had the pleasure of welcoming brothers K. G. Maeser and O. Ursenbach, who had come to join us, and we were very glad to see them. During the last two months I have been traveling with br. M., visiting the several branches, preaching, visiting and instructing the Saints in their houses, &c.

While we were together our course led us to some of the principal cities in Switzerland, and we also saw four of its beautiful lakes. When we arrived at Landschlacht, (a small village on the shores of Lake Constance), br. Hoagland joined us, and while on the way from there to Herisau, about 20 miles walk, we were caught in a storm which reminded us of January more than October; however we made the trip all right. This storm did considerable damage in some parts of East Switzerland, by breaking down fruit and other trees, and causing a sudden freshet that injured factories and mill dams, and soaked some cellars, etc. In some of the more mountainous districts a sharp frost killed many plants and gave vegetation quite an autumnal appearance. The grain and potato crops are light, in some places hardly returning the seed; hay and fruit crops are better than last year.

I believe the cholera which has been raging in Zurich has subsided, but very few if any cases are heard of now. As yet I have not heard of a single case amongst the Saints, although some are living in houses which the epidemic has visited. Many were swept away by it.

The Saints, as a general thing, feel well, rejoice in the principles of the everlasting gospel and are anxious to gather to Zion; but they are poor, and as times are hard and wages low, many of them must have help or they never can gather. They are anxiously looking and praying for help.

The brethren laboring with me in this mission are feeling well and are energetic in their labors. We have all sorts of tales and prejudices to contend with, and we receive many striking testimonies of the truth while defending and spreading the same. I am happy to say that, notwithstanding all opposition, the work moves slowly onward, the truth continues to spread; and some are found who are honest and brave enough to believe and embrace it. The principles of the Gospel of life and salvation are so plain and simple that it often seems strange to us that people cannot understand it. Some consider it too simple to have any weight or power; they want something more wonderful, startling or difficult to comprehend than the plain truth, yet they will close their eyes to many wonders in this dispensation, and look on them as a thing of naught. I find it less difficult to get people to acknowledge that we teach Bible doctrine, than to get them to believe and embrace the Gospel. The blindness and shadow of darkness which

are upon the people is astonishing. The clergy are also teaching and counseling. They tell the people to "beware of the 'Mormons,'" we are a good for nothing yet dangerous set and they must keep out of our way," etc. Notwithstanding all this and much more, we find some who will receive our testimony and be numbered with the Saints of God.

As for myself I rejoice in the good work, and desire to do all in my power for its furtherance. The wicked may scorn, ridicule and howl, but the principles of the everlasting Gospel will bring all through safely, who yield strict obedience to them and to the servants of God. I am thankful that I have come here to defend the truth and gain an experience. I often think how many of my young brethren almost shudder at the thought of going on a mission, and feel as if it was too hard a task; yet God blesses His servants and assists them continually, and it is one of the best things that could happen to us, young men, when we are sent to labor in the vineyard of our Lord. It is true we often feel weak, but Our Heavenly Father will help us as long as we are faithful to our trust, and when we have Him for our friend and assistant we are strong enough. To this every brother who has faithfully labored in the ministry will, I think, bear witness, for they have experienced it themselves.

I have already written to a considerable length, but before closing, I will say a few words relative to the Saints corresponding with their friends in this country. Many write very seldom or not at all; some write once in a while, but something is written which is not well understood, and which causes surmises as to their comfort, freedom of the pen or their happiness. Some write occasionally, and very good letters; it is a pleasure to read them. It would be a great help to the Elders, a source of satisfaction and comfort to many Saints and friends here, and a furtherance to the latter-day work if the Saints in Utah would write more frequently, not only to Saints here but to their relations and friends; thereby showing them that they have the liberty to write when and as they please, and also giving testimony that what the Elders are now proclaiming is the work of God, and that they are not deluded or blindly led to some awful place of misery and ruin.

Ever praying for the spread of righteousness and the welfare of the faithful,

I subscribe myself

Your brother in the Gospel,  
JOSEPH S. HORNE.

20TH WARD, G. S. L. CITY,  
December 10, 1867.

*Editor Evening News:*—I am desirous of giving the public, through your columns, a description of the process of making matting in the East Indies.

Having fixed upon the dimensions, they drive wooden stakes into the ground at the two ends of the space, an inch apart, (but I would suggest a pole with nails driven in.) A small cord is then tightly stretched from one end to the other, forming parallel lines. Small rushes are woven in and pressed in with a small bat. When filled, the edges are bound according to fancy, with sheep skin or cloth; and the rag ends trimmed with shears. Such mats as these will last for years, with care. They would be found good substitutes for carpet where economy is aimed at.

Yours truly,

WM. WILLES.

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