

We tried to get a place to hold meetings in, but failed in every instance. We finally lost all hopes of getting church houses, so we began to preach on the streets and wherever we could find any who would listen to us. We met many hospitable people. We received notice from Elder Thomas, our conference president, that if a proper place could be found in Mobile to hold conference in, it would be held there. We immediately entered into a two days' fast and prayer, feeling that if conference could be held in Mobile, it would crumble the walls of prejudice to the ground; but we could not get a place. We held a great many meetings on the public square; and not meeting with the success we thought we ought to do, we began to try to hold meetings at private residences, and succeeded. We preached wherever we could get anyone to listen to us.

Agreeable to the request of our president, Elder D. H. Thomas, we closed the county and city, April 27th, 1897. On our way we met Elders Pratt and Patterson. Traveling with them up through Clark county, we met Elders Reed and Cook, and went up to Brothers Hicks' and Johnson's, and were well received.

E. L. TERRV.

LETTER FROM ENGLAND.

STROUD, Gloucestershire, England,
May 15th, 1897.

As it is sometime now since I read a letter from any one in this part of bonny England in your valuable columns, and feeling that a letter respecting missionary work here would be read with interest by your many readers, I take pleasure in relating some experiences we have had while in the Cheltenham conference of the British mission, which includes all of the southwest part of England.

Since I commenced my labors here last November, the conference has had a change of president Elder W. C. Burgon was released and Elder Raguel Barber called to be his successor.

Judging from the number of people, both Saints and strangers, who attend our meetings, I should say the Stroud district looks quite as promising as any in the conference. At every meeting we have held some strangers have been present; and although our meetings are only cottage meetings, there are several interested investigators at them, who show by their regular attendance that they are truly sincere in their desire to find the truth. There is no doubt but that a flourishing branch will be the result of the labors of the Elders in Stroud, if they continue to exert every effort in the future as they have in the past to bring this about.

If we can but get a glimpse of a person's daily life, we will know almost without fail, how they will receive our message. Those whom the world despise because of their lowly station, are those who receive us and our teachings with the greater kindness.

Much of our tracting is done in the afternoon, so we are not fortunate enough to get a talk with the men of the homes. When we consider that the Gospel has been preached for over fifty years in England, that it is no new thing to the people; in fact, that there are but very few in this whole country who have not heard of the Mormons and their

doctrines, it is a matter of regret that Paul's words are so strikingly verified; for wherever you go you can hear the work spoken evil of, and it is an isolated case where anyone will even venture to say, "There must be some good in them." However, this is only another testimony to us of its divinity; and one object of our mission here is to remove, if possible, the prejudice that is the result of so much misrepresentation.

In opening up new districts, it is often the case that people refuse to take the Elders in, even if they offer to pay for lodgings in advance. This happened when two of our Elders first opened the Stow-on-the-Wold district, about two months ago. Another difficulty is in securing halls to hold meetings in. The people will not rent them to us, even if double the amount of rent charged is offered. My companion, Elder Thomas England, from Plain city, Weber county, Utah, and myself, endeavored a few weeks ago, to get the use of the Baptistery in the Baptist church of this place. We had two applicants for baptism and desired to do the work for them, but the venerable minister informed us that the committee would undoubtedly decline to grant us the privilege of using it, as they were afraid the world would construe such an action of theirs into a sanction of the principles we taught. We next tried the public baths, but found they had become the property of the Stroud breweries, and were being used for a ginger beer factory. Disappointed again, we concluded to wait a little longer, when we would perform the ordinance in one of the neighboring streams, as the weather then was not favorable for outdoor baptizing.

But all these things are nothing compared to the exasperating indifference of the people. The spirit of indifference is the most discouraging thing I have met with yet. They have allowed themselves to be dragged into a religious bondage that would be unbearable to anyone who had the courage to think for themselves; but to them it is unapparent, and it seems it will take a lifetime to convince them of this fact.

Here in Stroud the Elders take up their lodgings in a regular boarding house. The Saints are none too wealthy, and are not able to furnish accommodation for holding meetings; therefore we are obliged to use our dining and sitting room at the boarding house to meet in on Sunday evenings. The room is usually comfortably filled, and sometimes crowded. Part of our time is occupied in visiting the Saints, exhorting them to be faithful to the covenants they have made. In discharging this duty the Elders in their district have a circuit of over seventy-five miles to travel each month, which is all done on foot. The Elders travel more and see more during the two years they are here than the majority of the residents do in their whole lives. An instance was brought to our notice not long since of an old lady who had died at the age of ninety-four years, who had never been outside of the village where she was born. As a contrast, I have traveled 1,000 miles over England in six months, and that is a very common record compared with some of the Elders here.

More missionaries are needed. Even in this country, where the Gospel has been preached so long, there are many towns where a missionary's voice has

not been heard for many years. However, our only concern should be, that we do our part, and He whose power is behind this great work, will provide a means by which every obstacle may be surmounted.

EDWARD E. PIKE.

IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

SAN LUIS, Obispo, California.

May 31st, 1897.

It is now fourteen months since I left my home in Meadow, Utah, in obedience to the call made of me to assist in spreading the Gospel truths in the state of California. One year of my time was spent in the cities of San Francisco and San Jose. While there I was blessed with the privilege of seeing a goodly number of honest souls gain entrance into the fold of Christ by their obedience to the divine principles of the Gospel, while many more were gaining light.

Our conference convened April 11th in San Francisco. For several days after conference we were busily engaged in visiting friends, sight seeing, picnicing etc. The last mentioned took place in the Golden Gate park—the place and joyous time of temporal feasting engaged in by a happy band of sixty-two California Mormons, as we sat upon the grass under the evergreens that flourish in this land of flowers; while partaking of the hospitality of the San Francisco Saints.

The day following conference our President, Elder E. H. Nye gave us our appointments to our fields of labor. Brother W. A. Bringham from Toquerville Utah, and I were to come to San Luis Obispo county our appointed field. It is about two hundred and fifty miles down the coast south from San Francisco. We landed in San Luis Obispo city, April 19th. We dedicated the county to the Lord as our field of labor and earnestly prayed that His Spirit would guide us in our feeble attempt to spread the precious Gospel message. This we could not do without money and that was beyond our reach, as we were traveling without purse or scrip. Being determined to deliver our message we held meetings on the street. In that respect our success was not flattering, as the place is poorly lighted as well as being small, having a population of about three thousand.

Since then we have completed a tour of the county, calling at sixteen small cities and villages. We held meetings in fourteen of them; the other two refused us a place in which to speak. The number in attendance at our meetings was not large; the smallest thirty, the largest one hundred and fifty. We made many friends, distributed some two hundred tracts and loaned a number of books. Many of the people were very curious, as we were the first Mormons ever in this district, and therefore the first they ever saw. As a rule they are very indifferent as regards religion, and especially when coming from a Mormon. The population is greatly mixed, principally Mexicans, Spanish and Swiss.

San Luis Obispo county is the banner dairying county in California. There is much grain raised in the eastern part, but little fruit. Some of the farms and ranches contain as high as fifty thousand acres. The climate is lovely, especially near the coast, being kept cool by the ocean breeze. The people dress about the same the year round and always