

tended. Opening exercises as usual. The speakers were Falelua, a native Elder, and Elders Olson, Moody and Dangerfield. The Spirit of God was abundantly present. In the evening a most magnificent scene was witnessed. Thirteen Elders and many natives, who were dressed in white, stood by the edge of the mighty ocean where three more baptisms were performed by Elder Jeppson. All returned to the house, where they were confirmed. A meeting at 8 p.m. was held with a full attendance of Saints and strangers. After opening prayer was offered meeting was disturbed by some thoughtless youth casting stones against the bamboo of the meeting house.

The chiefs went out and with Elder Wood, caused peace to reign and several strangers to come to our services. Hence from an evil act good was made the result. Elder Jeppson, the first to speak, spoke on Church organization. Elder Wood occupied the remaining time, proved from the Bible the origin of this people and explained why he was a Latter-day Saint. All listened with eager attention. After meeting the Saints stopped to enjoy a few minutes of social handshake and conversation.

Monday forenoon, March 22nd, the Elders held a Sacrament meeting, in which all partook of the Lord's Supper in humility and with hearts of thankfulness. Then each bore a faithful testimony to the Gospel of Christ. Elder Wood spoke words of encouragement to the Elders, exhorting them to keep pure hearts in order to keep the Spirit of God with them. Next the Elders received their appointments as follows: Elder Home and Opapo, at Fogatuli and Fallilima; Elders Burnham and Salaula, at Saleaula; Elders Jeppson, Roberts and wife, Viali and David Kenison, at Tuasivi. Elders Warnick, Fred Kenison and Sa, at Saleaula; Elder Hendricks was appointed traveling Elder of the island. The spirit of unity reigns among the Elders and Saints as never before.

The afternoon was spent with the children. The time was occupied in examinations, reports and the awarding of prizes. About fifty school children were present, parents and friends also with us, numbering in all over 200, and thus our conference proper ended. We were blessed to see our Saints and friends all disperse with the spirit of the Gospel and can see that we have had our prayers more than answered in that we desired a successful and spiritual feast, which was so abundantly furnished us that we were happier than ever before.

Sincerely yours,  
EDGAR ROBERTS,  
Clerk of Conference.

### "BLACK JACK" STORY DENIED.

Colonia Juarez, Mexico,  
April 9th, 1898.

A statement has been published in several newspapers to the effect that Sister Agnes Macdonald was murdered by the Black Jack band of outlaws, and that a party of Mormons had surprised the gang in their stronghold in the mountains and had killed them all. All such reports are incorrect. While it is not positively known who did commit the murder, we have not the slightest reason to suppose it was done by any member of the Black Jack gang, nor that any member of the band has been in this part of the country. Had the band been in any part of northern Chihuahua, particularly its mountainous portions, we should certainly have known it, as not only our own people but many miners and prospectors are continually passing through the country in every direction. Such being the case none of our

people could have been concerned in Black Jack's extermination, nor has any party of Mormons been sent in quest of that or any other band of outlaws, nor has such a thing been in contemplation. The laws of Mexico are very strict relative to the apprehension and execution of criminals or of persons suspected of crime; and lynch law, so prevalent in the United States, is unknown, almost, in this republic. As law-abiding citizens of this our adopted country, we are in duty bound to leave the execution of the laws to those who are legally appointed to that duty. And there is not the incentive for lynching in Mexico that there is in the United States, where a criminal's money will hire lawyers and frequently buy courts and jurors, defeating thus the demands of justice, or at least producing interminable delays, as in the Durrant case, and some even in Utah. In Mexico punishment for crime is swift and sure, as witness the case of those who lynched the man who lately tried to kill President Diaz. Their doom was swift and sure—no legal quibbles or delays.

It is a time of general prosperity here and in the surrounding settlements. Another field has been surveyed in the valley of the Tenaja, and a canal surveyed to irrigate it. But last year demonstrated the fact that corn can be grown here without irrigation other than that from the heavens, in ordinary seasons, which usually comes about the first of July. The time has been when rains were abundant in this land, and were ample for the cultivation of the whole country, which at one time had an immense population. The whole country is dotted with mounds and hillocks, the remains of what once were houses and villages. Not only the valleys and plains were cultivated, but hill and mountain side also, clear to the tops of the mountains, which are terraced in every place where there was enough earth to support vegetation. I have seen large flat rocks ten or twenty feet broad, which had been covered with earth a foot deep, brought from a distance and kept on the rock by stones placed around the edges, and these rock farms were sometimes in situations very difficult to reach. On one such stone, rising about fifteen feet above the surrounding rocks, I found earth had been placed and confined upon it by stones placed around the edge, and wild potatoes growing there. They were very small, but unmistakably potatoes. Every little nook or swale, often not more than fifteen feet wide, has thus been utilized, the stone wall terrace being frequently in steep ground, only two or three rods apart, one above another. But this is a subject worthy a more extended notice.

J. H. MARTINEAU.

### NORTHERN INDIANA CONFERENCE.

Kokomo, Indiana,  
April 8, 1898.

Being unable to reach our many friends at home by separate letter, we take pleasure in writing to them through the columns of the "News." At our late conference held in Indianapolis the Southern and Northern conferences joined forces and we had a time of rejoicing. Elder Bramwell (who has been laboring in this city for eleven months) and myself were appointed to labor here in this city. One honest soul has been led down into the waters of baptism, and more will soon follow. The efforts of the Elders who have heretofore labored here are bearing fruit, and many friends have been raised up to them by our heavenly Father. A number of cottage meetings have been and are being held with good results. Our friends are scattered around the city and open their doors to us to hold meetings; there-

by we are able to preach to many more than by holding services in one part of the town. We are also renting a nice hall, and hold services every Sunday at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Our meetings are well attended and we are much encouraged by the interest taken. Our many friends do all in their power to make us happy and to help the good work along, and we know God will bless them.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank and Mrs. Sterling (sister to Mr. Frank) are among our very best friends. They do all in their power to help us along. Many pleasant evenings have been spent by the Elders in their home. There is hospitality is also A. 1. Their chicken dinners are fine. Mrs. Sterling has ably assisted us as organist, and deserves much credit for her untiring efforts to help us. Mr. and Mrs. Frank and Mrs. Sterling have all lived in Salt Lake City and have many friends among our people. They hold out for the Mormons, and many a kind word has been spoken by them for our people. We must not forget our other dear friends who likewise are always assisting us in some way, Mr. and Mrs. Hawbaugh and Mr. and Mrs. Spurgeon. Mr. and Mrs. Phipps have labored much for the advancement of the Lord's work in this city, opening their houses to hold services in and assisting the Elders in many ways. We have been invited many times to help them eat chicken and we are not the boys to refuse. Sister Phipps is the only "wet Mormon" in this city, but it won't be long before she will have company. Many honest souls are honestly investigating and of a surety two or three will be baptized in a short time.

After securing the hall we were not long in putting out our sign: "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, services every Sunday at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.; seats free; all welcome; no collection." What we want now is more honest souls to come and listen to the Gospel in its fullness and purity. Last evening our friends had a surprise on my companion and it was a great surprise. For a week past preparations have been going on to make it a success and it proved to be so. He hadn't the least suspicion of anything of the kind, and as he left last evening at 7 o'clock to go for a ride with Mr. Frank I promised to have some mush ready for him on his return. While they were gone our friends came and soon had two large tables groaning under the immense weight of the good things of this life, meats, salads, pies, cakes and other rich eatables were in abundance. On his (Elder Bramwell's) return he was completely dumbfounded. He thought he had surely entered the wrong house. When convinced that he was in the right house he prepared to make the best of it. We had a lovely time and will remember it for many years to come. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Hawbaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, Mr. and Mrs. Spurgeon, Mr. and Sister Phipps, Mrs. Sterling, Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Each and all assisted in every way to make our party what it was, a time of rejoicing.

We are truly grateful to our Father in heaven for the many friends He has raised up to us, His servants, and for the many blessings we are permitted to enjoy. We hope we may be worthy of doing a great amount of good in this part of His vineyard. We do not forget our many friends at home and trust they likewise think of us. We are at present enjoying good health and are in the best of spirits. We trust all at home are fortunate enough to enjoy the same.

Your brother in the cause of Truth,  
FRED. B. BROOKS.

London, April 25.—A special from Cape Verde Islands says it is believed the Spanish fleet will sail today.