

THE DESERET WEEKLY.

Truth and Liberty.

No. 9.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, AUGUST 15, 1896.

VOL. LIII.

THE GOSPEL IN MONTANA.

ANACONDA, Mont., July 27, 1896.

Soon after our correspondence from Butte, Elder Cowley and myself visited Anaconda, twenty-eight miles over the Montana Union railroad, passing down Silver Bow creek, seven miles; passing Silver Bow and down Deer Lodge valley through a narrow gorge, soon opening out into a broad valley of meadows.

The grass is very green and refreshing to look upon; especially after leaving smoky, dry and billowy Butte, it seems to bring relief of thought and change of scenery. From the scattering haycocks and their smallness and the light swaths, we are reminded that we are not in the fat valleys of Utah. The sight, however, of this Deer Lodge valley is very pretty and refreshing.

Anaconda is rather lovely in its locality, and a desirable city to reside in for various reasons. One of the great objections to Butte is the bad water. Not so in Anaconda where there is good water. In Butte it is so bad that the odor alone is really sickening. Pretty fair water in Butte is sold for five cents per pail. Water wagons go around as regularly as milk wagons, but the poor are unable to pay for it except as a luxury. We who are used to city creek water were very severely punished by being compelled to use it at all, even when boiled. But the city is making a rush to bring water into the city without passing through the stinking reservoir. Great is the wish of the people for better water. Anaconda is more on a level, unlike climbing Butte. Butte is one of the hardest cities to walk in. Oh, how wicked. Anaconda is better. Yet when we looked over the statistics of arrests made in June, 1896, we found the following: males, 328; females, 162; inmates of houses of ill fame, 238.

Sabbath is a general holiday which makes empty churches, several of which we attended and had the opportunity of speaking in four different meetings thinly attended. Our doctrines were something new in these places and created quite a curiosity. Many came out when opportunity offered to see and hear. The newspapers said we were the first Elders to preach to these parts. We held four public meetings in a nice Swedish church, and some private meetings, finding about forty in attendance who had been at some time baptized Latter-day Saints. They were surprised to learn of each other, when thus they met, that they were Mormons so called. They had had no meetings, and the

children were growing up wild as regards the Gospel.

One trouble with the Latter-day Saints is that they are transients. They obtain work and make money and move on. Wages are very good and paid in cash. But there are many out of employment. Our experience is that those who remain at home and fight the battle of hardship and bravely overcome are much the best off at the end, and their children grow up in the fear of the Lord.

The Saints here were organized into a branch on May 16th, 1893, in a log house. Elder S. G. Spilman was presiding Elder, with Elders E. N. Wilson and Leonard Jones counselors, but the presiding Elder moved away after holding five meetings after the organization and the branch died entirely, for want of a shepherd. The desire of the meeting was to have a reorganization.

Our meetings were held in the church, and on Sunday were crowded. The newspapers have been very kind and treated us courteously an experience so different to that which hitherto has been ours. We can truly say that since the Salt Lake Temple was dedicated, as was predicted by President Woodruff, a vast change has taken place for the better. Utah has become a state, and Zion is coming to the front.

After the meetings we left the few Saints and some interested strangers with hearts warmed up with inspiration and returned to Butte to arrange for our meetings in the Auditorium. We succeeded in obtaining notices in the newspapers for Sunday at 2 p. m. and 8 p. m., July 26th.

On the 26th inst., at 12:30 p. m. President T. E. Ricks and Elder Ben E. Rich with the quartet of singers arrived, and the Butte Miner and the Anaconda Standard gave one-column synopses of the meetings, a portion of which we copy:

Faith of the Mormons. Interesting services held in Auditorium yesterday afternoon and evening by Elders Edward Stevenson, M. F. Cowley and T. E. Ricks, Mormon missionaries, traveling through Montana, held services at the Auditorium, both afternoon and evening. The object of the missionaries is to get track of and organize the Mormons into Churches. On the stage was Ben E. Rich, Messrs. Adams, French, Durrans and Elliot. This quartet was the finest ever heard in Butte, and Joseph Adams is possessed of a voice so sweet that it involuntarily brought tears to the eyes of most of the audience. President Ricks of the Mormon Church of one of the States was also on the stand. Elder Stevenson delivered the first address of the afternoon. The Elder read many passages of Scripture from the Old

and New Testament to sustain the immortality of the soul—he showed the terrible error of the supposition that death ends all. He is 77 years old and had been in the Church 63 years, a Latter-day Saint, and now just tottering on the brink of the grave he declared his unfaltering faith that God lives.

Following came the exquisite solo, Oh, my Father.

M. F. Cowley spoke thirty minutes.

At the time Oh, my Father was being sung here in Butte it was being rendered at the funeral of our beloved Apostle and friend and brother A. H. Cannon. Our heart bleeds with the loss of one so favored of God. Tongue cannot tell all; tears must suffice.

EDWARD STEVENSON,
M. F. COWLEY.

THE WORK IN CHICAGO.

953 FAIRFIELD AVE., Chicago,
Aug. 4th, 1896.

Having been released from laboring at Port Huron, Mich., and being appointed to labor in northern Illinois, with headquarters at Chicago, I thought I would drop you a few lines and let you know how we Elders are getting along at Chicago. We have eight Elders here at present, with the honored veteran C. D. Fjeldsted, of the Presidency of Seventies to lead the ranks. We find it quite difficult to get the people out to meeting during this hot weather; but we are distributing many Gospel tracts, holding a good many meetings and making new friends every day. We have baptized six honest souls during the past three weeks. We are going to hold open air meetings after this and hope to be able to do much good in this way. Elder Enoch Jorgensen and Charles H. Miller, who have assisted us so nobly in the past six weeks, will continue their journey eastward about the 10th. They will spend a day or two at Washington, D. C., and sail for Liverpool on the 15th.

There have been several marked changes made in our Indiana conference since Elder Samuel G. Spencer has been appointed president of the N. S. mission. The conference has been divided and subdivided, and presidents placed over each division. Conference will also be held with each division every six months. I am also informed that Elder B. H. Roberts and companions will make a conference tour with Elder Spencer, which all of the Elders are looking forward to with much pleasure.

Chicago has its advantages as well as disadvantages. When we become weary and tired of the sultry, busy din of the crowded streets we can take a