

thirty miles from here; and, one old father of the South said, in answer to my query as to how he felt with gun on shoulder, sure aim on Yankee, realizing that the contents would destroy his life, "You're a young man, and I hope you never see a war, but I enjoyed seeing them Yankees drop over and leave their rations for their pal, as much as I enjoy seeing a squirrel leaving its share of hickory nuts, and come out of the tree, for my dinner." Such became the hardness of some of their hearts by continued warfare.

Women here can touch the heart by relating how they had to run the farm alone, and then have themselves robbed of all their summer's work by seeing their crops burned by fire or taken by the revengeful enemy. The results of that war will never be entirely erased by time or patriotism, as error never fails to leave a scar.

My labors of twenty-one months here have been mostly confined to Tippah county, which the Elders had not labored in for some fifteen or sixteen years, and many have been the anxious listeners to truth, since we came here. Church houses, schoolhouses and dwellings have gradually swung their doors wide open to us, as the rust of prejudice has been eaten off. The Lord is softening the people's hearts, that "this Gospel of the Kingdom can be preached to every nation, kindred, tongue and people," which could not have been done in the face of the prejudice which existed even two years ago.

I spent my first Xmas here in Benton, Miss., with some newly converted Saints, along with Elders Joseph W. Musser, William Pardoe and David Hubbard, soon after which I was called to labor in Alabama, with Elder G. T. Wride, and then with Elder Albert Matheson, president of our conference, in whose company I traveled visiting the Elders in their different counties, until August conference, held at Russellville, when I was assigned to labor with Elder John Christensen, in Tippah county; then, on the arrival of a new Elder, Joseph P. Jorgensen, I labored with him eight months, our labors being productive of much good. Elder George E. Hill was my next companion, only remaining with me two weeks, being then called to travel with President Matheson, Elder Reuben Alvord taking his place. Whether we are making any headway with truth here or not, let our last three months' report tell. In that time we have baptized 14 good, honest, brave souls into Christ's fold, organized 3 flourishing Sunday schools, which are attracting the admiring gaze of religious person, and no doubt will bear fruits of thirty, sixty or an hundred fold in righteousness. Hungry are the souls of many for just that spiritual food which the humble Mormon Elders are dealing out free of charge.

Many are the wet eyes that gaze after the Elders as they, with grip in hand, leave the homes of these good people; and the exclamations and expressions on our return, plainly tell us our company is much appreciated at their homes. Our hopes have high tensions for these seed of Gospel truths sown in Tippah county and elsewhere by the thirty-six energetic Elders in our conference, led on to victory by our much loved president, Albert Matheson. Our thanks go up daily to our God for the privilege of laboring in His ministry in

the way He and His ancient ministry worked, that we might be instruments in His hands, not only to warn but to prove this generation.

Our testimony is that God does live and care for His servants in every necessary way, who are aiding in this great work. The believers bear strong testimony that the promised blessings in the Bible are not withheld from them, for which they brave the many satanic attacks made upon their good name, and they, with all other true Saints are learning that, "He that liveth godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution."

The News finds the homes and hearts of many, and is a welcome guest, after it leaves our eager gaze, having given us great encouragement.

RODNEY B. ASHBY.

### MEMORIAL SERVICES.

The service at the Tabernacle Sunday afternoon, July 25, 1897, was in the nature of a memorial meeting in honor of the departed Pioneers who settled this valley in the year 1847. There was quite a large attendance and an address was delivered by President Joseph F. Smith, followed by remarks from Elders Brigham Young and Francis M. Lyman of the quorum of Apostles. Elder Angus M. Cannon, president of the Stake, presided.

The choir sang to them:

From afar gracious Lord  
Thou hast gathered Thy flock

Prayer was offered by Elder David H. Cannon.

The choir further sang:

O, my Father Thou that dwellest  
In the high and glorious place.

President Joseph F. Smith spoke as follows:

Some time ago it was suggested to the First Presidency that services should be held in this Tabernacle on this afternoon in honor of the departed Pioneers, as a fitting conclusion—at least, on our part—to the festivities that we have participated in during the past week. At the time it was intended and expected that President George Q. Cannon would be present and deliver a memorial address. In the meantime, however, business of importance called him to the East; and while we have been hoping that he would be able to return in time to be present on this occasion, we have been disappointed. It was decided by the brethren of the Twelve that in case President Cannon should not return in time I should be requested to make a few remarks to the people; and in order that I might be able to present before them a few ideas and facts which I thought would be proper to lay before the people on this occasion, I have caused to be collected and typewritten a few quotations from the history of the Church, with some remarks pertinent thereto, which I will read to you this afternoon. As it is a very unusual thing for me to attempt to read a discourse, and doubtless unexpected on the part of the Latter-day Saints, I feel like asking you to forgive me for this departure from the ordinary practice.

It is very gratifying to the Latter-day Saints to witness the efforts of the people of Utah of all parties and creeds to do honor to those brave men and women, who pioneered the way from the Missouri river to the Pacific slope and opened to the world the grand

region then a wilderness and a desolation, which is now a series of verdant valleys, containing homes for hundreds of thousands of human beings and forming several states which are an honor and a pride to this great nation.

In commemorating the entrance of the Pioneers into Salt Lake Valley and holding services in memory of those members of that gallant band who have departed this life and are resting from their labors, while their heroic works do follow them, our thoughts naturally concentrate upon their venerable leader, the Prophet, statesman, colonizer and Pioneer, President Brigham Young. In the providence of our heavenly Father, and under His guiding spirit, President Young not only led the way across the mighty plains and over the Rocky Mountains, but designated the spot where the people of the Saints should halt, build a city which should be the gathering place for members of the Church in all nations, and from which colonies should go forth to build up the surrounding country and found the grand and progressive State of Utah. He also selected and pointed out the place for the building of the Temple, which adorns the square wherein we now assemble in a building unique in its character and proportions, designed also by that inspired man.

But in reflecting upon the work that has been accomplished and the gratifying results that have accrued therefrom, we will not do full justice to the departed ones to whom under God we are indebted for the blessings we enjoy in the mountain vales today, if we stop at the Pioneers of 1847, with Brigham Young at their head. We must go farther up the stream of time to a period anterior to that when our beloved president who led the way here came to the front as the head of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on earth. In leading the people here, in laying out the cities and towns and hamlets in this then desolate region, he was but carrying into practical effect the teachings and predictions and directions of the great Prophet, Seer and Revelator of the 19th century—Joseph Smith.

It is known to the leaders of the Church, and to a great many of its members, and it should be known to all the world, that it was Joseph Smith who first conceived the idea and formulated the plan of founding a home for the people of the Church in the region of the Rocky Mountains. In the midst of the persecutions that followed the Saints from Kirtland, Ohio, to the state of Missouri, and thence to Illinois, the mind of that inspired man was led out to the vast solitudes of the West, and he predicted that the Saints would be driven from Nauvoo, that they should go towards the setting sun, and become a great and mighty people in the midst of the Rocky Mountains. There are several references to this fact in the history of the Church, as published in the DESERET NEWS and the Millennial Star.

Under date of Tuesday, February 20, 1844, the following occurs in his journal:

"At 10 a.m. went to my office, where the Twelve Apostles and some others