

Cache Valley in this Territory. The soil is of different nature, and very fertile. There will some day be a great city built in that valley somewhere near the present Fort Duchesne, and the valley will afford a pleasant home and sustenance for thousands of families.

"The gilsonite asphaltum claims were formerly on the eastern edge of the Uintah reservation, but the owners have recently had them opened, eleven sections of land being cut off the reservation for this purpose. But this does not open to settlement any land, as there is a strip of land on the reservation between the river and the opened sections. There are mineral claims being worked on the Uintah reservation to the southwest of the gilsonite location. These are the elaterite mines of Judge McConnell, who has a lease on the claims and works them under strict regulations.

"The Uncompahgre reservation, however, is very rich in mineral. It is on that, a few miles southeast of Vernal, that are located the vast asphaltum beds that Mr. Perry and others were seeking to get possession of. The claims in the gilsonite locality have asphalt that is 99 per cent pure. The vein there is from eighteen inches to two and a half feet wide, and has been uncovered for about a mile. How much further it extends is yet undetermined. Its depth is also unknown, though it has been cut into in places from sixty to eighty feet deep. But the asphalt beds which Mr. Perry and his associates were after, while of equally pure quality, are fully ten times the extent of the gilsonite claims. The vein is at least twenty feet wide, and the pure asphalt crops out in large quantities for a great distance. Its depth in the earth has never been penetrated. It does not go down perpendicularly, but in a slanting direction. These beds will be a vast mine of wealth to somebody when the Uncompahgre reservation is opened.

"The wagon road from Price to Vernal is rough, and thirty-five miles of it is through a barren section; but the road to Casper is rougher still. The best wagon road is that which comes to Heber City. It is good all the way in the summer season, with plenty of water and feed all along. From December to March or April it is not passable to teams because of snow and mud. At present the settlers of Ashley have a good market for their hay, grain and vegetables at Fort Duchesne. There is not much money there at present, but we do not feel the financial stringency as severely as the people seem to elsewhere, for we have good comfortable homes and food and the other necessities of life in abundance."

EAST TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.

The East Tennessee conference was held Saturday and Sunday, September 16th and 17th, on Sweetwater, seven miles east of Newport, Cook county. There were present, Elder J. Golden Kimball, mission president, with clerk, George A. Smith from the office of Chattanooga, Elders Thomas W. Sloan, (conference president), Andrew D. Helm, Jed. G. Shumway, Robert C. Young, L. W. Roundy, Leo D. Shelley,

Joseph C. Orme, Thomas Hicken, J. H. Hubbard and William L. Hayes. The weather was extremely pleasant, and nature did all within her power to make the affair successful. The autumn sun wore a benign smile, and the mountains were decked in their bluest tints—all nature smiled. A numerous host of friends sprang up spontaneously and offered to entertain either Elders or visiting friends, so all were amply provided for. This was one of those pleasant and soothing occasions in missionary life which can only be appreciated by those who have participated in like reunions.

Many were the expressions of joy, and hearty the hand-shaking that ensued as each pair of Elders reached their destination and joined the cheerful little band of comrades, who anxiously awaited to see the rest safely landed at their journey's end. This being a tobacco-raising district the people, generally speaking, were busily engaged harvesting and curing their product, for which reason Saturday's meetings were sparsely attended. On Sunday, however, the house was packed full of anxious listeners. Four public meetings in all were held, in which each Elder had the opportunity of speaking, dwelling, as they did, chiefly upon those topics most commonly referred to in our discourses. The effects were magical, everyone being impressed with the new beauties contained in the Gospel plan, which were brought more vividly into one's mind by hearing them presented by various speakers. Nor must we neglect to mention the impressive sermons delivered by our worthy brethren, Elders Kimball and Smith. Their remarks left lasting impressions on all who were fortunate enough to be within the sound of their warning voices, much prejudice being allayed by their able arguments.

From the reports given in, we can say, this conference is in a healthy and flourishing condition, thirteen baptisms having been performed during the past six months, making a total of 101 Saints in this conference, which, by the way, embraces eastern Tennessee, overlapping also the western counties of North Carolina. There is also one flourishing branch organized in which Sunday schools and meetings are held weekly. The conference has ten Elders ardently laboring, preaching the Gospel where an opportunity is afforded and distributing tracts by the thousand, thereby warning the inhabitants of the earth of the judgment that God is about to pour forth upon the earth. Satan, of course, is not asleep, but is employing every means imaginable to thwart the glorious plan which we are so eager to carry to the ears of the honest in heart. Prejudice, thoroughly grounded in the minds of the masses, is not to be moved in a day, but gradually it must yield to the onward advance of truth and reason. We are in no wise discouraged, for while our friends at home are fretting and worrying over the financial stringency we are striving to quell the surging billows of a sin-tossed world, depending entirely upon the Lord to provide us with food and shelter.

Of all people on earth, surely those of the Southern States are the most open-hearted and hospitable. Get their

confidence and you get a friend who will lay his life down for your protection.

Having received our various assignments, an affectionate leave was taken of our co-laborers, each pair heading for their respective counties, except Elder Andrew D. Helm, of Mill Creek, who, having completed an honorable mission, was released to return home. With renewed vim and energy, each straps on his grip, and with Bible in hand wends his way, remembering only the joys tasted at conference which seems to have been a peaceful benediction from heaven to brighten our toilsome yet pleasant travels.

WM. L. HAYES, Secretary.
NORABURGH, McMinn county, Tenn.,
Sept. 24th, 1893.

"FERRYMAN" HAS A WORD.

RIOVILLE, Lincoln Co., Nev.,
Sept. 21, 1893.

Dear Sir.—An article in a recent issue of your paper with prominent headlines [relating to the difficulties of Arizona travel—sand, rocks and little water] has been sent to me and requires a short review and the same publicity. Inasmuch as the writer of that article is a man whose statement should and probably will command respectful notice when made in his normal state, it is due to him and the public to say that, according to his own showing as I view it, he was at the time of his writing in an abnormal and dreamy state. On the trip he so romantically depicts he left this place for Gold Basin after two hours' rest with a team he himself stated was exhausted twenty-five miles behind at St. Thomas, and would not do to venture the ordinary road and would hence prefer a new track on which two watering places could be had near the road which, all in all, is less than forty miles and can easily be driven over with a fresh team in a day. The first watering place, twelve miles southeast, where the road comes within two miles of the great river, he did not choose to go to at all; the second one, twenty miles on the road and one mile off, he did not drive to, but carried a barrel of water on the horse (which must have helped the horse a good deal) and on "all that fearful desert road" there was no time or place where he was more than nine miles from water. It is safe to say that if he had taken the road he recommends from St. George, 100 miles, which he did not see, it would have seemed 300 miles, if indeed he could have made it at all.

As to the character of the roads there are in fact no roads in all this region such as northern Utah affords, and from the nature of the terrain they cannot be made really good; but the distances are a matter of measurement and quite easily ascertained. An exhausted team and an anxious driver are not reliable criterions. When a party of California emigrants perished in 1848 in Death Valley, two survivors stated that they traveled ten to fifteen miles a day, whereas recent measurements between their camps show that they made from one and a half to three miles a day. Any strange stretch of country, especially if without water, is