

## FROM THE MISSIONARY FIELDS

## Conference in Iowa.

Des Moines, Iowa,  
October 31, 1898.

The conference of the Elders laboring in the state of Iowa was held October 8th and 9th at Sioux City, in the large auditorium of the courthouse, and was very pleasant and interesting as well as instructive. There were present Elder Louis A. Kelsch, president of the Western States mission, and seventeen Elders of the Iowa conference. Eleven of the Elders of this conference are from Utah's vales, two are from Idaho, two from Colorado and two from Mexico.

During the conference the Elders spoke upon the various principles of the Gospel, in a manner that demonstrated that the faith of the Latter-day Saints is founded in eternal truth, and is harmonious in all its bearings with the truths of science and reason, as well as the word of God.

The daily papers announced the conference, and made friendly comment on the labors of the Elders, as well as the method of preaching without purse and scrip.

The press in many portions of the state has changed its policy on the Mormon question considerably within the past year, and through the medium of articles written, and interviews with Elders, much prejudice has been and is being allayed.

At the close of the conference Elders Thomas D. Wallace and Conrad J. Smith were honorably released to return to their homes and loved ones.

The assignments of the Elders to fields in this conference was then made as follows:

Elders E. M. Bickmore and N. Hansen, Sioux City.

Elders W. H. Garner and E. Ormond, Pottawattamie county. Address Council Bluffs.

Elders H. Bisel and C. H. Rasmussen, Chariton, Lucas county.

Elders John W. Wheadon and Henry Ericksen to Red Oak, Montgomery county.

Elders J. E. Anderson and Parley Williams, Fairfield, Jefferson county.

Elders David Rishton to get a new companion and labor in Madison county. (P. O. at Creston.)

Elders J. F. Thomas and E. G. Taylor, Des Moines.

If Saints in Utah or elsewhere have friends or relatives in Iowa whom they desire us to visit, we shall be glad to do so at the earliest opportunity. The Saints should give this matter thoughtful consideration, as it often paves the way for opening up the Gospel in a locality where prejudice has previously hedged up the way.

Letters may be sent to Elder J. F. Thomas, president of the Iowa conference, 1413 E. Court avenue, Des Moines, Iowa.

JOSEPH F. THOMAS,  
President of Iowa Conference.  
THOMAS D. WALLACE,  
Clerk of Conference.

## In the Sunny South.

Cottdale, Ga., Nov. 5, 1898.

After eagerly reading over your columns I concluded to write a few lines. I am in that portion of the Lord's vineyard called by Spanish explorers "Land of Flowers." I left my mountain home so dear in June of the present year. When I felt myself gliding away from the Rockies many a thought of home, friends and enjoyment came and sped through my mind. I was going because God had called and I wanted to show my patriotism to the grandest and greatest cause on earth. About thirty of us went together. How I wondered who and what I would come in contact with during my absence. I tried to picture in my im-

agination what I would see and what I must pass through.

I was sent to Alabama and then I came to Florida. We have met many kind friends and some that were not so kind. I have instructions now to go to Mobile county, Alabama, about 250 miles. In the county that I have been laboring in much sickness is noticeable. I have just begun to realize what a Mormon is and what the Gospel of Christ requires. If I had one thing to say to our young people, I would say, read our books more; study the Gospel, read the sermons that are preached by the oracles of the living God and learn to sing the beautiful songs of Zion. A song in the South, sung in the Spirit of God, is equal to a sermon.

It is getting cooler here now. Summer is gathering up her robes of glory and is slowly gliding away. The officers are losing their look of beauty, and to me the birds seem to sing of the slowly dying year.

Our conference is progressing under the leadership of Elder Irving L. Pratt of Provo, and the Elders are interested in the cause of the great Creator. Their desire is to honor their parents, to honor the cause, and to honor the Lord.

W. H. BOYLE JR.

## In East Tennessee Conference.

Columbus, Polk Co., N. C.,  
Nov. 7, 1898.

Still the "little stone" rolls on. The East Tennessee conference was held at Plattown, Forsyth county, N. C., on August 27th, 1898. All the Elders came into Plattown with smiling faces ready to accept the feast which they had been so anxiously waiting for. At our Priesthood meeting I was appointed to labor with Charles A. Berg of Sandy, Utah. On the 30th of August we started for our new county, joining South Carolina. As we reached the county we were advised by the people to stay out of certain parts as it was very dangerous, but knowing we were taking God's message and that He would protect us, we did not fear. We soon reached Columbus, the county seat. The first man we met was the editor of the Polk county News. He was standing by the court house. He appeared to be in deep thought. I introduced myself and handed him a tract. "Oh, Mormons!" was the reply. "Yes, sir; that is what the people call us."

A smile ran over his face. "You call yourselves ministers of the Gospel, do you?"

"Yes, sir." "Well, we have got the Gospel here, and you had better make tracks to Utah, for we have no use for you, nor your doctrine."

We assured the gentleman that we were United States citizens and as long as we did not harm any one, we had a perfect right to go through the country.

The gentleman assured us again that we were not wanted in the city and that if we did not leave, we could expect trouble. We told him that as soon as we had done our work we would go. We were told that the Mormon Elders had been driven out of the county and that we would be. Finally he told us that he would publish our meeting in his paper and guarantee us a "good crowd" of people. We next went to see the mayor of the city, offering a silent prayer in our hearts. He seemed to be a kind gentleman. We introduced ourselves to him and gave him a tract and sold him a voice of warning. He showed us his house and asked us to come and see him again. He told us that we could distribute our literature and the people would be pleased to receive it. We found this to be the case. The people

treated us very kindly and asked us to call again.

We next went out in the country and finding friends everywhere anxious to find out something about the Church of Latter-day Saints, we had the privilege of explaining the Gospel to them. We met with some persecution, but this did not hurt the cause of truth.

HARRY E. SHRIVES.

## A Conference in Texas.

Jeddo, Nov. 8, 1898.

By request I report our late conference held at Jeddo, Bastrop county, Texas, in the Southwestern States mission.

The Elders had a fine arbor prepared to hold conference in. Elder Wm. T. Jack met us at 5 p. m. on the evening of the 2nd. After a consultation of the Elders, it was decided to make a new conference, which was done and it was called the Austin conference, with Elder Wm. H. Jardine as president.

At 7 p. m. Elder Wm. T. Jack called a meeting of the Elders reporting their labors for the past six months, and by Elder Wm. T. Jack. On the evening of the 2nd the wagons began to come in from the surrounding districts, some coming as far as twenty miles. On the morning of the 3rd the first Austin conference convened. There was a good attendance of Saints and investigators present. The conference continued four days, three sessions each day with a good attendance each session. The time was occupied by Elder Wm. T. Jack and the Elders who were present. All the speakers had the influence of the Spirit of God, and the people got the word of the Lord from the lips of His servants. The people listened attentively to the remarks of the Elders.

All the Saints present testified that they had been built up in their most holy faith.

Sunday being the general fast day the Saints came together fasting and the afternoon session was devoted to testimonies. A number of the Saints bore strong testimonies to the truthfulness of the work they had espoused; even little children no older than eight summers arose and testified of the goodness of God toward them. No one can imagine what a great work is being carried on in the missionary field except those who have been engaged in it and taken part in the actual labor. Conference adjourned and the Elders began to make preparations to start to their fields of labor.

Yours very sincerely,  
JAMES A. DUKE,  
REUBEN S. HAMILTON.

## IN THE EUROPEAN MISSION.

Releases and appointments.—Elder Clarence Eldredge has been honorably released to return home and sailed from Liverpool on Saturday, October 29, on the Cunard s.s. Campanla. He was accompanied by Elder W. H. Toone, who was expecting to sail from Glasgow on November 5, but by special arrangements sailed earlier.

The following named missionaries have been honorably released to return home, and will leave Glasgow by Anchor Line s.s. Furnessia, Nov. 17, 1898: David Bagley, Jesse W. Knight, and Lucy Jane Brimhall of the Bristol Conference; Jed Strlingham, president of the Liverpool Conference, Wm. P. Ostler and Thomas Bennett of the same conference; W. E. Clark, president of the London conference; John H. Ford of the Norwich conference; J. W. Stringfellow, president of the Nottingham conference, and Edward C. Rich of the same conference; Levi G. Richards of the Sheffield conference, and Wm. R. Davis of the Welsh conference. Elder George Ruff is released as