

faster than any man I ever saw. Since that time none of the preachers have dared to meet "a Mormon Elder, because he knows too much about the Bible."

Besides the ones I have mentioned, Elder John Z. Brown and President Frank H. Cutler have preached several times to our people, and all have done much good and made true and sincere friends. They are steadily gaining ground and I hope the time will not be long ere the true Gospel will lighten every portion of our loved "Sunny Southland." Heaven's richest blessing rest upon the Elders and crown with abundant success their great mission!

RONA.

IN VIRGINIA.

Sandy River, Pittsylvania Co., Va.,
May 20, 1898.

With pleasure I submit for the perusal of the many readers of the "News" a brief account of a branch conference held at Patterson, Wythe county, Va., April 30 and May 1, 1898, at which were present Elder Samuel E. Taylor, E. M. Wilkinson, T. C. Romney, and a goodly number of Saints and friends.

The conference days rolled around, bringing with them delightful weather. It was neither too warm nor too cold. Just a happy medium. The surface of the earth was covered with a beautiful carpet of dark green, the monotony of which was broken here and there by its rich decorations of wild flowers of varied hues, the odor of which was wafted to and fro on the refreshing zephyrs as they played gaily o'er hill and vale.

The birds sang sweet lays, filling the air with varied melody as they flitted about in the tree tops.

In fact, the whole scene was well calculated to draw one's mind from this corrupt and sin-stained world, allowing his thoughts and imaginations to fly back six thousand years to the time when man was residing in a well watered garden, swaying his scepter over the entire universe. One thing which added to the enchantment of the scene, and which was not enjoyed in the days of Eden was the orotund voice of the darkey heard singing, "O, de ole time religion is good enuff fo' me."

Our conference, which begun at 10:30 Saturday morning, was held in a vacant building which was seated for the occasion. Elder Samuel E. Taylor conducted the services. The principal speakers at our conference were Elders S. E. Taylor, E. M. Wilkinson and T. C. Romney, though strong testimonies were borne by the president of the branch, and by C. O. Richmond, W. D. Rotenberry and W. O. Tomlinson, Teachers of the branch, and John Roberts, superintendent of the Sabbath school. The chief topics treated were Faith, a Principle of Power, Repentance, the Holy Ghost, Revelation, and the Word of Wisdom.

The Spirit of the Lord was richly poured out upon the speakers and the Saints and friends listened with rapt attention and deep interest to the instructions as they fell from the lips of the servants of the Lord laboring under that divine Spirit. Three meetings were held the first day and two the second, all of which were well attended. The endeavor was made by the Elders to impress upon the minds of the Saints the idea that though they had been adopted citizens into the kingdom of God, their salvation was not obtained nor would it be till they had perfected their lives.

The attempt was made to impress upon the minds of our "friends" the necessity of obeying the principles taught by the Latter-day Saints, in order that they might be exalted in

the eternal worlds. The words took effect. The Saints have made up their mind that they will live better lives in the future, and five of our "friends" were baptized by us at the close of our excellent conference, which raised the number belonging to the Patterson Branch to thirty-eight, the first of which were baptized last August by Elder H. D. Smith and myself at the close of a two weeks meeting held in a church. Elder E. M. Wilkinson, who so ably assisted us at our conference was the first to enter the waters of baptism. He was a Methodist exhorter, a leading medical doctor of Wythe county, and held a high county position. Last fall he was ordained an Elder and set apart to fill a mission to the Southern States by Apostles Lyman and Cowley, who came down to pay us a visit, and which visit was highly appreciated by all the Elders of this conference.

My itinerary in the "Old Dominion" has been something over two and one half years duration (having left my home in Old Mexico three years next September) during which I have met with a variety of experiences, most of which has been very agreeable. True it is a missionary for Christ comes in contact with some contradictions, but the joy which he encounters in the knowledge that he is doing the Master's will fully compensates him for all inconveniences. A great portion of my time has been spent in canvassing and holding meetings in the cities of Richmond, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Lynchburg, where we saw the hand of God made manifest in our behalf upon many occasions. Our work was performed in the manner prescribed by those placed over us in the Priesthood—we traveling absolutely without purse or scrip, and as a result of our obedience unto counsel given, we were greatly favored of the Lord. Shoes, clothing, stationary, stamps, food and shelter were all provided, in fact we lacked for nothing that would have been for our good.

In traveling among the Elders in the respective fields of labor, we find them all imbued with the proper spirit, which should and always does actuate all successful messengers of God's Holy Word. They are accomplishing a noble work. Under their administrations the sick are healed, the lame are made to walk, and the eyes of the blind are opened.

Ever praying for the welfare of Zion I remain an Elder in the cause of truth,
THOMAS C. ROMNEY.

NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE.

Norwood, Massachusetts.

May 17, 1898.

The Elders laboring in the eastern part of the New England States met for conference at 33 Summer street, Lynn, Mass., on the 16th and 17th of April. There were sixteen Elders present. The first meeting was at 3 p.m. Saturday. Elder H. H. Kinsman presided. The time was occupied by Elders Kinsman, S. S. Hooker, J. W. Hudson and J. W. Dunyon. The weather being unpleasant, the attendance was small.

The time was occupied in the evening by a Priesthood meeting; in which all of the Elders reported their labor during the winter. Elder Kinsman stated that the conference was in a very good condition and that the work is progressing rapidly. All of the Elders spoke very encouragingly of their labor during the winter; although they have had some persecution and a great deal of prejudice to allay, they have enjoyed their labors very much.

Sunday morning at headquarters, 8 Stickney street, we held a Sacrament meeting, in which we enjoyed a great spiritual feast. All of the Elders pres-

ent bore strong testimonies to the truth of the Gospel, and expressed a desire to work more vigorously in the future for the spreading of the truth.

At 3 o'clock we resumed our conference. Elder Kinsman spoke for a short time, after which Elder Wm. R. Holmes gave a discourse on the aborigines of America and the Authenticity of the Book of Mormon.

In the afternoon the attendance was very good.

At the evening meeting the speakers were Elders G. W. Espin, E. S. Green and Joseph Wallace.

A number of young men and young women of Utah, who are attending school in Boston, were in attendance.

The Elders having had a spiritual feast and feeling well paid for their coming together, left for their respective fields of labor on Monday.

Their addresses are as follows:

Elders J. W. Dunyon, Samuel Knight and S. S. Hooker, 8 Stickney street, Mass.

Elders H. H. Kinsman, W. W. Graham, Henry Abplanalp, James and Wm. R. Holmes, 20 Appleton street, Everett, Mass.

Elders Joseph Wallace, G. W. Espin, Ipswich, Mass.

Elders Geo. C. Murdock, E. S. Green, Marlboro, Mass.

Elders J. A. Mayer, H. A. Keeler, J. W. Hudson, Sheet Harbor, Halifax county, Nova Scotia.

Elders A. J. Wagstaff, W. L. McAllister, Norwood, Mass.

Anyone having relatives or friends in this conference whom they would like to have the Elders visit, please send names to one of the above addresses.

Your Brother in the Gospel.

W. L. McALLISTER,
Clerk of Conference.

IN KENTUCKY.

I left my home in March, 1897, for a mission to the Southern States and on arriving in Chattanooga was assigned to the Kentucky conference, and till our late conference, which was held in December, I labored in the county of Casey. I had a pleasant time. The people were very kind to the Elders and we had the privilege of baptizing twenty-two honest souls into the fold of Christ.

At the December conference I was assigned to labor in this (Calloway) county with Elder W. H. Petty as traveling companion. Our labors thus far have been those of pleasure and joy though we have had much opposition to meeting with on account of much prejudice existing among the people, but we have never had to suffer for food nor yet sleep with Uncle Sam; and therefore we praise the good people of Calloway county.

Though we have had our funeral sermon preached (as we Elders call it) yet we have noticed whenever such has been the case we have had friends raised up to administer to our wants, and we believe there is a rich harvest in this part for some Elders to reap. The fruits have not been brought forth as yet, but we hope to be able to scatter the seeds of love and truth among this people.

Last week we had the privilege of baptizing one more honest soul into the fold of Christ. We announced that we would baptize in the Tennessee river on the Kentucky side, but when we went to the river we found the banks were too muddy; so we decided to cross over in Tennessee, and forty-five Kentuckians with two Mormon Elders boarded the boat and with two large negroes at the oars we began to cross the beautiful Tennessee river, which is half a mile wide. The company consisted of large and small, young and old, black and white;