

of equalization, assessing the same to the person by whom it was claimed, or in whose possession or control it was at, 12 o'clock noon of the first Monday of February next preceding and its value on that date. Continuing the opinion reads:

"There is a proviso to this section, however, to the following effect, which authorizes the assessor in assessing personal property, to act at any time before the first Monday in February in case he shall have cause to believe that the owner is likely to avoid the payment of the taxes by disposing of the property or by removal thereof from the State. Again in section 2656 the assessor is authorized at the time of making the assessment or at any time thereafter, to collect the tax by seizure, and sale in case he has cause to believe that the owner is likely to avoid payment of the tax by disposing of the property or by the removal thereof from the county, unless such person gives security to pay the same when due.

"Assuming that your second and third questions are founded upon a state of facts where the assessor has no cause to believe that the owner will avoid the payment of the tax by disposing of the property or the removal thereof from the State, my opinion is, that there is no authority for exacting a note or security for the payment of the tax, nor can such assessment be made as of a date prior to the first Monday of February.

"The Supreme Court of this State has lately had the question of the power of the assessor to assess property prior to the day upon which the general assessment is to be made, and the opinion of the court contains the following reference to the facts upon which the county officers are authorized to act. The case is that of Taylor vs Robertson in which Mr. Justice Miner uses the following language, 'Such officer could hardly be said to have 'cause to believe' when he is satisfied that the owner will not dispose of the property or remove it from the State to avoid such payment. The assessor should not assume that the fact of 'cause' existed when he knows or has good reason to believe to the contrary. The 'cause to believe' should be a good cause to believe and based upon some fact within his knowledge or upon some reliable information that carries conviction to his mind as an honest man, that the owner is likely to avoid payment of the tax by disposing of the property or by removing it from the State."

## LOVED BY NEGROES AND POSSUMS.

[From the Pinehurst (N. C.) Outlook.]

Just two years ago I went forth one fine January morning to search the surrounding country for some plants I needed for the plantations in town. In due time I found what I wanted, but instead of being contented with my easy success, I went further on and soon came into trouble—that is, I lost my way—and dinner hour came before I knew "where I was at." I did not need to starve, however, and it was then and there that the resources of this seemingly so desolate country became apparent to me, and though no hospitable shanty was visible, the woods laid the table, and a dainty one in the bargain, for I could feast on persimmons, drink my own and the rest of mankind's health in clear ice-cool spring water, and finish up by finding my dessert in prickly pears. It may not be quite devoid of interest that I discovered soon after that I had not been far from Pinehurst at all, only had circled around the town instead of cutting thorough. Since that day I have preserved a deep gratitude toward our native fruits, and I always try to cul-

tivate the taste of our guests from the North so that they may share my liking.

For those who like to know a little more of the whereabouts of the persimmons I write the following notes: The persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) grows nearly everywhere in North Carolina and is found as far north as New York state and Rhode Island, but commonly it is not hardy beyond Philadelphia. It will be easily recognized in our woods by its perfectly symmetrical growth, and its grayish, somewhat rough bark, and last, but not least, by its fruits. Though usually not higher than fifteen to twenty feet with us, there are specimens in this vicinity over forty feet tall and of a trunk diameter of about fifteen inches. (McKenzie's farm.) The foliage is bright green and glossy, appears early and changes to purple before dropping. The rather insignificant whitish blossoms open in June, are fragrant and much relished by bees, they are followed by the quick developing fruit, which attains its full size and color by August. But woe to the investigating stranger who might be tempted to try these inviting looking plumb-like fruits. Holy horror will soon depict itself upon his face, and his mouth will take all kinds of forms from whistling to a broad grin. He will swear off the use of persimmons for all time to come, and—will like them the more later on. For, mind ye, at that time the fruits are puckering and astringent above all things, and want to be left quite alone.

Everything, however, cometh unto him who waits, and the first early frost will accomplish quite a marvelous metamorphosis. Instead of looking smooth and plump any more, they will then be somewhat withered and, best of all, the despicable astringent taste will have made way to a delicious sweetness resembling somewhat that of dates. Now the time has come for man and possum to revel in 'simmons. The gourmet will fare even better yet by following the old druggist's adage, "Shaken before taken," and accordingly he shakes the tree and does not mind to pick up the juicy fruit from the ground. The ripe fruits are sometimes used in the making of a beer—'simmons beer—which is said to be "not bad," while the fermented fruit furnishes a brandy that improves with age. The wood is found very useful for shoe lasts, mallets and violins, and is regarded as an equal to ash or beech and nearly coming up to hickory. A decoction of the astringent inner bark is supposed to be salubrious against intermittent fevers.

There hails from Japan another species of persimmons, the *Diospyros kaki*, which offers some special advantages. It bears much larger, and possibly sweeter fruits than our native representative, and the fruits are as delicious before as they are after frosts. This Japanese persimmons is fairly hardy with us, and under propagation now in our nurseries.

## THROUGH ST JOSEPH STAKE.

Thatcher, Arizona,  
Feb. 8, 1898.

Conference is over and the Apostles have gone. It has been stated by many that our Stake received one of the most enjoyable spiritual feasts ever experienced in its brief history.

The occasion of a visit from two of the Apostles, the installation of a new president, and re-organization of the entire Stake, of course aroused all classes. The general Priesthood and conference meetings were without doubt the most enthusiastic ever enjoyed, and each ward and branch meeting in turn was a success.

Sunday night during our conference we reorganized the Thatcher ward. Our aged brother Samuel Claridge, so long a faithful Bishop, was released and ordained a Patriarch. Brother I. E. D. Zundell of Boxelder Stake, took his place and chose for his counselors two young men, John Hill Jr., and Jeremiah Hatch, with a correspondingly good set of officers in all the other departments. Earlier in the evening we attended to sealings. It will be remembered that we are a long way from the Temples, and as we have an army of young people maturing all the time, some provisions must be made for them to get married, the Bishops usually attending to this, and when Elder John Henry Smith came down, endowed with a commission of sealing power, the many young couples availed themselves of the blessing. Elder Charles M. Layton of the presidency of this Stake occupies the old home of his father, the senior living in a new house. These rooms in Charles's house were dedicated in days past to this purpose, and here at different times our young people have been sealed for time and eternity.

Tuesday was devoted to empanneling the High Council and in setting apart all Stake officers, the Bishopric of Thatcher ward, and the giving of general instructions.

Wednesday, almost before daylight, a group of teams and carriages were wending their way toward the eastern mountains, and just about dusk the party were cared for by the good people of Franklin branch. Our party consisted of Elders John Henry Smith and John W. Taylor of the Apostles, the presidency of the Stake, Stake Clerk Heber C. Layton, High Councilmen Joseph G. Allred and E. M. Curtis; about sixty miles were covered, a very pleasant trip. This is one of the outlying wards, newly established on the Gila river bordering on New Mexico, and in fact some of the claims extend over the line.

Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. we labored, organizing, instructing, blessing the people and preaching the Gospel. Samuel Echols was made Bishop.

Friday night we were back in this vicinity, comfortably situated at Layton ward, and on Saturday commenced early in our investigations and labors of reorganizing that ward. Bishop John Welker, a man well advanced in years, was released, and his nephew, James R. Welker, called to fill the place.

Sunday at 9 a.m. the people of the various wards with their children assembled at Pima ward. This enterprising ward of about seven hundred is next to Thatcher, having a commodious meeting house. Arrangements were made for general meetings of the Stake, as well as for local organizations. A continuous stream of meetings were held from 9 a.m. till 9 p.m. In the various meetings we assembled at 9 and 10:30 a.m., 12 noon, 1:30, 2:30, 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. Between these meetings the stage was thronged with those seeking a blessing at our hands. John Taylor, the former Bishop, was again set apart to continue presiding, and his hands made strong by a splendid organization to support him.

Monday, at 9 a.m. we were in Curtis ward, and before we dined with the kind people of that lower ward on the river, we had effected a completely new organization, with Alva S. Porter Bishop. Hurrying across the river, several miles up the valley, we greeted a house full at Matthews branch, where before the afternoon was gone a Bishop's ward was organized with Coleman B. Boren at the head. Back to Pima that night, we enjoyed a good rest. Tuesday at 9 a.m. we drew up to Bryce, over the