



IN THE FIELD.

## A Gathering of Missionaries at Hill, Ohio, Ill.

In a letter dated Lincoln, Ill., Feb. 18, and signed by Elders Frederick M. Abbott and Joseph A. Horne, the following items occur:

The Elders of southern Illinois departed from their usual custom by holding their conference, not in an elegant hall with carpeted floors in one of the larger cities, but in a country schoolhouse. The place of meeting was Hill, Effingham county, situated about seven miles from the railway station of Clio.

The Elders, 14 in number, were conveyed from Clio to their destination in a "back," a farm wagon and on the running-gear of another wagon. The journey en route was enlivened by singing, conspicuous for its tenor.

The first meeting was held Saturday evening, Feb. 13. The people began to arrive at 6 o'clock and by 7:30 all the regular and some hastily constructed seats were occupied by an honest and good-natured crowd of people, mostly families of Latter-day Saints, residents of the community, being among the number.

Conference President F. M. Abbott called the meeting to order at 7:30 p. m. and made a short address of welcome. Elder J. A. Horne was the first speaker and dwelt upon the subject of baptism. Elder W. B. Lorry then favored the congregation with a violin solo, "Nearer My God to Thee." He was followed by Elder Ahael H. Woodruff, president of the Northern States mission.

Elder J. M. Whitesides was the last speaker, his subject being the Holy Ghost.

The next morning at 9 o'clock all the Elders, except David E. Sargent, who was absent on account of physical infirmities, met together in Priesthood meeting and for four and one-half hours enjoyed a spiritual feast.

After the sacrament was administered Elder Woodruff addressed the Elders.

It was voted unanimously to sustain the mission and conference authorities and the General Church Authorities. Elders James M. Whitesides, Alpha R. Jaques and John W. Hibbard were honorably released to return home. In closing his remarks, Elder Woodruff expressed his appreciation of the good works of these Elders and urged them not to relax their efforts after returning home, "because," said he, "you are not released from the work of the Lord, but only from laboring in this part of the vineyard."

The Elders in turn reported the conditions prevailing in their respective fields; related experiences, made timely suggestions and exchanged mutual expressions of love and esteem. It was the prevailing opinion among them that the conference is in a most promising condition. Elders Clement and Lorry had traveled in the southern part of the state for several months and reported conditions very satisfactory considering the scattered state of the Saints. "In homes where we found the Deseret News," they said, "there we found the staunchest Latter-day Saints." Others reported the melting away of prejudice and the discovery of honest-hearted people in Quincy, Jacksonville, Springfield, Lincoln, Decatur, Bloomington and Danville. That the work of the Elders is not in vain is evident from the kindly treatment afforded them in places where Elders had formerly labored. In his remarks President Abbott expressed his admiration for the sterling qualities of his corps of workers. He emphasized the necessity for prayer and humility and advised the Elders to shun the myriads of the kingdom or they could not preach the first principles in that simplicity that is so necessary for the average congregation.

At 2 o'clock the second public meeting was convened. After the opening exercises Elder Nels C. Peterson gave an exposition of faith as applied to temporal as well as spiritual things.

and the necessity of works in connection with faith.

Elder Easton Clement argued the necessity of baptism.

Elder Lorry then favored the congregation with a selection on the violin.

Elder Nephi Sorenson made a few remarks on faith. He was followed by Elder Vera Hobson who brought to the minds of his hearers the necessity that a man possess the proper credentials before officiating in any office, religious or political. The audience were next treated to a quartet, "School Thy Feeling," by Elders Ward, Russell, Hobson and Toome. Elder W. B. Lorry spoke for a short time on the offices and powers of the Holy Ghost.

After a few remarks by Elder Ernest Toome, Elder Abbott made a stirring address, calling the attention of his auditors to a gray-haired man in front of him. "That man has spent his life in doing good to his fellows; his course has been marked by honesty and integrity; he is one of the honorable men of the earth and God will reward him for the good he has done." But he went on to state that no matter how good a man was, pertaining to every day affairs, he still had a religious duty to perform. He cited the case of the devout Cornelius as illustrating his point.

All the extra plank, dry goods boxes drafted into service for this occasion were inadequate for seating the assembled people, some of whom had come five miles or more. When the meeting was called to order at 7:30 standing room was at a premium. After the preliminary exercises Brother John C. Dyer was requested to speak. Brother Dyer is a resident of Effingham county and too much cannot be said in praise of his energetic labors there. Previous to arriving at Hill, Latter-day Saints he was a Methodist class leader, and since that time has been busily engaged in preaching the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. He spoke in a forceful manner and testified to the truthfulness of the cause he had espoused.

The quartet accompanied by Elder Lorry on the violin, sang "O My Father." Some members of the congregation were inclined to show their appreciation by applauding, but were restrained. Salvation for the dead was the subject of a short discourse by Elder John W. Hibbard. Elder Lorry then played a selection on the violin to the delight of his hearers.

In a few well chosen words Elder Woodruff brought home to his listeners the necessity of repentance and the beauty of a life devoted to the cause of truth.

After another violin solo by Elder Lorry the conference was brought to a close by singing "Rock of My Refuge." Benediction was pronounced by Elder Orson Manwaring.

The next morning the Elders walked to Clio and boarded the train, some to return to their loved ones at home, while others to their fields of labor to take up the work where it had been left off.

## BUILDING A MEETINGHOUSE.

The Elders Labor With Trowel in One Hand, Sword in the Other.

Brother Jeremiah F. Cragar writes from Tomstown, Franklin county, Pa., Jan. 17:

"There has been a branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints near Tomstown in southern Franklin county, state of Pennsylvania, for more than a score of years. Many Elders have labored there. Conference was held there twice. The branch has for years had an average membership of 18 members. They held Priesthood meetings where they could obtain leave. In the spring of 1903 at a conference held in western Pennsylvania, two Elders were assigned to labor in Franklin county by the names of Jesse L. Smith and Joseph Givens, not long after the Elders had arrived they noticed a lack of union in the branch, and greatly on account of not having a regular place to worship, Elder Smith said, he believed, if the branch had a meetinghouse they would attend to the duty of worship and grow stronger in faith and union. A meeting was called to consider the matter of building a meetinghouse. The Elders offered their time and some money. Some of the Saints also agreed to help by giving money and labor. Thus the Elders were encouraged to go on. A site was selected, and the work of building was commenced. The Elders manifesting great faith."

Elder Smith in his usual good natured way began to make friends among the rich and poor. The Elders laid aside their ministerial costumes, put on overalls, plain shirts and straw hats, and took pick and crow bar in their hands. Elder Smith supervised the work. A sufficient amount of stones to build the walls were gotten to the site, the lime and sand were procured, and the mason work commenced. On account of the masons being very busy, the work progressed slowly, for the walls had to be built by friends. Thus the Elders worked and preached until the time came to go back to conference again. The Lord in His wisdom saw proper to send Elder Smith and Elder David Pulsipher to try and finish the

meetinghouse, and teach the people the Gospel.

By subscription money was raised, and building material purchased. Elder Smith would try to impress upon the minds of the people the great blessing the meetinghouse would be to our community. He even prophesied that the house would be filled, in course of time, with good Latter-day Saints. The members treated the prophecy as an idle expression, but today the writer can say there is an encouraging sign of fulfillment. Therefore we hope the more earnest that the meetinghouse will soon be finished.

## A Testimony.

The following testimony is only one among thousands, as to the efficacy of prayer and the power of the Priesthood.

Ostorn, Pa., S. C., Feb. 17, 1904.—We, the undersigned, have witnessed the testimony of the Lord through one of His servants. We had six children suffering from whooping cough. Three of them were quite sick. Elder C. B. Greenwood came to our house on a visit. He prayed with us and rebuked the disease, and from that time until now, which is four months, the children have not been worried with it. Your brother and sister in the cause of Christ.

J. K. FOX and WIFE.

## STAKE CONFERENCES.

## QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

## A Profitable Gathering of the Snowflake Stake.

The Snowflake stake quarterly conference, held in Snowflake ward, Feb. 13 and 14, 1904, was a very pleasant and beneficial affair to all who attended.

All the stake presidency were in attendance, and a majority of the High Council and other leading brethren.

Owing to sickness among some of the people, the first gatherings were not large, but an excellent spirit prevailed throughout the entire conference. All were given to the divine mission of Joseph Smith and the establishment of the Latter-day Saints in the Rocky Mountains. This was declared to be truly a marvelous work and a wonder according to Isaiah 23.

The Elders received general peace among their people, also a fair degree of prosperity in temporal matters. Some little concern was felt on account of a long drought that has prevailed here for several months, but the leading brethren assured the Saints that all would be well if the people would only live up to the requirements of the Gospel.

Both Church and district schools are doing a good work among the young. There is also great benefit derived from the auxiliary organizations.

There seems to be quite an increase in the amount of tithes paid, while the number of non-tithe-payers is diminishing. There is an earnest and vigorous effort now being put forth to store flood waters in the Snowflake stake, which must necessarily be felt in the near future on the lines of thrift and permanency.

The peaceful and happy closing of our conference on the evening of the 14th was of such a nature as to impress all with the great benefit of such gatherings among the Saints.

L. M. SAVAGE, Clerk.

## SAN JUAN STAKE.

## A Well Attended and Instructive Quarterly Conference.

Mancos, Colo., Feb. 8.—Quarterly conference of the San Juan stake convened in the Amusement hall Jan. 20 and 21.

Elder Walter C. Lyman made a few opening remarks, which showed that the stake was in a favorable condition generally.

Bishop F. J. Jones reported Monticello ward as being in good working order.

Counselor L. H. Reid reported the Bluff ward as having passed a successful season.

Elder Halls spoke on our individual duties. Bishop George Halls reported Mancos ward as improving in spiritual and temporal matters. Bishop Farley Larsen reported Moab ward as doing fairly well.

At the afternoon meeting at 2 p. m. Elder F. P. Grant of the Y. M. M. A. board, addressed the people. His subject was how to convert the wayward.

Sister McCune of the Young Ladies' board spoke on the importance of being honest in all our dealings.

Elder Hendrickson reported Fruitland ward as being in good condition. Bishop Tenny reported Hammond ward.

Priesthood meeting was held at 7 p. m.

Jan. 21, 10 a. m. Sunday school exercises were gone through with. Supt. H. M. Taylor exhorted the officers and teachers of the various Sabbath schools to observe the Word of Wisdom.

At 2 p. m. the general and stake authorities were sustained.

Elder B. P. Grant related how and why he became a "Mormon." President W. H. Reid spoke on the importance of keeping correct records. President Lyman said he desired that the Saints carry the worship more than we have done into our family circles and that a hymn and chapter from one of our standard works be sang and read before engaging in family prayers. He promised a blessing if we would do this.

The conference was the largest ever held in this stake. A large turn out was made from the surrounding wards, from 50 to 100 miles distant.

A returned missionary's reunion was held Monday, Feb. 1, at 7 p. m. The experiences of the Elders seasoned with a little wit was very interesting. Conference adjourned for three months, to meet at Bluff.

L. H. REDD, Stake Clerk.

## CASSIA STAKE.

## Report of the Quarterly Conference at Oakley.

Oakley, Ida., Feb. 8, 1904.—The quarterly conference of Cassia stake convened at Oakley, Jan. 30 and 31, 1904. Elder P. T. Jack presiding.

Saturday, 30, 10 a. m.—Nine of the 11 wards were represented by the Bishops.

Elder W. T. Jack gave a report of the condition of the stake. He also read a brief statistical report, showing an increase of population, tithes and offerings.

Bishops Thomas Blackburn, Jr., and Adam S. Sagers gave reports of Yost and Basin wards. Elder S. W. Nelson gave an excellent report of the power of the Lord in healing the sick in the mission field.

At the afternoon meeting Elder S. B. Young of the First Council of Seventy was present. Bishop A. C. Smith reported Marion ward. Sister Louisa Haight reported the Relief societies. Elder W. T. Harper bore testimony to the Gospel. Elder J. J. Millard reported the seventy-eighth quorum of Seventy.

Elder Seymour B. Young was the next speaker. He said he had not visited Oakley since the organization of the stake 16 years ago. He was visiting the stake to look after the missionary class in the Church school, and become acquainted with the courses taught in these institutions. He was gratified to hear the reports of the different organizations. He spoke of the great increase of the work of the Lord in the earth, and the necessity for many missionaries to preach the Gospel.

Sunday morning at 10 o'clock was the opening exercises of the Oakley First ward Sabbath school.

Elder S. B. Young spoke upon the Sacrament, after which Elder S. P. Worthington gave a statistical report of the Sabbath schools of the stake, there being 20 organized schools, with an enrollment of officers, teachers and students of 1,400.

Prof. Joseph Petersen reported the condition of the stake academy.

Elder S. B. Young gave the reading, "The Dream of Pilate's Wife." 2 p. m.—The tabernacle would hardly contain the vast congregation. After the administration of the Sacrament Patriarch James W. Philip bore testimony to the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith. He first saw the Prophet in 1839.

Elder W. T. Jack presented the general and local authorities, and all were unanimously sustained.

Elder S. B. Young encouraged home industry; counseled the Saints upon the laws of health, and the sanitary conditions that should exist in and about the homes of the Saints.

The singing was very beautiful. The missionary reunion was a grand success on Saturday evening.

The mutual conference was held Monday, Feb. 1, 1904.

JOHN J. MILLARD, Clerk.

## RETURNED MISSIONARIES

Elder Josephus Taylor, of Salem, Utah Co., who was set apart Nov. 6, 1901, for a mission in the Southern States, returned Jan. 23. Arkansas was his field of work during his entire absence. Much good, he reports, is being done there by the Elders from Zion, and the conference is in a fair condition, many friends and investigators being made.

Elder Charles L. Green, of Hooper, Weber Co., arrived home Jan. 25. He was set apart July 9, 1901, for a mission to Germany. Upon arriving at Berlin, he was assigned to the Dresden conference, where he labored until that conference was divided, in May, 1902. He was then assigned to the Breslau conference, where he remained until released, in December last. He labored in the cities of Zittau, Gorlitz, and Hirschberg, with fair success. The efforts of the Elders have been somewhat retarded by the false stories circulated by the enemies of the truth but a great work has been accomplished in Germany, and the Gospel has been preached to a great many influential people. The Elders are being banished from Prussia, very rapidly. Elder Green and companion being banished from the city of Hirschberg in December.

Sister Margaret Ruby King, of Coyoito, Garfield Co., who was set apart Nov. 24, 1902, to labor in the Colorado mission, reports by letter under date of Jan. 15, 1904, of her safe return home after a most pleasant missionary experience. She stayed a number of months in the Colorado mission, never seeing a sick day. My work was tracing and visiting friends. In company with the Elders and other lady missionaries I have held a number of cottage and street meetings. There are now two lady missionaries laboring in Denver, and much good is being accomplished by them and the Elders. The Colorado mission is in a prosperous condition.

ous condition; many friends are being made, and all the missionaries seem to have the spirit of their work. I look back on my past years' experience as being the happiest time of my life, and all I say to any who may have this great honor bestowed upon them is, "God speed."

Elder James I. Atkinson, Jr., of South Douniford, Davis Co., who was set apart Feb. 4, 1902, for a mission to the Northern States, returned Feb. 18. He labored in Minnesota, Iowa and northern Illinois, with fair success. A good work is being done in this district, and the Elders are generally well treated by the people.

Elder Bernard A. Dankers, of Ogden, Weber Co., who was set apart Jan. 26, 1902, arrived home Feb. 4, from a very successful mission in Holland. He labored for nine months in north Holland, and during that time some 60 honest souls were added to the fold. He was then transferred to the Rotterdam conference, where he presided over district No. 2, and he and his companion baptized 50 more people. The work in the Netherlands mission is in a very flourishing condition, and its progress is only curtailed by the lack of enough Elders who can speak the language.

Elder Alfred R. Jacques, of Salem, Idaho, who was set apart Jan. 7, 1902, for a mission to the Northern States, passed through this city Feb. 20, on his return. He reports a successful mission performed in the Michigan conference, where he spent 15 months, afterwards going to Springfield, Illinois. The work is making fair progress in these districts and the Elders are making many friends, and some converts.

Elder Freeman R. Tanner, of Provo, Utah Co., who was set apart Nov. 8, 1901, for a mission in the Northwestern States, reports, by letter under date of this date, his successful mission in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and San Jose, where he made many friends and did a good work. He says the Gospel work in California is progressing nicely.

Elder Joseph E. Jensen, of Brigham City, Boxelder county, returned last week from the California mission, whither he was sent Feb. 4, 1902. He labored in the vicinity of the cities of Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and San Jose, where he made many friends and did a good work. He says the Gospel work in California is progressing nicely.

Elder David H. Gustafson, late of the Thirteenth ward, but now a resident of Forest Dale, returned Feb. 29, from a mission to California. He was set apart Feb. 9, 1902, and labored principally in San Francisco and Los Angeles conferences, which fields, he says, are in good condition. The Elders have many friends and not a few are investigating the Gospel with a view to joining the Church. This is especially so in Oakland, where Elder Gustafson labored prior to his release. President Robinson, he says, has been ill for some time past, but is now convalescent and able to resume his work.

Elder Geo. W. Miller, formerly of Pleasant Green, Salt Lake Co., now of Sterling, Canada, reached this city Feb. 23, on his return from Colorado, where he has been doing successful missionary work since Oct. 1, 1901. The Elders are fairly well, and the districts where he has been laboring; they are allaying much prejudice and making many friends. Elder Miller spent 19 months in and around Omaha, Neb., and the remainder of the time in South Dakota.

Elder J. Louis Willardson, of Ephraim, Sanpete Co., who was set apart June 25, 1901, for the Colorado mission, passed through this city Feb. 23, on his return homeward. He labored for six months in the West Colorado conference, and in the Nebraska conference the remainder of the time, meeting with fair success, and very good treatment.

Elder Samuel E. Hill, of this city, returned Feb. 17, from a successful mission performed in the Southern, Middle and Eastern States, for which he was set apart Feb. 4, 1902. He labored first in Virginia, was a month in the mission office in Tennessee, and later sent to Ohio and West Virginia. The work is progressing favorably in the states named, prejudice is giving way to a better feeling, and the Elders are doing a good work.

Elder E. Julian Emerson Young, of this city, who was set apart June 25, 1901, to fill a mission to Germany, returned Feb. 4 in good health and spirits. He labored in the Frankfurt conference during his entire mission, and reports the work making excellent progress, notwithstanding the many difficulties in the way. At Cologne he and several other Elders have been banished in the last few years, but one local Elder and three Priests are enthusiastically carrying on the good work, and as they are natives, they can neither be banished nor silenced.

Elder Amasa Rasmussen, of Fairview, Sanpete county, passed through this city Feb. 24, on his return from a successful mission in the Southern States, for which he was set apart Nov. 2, 1902. The East Tennessee conference was his field of labor, where he reports the work making good progress. Since last June Elder Rasmussen has been traveling among the branches. There are some 400 Church members in that conference.

Elder George L. Schow, of Lehi, Utah Co., arrived home Feb. 25, from a successful mission in the Southern States, to which he was set apart Feb. 13, 1901. He reports the work in that old stake in a prosperous condition. The Elders are doing a good work, are generally well received, are allaying much prejudice and making friends wherever they get a hearing.

Elder Samuel R. Rogers, of Lewiston, Cache county, who was sent June 25, 1901, to the Colorado mission, reached this city Feb. 26, on his way home after a very pleasant and profitable missionary experience in the Nebraska and east and west Colorado conferences. The work of the Lord is making very fair progress in these districts, and the Elders are all doing a good work.

Elder James M. Yates, of Lake Point, Tooele county, who was set apart April 22, 1902, for a mission to the Southern States, passed through this city Feb. 26, on his return homeward. His field of labor was in the Colorado conference, where he reports in excellent condition, with encouraging prospects for the future.

Elder George A. Heslop, of West Weber, Weber county, passed through this city Feb. 25, on his return from the Colorado mission, to which he was sent July 9, 1901. He labored in the east Colorado and Nebraska conferences, mostly in the cities, making many friends and meeting with a good number of investigators.

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