

FROM THE MISSIONARY FIELDS.

Report of an Elder.

Bellwood, Butler Co., Neb.,
August, 1893.

In response to a call from the servants of God I left my family and friends at Lewisville, Fremont county, Idaho, on the 31st of October, 1896, to fill a mission to the Northern States, in company with four Elders—David Kinghorn, Parley Williams, William Marvles and Mahonri Stookey. We arrived in Kansas City on Friday evening. Sunday we visited the Temple lot, Independence, Jackson county, Mo., a place I had desired in my heart to see, if I were ever called to take a mission. While viewing this sacred spot my mind reflected upon the early history of the rise of the Church of Christ and the many difficulties and trials the Saints of God encountered in those early days for their faith in Christ, and the love they had for the truth and the man whom God had raised up and inspired to lay the foundation of the great latter-day work. I felt to rejoice to have the privilege to view this sacred spot. We also had the privilege to attend services in the Re-organized church. We then returned and put up at the hotel. Monday we were assigned our fields of labor. I was sent to Omaha to labor in the Nebraska conference. I arrived at Omaha and found my way to 612 Fourteenth street, where I met Elder A. G. Young and Elder Fawson. We held our first conference in the city of Blair, Washington county. It convened on the 22nd of November, 1896, and continued three days. We had a time of rejoicing and a spiritual feast, and received many valuable instructions. I was assigned to labor with Elder Archibald G. Young in the city of Hastings, Adams county. We took our departure for our field of labor in the month of December. We called on the mayor and found him to be a very fair minded gentleman. He granted us the privilege to canvass the city. We also called on the editors. Hastings has a population of about 10,000 and is surrounded by a beautiful country. We set out to canvass the city and to distribute tracts and converse with the people on the Gospel. All went well till we struck a minister. The day after the papers stated that two Mormon Elders were in town calling on the families. This aroused a great deal of opposition. The different churches were holding meetings. We called one day at a hall in the business part of the town, where several pastors were holding meeting. The reception was cool. We were abused on account of our belief in the revelations and doctrines of the Prophet Joseph. We could not obtain any church or hall to speak in, but resumed our labor from house to house. We made some warm friends.

We labored in Hastings till the spring conference, which convened in Omaha the 3rd of April, 1897. We had an enjoyable time when meeting the Elders again in conference. I was assigned to return and labor in Adams county with L. S. Mechem as companion. We arrived at our field of labor the 19th day of April. In entering our field of labor we dedicated the county unto the Lord and invoked His blessings upon the people. We soon secured a place for headquarters, and then started a tour through the county. It was our first experience in traveling without money. Never before in my life had I traveled this way, but found that the Lord's promises were made good. Brother Mechem and I traveled together for three months,

when he returned to Omaha. My next companion and co-laborer was P. J. Williams, president of the Nebraska conference. We pursued our labors in Adams county till fall conference, and made many warm friends.

Our conference convened in Council Bluffs, Iowa, October 9. We had a time of rejoicing. There were twenty-one Elders in both conferences, eight in Nebraska and thirteen in Iowa.

My next companion was Lee S. Robinson. We were assigned to labor in Fairburn, Jefferson county, Nebraska, and took our departure on the 19th of October. We labored together for six weeks, when Brother Robinson was called home on account of sickness. I remained there three weeks and made a good many warm friends. I spent the holidays, the 25th of December, in Beatrice, Nebraska. At this point I was met by Andrew Anderson, from Halliday, Utah. From Beatrice we took train to Fort Kearney, Nebraska, 195 miles from Omaha. The next morning being Sunday, we visited the Baptist church. Monday morning we called on the mayor and got permission to canvass the city; we also called on the editors. Monday evening we called at the Baptist church where the different churches were holding a union prayer meeting. Here we met Rev. Hayden of the Presbyterian faith. He had been doing missionary work in Utah, having been located at Logan, Utah, for several years. He had most of our church works and had been lecturing on what he called Mormonism, for several years. He introduced himself and said: "You are Mormon Elders from Utah?" I replied in the affirmative. He said he had located us and was going to oppose us. He gave notice through the press that he would expose the "rottenness" of Mormonism in his church the following Sunday evening. When the time arrived for the exposure the people had gathered from all parts of the town. He represented the people of Utah, their character and moral precepts as black as possible. Failing to secure a building to hold meetings in, one pleasant day we went down the street and held meetings and had large crowds to listen to us. We made many friends and gave away tracts, and we held street meetings and made many warm friends. We labored in this city for two months. Afterwards I was assigned to labor in Saunders county with M. P. Sorenson as companion. We labored in this county for two months. We were led to a family who had joined the Church in Sweden about ten years ago. Later, in company with Elder John Hatch from Taylor, Arizona, I made a missionary tour and held fourteen meetings.

Your collaborer in the cause of truth,
JOSEPH W. JONES.

In Arkansas.

Pollard, Ark., Aug. 22, 1893.

About four weeks ago the undersigned left conference headquarters at Bradford to visit Saints and friends in Clay county, as we had heard that the persecution which had been raging there had somewhat abated.

On coming here we found things more favorable than we had anticipated, and our friends were extremely pleased to meet us, it having been nearly a year since any of the Elders had visited them.

In January, 1897, the Elders held a conference here at the conclusion of which they were mobbed, and ever since, until quite recently, persecution has been running high.

"Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." So it has been with the mobocrats. One of them was brought up and fined for the job, which with a charge of stealing cost him over a hundred dollars and reduced him to the point of starvation. Besides this, death has robbed him of his mother and a little child; and a severe illness came nearly costing him his life also.

One or two more have nearly died from severe cases of sickness, and another one has just lost his wife. One misfortune after another has overtaken them until one would think they could see their folly. The peace-loving citizens have organized a "law and order" society, for the purpose of uprooting the lawless element, which has been running things its own way for several years. One of the leading spirits in this movement is our old friend Wm. Wheat. The second Sunday after our arrival we had the pleasure of organizing a Sunday school. It is now doing well and prospects are encouraging. Our conference has been doing a good work this summer and the Elders have been remarkably blessed with good health. Quite a number have been baptized, and the outlook is favorable for continuation of the good work. Two Sunday schools have been organized and are now in a flourishing condition. The city of Little Rock has been canvassed. People were quite indifferent to the Gospel, but were generous in supplying the wants of the Elders. For some time they encountered no opposition, but presently some priests became enraged and determined that something must be done. Accordingly the president of the "Little Rock Pastor's Alliance" issued an address warning the people against the "subtle" Mormon Elders. "The Mormon's are trying to rule the state," said the address, and "they are a growing menace to our institutions." The Book of Mormon and "Manuscript Found" are one and the same thing. "There is a dark future for the young State of Utah, for every community where they may obtain a following, and for every person that is drawn off by their subtle Elders."

The Elders succeeded in getting replies published in two of the city papers. Many erroneous ideas were refuted and no doubt much good was accomplished. The pastors have had no more to say through the press.

JOHN H. PETERSON.
R. R. D. BROWN.

At Topeka, Kansas.

Topeka, Kansas, Aug. 3rd, 1893.

About sixteen months since, Elders A. C. Dalley and M. O. Miner were called to this beautiful and thriving city with a message of glad tidings. For about five months they taught the Gospel from door to door and every night upon the lighted streets. By many they were kindly received and treated. In November these Elders were honorably released to return to their homes. But by many their humble testimony shall never be forgotten, and their warm friends are not a few.

In May of the present year, Elder Wm. T. Jack organized the East Kansas conference with Jos. J. Richardson, formerly president of the Cherokee conference, as its president, with headquarters in this city, where Elder Richardson in company with the undersigned, resumed the labors left unfinished by Elders Dalley and Miner.

We have labored teaching the Gospel from house to house and preaching every night that was favorable upon the streets. Our meetings have been fairly well attended.

Many are convinced of the truths taught them, yet have not the courage to face the powers of the world.