

[From the Millennial Star.]

**MEETING OF AMERICAN ELDERS IN LIVERPOOL.**

The emigration, and other circumstances, having combined to bring together, in Liverpool, a large portion of the American Elders now in Europe, in obedience to the request of President Richards, and much to their own satisfaction, they met at 36, Islington, on the evening of the 18th of April, 1855. Present, President Daniel Spencer, Elders Dan Jones, C. G. Webb, Israel Barlow, George D. Grant, Cyrus H. Wheelock, W. C. Dunbar, James Ferguson, Wm. H. Kimball, P. C. Merrill, Joseph A. Young, J. A. Little, Edmund Ellsworth, Edward Martin, James Bond, John Toone, Moses Thurston, J. D. Ross, John Barker, and John Perry.

President F. D. Richards called for a few moments to express his regret that he could not be present, at least for a time, as his attention was required to close up the business of the day, which had been an extremely busy one, but he hoped to return in a short time, and spend the balance of the evening with them. He left them with his blessing and good wishes, under the direction of President Spencer.

The meeting was opened by singing. Elder Dan Jones was then called upon to be mouth in prayer. Before prayer, however, President Spencer made a few remarks with regard to the object of meeting, particularly in that place.—He said—It is brother Franklin's wish that we dedicate the room in which we have met, and the whole house, for the purpose for which it has been chosen, and ask the Lord to bless and sanctify it, as the place in which to transact the general business of the European Missions.

After these remarks, Elder D. Jones offered up a dedication prayer; after which "Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah," was sung.

President Spencer made a few remarks, expressing his great joy and satisfaction at meeting so large a number of the brethren from Zion, with whom he was personally acquainted, as also with their previous course of conduct, stating that they had his confidence, for he felt that they had kept their covenants and were pure before the Lord. The unreserved expression of this sentiment was a source of much satisfaction to all present, and was adverted to by several of the brethren while speaking during the evening.

After a few other remarks peculiarly applicable to the occasion, he closed by desiring that the brethren would act freely, during the evening, as the Spirit might seem to dictate.

He was followed by Elder G. D. Grant, who expressed the joy and comfort he received in the society of his brethren, and the work in which he was engaged, and said that he felt continually built up in the faith, and strengthened to go forth in the strength of the Lord in the discharge of his duties.

Elder W. H. Kimball spoke of the blessings which he realized that he enjoyed in the society of his brethren, and said—I feel that the Lord has greatly blessed me on this mission in all my labors, and I feel to bless brothers Brigham, Heber, Jedediah, Franklin, and all my brethren.

"The Spirit of God," &c., was sung, after which Elder Ellsworth spoke with much warmth of feeling, and said—I thank the Lord that I have been sent on this mission for I have learned principle much faster, and enjoyed more of the Spirit of the Lord, than ever before. I feel that some of the rust is getting rubbed off me, and I begin to realize more fully the importance of the great work in which we are engaged.

Elder J. Perry spoke for some time on the benefits of the mission to himself, the great increase of the work, and his determination, when he arrived at home, to take more interest than he had before done in gathering the poor from these lands.

President Richards came in while Elder Perry was speaking, and remained during the evening.

Elder W. C. Dunbar said—I esteem it a blessing to enjoy the privilege of associating with my brethren for a few days, for I came here weak and debilitated in body, and I have been strengthened both in body and spirit, and I feel indeed that the society of my brethren is heaven to me.

Elder James Ferguson spoke, and being filled with the spirit of prophecy said—All the brethren present who have been afflicted shall begin to recover their health from this time, and brother Dunbar shall cease coughing, go to his field of labor, and regain his health. And all shall go forth in greater power than heretofore in their labors, from the greater union and faith which we shall feel from our present association together.

Elder J. A. Young expressed himself in the fulness of his spirit, and touched upon the history and course of many who were present, and the scenes and events of peculiar interest in the history of the Church in which they had acted a part, and he testified of their faithfulness. He said—I feel that warm times are at hand for us as a people, but all who raise their hands against this work or those engaged in it, shall perish.—I feel to bless you, my brethren, and to bless this house and all who shall labor herein.

Elder C. H. Wheelock said—I regret that before coming to this land I had not the pleasure of being acquainted with more of the brethren who are present, but my feelings are warm towards you all.

When brother Ferguson prophesied that brother Dunbar should return to his field of labor and recover his health, it reminded me of a similar meeting to this while I was on a former

mission in this country eight years ago. I was afflicted with a violent cough, and my health was so seriously impaired that it was thought advisable for me to return home, but brother John Taylor, who was present, was filled with the spirit of prophecy and blessing, and he prophesied that if I would remain, disease should leave me, and I should be restored to sound health and strength. The brethren then put their hands on my head and blessed me, and from that time I have been a living witness of the fulfillment of that prophecy. There is one absent, with whom I have had much pleasure in associating, whose health is somewhat feeble, but who is diligently seeking to do good. May the Lord bless brother William Young. [All present said, Amen.]

Elder Dan Jones said—I feel honored in the society of my brethren. I do not expect to say much, as it is impossible to express my feelings. I cannot but revert to the past, and compare our present position with those which many of us occupied in the earlier infancy of this Church; then we not only felt so, but were highly honored in the limited sphere in which we acted, but we are now still more so in being the honored instruments of proclaiming salvation to the nations, and gathering scattered Israel home. I feel highly to appreciate the counsels of brother Richards, and I feel with the rest of the brethren that the Lord will abundantly bless and strengthen him under his great labors.

Elder P. C. Merrill said—I feel to thank my God that I have been called on this mission, for I realize that I have learned more of my real position and standing in this kingdom than I ever learned before. I feel too full to talk much, and therefore shall say but a few words. I ask the Lord to extend the blessings of the same Spirit which we enjoy here to night, to those of our brethren who are toiling in dark and distant lands. [A general Amen was the response to this sentiment.]

Elder C. G. Webb said—I feel the importance of the covenants I have made with my God and my brethren. I feel that I can overlook the imperfections of my brethren otherwise, if they are faithful in these things. It is quite enough for me to know that a man is true to his God. My heart is full of rejoicing, and I have enjoyed great satisfaction in my labors, notwithstanding I have at times been brought low in health. I feel that the Lord will sustain all who trust in Him. Brethren I rejoice to see you, and I have been greatly blessed in associating with you. May the blessings of the Lord rest abundantly upon you all. Amen.

Elder J. D. Ross expressed his good feelings and said—I think it probable that there is more importance in the prophecies delivered here to night than we at present realize, and that events are about to transpire which will more fully call into action the wisdom, power, and knowledge which have been already bestowed upon us, and cause us more fully to realize the extent of them.

President F. D. Richards arose and said—I feel exceedingly happy at seeing so many of my brethren together, who have been to Zion and received their blessings in the house of the Lord. I feel it an honor to have a name and position among you. I am sensible that it is not the position which a man occupies in this kingdom, that is of so much importance, as the manner in which he fills that position.

I feel much debilitated in body, from the late great press of business in getting off the emigration, and I probably feel more so from having been engaged in heavy business transactions, in direct contact with the spirit of world. After the present crowd of emigration is over, and I am permitted to engage more directly in the work of the ministry, I hope to enjoy more of the spirit to life and strength.

Although I have not been privileged to associate much with you in the past few days in which you have enjoyed each other's society, I realize that the good Spirit has been with you, and I feel to bless you, my brethren.

I feel, brethren, that if you will live faithful to your covenants, and labor with all your hearts to work righteousness, the Lord will succor you in the hour of temptation, and never suffer any of you to commit any sin from which you cannot redeem yourself, or that will cut you off from the blessings of the celestial kingdom.

We are removing the Office and my residence to this place, on account of the other being too strait for us, and I feel as though I wanted the peculiar blessings of heaven to rest upon this house, those who labor here, the books, the papers, and everything that pertains to the extended business of this Office. I thank the Lord that I am blessed with such faithful brethren to assist me in the Office. They are diligent in their labors, not as eye servants, but in singleness of heart to build up this kingdom; and, brethren, I wish you would sustain them by your faith, and remember them in your prayers, that they may be blessed and strengthened in the arduous duties which devolve upon them.

I would say to those of you, my brethren, who have been afflicted with sickness and debility, if you will reach out your faith and claim the blessings which the Lord has placed upon you through His servants, you shall be healed and enjoy health. It is your privilege, brethren, to lay hold on life, strength, and salvation.

The dreadful condition of the world is well calculated to make us appreciate the great blessings we enjoy in each other's society, and in the domestic and social relations of our mountain home. Sorrow and mourning are easily discernable in the countenances of the multitude, and when we walk the streets, we everywhere

met the evidences of want, degradation, and misery. The fine dress and smiling face are often an outside show to hide the effects of sin, hidden deformity, and an aching heart. The world is daily becoming more given over to wickedness and abominations, and it is necessary for the Elders to raise their voices still more frequently and powerful than heretofore, against the vices and corruptions of the people, and to teach the Saints the principles of life, and how to live pure before the Lord in all their associations.

The work of the Lord continues steadily to progress, and is spreading on the right hand and on the left. It is strengthening its hold on the minds of the people, not only in these islands, but on the Continent.

President Richards here gave a comprehensive and interesting review of the progress of the Gospel in Scandinavia, Switzerland, and Italy, and gave some timely instructions to the Elders present as to the means to be employed in spreading the work in the British Isles. He gave much other good counsel, which will remain in the hearts of those present, as way marks to guide them in their future course, and especially exhorted the returning brethren not to forget the poor whom they were leaving behind, when they arrived in Zion.

Elders J. A. Little, J. Toone, J. Barker, and Edward Martin expressed in a feeling and happy manner the joy and blessing which they realized in their labors, and the fulness of the Spirit which they enjoyed on the occasion.

Refreshments were now brought in, and while they were passing round, many heartfelt sentiments were expressed, which called up pleasing remembrances of the past, and intimated the indulgence of high and holy hopes for the future.

Elder J. Ferguson arose and expressed an earnest desire that Elder J. D. T. McAllister, who was debarred the privilege of being present, might experience a renewal of his faith and strength, and share in the abundant blessings of the Spirit which was enjoyed. This desire met with a cordial response from the company.

President Spencer made a few very appropriate remarks on the importance of obeying counsel, and sustaining President Richards in his office, and implicitly carrying out his instructions, in order to enjoy the Holy Spirit, and progress in the way of life and salvation.

President Richards then closed the services of the evening by prayer, embracing in his supplications the general interests of the Church, and those objects of solicitude included in the ties of kindred and the covenants of the Priesthood, and he again dedicated the house to the Lord, for the use of His servants, in doing the general business of the Church for the European Missions.

The proceedings of the meeting were very imperfectly reported, and consequently but very few of the many interesting remarks made have been recorded. The Elders were full of the Spirit of prophecy and blessing. It was a prelude of that time when the union will be perfect and the joys of eternal life be full.

**ELDERS' CORRESPONDENCE.****LOS VEGAS.**

[From Interpreter G. W. Bean to Elder Geo. A. Smith.]  
LOS VEGAS, June 24, 1855.

We all arrived at this place on the 15th inst., safe and sound, after making a dry drive of 52 miles in 32 hours from Muddy to this place.

We find Los Vegas to be a nice patch of grass about half a mile wide and two or three miles long, situated at the foot of a bench 40 or 50 feet high. The valley faces east, and a pretty, clear stream of water, about the size of a common millrace, comes from two springs about four miles west of our location.

The water of the springs is very clear; they are from 20 to 30 feet in diameter, and at the depth of two feet the white sand bubbles all over as tho' it was the bottom, but upon wading in, there is no foundation there, and it has been sounded to the depth of 60 feet, without finding bottom; and a person cannot sink to the armpits, on account of the strong upward rush of water.

Our prospects for timber are not very flattering, though there is plenty of firewood near here, but the weather is so hot and the wood so thorny that we do not expect to be very lavish with it—the scrubby mesquite being the only chance.

A few days ago I went on an exploring trip to the Colorado, in company with br. Allen and others, to look for the promised steamboat and other fine things. We found the river and the steam, but no boat nor anything on the river to make one of.

The nearest point of the Colorado is about 28 miles from here, and is completely hemmed in by sandhills and deep canyons without grass or wood of any description. At the place where we first reached it, it was about 400 yards wide at an elbow where it turned from a S.W. to a S.E. direction.

We struck the river again in two other places, 10 and 15 miles below, but it was imbedded in deep canyons. The current runs remarkably smooth for such rough, rocky canyons, and with the exception of one place, it was not impracticable for navigation.

We could not extend our explorations to any great extent, on account of there being no grass for our animals, and the weather being so extremely hot that men could not live long away from water.

In coming home, some of our company gave out thro' the extreme heat and thirst, it being 31 miles over burning sand and rocks without water. The heat was so great that the water in our canteens would be scalding hot.

We were five days out, and never were men more rejoiced to get into port than we were; and for my part, I have thought Los Vegas was a little heaven ever since.

We found about 50 Indians (Piedes) on the Colorado, in a perfect state of nudity, except breechcloths; the men and women all dressed alike. They had raised a little wheat on a sandbank; it was all ripe and harvested. They were very friendly.

Our fort is laid off on a rise of ground close by the creek; size 150 feet square, with garden lots of 1-4 of an acre each; they are now pretty much planted. Our farm lots contain 2 1-2 acres each. Farming land is not very plenty here, as most of the soil is either too sandy or has too much saleratus.

Our stock is doing finely, and we are all in good health, except br. Ira Miles, who intends to return with this company.

**SANDWICH ISLANDS.**

[From Joseph Smith (son of Hyrum) to his cousin Geo. A. Smith.]

WAILUKU, Maui, Feb. 6, 1855.

I am well, and have enjoyed myself first rate since I have been here. The climate and food, with almost everything else suits me very well, altho' it is somewhat warmer than I have been used to.

I feel to press my way forward in the discharge of my duty at all times, for I know that I am engaged in the work of the Lord, in these the last days; and I pray continually for the spirit of my mission, and for the Spirit of the Lord to guide me in the way that I should go, and to bear me up at all times that I may not go astray.

I am progressing slowly in the native language, and I hope that ere long, by the blessings of the Lord, I shall be able to converse upon the principles of the gospel in the native tongue.

The saints are slowly increasing upon these lands, and those who have experience here, say that it is easier to baptize this people than it is taking care of them afterwards, which I think is correct, from what little experience I have.

[From Silas Smith to his cousin Geo. A. Smith.]

WAILUKU, Feb. 6, 1855.

I am making some progress in the native language, but have not yet learned to preach in it, tho' perhaps before before you receive this, my voice will be heard in the congregations proclaiming the principles of truth and salvation in their own language, according to the best ability that God has given me, and with his Spirit to direct, without which I am nothing; but when his Spirit rests upon me, I fear not the face of clay, and feel that I am upheld by the faith and prayers of my brethren. This cheers me up from day to day, and I praise my Father in heaven for the blessings that he is continually bestowing upon me.

Cousin Joseph and myself have been together most of the time since we arrived here.

**HINDOSTAN.**

[From Elder T. Leonard.]

HYDERABAD, 120 miles from Kurachee, Feb. 12, 1855.

During my stay at Kotree, I did little more than circulate books, pamphlets, &c., and in private conversations, as that is but a small place; the inhabitants too are mostly of the aristocratic kind, consequently too proud to investigate 'Mormonism,' even privately, to say nothing about coming to a public meeting. There were, however, a few who believed my testimony, but on account of persecution and a lack of confidence, did not obey it, altho' one or two had promised to do so.

I have been in Hyderabad nearly two months, having deferred coming sooner because there were but few Europeans at the station, the soldiers having left for other places. In December nearly 1000 others came, when I immediately repaired here, being only one day after them; reported myself by calling in person upon the Brigadier, exhibiting to him and the Brigade Major my official papers, and asked for permission to preach within cantonments.

Then they appeared very much in a hurry, saying come to-morrow and I will give you an answer. I requested that they would favorably consider the case, as I had the truth for the people, and wished to lay it before them.

I went the next day and again sent in my note, accompanied by a letter from Elder Findlay showing privileges granted by General Wilson at Belgaum, thinking it might have some bearing in my favor. In a few moments the Brigadier came out, evidently in a great rage, and said, over my back, to the Brigade Major, who at that juncture came up, "this man has come again, and I don't want anything to do with him."

He then turned to me and said, 'you had better apply to the ministers here if you want permission to preach, for I have no orders to give.' I then asked him if he had read the letter that I had sent him, when he gave me to understand that he had not.

They then retired to their office, and I overheard them reading the letter, and after counseling together a moment, they again came out, when the Brigadier said, 'you had better apply to Bombay for liberty,' repeating again that he would not give any orders about it.

I then asked for the privilege of residing in the camp for a few days, as I had some friends living here. He said, 'so long as you conform to the laws, I will say nothing about it, but your place is in the civil lines; we have clergymen appointed for the station, and we want no others'—and then abruptly retired, leaving me in the outer court.

I wanted the privilege of bearing testimony of the truth, but this was what he was afraid of; they seemed to dread me worse than a regiment of enemies. I procured a house in the civil lines, and succeeded, with some difficulty, in getting it furnished with seats; I then posted up a great number of printed handbills containing the faith of the Latter Day Saints, and took special liberty, altho' closely watched, to circulate them extensively among the soldiers, leaving from one to three in each barrack room; I also bore testimony as far as I thought wisdom to do so.

I appointed only two meetings per week, as the people here think it a great thing to go even once a week to their own meetings, and notwithstanding great exertion in trying to get the people to come out, only from 5 to 15 came.

I continued in this way for nearly two months; about this time I received a letter from Elder Findlay stating his determination to leave India, and in so doing, he should throw the responsibility of the Bombay Mission upon my shoulders, which by the help of the Lord, I had made up my mind to bear up.

Soon afterwards I received the Epistle of the First Presidency stating that it was the privilege of the Valley Elders in the Australian, Cape of Good Hope and Hindostan missions to come home or otherwise as the Holy Spirit should dictate. On receiving this information, I had nearly made up my mind to leave and go with br. Findlay and a few others, who were expecting to start from Bombay for Zion.