FROM VARIOUS MISSIONARY FIELDS.

CONFERENCE IN LOUISIANA.

Thirty-three Elders Present—A Large Attendance—Pleasing Reception of the People.

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana, June 9th, 1897.

To the Editor:

On Saturday last the neighborhood of Pride, E. Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, was in a remember-the-harry and-hustle. The occasion of this evident anomaly was the appearance in that section of thirty-three mormon Elders or as the people styled them, "Mormon preachers." During the stay of three days, made by the Elders, many pleasing features were seen but among the most pleasing aforesaid was the perpetual smile worn by all the people. If there was a face, for miles around, that did n't wear a smile it was decidedly "the exception to the rule." The popular exhibit of all our good Southern friends who were participants in the affairs of our conference session is "We sure did have a good time."

Though disappointed because of the unavoidable non appearance of our mission president Elder Elias S. Kimball, we were buoyed up by the presence of Elder William E. Rydalch. Four public meetings were held—two on Saturday, the 5th and two on Sunday following. The meetings were well attended. The sunday announcements, at first thought sufficient for the people, proved to be not so. Many brought seats with them and many stood—all seemingly eager to hear the word of the Lord.

The first three sessions were utilized by the Elders in an explanation of the first principles of the Gospel. The last session was almost wholly taken up by Elder Rydalch who spoke upon the important topics of repentance and church history.

Hand shaking and a hearty expression of good will accompanied by a heartier God bless you formed a pleasing feature at the close of our conference.

At our council meetings some changes were made. Our former president, Elder S. L. Swenson, was released to go to the Chattanooga office. Elder Joseph A. Cornwall was chosen as his successor in the conference presidency, with Elders Joseph E. D. Tomlinson and R. Elmer Caldwell as his counselors. The instructions from headquarters, delivered by Elder Rydalch were well taken and accounted as a sweet morsel. They were terse and to the point.

We all feel built up because of our meeting and prepared for a greater work.

JOSEPH A. CORNWALL, president,
R. ELMER CALDWELL, Clerk.

IN OLD ARKANSAS.

Mormon Conference There—Additions to the Church—Favorable Prospects.

DENMARK, Arkansas,
June, 11th, 1897.

To the Editor:

The Arkansas conference of the Indian Territory mission convened near Denmark, White county, Arkansas, June 3, 4, 5, and 6, 1897.

The following Elders were present: Elder William T. Jack, president of the Indian Territory Mission, Elders A. C. Dalley and M. O. Miner our meteoric Elders who have been laboring in Texas; William T. Harper of the Kansas conference, Elder Frank L. Copening, president of the Arkansas conference, and Elders John H. Peterson, Joseph A. Wright, George E. Brim, James P. Anderson, Thomas H. Gleason, George N. Atkinson, David M. Nelson, Richard R. D. Brown, and Edward L. Cox.

Conference began with a series of Priesthood meetings. We held three sessions a day for three days and a public meeting every night at the house of our friend Mr. Lewis J. Throckmorton, who left nothing lacking in administering to the comfort of the Elders.

On Sunday, we held three public meetings in a grove near our friend Mr. Ezekiel G. Ferguson's, who also deserves special mention for his hospitality to us.

At the close of our second day's Priesthood meetings, we received an invitation to take supper with another friend, Mr. Sam Cooper. We must not forget to mention Mr. Jacob Altman, either, whose generous treatment of the Elders for some time past will not soon be forgotten.

On Monday, the 7th inst, we had the happy privilege of witnessing seven honest souls go down into the waters of baptism and "come forth in newness of life." They have ceased the use of coffee and tobacco and are determined to live their religion. This makes thirteen baptisms in our conference since the 1st of January. There are prospects for several more here in the near future besides a few in Clay county.

We feel highly honored in having our beloved president, Elder Jack, with us. It is a desire of all the Elders to be able to show their appreciation of his labors by counseling him in person, practice and doing their utmost to make this a model conference.

We esteemed it no less an honor to meet Elders Dalley and Miner who are two of the most successful Elders in the field. Their example has made an indelible impression upon us, and their instructions were of special interest. Elder Harper also gave us some excellent advice.

We are thankful for the privilege of laboring in the Indian Territory mission. We feel to put our trust in the Lord.

The Spirit of God is spreading upon the people to a remarkable degree. We are having our eyes opened to see the hand of God manifested, bringing about His purpose in ways that we never thought o'.

FRANK L. COPENING,
President Arkansas Conference.
JOHN H. PETERSON,
Secretary.

CHANGE OF FEELING.

The More Favorable Attitude of People in Arkansas and Indian Territory Towards the Mormons.

ST. JOHN, Kansas,
June 16th, 1897.

To the Editor:

Having returned recently from attending conference in Indian Territory and Arkansas, I was pleased to note that I found all the Elders laboring there to be good health and enjoying the spirit of their calling. I was pleased to notice that the Lord has wrought a wonderful change among the people during the past few years. Where bigotry and intolerance used to predominate and prejudice prevented people from listening to the truths of the restored Gospel, now meeting houses are opened to the Elders and filled with eager listeners who invite the "Mormon Parsons" to their homes, showering upon them hospitality that proclaim the good will and kind feelings existing.

People are becoming weary in the arms of worship, that are constantly shifting and dwindling, becoming a mere easy target to the wasting of intellect and time of infancy. Hence preachers get brought to our sermons with as few scripture references as possible, preferring to entertain their audience with a pleasing story rather than as unto the ridiculous reckless of teaching from a book considered in by many as their church members. If people only knew the facts and will be recognized some day, that the Mormons, of all people, are believers in, and teachers of the Gospel as it is revealed in the holy Bible, and with the Book of Mormon, we will have that sacred record from what appears to be its inevitable late after all. People are putting away pr judices and the Lord is beginning them with wisdom so that they see in the book of Mormon, truths made plain that were obliterated in the Bible. As I called and visited at the Bible. As I called and visited at the Bible. As I called and visited at