CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

MISSION FIELDS.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT WORK.

Notes by a Missionary Traveling in the Territory of Arizona.

To the Editor:

Having been recently called from Mexico, together with Elders Miles A. Romney and Jesse N. Smith Jr., to the important work and labor of love as Mutual Improvement missionaries in the St. Joseph Stake, I was greatly surprised upon arriving here to find so many old Utah friends. In visiting the Pima ward, formerly known as Smithville, with Brother Alma P. Romney, also from Mexico, I was as much as we way to Mesa and paid a short visit here. We both being formerly from Tooquerville and being so many miles from that town, suggested that during holidays we have a reunion of all who formerly resided there. The most of them live in Mesa, some in Thatcher and other towns of the valley.

The first little company of five Saints—viz., O. M. Allen, Orlando Dalton, Thomas Hansom, William Hansom and Jane Greene, with their families left Tooquerville, Utah, November 1, 1895, most of their families joined and soon were followed later and the last little company with John Allen at their arrival in the beautiful valley of the Gila the 27th of November, 1896.

The suggestion met with favor. The district sound knew nothing, and Elders Taylor and Romney called on Hyrum Woods, president of the Y. M., and some of the early settlers were hailed and a pleasant reunion was enjoyed. About ninety persons were present.

In the evening a splendid picnic party was given by the Hotel Roosevelt. Was a very enjoyable time indeed.

Under the able management, zeal and energy of the late Elder Christopher Layton as a pioneer the people who located in this valley laid the foundation of a great commonwealth.

Coming to the long sickness prior to his death which disabled him so that he could not get among the people a starvation was noticeable in this Stake, but the place has been blessed by Elder Andrew Kimball, who is full of zeal and enterprise. He is at the head of the Enterprise canal, a mammoth undertaking. The length of the canal is thirty-six miles, width twenty-four feet on the bottom with a three foot on the **banks**. It will cover 18,000 acres of tillable land and when it is now under cultivation. It will cost $100,000 or $5 per acre for water. It will be a great blessing and can be covered by extending the canal.

When completed it will provide homes for thousands of Latter-day Saints.

The St. George Stake Academy, with Prof. Emil Maeser at its head, has made a fine start and bids fair to become one of the leading institutions of learning in the Territory. Its influence is already being felt for good throughout the Stake and students are in attendance from adjacent Stakes.

This institution will be a great provider of Mutual Improvement work as soon as its new building is finished. There are also good district schools with efficient teachers in this county. Improvement work being our special mission we hope that the seed sown among the young folks have not been in vain.

There is a good feeling in general between the Mormon and non-Mormon residents of this valley.

The holiday week was one round of social pleasure. **The greatest courtesy and kindness** has been shown us everywhere we have gone, in the private homes, meetings, and social gatherings of the people in their different settlements.

We had the pleasure of attending the Priesthood meeting Saturday. Much good instruction was given and now the holidays are over, we all settle down to work and study, and the watchword throughout the valley is "enterprise."

Respectfully,
GEORGE E. NAEGLE.
Thatcher, Graham County, Arizona, Jan. 2, 1899.

M. I. A. Missionary Letter.

Ashley, Utah, Jan. 8, 1899.

Uintah Stake is blessed with four respective M. I. A. missionaries. I in the first part of December Elder John A. West of Huntington, Emery county; Thomas Dykes of Wales, Sanpete county, John Kilpack, of Fort Ferron, Emery county, and John Oliphant, of Orangeville, Emery county, came into our Stake and reported to Elder O. D. Allen ready for work.

The plan adopted was as follows: Elders West and Dykes were to visit the wards of the south part of the Stake in their religion, and talk the principles of the Gospel; Then Elders Kilpack and Oliphant were to follow preaching to the people from house to house.

Dry Fork was given as a fit place for commencement. It being located up the canyon to the northeast. After twelve days of labor and the holding of eight meetings, at which every person in the place attended, even some who had never been inside a Latter-day Saints meeting house before, the people of that place reluctantly bade farewell to the brethren, who had earnestly shown them the plan of life and salvation, and they journeyed to Milkward, arriving there on Saturday before Christmas in time to enjoy the "social" given under the auspices of the M. I. A. of the place.

After the enjoyment of Sunday school and meeting, a special conjoint session, at which Elder Kilpack was asked to preside and Elder West to furnish something, was announced.

The little house forty in number, crowded to its utmost, was filled to hear and the lecturer talked for one hour, after which Brother West gave a humorous recitation and the M. I. A. Choir was enjoyed, by the audience, though the reading by the editor, Miss Grace Stringham.

After Elder Kilpack spoke on Sabbath Tuesday night on repentance and Thursday evening on baptism; on Friday evening on authority and the Holy Ghost, and Saturday evening on the Book of Mormon.

We had another conjoint session Sunday and Elder Oliphant spoke on the Sabbath.

As fruits of the labors of our missionaries, I need only say that between 30 and 40 were added to the young men's class and several to the young ladies. Many of the newly added are of those who are "out of our faith."

They "the harvest is great and the laborers are few" but with the spirit of God to assist, a mighty work is being done.

Elders West and Dykes went to Mercury ward, and Kilpack and Oliphant to Glen ward, where results began to be felt from the first night.

D. L. W.

The Arkansas Conference.

Pollard, Ark., Dec. 29, 1898.

To the Editor:

The Arkansas conference embraces the eastern half of the state. The Work of the Lord in this part of the country is progressing nicely. The general conditions are very encouraging to us when compared with those of about two years ago when we had but a number of the Church in the state, but we have about seventy. Over forty have been baptized this year. The Saints are scattered throughout different counties and some hundred have been removed from the state. We have many friends and investigators. We have had three Elders laboring in this land most of the past year. We now have seventeen.

The last conference convened at Cushman, Independence county, on Dec. 26th, 3rd and 4th. Our mission president Elder Wm. T. Jack, met with us there. Previous arrangements had been made for holding conference there and we find the premises of a district school house to hold meetings in, but a Methodist minister succeeded in spoiling our arrangements somewhat. We met according to appointment, and held services in private houses and had an enjoyable time, such as Latter-day Saint Elders always have at their conferences. One new and pleasing feature of our conference was the presence of Sister Estella Rust from Kanosharie, Utah. It was a source of joy to the Elders to meet a sister from Zion. It is quite a curiosity to some of the people to see a Mormon woman and child from Utah. Sister Rust's health has had a good influence. At the close of our conference, Elder Peterson was relieved from being president, having twenty-one months to spend in his native home. The writer was chosen to fill the responsible position.

On Saturday evening Elder Peterson made his farewell address to us, and on Sunday morning, he said farewell to his fellow laborers and in company with Elder Jack began his thousand journey. On Monday, with the Elders had all separated and started out again to their fields of labor, with renewed energy and determination. We went and I returned to White county where we remained about 10 days. We arrived here at Pollard, Clay county, on Christmas eve, and we have spent our time in their homes. In spite of the strong opposition the Saints have had to battle against here they are still struggling on in the glorious cause of truth. The persecution only seems to strengthen their faith in the Gospel.

We have a promising little branch here and some good work in White county. Much interest can be seen in those who attend regularly although our school is not yet six months old.

We are doing our best to further the cause of truth and show to the world that we are followers of our Lord and Master.

SIDNEY O. RUST.

A Good Work Being Done.

Harrogate, Yorkshire, Eng., December 21, 1898.

To the Editor:

We are coming to this place we believe in Brethren. Where a few are becoming born according to the promise. Bradford and vicinity are blessed with great faith and some honest seekers after truth.

Harrogate—our present field of labor—is an aristocratic place, being the home of many people who spend great money. It is a very pretty town of twenty thousand inhabitants, a health resort and noted for its many kinds of water.

The St. Leonard's Spa, which is, with Prof. Emil Maeser at its head, has made a fine start and bids fair to become one of the leading institutions of learning in the Stake. Its influence is already being felt for good throughout the Stake and students are in attendance from adjacent Stakes.

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