

blers have begun their matins. The planter is preparing his land, and the busy hum of summer can be almost heard.

Herewith I present the names and addresses of the Elders laboring in South Alabama conference:

Aaron Hardy and C. H. Alley, Kingston Antanga county, Ala.

I. L. Pratt and Lawrence Peterson, Semmis, Mobile county, Ala.

Joseph Johnson and W. W. Williams, Camden, Wilcox county, Ala.

J. P. Jensen and M. A. Lewis, Magnolia, Marengo county, Ala.

W. H. Ridd and Amos Cook, Grove Hill, Clarke county, Ala.

George E. Jarvis and Edward Benzley, Cuba, Sumter county, Ala.

Heber Ricks and M. A. Beckstead, Lusk, Choctaw county, Ala.

J. C. Jensen and Ezra P. Monson, Brewton, Escambia county, Ala.

J. S. Porter and F. W. Andrus, Geneva, Geneva county, Ala.

S. R. Brown and C. R. Spencer, Brantley, Crenshaw county, Ala.

Charles A. Varley and G. T. Webster, Chadwick, Perry county, Ala.

J. A. Turnbow and S. A. Allen, Lightwood, Elmore county, Ala.

E. E. Neelev and E. L. Terry, Mobile, Mobile county, Ala.

John H. Pace and George Heiner, Evergreen, Conecuh county, Ala.

W. E. Jenkins and W. B. Barnett, Kingston, Antanga county, Ala.

D. H. Thomas and G. A. Reid, Camden, Wilcox county, Ala.

D. H. THOMAS, President South Alabama Conference.

AMONG THE ARKANSANS.

PIGGOT, Arkansas,

March 20th, 1897.

About November 27th, 1896, Elder George E. Brim and myself, laboring in the Cherokee conference of the Indian Territory mission, received notice from Secretary Knight that we were to take new companions and go into Arkansas. Accordingly, we met our new companions at Illinois station, Indian Territory. Elder Frank L. Copening was to labor with Elder Brim, and Elder Joseph J. Larkin with me.

On December 4th we took train for Conway, Faulkner county, Arkansas. We arrived at 6 p. m., went over to the Witt hotel, and lodged for the night. Next morning, we took no breakfast, as we wished to fast and pray; for we were strangers in a strange land. We had not a friend to go to, and we were representatives of an unpopular religion. Before leaving our room, we knelt in a solemn prayer to implore our Father's protection and blessing in the labor we had before us and which we felt so incapable of performing.

We went up to the post office to send what money we had left to the secretary of the mission; that we might conscientiously ask God to provide for our wants and open up the way for us. We then began our work by looking for a place to hold meeting in Conway. Elder Larkin and I called upon the editor of The Conway Democrat, who treated us kindly and gave us the names of the mayor and other leading men of the city, whom we called upon and gave tracts. They all treated us with respect. A Lutheran minister introduced us to Mr. Price, the county judge, whom we asked for permission to use the county

court house for meeting; but he told us he never allowed it to be used for such purposes. He accepted a tract.

Some one told us about the Pythian Hall. So we called upon the manager, Mr. Ludwig, who was also editor of the Daily Log Cabin. He gave us permission to use the hall on Sunday, and gave me the privilege of writing a notice of our appointments, which he printed in his paper. The remainder of the day was spent in visiting families and distributing tracts.

Next morning was Sunday and at 10 a. m. we all met at the hall for our first meeting, but only a few boys came. We waited until 2 p. m. when we got a few more hearers, and so held a short meeting. We gave out another appointment for 7 p. m. and when the hour arrived we had thirty listeners. After meeting, a gentleman came up, gave us fifty cents, and invited us home with him. Another gentleman invited the other two.

Next morning, we all met at an appointed place and then separated, each pair going by a different route toward Heber, Cleburne county. Elder Larkin and I were unsuccessful in getting opportunities to preach between the two places, but made a few friends and so did some good anyway.

We arrived at Heber about 4:20 p. m. on Thursday afternoon and called at the post office for mail, but there was none for us. A gentleman asked us if we were not strangers in town, and we said we were.

"Don't you want to stay in town over night?"

"We shall be pleased to, if we can find a place to stay."

"Well I'm just the fellow that's got the place."

"But we have no money, we travel without purse or scrip."

He laughed, but told us to go down to his hotel and look around.

We did so and were hardly seated when a gentleman who had overheard us stepped in and asked us if we were not Mormons. We told him we were. He said he was the mayor of the town, and asked if we would not preach for the people, as he thought they would like to hear a Mormon, having never heard one before. It was getting rather late, but if we could get a house and have the people notified, of course we would. He told us to remain at the hotel and get our suppers and he would get the court house for us. In less than two hours, he had the news spread all over town, so that when meeting time arrived we had over sixty people to talk to, and they paid us very respectful attention. The sheriff told us we had nothing to fear as he would insure us protection. We gave out another meeting for next evening and then went back to the hotel, where Mr. Moore, (the mayor) introduced us to some of the leading ladies and gentlemen of the town. Some young people were singing and playing in an adjoining room and we were taken in to hear them.

It was now bed-time and we were taken to our room—the best in the hotel. Before retiring, two grateful hearts knelt in humble prayer to thank the Giver of all good for this manifestation of His goodness, and to ask Him to bless the man who had befriended us and assisted us in getting to preach to so many people.

The following evening we had over one hundred listeners upon whom we

made a good impression with our remarks. We lodged at the hotel that night also.

The other Elders did not come, so we proceeded on our journey next day. On coming to the Red river, we found a young man on the other side who came over and rowed us across in a skiff. We walked on a few miles when we saw a young man working in a little shop and were impressed to go and speak to him. He was an intelligent young man who had religious ideas that were strikingly similar to ours. We gave him some tracts and a Voice of Warning. Upon his kind invitation, we accompanied him home. His mother and brothers treated us the best they could, and after supper we had a pleasant Gospel conversation.

Next day was Sunday, and the boys invited us to Sunday school. I went. The attendance was very small, it being a rather out-of-the-way place. The superintendent asked me to read a chapter and open school with prayer. I did so, and at the close of the exercises, offered the benediction also. The superintendent then invited me to preach for them in the evening, and, of course, accepted. We had a good meeting, and the people appeared much interested. We had several invitations home, but went with the Chrouers, where we stayed the night previous. In the morning they could hardly let us go. They asked us to come back if we could, or send someone else.

The road from there to Batesville was rather lonesome, there being no particular settlements along the way. When we came to White river, the ferryman took us across without any hesitation.

At Batesville we found Elders Brim and Copening, staying at the Arlington hotel. They had a meeting appointed for that evening in the court house. There we had another good meeting, and gave them "the law and the testimony." While walking along the street, one of the leading merchants, Mr. G. W. Miniken, met us, and requested us to call on him. Elder Copening and I did so. He was very pleased to talk to us. He said he had been to Utah in 1873, and was somewhat amused when I told him that was before my day. He had been well treated while there, and wished to return the compliment. After meeting he gave Elder Larkin and I each a quarter with which to go to a hotel. Next day we separated to meet again at Black Rock.

Elder Larkin and I had three well-attended meetings in Sharp county and one in Lawrence.

On Christmas eve we met the other Elders at Black Rock, and once more found them at a hotel. We could hold no meetings there because of the holidays, so we all went on. We had gone but a short distance when the hotel proprietor caught up to us and gave us each a dime with which to get across Black river, as he feared the ferryman would not take us across free.

We had to follow the railroad track the rest of the way because of the swamps. We were making our way to Piggott, Clay county, for conference. We arrived there December 29th, and stopped two days with Dr. Rouse, one of our friends, and one who had seen the Prophet Joseph and other leading brethren at Nauvoo when it was a beautiful and prosperous city.

My letter is getting too long, so I will