

and as the river was calm we spent the time on the boat in singing. On arriving on Tennessee soil we stepped off the boat, the people seated themselves as comfortably as possible, and after opening exercises, my voice rang through the Tennessee woods in defense of truth. After treating on the necessity of baptism very briefly I led Sister Miles into the river and baptized her into the fold of Christ. She is the first in the neighborhood to accept the Gospel, but we feel not the last. Thus we have the ice broken and we hope that others will soon follow. Truth is mighty and will prevail. Elder L. E. Allred is my companion; we are both well. The "News" comes regular and is a welcome visitor.

Yours in the cause,  
JOSIAH CALL.

## WESTERN ARKANSAS CONFERENCE.

The first conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ever held in this part of the Lord's vineyard, convened here on May 13, 14 and 15, 1898, and those who had the privilege of being in attendance, and especially the Elders laboring in this part, will look upon the event with pleasure and satisfaction. Those who have not had the opportunity of a conference of the Elders of Israel in a land where the stream of prejudice flows high cannot measure the worth of such a treat.

Before leaving my mountain home, I often wondered, while listening to a returned Elder tell his missionary experiences, and the joyous times the Elders would have at conference and the number of miles they would walk in order to be present on such occasions, if it could be possible if such could be the case, while people at home possessing fine carriages and teams would often remain at home and let priceless opportunities pass them by unheeded. But since I have been traveling in a similar capacity and have experienced the invaluable benefits of meeting with the true servants of God in conference assembled, and of partaking of unadulterated spiritual food which builds up the spiritual part of man, increases his knowledge, broadens his intellect, strengthens his faith, renews his desires to do good, and causes him to rejoice in the work in which he is engaged as an ambassador of Jesus Christ, I have come to the conclusion that what others have said, in this respect, I can also say.

At our conference there were present, besides the eighteen Elders traveling in this part of the state, Wm. T. Jack, president of the Southwestern States mission, and Elders Jos. J. Richardson and B. H. Allred. The two last mentioned have been laboring in the Cherokee nation, Indian Territory, for some time past, but by the request of Elder Wm. T. Jack attended our conference.

We were unable to obtain a public building in the city of Fort Smith, in which to hold our conference; but were kindly tendered the use of a large office room which supplied the wants of the Elders and the Saints, that is, was large enough to accommodate the number.

My companion and myself endeavored to procure each public building in the city; but in every case were refused. We have held meetings on the streets at night. At every meeting large crowds gathered to hear what the Mormons had to say. And at the close of each meeting a number would shake our hands and admit that it was the first time they had ever heard the Gospel preached in its purity and simplicity, and that the ideas they had

had concerning the Latter-day Saints, were false.

The good that was done by holding these meetings is immeasurable. A number will be led to investigate our teachings; and as soon as an honest investigation is begun the investigator will no doubt find that nothing is found wanting, and in consequence will obey the Gospel.

I remain, for the cause of truth,  
A. V. REESE.

## IN THE STATES

Fairview, Sanpete Co., Utah,  
May 5, 1898.

Having just returned from a mission to the states I take pleasure in giving you a brief sketch of my travels while there. I left my home January 14, 1896, and arrived at Chattanooga, Tenn. I was assigned my field of labor, which was the South Alabama conference, to begin in Mobile county. I labored in the conference about five months. Then I was called home to attend to some court matters. After disposing of them I again returned to the Southern States. Again I was sent to the South Alabama conference to begin my labors in the metropolis of Alabama state without purse or scrip, Elder E. E. Weeley of Idaho being my companion; we began our labor and canvassed the city.

After finishing my labors in Mobile city, I went to conference. Then I was assigned to labor in Clark county. I have been changed from county to county, with several different companions. I can say I have enjoyed my labors very much and have had the privilege of baptizing some believers, one of whom was a baptist minister.

My release came on the 15th of April. When I arrived in my home I found one of my children had died and had been buried three days before my arrival. That was the second child that had been taken away by death since my missionary labors began in Alabama. Naturally I felt very sad, but I felt to say in my heart: "The Lord's will be done and not mine."

Your brother,  
E. L. TERRY.

## SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

Among the advantages to be looked for in electric torpedo boats are the lack of flaming funnels and noisy machinery to give notice of approach, freedom of risk from cut steam pipes or wrecked boilers, diminished upper works to serve as a target, and ease and rapidity of manipulation by the commander with one hand on the controller. A writer in the Electrical World suggests the possible suitability of primary batteries. For a 140-foot boat, with a displacement of 110 tons, engines of 2,000 horse power are necessary to give a speed of 25 knots, and a weight of 75 tons is all that could be allowed for batteries and motors. Four motors of 500 horse power each would weigh about 12 tons. This would permit the carrying of 200 cells consisting of 13 zinc plates, 18 inches square, and 12 plates of like size of copper oxide compressed on copper, with an electrolyte solution of strong caustic alkali. Glass jars of 19 inches cube, with water-tight covers, would contain the elements. If such a battery would work satisfactorily, it should drive the vessel at full speed for one hour, or about 100 miles at 10 knots.

Education of the protoplasm is Prof. Ray Lancaster's explanation of the prevention or cure of severe disease by mild inoculations. Protoplasm can be taught to tolerate chemical action from which it naturally shrinks, and on growing to the edge of a solu-

tion of sulphate of iron would at first draw back and then plunge in, thereafter having no fear of sulphate of iron. Certain corpuscles of the blood are attracted to disease germs and swallow them. But the bacteria in turn produce a poison that repels the corpuscles, and it is by teaching the latter by gradually increasing doses that they are made capable of resisting the full poison of the disease.

The so-called singing shells are a marvel of Batticaloa Lake in Ceylon, and on a quiet evening the weird phenomena produces an effect that is decidedly pleasing.

Modern refinement in scientific research is strikingly illustrated in the bolometer, or heat balance of Prof. S. P. Langley, which is designed to measure extremely small amounts of radiant heat. Its action depends upon variations of electrical resistance produced in stripes of platinum by changes of temperature, the alterations thus caused in the strength of the current passing through the metal being registered upon a delicate galvanometer. The instrument, first described in 1881, has now been so improved that its sensitiveness is 400 times as great as at first. Changes of much less than one ten-millionth of a centigrade degree may be detected by it, the accuracy is practically absolute, and its precision of pointing is such that it may be directed toward any line in the spectrum with a probable error of little more a second of arc on the first observation. During recent years the bolometer has been employed in Washington in mapping the lines in the invisible portion of the spectrum, the observations being made in a chamber whose temperature is automatically kept constant within one-tenth of a centigrade degree.

The "dark days" which formerly brought such consternation to the world are usually supposed to be due to smoke from extensive forest fires or to volcanic dust. The direful import of New England's dark day of 1780 is still a matter of local tradition, but an even more remarkable occurrence was recorded in 1783, when a bluish haze obscured the sun for many days throughout Europe and northern Africa. In July, 1896, a thick smoke covered the whole of Siberia for eleven days, the nights very singularly being clear. A Russian astronomer, M. Adam Ryzyszewski, states that there were no large fires and no volcanic eruptions in northern Asia, and concludes that this was a cosmic phenomenon, due perhaps to the passage of part of the earth through a gaseous nebula or the tail of a comet. Hay cut during the smoky period was reported to poison sheep.

A medical authority condemns slow eating as well as hurried eating, for both beget imperfect mastication. But rapid and energetic chewing, with freedom from mental anxiety, ensures the most thorough mastication while stimulating the secretion of saliva in the most favorable manner.

An improved method of preserving milk for transportation is stated to have developed an important new industry in Sweden and Denmark. The milk is collected at a central station from neighboring farms, and is there pasteurized at about 170 deg. F., after which part of it is frozen at 15 deg. The blocks of frozen milk are placed in stout wooden casks, which they half fill, sterilized milk being poured into the remaining space. The casks are then hermetically sealed, and as they are perfectly full and kept cool by the frozen masses, the milk cannot be churned into butter in transportation, and may be kept in good condition for at least twenty days. This makes it possible for the Danes and