

thoroughly demonstrated by our Elders during the past year. Extremely bitter counties and neighborhoods have shown the "white flag," and many of their ranks have come with the same question that Peter so closely answered on the first Pentecostal day after the resurrection of our Master. Prest. Kimball has told us that after our testimony would come the testimony of fires, earthquakes, famine, pestilences, thunderings, and lightnings which are the judgments of God, and we firmly bear testimony that some of these have come, and others will follow close upon them.

At our conference, which met at Jacksboro, Campbell county, Tenn., were thirty-one Elders, including Elder Albert Matheson from the office at Chattanooga, who was with us on behalf of Prest. Kimball, who has not yet returned from Utah. Our public meetings were held in the large assembly room of the court house, and were very well attended, especially on Sunday. The Elders were well provided for at hotels and private dwellings, most of them at the kindness of A. F. Sheets and P. Schlosshau, the former manager of the Rothschild Free Soil Farm, the latter an attorney-at-law who has been in Utah. Neither spared any efforts in assisting to make the many "Mormon preachers" as comfortable as possible. Many other kind friends gave a helping hand, but time and space will not permit mentioning all.

On Monday we listened to the inspired words of Elder Matheson, which is to be hoped, fell heavily upon our ears, and sank deeply into our hearts.

On the 26th our ranks were strengthened by the arrival of four Elders from Zion, and thirty-four of us are now scattered through the various counties of East Tennessee and western North Carolina. The missionary field is indeed like the traditional field of the tropics, where sowing, growing and harvesting last throughout the year.

Our present ambition is to become a system of information and light in our sisterhood of conferences, for we have been a satellite long enough. May we grow and increase in our labors and may the Spirit of God abide in every honest heart, is our desire and prayer for all.

Your paper is a welcome visitor, and is an indispensable to missionary work.

JAS. E. HART,
Prest. East Tenn. Conference.
F. G. WARWICK,
E. K. FILLERUP,
Clerks.

FLORIDA SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Truly Florida is appropriately named the Land of Flowers, for her forests, hills, highways, and hedges are decked and adorned with these beauties which breathe their fragrance to the air to be wafted on the gentle sea breezes.

In the fore part of May, the Elders, Saints and friends met in conference, and spent a few days mingling with each other, enjoying temporal and spiritual feasts. But too soon came the time for parting, so with heavy hearts and laden grips, the Elders started for their different fields. Elder C. J. Brown was appointed superintendent of Sunday schools of this conference. He, taking a local man for his companion, started for the western part of the state, visiting, re-visiting and organizing schools in that section, which he reported in a flourishing condition. On his return he was called to labor in the office at Chattanooga, Tenn. I then was notified to act in his place as superintendent. Elder Sedgwick and I packed our grips and in the company

Brother Hassell began to "hit the grit," as the expression goes. On our eastward course we passed through the capitol, where General Hill met the Union men in a skirmish during the time of the Civil War. In this city are but few buildings of note. The state building stands on a hill and commands a view over the city; the postoffice, a large brick structure, and the hotel with its grounds, shaded and beautified by the palms, century plants and evergreens, gave the place an air of cheerfulness and ease. About an eighty-five miles' journey from this place brought us to Jefferson county, where we met the Sunday school in a promising condition. The coming week we continued our journey. Elder Sedgwick leaving me in Madison county to labor with Elder Watts. Brother Hassell volunteered to remain with me until I met my local companion, Brother J. B. Wright. After meeting him we journeyed on to Sanderson, where we met the school, and our hearts were filled with joy and swelled with emotion as the little ones sang the songs of Zion, accompanied with an organ, which was placed in the building by Brother G. P. Conova, a kind friend, and a well wisher of the cause. After visiting two other schools, Bluff Creek and New Zion, under the supervision of Brother Harris and Harris, Murphy and Dowling, we were notified that the people of Clay county were anxiously waiting for one of these benefactions to be established in their midst. On the coming Sunday the Saints and friends met in the company of Elders Haslam, Cooms, Stevenson and Brother Wright and organized a school, and all were delighted with the mode of conducting and working of the same.

We have eleven at present in this state, and expect to double the number soon. The Southern States mission is devoting much care and attention to this noble cause; it is a worthy cause, for it is doing a great work in bringing many to a knowledge of the Gospel, which is the "power of God unto salvation; with the allaying prejudice, causing unity by which we stand; increasing a desire for investigation and a love one for another—this seed is being sown in fertile and prepared soil. Who can efface the impressions that are formed upon the molding minds which are bound with iron bands of truth? Let us put our shoulders to the wheel and help roll the work along, and hasten the day when the earth shall be covered with righteousness as the waters covers the sea. LESTER A. STEVENSON,
Conference S. S. Superintendent.
Sept. 10, 1897.

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE.

Buckhead, Cleveland Co., Oklahoma.
Sept. 20 1897.

We know that the communications from various missionary fields are interesting to many readers of the "News." We include ourselves among those who are much interested in them. As the Oklahoma conference has not been heard from for a long time, and as we believe that not many less than a dozen anxious mothers are watching your columns for news of it, we now have the pleasure of writing to your estimable sheet.

We will begin by stating that their sons are all O. K. in very deed. Our vicinity has had a most enjoyable time in the assembling of the Oklahoma conference in our midst. A year ago when the Latter-day Saint Elders first made their appearance in this locality, certain parties said, "The people of this community don't want Mormonism among them, and they are not going to have it." I wonder what they think now? as we have

captured several of them, converting them to the truths of the Gospel, and leading them down in the waters of baptism. The opposition manifested then, with the increased prejudice since, has been the stepping stone to the planting of Mormonism firmly on the same forbidden ground. This is one instance among many where Mormonism has been "kicked up hill" by its enemies. This community for the past week has been favored with one of the greatest displays of the sublimity and grandeur of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, that it has ever witnessed. There was quite a respectable crowd out each night to listen to the strange doctrines advocated by the Mormons. Doubtless most of them came for curiosity, expecting to hear something akin to Mohammedanism, but instead they heard the plain simple story of the cross. The first principles of the Gospel were taken up in their order and treated upon with such clearness and simplicity that "tho' a fool," the enquirer need not err in understanding them. Elder C. M. Holmes explained the origin of the Book of Mormon, and proved by incontestible scriptural evidence its divinity. The organization of the Church was portrayed with all its helps and governments by Elder Geo. V. Morris. Elder B. D. Nebeker explained the second coming of Christ and the destiny of the human family. The people's wonder was aroused, and when our worthy president, Wm. T. Jack, gave them a sketch of the history of the Mormon people, and explained the object of the Elders traveling as they do, their hearts were touched, and tears welled up in the eyes of some unused to weeping.

One pleasing feature of our conference was the singing. All the Elders are blessed with good strong voices, and we made the air ring with the songs of Zion. We were privileged with the presence of Bishop Wm. T. Harper of Albion, Idaho whose counsels and advice are always appreciated by the young Elders of Israel.

Wednesday and Thursday the Elders met in Priesthood meetings and reported their labors, also received some valuable instructions from our mission president, Elder Jack. The Elders were assigned to labor in Cleveland county until the first of November, and then all will march south to spend the winter preaching the truths and bearing their humble testimonies to the Chickasaws.

The Elders laboring in this conference are as follows: C. M. Holmes and T. G. Naylor; B. D. Nebeker and Franklin Raleigh; G. V. Morris and J. M. Kearns; Wm. T. Harper and J. A. Eardley. All friends wishing to write them can find them at Lexington, Cleveland county, Oklahoma.

The time we spent together was short but pleasant, and it was with eyes bedimmed with tears, and with prayers for God's peace and blessings upon each other, that we parted for another six months; our souls filled with the spirit of God and a determination to bear the glad tidings to the honest in heart.

The Elders are traveling without purse or scrip, and by so doing are accomplishing a great deal of good, because they put their trust in God. The "News" is a welcome visitor to the humble workers in Christ's vineyard. JOHN A. EARDLEY,
Conference President.

New Madrid, Mo., Oct. 8.—At 5 a.m. an earthquake shock was felt here but no damage was done.

New Madrid was the scene of a violent earthquake in 1811, when a great part of the land in the entire county sank several feet and was overflowed by water from the Mississippi river.