

CHURCH INTELLIGENCE



A REMARKABLE VISION.

The Experience of an Honest Inquirer for Truth.

The Doctrine and Covenants Shown to Him by a Supernatural Messenger.

Elder Jos. J. Porter, of Escalante, Utah, writes from Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 29:

The last two months I have been assigned to labor in Clay county, W. Va., with Elder G. Wallen. While there we came to the home of E. J. Williams, who never had had the privilege of hearing a "Mormon" Elder speak. While with him we talked to him on the Gospel, and told him that he would seek the Lord in humble prayer he would have a testimony revealed unto him, that he might know whether we were preaching the true Gospel or not.

After some days we returned to Mr. Williams' home, and found that he had received a testimony of the Gospel. The following are Mr. Williams' words: "Studying over what the Elders had told me I went to seek the Lord in humble prayer. I told him that I was not seeking for a sign, but wanted to know whether the good pleasure of my will was teaching the true Gospel, or not."

"After returning from prayer I went to chop wood, and as I raised my head there appeared before me a bright light in the air, in which was the Doctrine and Covenants opened at the 76th section. I read the first nine verses as it was in the air before me. I then went into the house and got the Doctrine and Covenants, and opened it at the place, and it was the same as I had seen before, and it was the same as follows:

"Hear, O ye heavens, and give ear O earth, and rejoice ye inhabitants thereof, for the Lord is God, and besides him there is no Savior. Great is His wisdom, marvelous are His ways, and the extent of His glory none can find out. His purposes are all true, neither are there any who can stay His hand? From eternity to eternity, He is the same, and His years never fail."

"For thus saith the Lord, I the Lord am merciful and gracious unto those who serve me in righteousness and in truth unto the end."

"Great shall be their reward, and eternal shall be their glory."

"And to them will I reveal all mysteries of my kingdom from days of old, and for ages to come will I make known unto them the good pleasure of my will concerning all things pertaining to my kingdom? Yea, even the wonders of eternity shall they know, and things to come will I show them, even the things of many generations."

"And their wisdom shall be great, and their understanding shall be heavenly; and before them the wisdom of the wise shall perish, and the understanding of the prudent shall come to naught."

"After this I had the privilege of leading Mr. Williams down the mountain way, baptizing him for the remission of his sins."

I have received many a strong testimony and seen the power of God made manifest in many ways.

IN FAR OFF AUSTRALIA.

The Mission Reported as Being Prosperous.

Brief Account of an Interesting Conference - Other Items of News.

Elder W. N. Rose writes from Eskineville, Sydney, Aus., Nov. 29, 1900:

I am pleased to say the work is progressing. On the 12th of November we gave our Sunday school a picnic out at Lady Robinson's beach, all the Saints, a number of friends and investigators being present.

Sunday the 18th, our semi-annual conference was held in October. This should have been held in October, but owing to the expectations of the arrival of a new president from Zion it was postponed.

At 10:30 a. m. our Sunday school convened as usual, and had its regular exercises after which a Priesthood meeting was held, the following Elders from Zion being present: J. B. Mathias, W. N. Rose, E. A. Cowley, B. F. Blaylock, W. H. Bryan and J. W. Collins, also Bro. Frank Carter, local Priest.

Conference convened at 2:30 p. m., being presided over by Elder W. N. Rose. After opening prayer the usual way the Church Authorities and local officers: Acting President Australian Mission J. B. Mathias, N. S. W. conference president W. N. Rose, president Sydney branch Frank Carter and traveling Elders E. A. Cowley, B. F. Blaylock, A. A. Morris, W. H. Bryan and J. W. Collins were presented and unanimously sustained.

As the people here are dry weather folks.

Notwithstanding this disadvantage a good spirit prevailed, and all were greatly edified, and mutually benefited. The conference adjourned until April next.

Elders Blaylock and Morris are laboring in the Goulburn district where they are meeting with success. Elders Mathias, Rose, Cowley, Bryan and Collins are laboring in Sydney where hall and street meetings are being held with fair success.

The health of the Elders throughout the mission is reported good at present, and all prospering.

People in Zion having friends or relatives in this country, please send addresses.

It would also be a great favor to the Elders laboring here, if the returned missionaries who make promises to write to the Elders and Saints would fulfill the same, as many friends are lost by their negligence in this regard.

Sydney is preparing for a grand celebration of their federal government anniversary, and the first week of the new year will be a public holiday.

The "News" is always a welcome friend to the Elders, and is a Christmas and New Year's gift.

IN MARYLAND.

A Faithful Sister Called Home - Interesting Meetings.

The subjoined items are gleaned from a correspondence dated Baltimore, Md., Dec. 21, and signed by Elders E. M. Orme, J. J. Shumway, and E. N. Schofield:

On Dec. 5th we were called upon to part with one of our faithful members, in the person of Sister Carrie Gibbs, of Great Falls, Md. She was baptized by Elder Nathan Thomas April 4, 1887. Sister Gibbs was devoted to the cause she had espoused, being a thorough Latter-day Saint, and we feel that her reward is sure.

She was born June 6, 1872, and leaves a husband and three small children.

We have been privileged to enjoy a visit from Elders M. F. Cowley and E. H. Snow of the Eastern States mission. They entered our conference and held a meeting in Newark, Delaware, on the evening of the 12th. The following evening a meeting was held in Washington, D. C., at which we had with us representative W. H. King, of Utah, Elder Ben E. Rich and son of the Southern States mission, all of whom, in connection with Elder Cowley and E. H. Snow, addressed the congregation.

On Dec. 15 and 16 the Elders of the Maryland conference met in Cumberland, Md., where an enjoyable time was spent in conference.

A number of names have been added to the faithful observers of the law of tithing.

Sunday, the 16th, three public meetings were held. At the morning session the testimonies of Elder Arthur J. Dene were presented and sustained, after which Elder E. H. Snow addressed the congregation. At the afternoon session Elder E. M. Orme spoke a short time, followed by Elder M. F. Cowley, who spoke of the departure of "Christians" from the doctrines of Christ.

At the evening meeting Elder J. G. McQuarrie of the W. Pa. conference, spoke a short time, after which Elder E. H. Snow addressed the congregation upon the belief of the Latter-day Saints with regard to the Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man.

Elders Cowley and Snow departed for Grafton, W. Va., Monday morning.

The Elders of the conference met to receive their appointments for their respective fields of labor.

Anyone having friends in this part of the State to visit and confer a favor by sending their address.

FIRM IN HIS FAITH.

A Virginia Convert Refuses to Leave the Church.

Brother C. F. Yeatts, in a letter dated Hinesville, Ga., December 2nd, writes about his experience with school trustees who have refused him a place as teacher because of his religion, though he is fully qualified to teach school, and he concludes thus:

"I am glad to know that I have been privileged to hear and embrace the true and everlasting Gospel. I know that the power of God lies among the Latter-day Saints, and that they enjoy the same gifts and blessings that the ancient Saints enjoyed. Though obedience to the Gospel has brought trials and persecutions upon me, yet I can count it all joy and go on rejoicing, knowing that our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Grateful for the Gospel.

A Sister O. Smith, of Kansas City, Miss., says that although she has been living a conscientious life as a member of the Methodist church for years, she was never fully satisfied until she embraced the Gospel. Her husband and a 10-year-old son were baptized in April, 1899. The writer continues:

"I thank God for sending His missionaries to teach me the way of eternal life. Ever since I embraced the Gospel of Christ all is peace and happiness. I no more have that longing for something better, for my heart is filled with peace and love, and joy, that words would fail to express. I desire to have grown nearer to my family. They are all more dear to me. My love for them is stronger than ever before. I often look back upon my past life, for what I now possess is so much superior to what I once possessed, that I do not see how I ever lived in any church, but I do know, for it was not God's will, nor His time, at that time, to have the sweet comfort that no one but a true Latter-day Saint can have, and I have the testimony from God and not from man."

THE GOSPEL IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Elders Are Told to Preach to Pagans and Not to "Christians."

Elder George A. Nixon, of New Bedford, writes from New Bedford, Mass., Dec. 22, 1900:

The first two months of my mission were spent in Littlefield county, Conn. In company with Elder J. R. Thomas of Paradise, Utah, then I was assigned to labor with Elder Samuel Knight of

Plain City, Utah, in Hillsboro county, N. H., where we met with much opposition and persecution at first, on account of misrepresentation. Upon starting out in the country without purse or scrip, we found it almost impossible to get either food or shelter, we returned one night after night, under the trees by the roadside with nothing but our umbrellas to cover us, and our grips for pillows. We were told many times to go to the heathen and preach to the dogs. At our full conference in Boston, Nov. 2nd and 4th, 1899, I was assigned to labor with Elder W. C. R. Peterson, of Deseret, Utah, in the city of Manchester, N. H., where we enjoyed our labors very much and met with some success. At our spring conference I was assigned to labor in the city of Worcester, Mass., to labor in company with Elder George O. Watts of South Weber, Utah.

This is a very busy city of about 120,000 people. We have been to many meetings and investigations, I have enjoyed good health during my absence from home, and have seen the power of God made manifest many times.

Any one having friends or relatives in this city that would like to call on them, please send addresses.

THE HAMBURG CONFERENCE.

Nine Souls Have Been Added to the Church by Baptism.

Encouraging Reports from Many Branches in the German Mission Field.

Elder Arthur J. Dene writes from Steudersheim, Hannover, Germany, November 26th:

On Saturday, November 10th, all the Elders in this conference arrived in Hamburg from their different fields of labor, preparatory to attending Priesthood meeting. We found in this branch many hospitable Saints who love the Gospel of Christ with all their hearts.

On Sunday morning we met with the Sunday school of the Hamburg branch. This numbers about one hundred and fifty scholars and teachers. Great interest in this school has been shown by both teachers and pupils.

The attendance at the afternoon service was about two hundred and twenty-five. There was a good spirit present. The Hamburg choir rendered creditable singing, and Elder A. H. Schultness and R. T. Haag gave timely instructions.

On Monday evening about thirty Saints and Elders tested themselves to a place of baptism on the bank of a river. Here we witnessed the baptism of nine souls.

On Monday morning, November 12th, at 10 o'clock, the Elders met in Priesthood meeting. The reports from the different branches showed good work having been received into the fold of Christ. During the year there had been thirty-nine baptisms in Hamburg, fifteen in Hannover, ten in Lubeck and in the other branches quite a number.

The voice of the Elders of Israel is heard in every land and clime, all declaring the same glad message to fallen humanity, and each bearing record that the people here are ready to be baptized as well in the frozen zones as in the temperate or torrid; in foreign lands as well as in every State in our own country, or on the islands of the sea.

Johnston County, N. C., a little over three months. During this time we have enjoyed ourselves very much. The people here are ready to be baptized as well in the frozen zones as in the temperate or torrid; in foreign lands as well as in every State in our own country, or on the islands of the sea.

Any one having friends in this vicinity would confer a favor upon us by sending their address.

PREACHING IN VIRGINIA.

Elders Meet Opponents - Modern James and Jambores.

Signs Follow Their Administrations - Missionaries Well Treated by the People of That State.

The following is part of a communication, dated Marion, Smyth county, Va., Dec. 4, and signed by Elders D. C. Shupe and C. W. Riggs:

Being assigned to labor in Smyth and Wythe counties, we met at Jonesville, Lee county, July 30, 1900. While in the city we were granted the privilege of holding a meeting in the court house, on condition that we would let a R. G. gentleman from Parkersburg, W. Va., follow us in our remarks. The proposition was accepted, and at 2:30 p. m. the spacious room was filled to its utmost capacity. During services deep attention was tendered us. After the discourse, the above mentioned minister asked several questions relative to the subject under discussion. The questions we believe, however, were answered to the satisfaction of those present.

Seeing his attempts were vain, he at once began the old cry of "Mormons" and polygamy, evidently to encourage mob violence. In the course of his remarks he became so violent and abusive that it was necessary to call him down.

A local minister then asked a few questions, which were answered as the others were. At the close of the services the two gentlemen thought it wise to withdraw from the throng.

On the following day we commenced our journey to our field of labor. However it was not until Aug. 21st that we reached our destination, having spent three days with the Saints in Russell county, holding meetings with, and instructing them in their religious duties.

Since the last named date we have been laboring in the counties assigned us, meeting with very good success in holding meetings, selling books, and otherwise publishing the Gospel. During this time we have had the privilege of leading four honest souls down into the waters of baptism. We have also seen the power of God manifested in many ways.

On the evening of Aug. 25th we were called in to see a lady who was suffering from a severe attack of paralysis. Being asked to administer to her we did so, and almost immediately she was restored to her health. The next day she was able to go about her household duties. This is only one of many similar instances.

On Nov. 23rd we received a letter from

our conference president, W. W. MacKay, asking us to hold conference with the Saints of that branch, Wythe county. The time appointed being Dec. 1st and 2nd.

Upon our arrival at Patterson we found one of the Saints, Sister Mary Richmond, who had been suffering from a severe attack of nervous debility. We administered to her and she was immediately healed.

On the day appointed for conference, we held the columns and friends of the vicinity, as well as some visiting Saints, met us at the residence of Elder C. O. Richmond, where the meetings were held.

This was the fourth conference held with the branch since its organization, and Elders, Saints and friends went away rejoicing, feeling they had had a spiritual feast, thus rendering them more determined to keep the commandments of God in the future than they had done in the past.

We have in this branch a thriving Sunday school, which has been led by Elder C. O. Richmond; also one in Smyth county in charge of Brother Alvin Clark. Both are doing a good work.

Since our advent in Virginia we have had good health and good treatment, and have only good words to say for the people of this State as a whole.

The "News" is always a welcome visitor, and its columns are perusing them with interest. Elders, Saints and friends, it is a great factor in missionary work.

MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE.

The Secret of Success in Proclaiming the Gospel Message.

Elder Rich Fugnaire writes from Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, England, Dec. 6, as follows:

Six months' labor in the mission field has brought me, through prayer and fasting, an individual testimony of the divinity of the mission of Joseph Smith.

Since I began my labors as a missionary, I have been able to be successful in preaching the Gospel. I must be patient and persevering. I must be willing to look at unclean things, and endure heart. My experience tells me that humility and full trust in God will lead any Elder to become happy and successful even in his darkest and loneliest hours. This is the source through which I have won the confidence and respect of many nice people of Uttoxeter, where I have been laboring along for four months.

There is an energetic branch of Saints of Uttoxeter, and the prospect for adding a number to the fold in the near future seems good.

At our last Sunday's services we had over twenty present, nine of whom were strangers. Sunday previous to that we had thirty-one in attendance.

Our work is to obtain a public hall to hold our services in, the attendance will be much larger.

The Deseret News is doing a very good work in Uttoxeter. It has been the means of gaining for the Elders, an admittance to the house of several families of the higher class. Although the "News" makes no boasts, yet its actions speak louder than words. I consider it a very successful missionary.

GONE TO HIS REWARD.

A Faithful Friend of the Elders Called Home.

Encouraging Report from Elders Laboring in the State of North Carolina.

Elders Edward Duffin and Burton J. Bean, send this communication from Princeton, Johnston Co., N. C., Dec. 16:

In looking over the pages of the "News" we see items of interest from almost every quarter of the globe, and especially so in the "Church Intelligence" department.

The voice of the Elders of Israel is heard in every land and clime, all declaring the same glad message to fallen humanity, and each bearing record that the people here are ready to be baptized as well in the frozen zones as in the temperate or torrid; in foreign lands as well as in every State in our own country, or on the islands of the sea.

Johnston County, N. C., a little over three months. During this time we have enjoyed ourselves very much. The people here are ready to be baptized as well in the frozen zones as in the temperate or torrid; in foreign lands as well as in every State in our own country, or on the islands of the sea.

Any one having friends in this vicinity would confer a favor upon us by sending their address.

IN WEST VIRGINIA.

A Well Attended Conference at Charleston.

From Elders John A. Morrison and Walter Jarrell, the following communication, dated Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 2, 1900, has been received:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which convened in Charleston Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2nd and 3rd, met with good success.

The public met at 7 a. m. and were addressed by Elder E. H. Snow on the apostasy. Sunday morning at 10 a. m. the public reassembled. Meeting was called to order by Elder George Henry Snow, president of the mission, presented the authorities of the Church who were unanimously sustained.

Sacrament was administered by Elders E. H. Snow and M. F. Cowley, after which the Apostle spoke to the congregation with power and great fervor, denouncing the abominations and wickedness of the present time, and the resurrection. The afternoon session was addressed by Elder M. F. Cowley, one of the Apostles, who bore a faithful testimony. A powerful sermon was then delivered by Elder M. F. Cowley, followed by a discourse upon the Book of Mormon by E. H. Snow. Business meeting, Elder Cowley Snow and Henkle bade the Elders good bye.

The last session of our conference, which convened Friday evening at 7, was left in charge of Elder Ballard and the local Elders.

Elders Saints and investigators were well pleased and highly edified. The shirer was warmly welcomed.

Elder E. G. Cheeny was honorably released to return home, and Elder C. A. Thompson, one of the Saints of the conference, was appointed to fill the vacancy. The "News" is a very welcome visitor among the Elders, and is a source of much good among the people.

FROM THE STATE OF MAINE.

The Influence of the "News" Felt in the Mission Field.

Elder L. E. Leuel, who left his home on the 9th day of November, 1899, for a mission to New England, writes from Portland, Me., Dec. 19, as follows:

I wish to express my gratitude for the aid which the "News" renders me. It is a good teacher for a beginner in the work of the Lord, and a point of view, which has assisted me to triumph over antagonists. And by reading the experiences of others, in the ministry, I have derived energy and courage.

We were pleased to have Apostle Cowley and Elder E. H. Snow, of the Eastern States mission, speak publicly in Portland, Me. We are hopeful of good results from it. From here we all went to Boston, where the New England conference convened on Dec. 2 and 3. We all enjoyed the Apostle's visit exceedingly. Those who listened to him were certainly animated with the Spirit with which he spoke, which made a lasting impression upon them.

Enjoying His Mission.

Elder Heber C. Sharp, who is performing missionary labor in California, writes from Sacramento, Dec. 29, 1900:

It is a privilege to be in the work of the Lord, and to be able to go about his household duties. This is only one of many similar instances.

On Nov. 23rd we received a letter from

A LETTER FROM IRELAND.

A Spirit of Investigation Among the People There.

Public Addresses by Utah Lady Missionaries a Pleasant Feature of a Conference.

There are only seven Elders at present laboring in this green isle. The cause of truth is progressing in this part of the Lord's vineyard where once lived many of the Latter-day Saints, who now are numbered among His people in the valleys of the mountains.

During the past year there has awakened a spirit of investigation among this people which promises to be productive of much good in allaying prejudice and bringing souls into the fold of Christ.

Our hall meetings are well attended by investigators and many others who do not attend our literature and invite us into their homes when we call to talk of the principles of the Gospel. Our conference, which convened on the 18th ult., was well attended by both Saints and investigators, all apparently enjoying the Spirit of the Lord which was poured out abundantly upon the speakers.

Elders Lyman and McMurrin of the European mission; Elder Thompson of the Scottish conference, and Elder Mitchell of the New Castle conference, together with a number of our missionaries from the same conferences were in attendance.

A feature that was appreciated by all was the presence and speaking of three of our sisters from Utah, Sister Parrish of Centerville, Sister Penfold of Park City, and Sister Booth of Provo, all of whom were missionaries laboring in England and Scotland for the redemption of souls.

Refreshments were prepared and served in an adjoining room where, between the services, the ladies were invited to partake of genuine Irish hospitality. The following day seven were added to the Church by baptism.

THE ELDERS IN THE WORLD.

Their Message Often Derided and Rejected.

But They are Ever Upheld by the Divine Promises of Final Victory.

Elder Andrew Bowman writes from Cardiff, South Wales, Dec. 15, 1900:

"CYMRU AM BYTH!"

"The words of man inherit as is just, But the author's frailty, and return to dust. But truth divine forever stands secure, Its head as guarded as its base is sure; Fixed in the rolling flood of endless years, No pillar of the eternal plans appears. The raving storm and dashing wave defies, Built by that architect who built the skies." - Cowper.

It was so ordained from before the foundation of the world and will continue so throughout all eternity. How sadly and with what indifference and even disrespect has this great fact been treated by the inhabitants of the earth! The servants of the living God are sent into the world with a true and living message of light and life. Are they given a reception that bearers of such a message to any civilized country would be proud to receive?

Quite the contrary, they are maligned, derided, persecuted and treated with the greatest acrimony and utmost contempt.

Their message is ridiculed and rejected by an enlightened people living in the nineteenth century, who should have learned to profit by the history and experience of those who have gone before them. They have been deceived and misled, and have been misled by the false promises of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Though all the hosts of the infernal regions, including all prospective sojourners with the "Black Prince" at their head, array themselves for dreadfully battle against the servants of the Almighty God, no matter how fierce their assaults, truth will prevail and in the end the victors will be the Latter-day Saints. We are the chosen people of God, and we cannot be deceived by the promises of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Thank God there are always a few who, when it is presented to them, are willing to accept the Gospel in its fulness, and are revealed to one of the greatest prophets the world has ever known, who was cruelly murdered by a notorious and bloodthirsty mob of "modern Christians," led on by an orthodox minister, and who were the work of God and for the testimony of Jesus.

I am sincerely thankful to my heavenly Father for His infinite kindness to me, and for the privilege of being permitted to come into the world as a living witness to the truthfulness and divinity of the testimony for which Joseph Smith died, though as yet my success has been limited. I am still laboring with bright hopes for a yet more prolific future, warning the people to the best of my ability of the impending great and mighty judgments, believing that God will bless and assist me in my efforts in proportion to my faith and sedulity.

In the Welsh conference prospects appear more propitious than for some time past.

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