

best in the mission. The seeds of truth that were sown many years ago have been lying in dry and parched soil, waiting for a repetition of the Gospel shower to moisten the soil, and the noble sons of God are today enjoying the great privilege of reaping the harvest.

"In other places where no nuggets of truth ever have been strewn, the humble servants of God are gathering sheaves, and the great cloud of prejudice that has enveloped the minds of the people is being scattered by the brilliant rays of the Gospel. Even the most prejudiced are led to exclaim after hearing the Elders explain them so simply. 'Is that Mormonism? You Mormons preach Bible doctrine. We never hear that kind of doctrine from our ministers. They tell us that the Bible is not to be understood, but you Mormons make it so plain that anybody can understand it.'

"Such expressions are common, and while the crop of souls that is being gathered in our mission is nothing near as great as we would like, yet we feel that great good is being done. Much good seed is being sown, and a vast amount of prejudice is being removed and our true position is being better understood. As a rule the Elders are treated with the greatest respect, and many letters of inquiry come in asking about the doctrines of the Latter-day Saints, and asking that Elders may be sent. 'Verily the harvest is great but the laborers are few.'

"A marked change has come over the people in the last eighteen months. In many instances the interest that is manifested to hear the Elders expound the principles of the gospel is very gratifying indeed; another grand feature of the work is that the spirit of persecution that prevailed to a great extent a few years ago in many parts of the earth shows itself but little today.

"Were it not for the soap-bubble doctrines that the people have been traditionated in for centuries by the learned divines of Christendom, many more than do now would embrace the gospel. I feel to say that the time is near at hand when the proud and haughty will be humbled, for the judgements of God have commenced. The time is near when the frothy doctrines of men and the man made systems of religions will be scattered by the shafts of truth like mists before the morning sun. The Apostle Paul could not have painted a truer picture of the condition of the people of today had he been living at this time than he did in his second epistle to Timothy, third chapter. Paul drew a true picture of the last days, also in the fourth chapter and third verse.

"While traveling in the east recently I was told that the inhabitants of a small town thought that they would like to have a certain eloquent divine come and preach them a sermon, he was asked to do so, and replied that 'he would come if they would insure him \$500. They tried to raise the amount but could not and the result was that they were deprived the privilege of hearing the learned doctor. This is not the only case, but will serve to show how that many preach for hire and divine for money.'

"I have enjoyed my labors extremely well and consider that I have been highly favored of the Lord to be permitted to labor in such a worthy cause and to have the honor of presiding over such a band of loyal servants of the Lord. In taking leave of them I do so

with regret. My love for them and the work in which we are engaged cannot be expressed in words, and whatever good has or may result from my labors while presiding over them, I give the Lord the praise, and the Elders my most heartfelt thanks. I know that I have had their faith and prayers, and my associations with them have ripened into an affection that I hope will not only last throughout time but in eternity. The presidents of the Conferences have worked with a zeal that is praiseworthy in the highest degree.

"Elder Samuel G. Spencer has been appointed to preside over the Mission, and with his knowledge of the Gospel and experience in the missionary work, I am satisfied that the Northern States Mission will continue to prosper."

#### KNOWN BY THEIR WORKS.

NORMAN, Oklahoma Territory,

May 24th, 1896.

Thinking a few lines from this part of the world would be of interest I jot down a few notes. I was appointed in connection with Brother E. L. Saunders to labor in Cleveland county, Oklahoma territory. We commenced our labors on the 2nd of January of this year, since which time we have held about sixty meetings. The work is progressing nicely, there being quite a number who are earnestly inquiring after the precious truths of the Gospel.

On the 24th of April, the Oklahoma conference convened and at that time Brother Saunders was appointed to travel in another district, and Brother J. J. Gallacher has been my companion since then.

There is some prejudice existing, but as a rule we are received and treated very kindly. Last week however, we had a little different experience. On Wednesday the 20th inst, we walked eight miles south from our headquarters to the Highland school house. We got the permission of the trustees to hold some meetings, and made our appointments. We did not have any one come out the first night; but not to be discouraged in our efforts we went to a prayer meeting the next night and announced our meeting for the night following, inviting the people that in view of the statement being made that we did not accept the Bible as a guide, to bring their own Bibles with them and take notes and references. A Mr. Woodring invited us to his home, which invitation we accepted.

The next night we had a fair sized audience, and after meeting quite an interest was shown; so we announced two more meetings. We held a meeting Saturday night, and on Sunday morning we attended a Methodist meeting, and as there was a large congregation I asked the privilege of making our announcement which was granted. As soon as I made the announcement, a Mr. Jackson of the school board arose and said it had been decided to withdraw the meeting house from our use as they didn't want to hear our doctrine nor have our kind in their midst. I asked if this was not fulfilling the scriptures and was promptly told that I had said enough.

After meeting some threats were made. We were hissed and jeered at, and warned to leave the neighborhood. Mr. A. S. Woodring, the gentleman who had so kindly entertained us, was

roundly abused by his neighbors. He is not a church member, but at heart is a truer Christian than many of his neighbors who profess to be sanctified and holy. He is well known for his kindness and charity, and was unable to understand why he should be abused for keeping two young men from Utah.

We returned to headquarters today, where we found all well. The weather has been very dry here this year, until about ten days ago, but since then has made up for lost time. Last week there were two rain storms such as I never saw before. As a result bridges are washed out on all streams and some farms are flooded. Wheat is ready to harvest. About half a crop will be realized. Corn and cotton are in fine shape—corn as high as a man's head. The weather is very warm, the thermometer standing at 100 degrees in the shade today. G. V. MORRIS, Jr.  
J. J. GALLACHER.

#### DAVIS STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Davis Stake was held at Centerville on Saturday and Sunday, June 6 and 7, 1896. There were present on Saturday President George Q. Cannon of the First Presidency and Elder Heber J. Grant of the Council of the Twelve, the Stake Presidency, members of the High Council, and Bishops of wards. The speakers on Saturday were President John W. Hess (who gave a brief report of the Stake), Elder H. J. Grant and President George Q. Cannon. On Saturday afternoon President Cannon and Elder H. J. Grant organized Orlando Hadlock a Bishop and set him apart to preside over a new ward recently organized in the north part of the Stake (known at present as the Basin). The brethren also set apart Bishop Hadlock's counselors who are Charles Mitchell as first and Isaiah Butterworth as second.

On Sunday, besides the local authorities, there were present of the general authorities, President Cannon, Elders F. M. Lyman and B. H. Roberts, President Cannon only staying for the morning service, at which he addressed the congregation. Elder Roberts also spoke for a few minutes during the morning service.

At the afternoon meeting the general and Stake authorities were presented and unanimously sustained, after which Elder F. M. Lyman addressed the Saints.

There was a large attendance of the Saints, and a good spirit prevailed during conference. The brethren that addressed the congregation gave much excellent counsel and instructions, which, if carried out, will make us a better and a more united people.

On Sunday, Elder William B. Muir of West Bountiful was ordained a Patriarch under the hands of President Cannon and Elder Lyman.

Conference adjourned for three months to meet at Farmington.

JOHN J. SMITH, Stake Clerk.

Lewis Durbin was accidentally killed at Loui, Cal., Saturday afternoon. He was a teamster and had a load of lumber on his wagon. In attempting to make a short turn he was thrown out upon his head, breaking his neck. The front wheel of the wagon also passed over his head. Death was instantaneous.