

Elder John Henry Smith read the last chapter of Malachi, and made the plan of salvation for the dead plain. Elder John Henry Smith also bore witness that the heavens have been opened, and that God has again set His hand to consummate His work.

At the close of the meeting many strangers shook hands with the Elders and expressed themselves as pleased with the matter presented.

On Monday, at 8:45 a. m., the Elders met in counsel. Elder John Henry Smith being present. Elder Cowley had gone to Lima to hold meeting.

All the Elders reported their labors and expressed themselves as determined to spread the word of peace as best they could, aided by the Spirit of God. Reports were to the effect that new openings were being made daily for Elders to preach, and that a general interest is manifested as to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All the Elders bore a faithful testimony to the restoration of the Gospel; that peace and tranquility prevailed throughout the mission; that the system inaugurated by President Brammel of tracting and holding series of meetings are very productive of good results; that order and discipline prevails in the enter field.

Elder Hill was called and set apart as assistant to Elder Brammel, Elder W. G. Paul was honorably released to return home. Willard John was made president of Missoula conference. William Thornby was made president of Galleton conference, while several changes were made as to the fields of labor of the Elders.

On Sunday, June 19th, Elder Brammel and Elder Hill will hold conference at Corrallo, Bitter Root valley, and then Elder Brammel will repair to Oregon, Washington and Idaho to meet the Elders laboring there. The last three states have been amalgamated with Montana.

A conference will be held in Butte in July and at Billings in August. God bless all Israel. Yours truly,

WILLARD JOHNSON, Clerk.

Branch Conference in Florida.

Milton, Florida, June 2, 1898

I take pleasure in reporting briefly the proceedings of our branch conference held near Otabite, Santa Rosa county, Florida.

At our last general conference held January 8th and 9th, there was added to our conference seven counties of West Florida. On the morning of May 28th in an oak grove near the home of Brother John C. Kennedy, there were assembled of the following Elders from Zion:

President D. H. Thomas and Elders Ed Benzley, Wm. E. Jenkins, F. W. Andrus, Ezra P. Monson and James C. Stover, the local brethren of the Priesthood, Saints of this and adjoining counties, with many of our friends.

Two very interesting meetings were held each day, in which the Saints received many good and timely instructions pertaining to their duties as members of the Church of Jesus Christ. The subjects of tithing, the Word of Wisdom, etc., were treated upon and taught in plainness.

Nor did we neglect our visiting friends, who gave us a listening ear, but we taught them the simple truths of the Gospel, and as Peter did on the day of Pentecost, commanded them to repent and obey the Gospel that they may be partakers of the blessings of the same.

After conference Elder Beesley and myself proceeded to the city of Milton, the county seat of Santa Rosa county. We arrived here this morning and have spent the day in visiting the mayor, judge, sheriff and other leading citizens, and in the morning we will begin our house to house canvass. We are

being kindly entertained by the leading hotel of the city.

The health of the Elders in this conference is good. The work of the Lord is progressing and the honest in heart are having the privilege of hearing the Gospel.

Your Brother in Christ,
EZRA P. MONSON,
Clerk of Conference.

A Branch Organized.

San Diego, June 2nd, 1898.

We are thankful that out of the vast army of truth-bears Zion is continually sending forth, our fair city has been blessed with her portion. We now have working in our midst Elder J. A. Loveless, W. E. Stoker and F. B. Platt and we are occasionally visited by the county Elders, J. I. Hatch and Jos. Grates.

The work of the Lord is growing rapidly here—our numbers having nearly doubled in the last six months. This growth entitled us to a branch organization—there being about sixty members in all. About a month ago this organization was affected by Elder E. H. Nye and Elder G. F. Harding. Local Elders, Priests, Teachers and Deacons were ordained and Elder Chas. S. Hoag was sustained as branch president.

A Ladies' Relief Society was organized with Sister A. F. Jewell as president. Sister Hattie Nye being present at the first meeting, she gave the sisters some valuable instructions and started them out properly in the work. The members are a happy band of devoted workers who will be heard from later.

We can also boast the honor of having the first Primary association organized in the California mission. And with Sister Hettie Sniff as president, ably assisted by her aids we feel confident that the little ones will receive the proper training and encouragement.

As an organized body we are sure the Saints here will be a more important factor in assisting the traveling brethren to spread the work of our Lord. The Elders are working faithfully to get the Gospel principles before the people—tracting from door to door, preaching upon the streets, in halls and wherever the people will listen. The result is that many who are not of us are with us in our worship, studying the Gospel. They are our friends—nearly convinced of the truth and will, no doubt, soon be numbered with the Saints of God.

Occasionally some Orthodox minister, watching with jealous eye the growth of the Kingdom, makes an oratorical stab calculated to mortally wound us. But he invariably finds that the only effect of his eloquence is to advertise Mormonism.

Anyone desiring to communicate with the Elders, address 1311 Fifth street, San Diego.

LOUISE EDWARDS,
Secretary Southern Conference, California.

In Mississippi.

Eupora, Webster Co., Miss.

June 11th, 1898.

Although Webster county has not been opened long as a missionary field, the servants of God are making great progress in promulgating the Gospel.

We have many good friends here among the generous and hospitable people of Mississippi, and many investigators and believers in the Gospel. We hope in the near future to have a branch of the Church organized in this county.

Although we have many friends, we also have the class that try to condemn and tear down the things taught by us. There is a noble band of Elders here,

and we hope to bring our conference up to a high standard.

D. DUDLEY JONES,
HEBER C. ATKIN,
Eupora, Webster Co.

A Complete Change.

Henderson, Vance Co., N. C.

June 9, 1898.

Elder Clarence S. Carlston writes from Chattanooga, Tenn., as follows:

For some time I have felt it a duty to write you a few lines. Pen must fail in attempting to portray the marvelous changes wrought in this conference the past two years. Wherever, to my knowledge, the Elders have been successful in holding a long series of meetings—and there have been many—for the explanation of those principles and ordinances so essential to salvation; there is a warm feeling of affection, and a longing for their return when called to labor in other sections. The harvest truly is great but the laborers are few.

In the past Elders on entering some cities, towns, etc., were not able to labor so effectively, because of the harsh treatment administered by some who perhaps thought themselves justified in persecuting a sect everywhere spoken against. In this they have been reminded time after time that "the Lord moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform." To condemn or reject a principle or code of principles without an investigation would be following in the footsteps of those who crucified the Messiah.

I have been in this state over two years, during which time I have had the opportunity of studying human nature more effectually than ever before. This has been of great benefit to me.

RETURNED MISSIONARIES.

The "News" had a pleasant call Thursday afternoon from Elder Chas. A. Parrish of Centerville, Davis county, who returned on the 17th inst. from a mission to the Southern States. Elder Parrish left home March 2, 1896, and on arriving at the mission headquarters was assigned to the Mississippi conference, where he labored for two years with much success, making many friends and promulgating the principles of the Gospel. He enjoyed his labors very much and had good health during his entire absence. After being released he visited relatives in Illinois, where he gathered genealogical data and preached the Gospel. Returning, he surveyed the Omaha exposition and found Utah and Utah people very well represented.

Elder J. D. Hagman of the Twenty-second ward, this city, called at the "News" office and reported his return from a mission to Scandinavia. He left home April 11, 1896, and labored in the southern part of Sweden the whole of the time, the latter portion as clerk of the Malmo conference, in which there have recently been numerous accessions to the Church. The conference, he says, is in a most flourishing condition.

Elder Andrew Smith Jr., of the Third ward, this city, called on the "News," reporting his return from the mission field. Elder Smith left Aug. 11, 1895, and arrived home again June 23, 1898, after laboring for upwards of three years in Australia and New Zealand. During the first six months of his absence Elder Smith labored as a traveling Elder in Tasmania; then he was appointed to preside over the conference, which position he filled for one year, after which he was transferred to the presidency of the New South Wales conference, with headquarters at Sydney, and on Sept. 27, 1896, he received