

MISCELLANEOUS.

CONFERENCE IN LOUISIANA.

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana,
June 9th, 1897.

On Saturday last the neighborhood of Pride, E. Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, was in a considerable hurry and bustle. The occasion of this evident anomaly was the appearance in that section of thirty-three mormon Elders; or as the people styled them, "Mormon preachers." During the stay of three days, made by the Elders, many pleasing features were seen but among the most pleasing adornment was the perpetual smile worn by all the people. If there was a face, for miles around, that didn't wear a smile it was decidedly "out of sight." The popular verdict of all our good Southern friends, who were participants in the affairs of our conference session is "We sure did have a good time."

Though disappointed because of the unavoidable non appearance of our mission president, Elder Elias S. Kimball, we were buoyed up by the presence of Elder William E. Rydalch. Four public meetings were held—two on Saturday, the 5th and two on Sunday following. The meetings were well attended. The seating accommodations, at first thought sufficient for the people, proved to be not so. Many brought seats with them and many stood—all seemingly eager to hear the word of the Lord.

The first three sessions were utilized by the Elders in an explanation of the first principles of the Gospel. The last session was almost wholly taken up by Elder Rydalch who spoke upon the important topics of repentance and church history.

Hand shaking and a hearty expression of good will accompanied by a heartier God bless you formed a pleasing feature at the close of our conference.

At our council meetings some changes were made. Our former president, Elder S. L. Swenson, was released to go to the Chattanooga office. Elder Joseph A. Cornwall was chosen as his successor in the conference presidency, with Elders Joseph E. D. Tomlinson and R. Elmer Caldwell as his counselors. The instructions from headquarters, delivered by Elder Rydalch were well taken and accounted as a sweet morsel. They were terse and to the point.

We all feel built up because of our meeting and prepared for a greater work.

JOSEPH A. CORNWALL, president,
R. ELMER CALDWELL, Clerk.

IN OLD ARKANSAS:

DENMARK, Arkansas,
June, 11th, 1897.

The Arkansas conference of the Indian Territory mission convened near Denmark; White county, Arkansas, June 3, 4, 5, and 6, 1897.

The following Elders were present: Elder William T. Jack, president of the Indian Territory Mission, Elders A. C. Dalley and M. O. Miner our meteoric Elders who have been laboring in Texas; William T. Harper of the Kansas conference, Elder Frank L. Copening,

president of the Arkansas conference, and Elders John H. Peterson, Joseph A. Wright, George E. Brim, James P. Anderson, Thomas H. Gleason, George N. Atkinson, David M. Nelson, Richard R. D. Brown, and Edward I. Cox.

Conference began with a series of Priesthood meetings. We held three sessions a day for three days and a public meeting every night at the home of our friend Mr. Lewis J. Throckmorton, who left nothing lacking in administering to the comfort of the Elders.

On Sunday, we held three public meetings in a grove near our friend Mr. Ezekiel G. Ferguson's, who also deserves special mention for his hospitality to us.

At the close of our second day's Priesthood meetings, we received an invitation to take supper with another friend, Mr. Sam Cooper. We must not forget to mention Mr. Jacob Altman, either, whose generous treatment of the Elders for some time past will not soon be forgotten.

On Monday, the 7th inst, we had the happy privilege of witnessing seven honest souls go down into the waters of baptism and "come forth in newness of life." They have ceased the use of coffee and tobacco and are determined to live their religion. This makes thirteen baptisms in our conference since last January. There are prospects for several more here in the near future besides a few in Clay county.

We felt highly honored in having our beloved president, Elder Jack, with us. It is a desire of all the Elders to be able to show their appreciation of his fatherly counsels by putting them into practice and doing their utmost to make this a model conference.

We esteemed it no less an honor to meet Elders Dalley and Miner who are two of the most successful Elders in the field. Their example has made an indelible impression upon us, and their instructions were of special interest. Elder Harper also gave us some excellent advice.

We are thankful for the privilege of laboring in the Indian Territory mission. We feel to put our trust in the Lord.

The Spirit of God is operating upon the people to a remarkable degree. We are having our eyes opened to see the hand of God manifested, bringing about His purpose in ways that we never thought of.

FRANK L. COPENING,
President Arkansas Conference
JOHN H. PETERSON,
Secretary.

CHANGE OF FEELING.

ST. JOHN, Kansas,
June 16th, 1897.

Having returned recently from attending conference in Indian Territory and Arkansas. I am pleased to state that I found all the Elders, laboring there, in good health and enjoying the spirit of their calling. I was pleased to notice that the Lord has wrought a wonderful change among the people, during the past few years. Where bigotry and intolerance used to predominate, and prejudice prevented people from listening to the truths of the restored Gospel;

now meeting houses are opened to our Elders and filled with eager listeners who invite the "Mormon Parsons" to their homes, showering upon them hospitality that proclaim the good will and kind feelings existing.

People are becoming weary in the forms of worship, that are constantly shifting and dividing, becoming a more easy target to the shafts of infidel and "free thinker." Hence preachers get through their sermon with as few scripture references as possible, preferring to entertain their audience with some quaint story, rather than assume the ridiculous position of teaching from a book disbelieved in by many of their church members. It almost looks as if the time is upon us when the Bible will be scouted and unable to stand upon its own merits in the minds of the people, as a history of the dealings of the Lord with a nation of people.

Although many people refer to our eighth article of faith, and say, "you Mormons don't believe in the Bible, the fact exists, and will be recognized some day, that the Mormons, of all people, are believers in, and teachers of the Gospel truths contained in the holy Bible; and with the Book of Mormon, we will save that sacred record from what appears to be its inevitable fate, utter disuse. People are putting away prejudice and the Lord is blessing them with wisdom, so that they see in the Book of Mormon, truths made plain that are only hinted at in the Bible. An infidel remarked to me a short time since, that he has learned more by reading the Book of Mormon over once, than from the Bible during his life.

The "stick of Judah" and the "stick of Joseph in the hands of Ephraim," spoken of in Ezekiel 37, are abroad amongst the people. May God speed them in their mission of salvation.

WILLIAM T. JACK.

OVER IN KENTUCKY.

MUNFORDVILLE, Hart County, Ky.,
June 7th, 1897.

The winter, spring, and this much of the summer here in Kentucky, have been very wet and cold, and farmers are not yet quite through plowing and planting. Everything seems very backward. Last year at this time, some of the corn was nearly as high as the men, who, in some places, were cultivating it for the last time—"faying it hy," as it is called here.

The prospects for a fairly good crop of corn are yet good, provided no early frosts come in the fall to blight the ripening ears. Wheat and oats look only middling; apples, peaches and blackberries, will soon be very plentiful, being the staple fruits of the state, at least among the poor class of farmers.

Some farmers sold their corn in the fall for twenty and twenty-five cents per bushel, and are now buying it back for fifty to sixty-five cents per bushel. This comes by living a year ahead of a person's income—a serious mistake many of the people here make.

As near as I can learn, very little tobacco has been planted, owing to the very low price it has brought for the last few years. Tobacco raising and using is ruining millions of people bodily, mentally and financially. I have seen a few children, of parents who use tobacco very heavily, who seemed to crave tobacco more than food, and could