

says Mr. Hughes; "we have a Mormon stopping with us who came with us from Sydney." Then the secret was out, and in almost less time than it takes to tell it, I was comfortably seated at the table with Elder Pond, his wife and babies, partaking of a supper prepared by a Mormon missionary woman.

There was nothing of importance happened to interfere with our peace and quiet until October 31st, when my companion and I took a trip to a place called Bismark. We were permitted to hold meeting in the Wesleyan church. There was a good turn out, and a good spirit prevailed. After a hearty shaking of hands and the leaving of some of our literature with them, namely Morgan's tracts to such as would have them; after thanking the people who had been so kind in entertaining us, as also those who had taken the trouble to come to our meetings, we wended our way back to Hobart, a distance of twelve miles. We were gone two days; we got home about 1 a. m. We were two happy boys that night—one of the most beautiful I ever saw in my life; the stars seemed to dance and sparkle in exquisite splendor and acknowledge that which had been done.

We continued tracting from house to house until the 12th of November, when we took another trip up through the island, visiting Bagdad, Kempton Apsley, Bothwell, Oatlands, Parrattah, Campainioh, Richmond, and back to Hobart, making a round trip tramp of 135 miles in six days. Although we were unsuccessful in obtaining places to speak in, yet those we stopped with and were so kind as to give us food and shelter were much enlightened upon the question of Mormonism. We allayed much prejudice during our visit to these towns, and were able to lay a firm foundation for something better the next time we wend our way in that direction.

My companion, Elder Pond, and family left for their home in Zion March 9th, and Elder R. A. Fenton and I labored together until May 2nd, when two missionaries from Zion arrived, namely, Elders C. A. Orine and William Harvey; and after two weeks' longer stay, Elders Fenton and Orine took their departure for Launceston, Elder Fenton's former place of labor. William Harvey remained with your humble servant.

There have been two baptisms performed since my arrival here; and considering our being so far away from current news, prejudice is being allayed most wonderfully. The only opportunity we had for a long time in getting the Gospel before the people successfully, was by holding meeting on the public domain on Sunday afternoons; but for about three months back we have had the privilege of meeting at the houses of several families and explaining to them the principles of the Gospel. We have loaned them many of the Church publications, and expect to do some good work shortly.

The people with whom we have the pleasure of meeting have a treat as well as we, for they get some of the songs of Zion sung to them, which they enjoy very much; and they anxiously look for the evenings appointed, as we have separate evenings for each family. We are busy every evening of the week explaining in our weak way the Gospel principles. I would advise the young men in Zion to prepare their voices in singing, for it has a wonderful effect upon the people.

ANDREW SMITH, JR.

## TRAVELING IN ILLINOIS.

PINCKNEVILLE, Perry County, Ill.

August, 17th, 1895.

On June first 1895, I left my home, Idaho Falls, Idaho, to fill a mission to the Northern States. We arrived safe at Pulley's Mills, Williamson County Illinois, the headquarters of the Indian Conference. I was assigned to labor at Taswell, Crawford County Indiana. My companion was Brother Brigham H. Telford of Cache County, Utah. We started on our labors holding meetings and conversing with the people on the principles of the Gospel. We made lots of good friends and succeeded in allaying a great deal of prejudice. We also were blest in many ways and had the privilege of baptizing two honest souls into the church.

Brother Willford E. Cragun of View, Weber County, Utah. Was duly appointed my companion. We entered our labors by fasting and praying to our Father in Heaven that He would open the way for us to get the Gospel before the people. We began distributing tracts, going to every house we could find and leaving two tracts which we urged the people to read and compare with their Bibles. We were greatly blest and had lots of invitations to the homes of the people, more than we could fill.

Brother Cragun was next called to go to Sulphur Wells to labor there and Brother William F. Tolley was appointed to labor with me in Orange County. We commenced distributing tracts and holding meetings where we had opportunity. We were greatly blessed and the Lord raised up friends to us. We held three meetings at French Licks, Orange County, commenced by speaking on the first principles of the Gospel, and after the meetings we had four applications for Baptism, and in a few days we led them into the water. A great many are investigating the gospel and we hope its seeds will take root and grow and some day bring forth fruit.

I was called to labor with Brother Germon Buchanan of Johnson, Kane County Utah, with headquarters at Pinckneyville, Perry County, Illinois. We began our labors by holding meeting and leaving tracts, inviting the people to read them. We soon found the people were a little prejudiced against us and the principles of the Gospel in this part. We are thankful the Lord has been with us and we think we have allayed a great deal of prejudice. There are some Saints here and they are very kind to us and are doing all they can for the furtherance of the gospel. Most of the school-houses are closed against us, but we hold meetings at private houses and have a good time. Last week we had the privilege of baptizing four more honest souls into the church and there is a good prospect for others to soon follow their steps. We think a good work will be done here in the near future.

While we have been laboring in Perry County, Illinois, we have made lots of good friends. Some of them are leading men of this county and when we go to leave them our bill is "come again and bring us more reading matter." We are endeavoring to give as many of the Voice of Warnings as we can afford and also as many Pratt works as we can;

and our experience is that when the people will read Orson Pratt's works, if they are honest and seeking for truth, they will say they think we are right and they want to investigate further. We think that now is the time to preach the Gospel here. The people begin to know us as we are and we think the time is near when they will begin to look up to the Latter-day Saints as being superior to any other.

We often bear our testimony to the people and tell them that the stone cut out of the mountains without hands, and that it will roll forth 'till it fills the whole earth; and we tell them that the kingdom of God which the Latter-day Saints are preaching, is that stone and it has began to roll and will continue till it fills the earth. We are well and feel to press forward and do our duty. We are united in our labors.

JOSEPH EMPEY.

## NOTES FROM MISSISSIPPI.

STURGIS, Mississippi,  
August 8th, 1896.

As perhaps, an item or two from this part of the country might prove acceptable to some of your readers, I thought I could not employ a few minutes to more advantage than to touch lightly on a few passing events.

This is the season for protracted meetings among the various sects of this country of which Baptists and Methodists largely predominate. They are trying to get everybody to join them; and the movement is so popular among the masses, that not to be a member of some sect is regarded as almost heathenish; hence, at least, nine-tenths of the adults of this country are church members, so called. And it would be a hard matter, if not an impossibility to find any two individuals that believed alike, in the same sect, to say nothing of the clash between the different sects. I will so far modify that expression as to say that they all agree, when Mormonism is the object of attack. To the true Latter day Saint, this is one of the grandest evidences of its divinity.

There have been a number of public lectures against Mormonism in the surrounding country by the apostate Oswald. He is using all his powers of pen and speech, to "warn" the people against the "delusion" as he calls it, against the time when Elders will be sent into this, and surrounding counties. He advises all, over whom he can have any influence, not to hear them when they come, and of course, to refuse them entertainment. To counteract this influence, I think it would be wise, when this part of the country is canvassed to have Elders, who are not only well posted, but fluent speakers, who can expound the eternal truths of the Gospel with such force as to utterly confound the leaders of the opposition here.

The branch of the Church organized here by Elders W. T. Dotson and Ernest Ricks, and subsequently more perfectly by Elders Erastus Christensen and Peter Neilson, is moving along smoothly. We held a meeting not long since, and R. T. Quinn, who was ordained a Priest, gave a most excellent talk. It was his first effort, and he bids fair to make a brilliant speaker and a useful man. We need help here from some able and fearless Elders.