

authorized and established by Christ." To this Elder Randall replied that he did not wish to debate, having come out for the purpose of preaching the Gospel, but as he had a desire to lay before the people the principles of the Gospel he would accept.

Mr. Ensminger then read Luke 24, 44, etc., and admitted that all scriptures were given by inspiration of God; that the Old Testament Scriptures pointed to the coming of Christ; that God and this world are inseparably connected; that Christ's Kingdom was set up on the day of Pentecost, but at the same time he denied the gift of the Holy Ghost through the proper channel, and the necessity for authority and gifts, etc.

Elder Randall replied by reading the Articles of Faith and a number of Scripture passages.

The discussion was continued the next day, and when the case was submitted to the audience the Elders received 28 votes, while their opponents had 31.

A heavy fall of snow was showered down some time ago, which after partial disappearance, received strength by a renewal of the same kind; then followed a rain which considerably raised the streams. Today it is cold.

A fine field for holding meetings is opened up, and as we journey on we will endeavor to answer the calls.

Your brother in the Covenant,
ELDER H. F. THOMAS,
PHILLIPI, BARBOUR CO., W. Va.,
January 5th, 1891.

LECTURE ON THE SAMOAN ISLANDS

January 9th a select audience assembled in the Social Hall to listen to a lecture on the above subject by Elder Joseph H. Dean, before the Students' Society of the Latter-day Saints' College. A map of the Samoan group of islands was exhibited to the audience, and contributed largely to a clear understanding of the geographical points touched upon. In addition to this, specimens of cloths, war clubs, fly brushes, baskets, necklaces, fans, avabowl, etc., were shown, and viewed with great interest.

The speaker prefaced his remarks by referring to his missionary experiences, calling attention to the map and giving a brief description of the group. The climate, vegetation, etc., also received attention. The islands, said the lecturer, are of coral formation. Some of them are surmounted by volcanic islands and coral reefs. The natives were described and some of their peculiar customs narrated. Their food was said to consist of bread fruit, bananas, coconuts, fruit, fish, etc. Their chief vegetable is the "kalo," which tastes more like a potato than anything else known to Americans. The coconut is one of the most useful of the articles known to the Samoans. The fibres of the husks are used for ropes, etc., their shells for cups, and so forth, the meat for seasoning, the leaves for fans, baskets, and the fluid for oil. The drink made from the "ava" is the equivalent in use to the "pipe of peace" of the American Indian. The avabowl is made from the cross-section of a tree.

The speaker gave a brief account of

the late Samoan difficulty, and especially dwelt upon that portion with which he came in contact. He spoke of the respect shown toward the missionaries by the belligerents. A description of the terrible disaster in the harbor of Apia followed. It began, said the lecturer, on a Thursday evening, and was first signalled by a heavy wind, which continued during the night and the next day. He witnessed the terrible scene attendant upon this storm, and was therefore now able to give a graphic description of the same.

Elder Dean closed with a statement of the advantages attaching to the Samoan mission, and the condition of that mission at the present time.

An organ solo by Miss Jehu Smith and a song by Miss Cumorah Smith made up the remainder of the evening's programme.

FROM ENGLAND.

The columns of the NEWS being always open to the diffusion of matters of interest, I am induced to send a short communication.

I am pleased with the duties necessary in the life of a missionary of the true and everlasting Gospel of the Son of God, and in my conversations with people of other denominations it is curious to observe the lack of knowledge of the theology which governs the sects to which they belong. I am more and more convinced that the teachings of the present systems of professed Christianity are not only of little value as to the future state of their devotees, but are positively injurious in their tendency. They induce the disciples of the various organizations to think that by accepting the dictum of the preacher and expressing the conviction that Jesus is the Christ it is amply sufficient to secure them perfect immunity from punishment at the hands of God, however criminal their lives might have been prior to their confession of faith. This thought tends to prohibit the observance of the ordinances so plainly defined as necessary to the salvation of mankind by our Lord and Savior.

The recent manifesto of President Woodruff is still the "harp of a thousand strings" played upon by a number of journals of more or less note.

The majority of the tunes they introduce, however, are not at all calculated to inspire harmonious feelings in the minds of their readers. It is pleasing to note the generous feelings which animate the hearts of a few of the editors who have taken up the matter. I must in justice mention the Birmingham *Daily Post*. I read its articles upon the subject, and was quite pleased with the liberal spirit they expressed.

The latest effort of "General" Booth, in his issuance of "In Darkest England, and the Way Out," is creating somewhat of a wave of excitement which it is not unlikely may culminate in a positive "craze." Such is the tenacity with which the people of this land cling to any new "fad" that they lose sight of all else for the time being, until something novel is announced. It seems to be so in certain quarters in the "General's" scheme, which is being made the subject of lectures, debates, readings, etc. But, alas! for its pro-

motor, the "funds" do not accumulate in a remarkable manner. Only about one-twentieth of the modest little sum required by General Booth as a preliminary guarantee, £1,000,000, of \$5,000,000, is yet subscribed, after several mouths of active collection. Of course, the amelioration of the condition of the poor is a noble scheme, and should meet with the hearty support of all classes. Has any one ever given the leaders of the Latter-day Saints any credit for their grand scheme for placing mankind above want? How many million pounds have been asked for to aid in the accomplishment of this well demonstrated scheme? Would prelates, bishops, clergymen and lesser lights of all churches respond to a call of this kind by the servants of the Lord? It will be an interesting study to watch the of the "Generals" latest plan; but I have an idea that his most brilliant success will not be commensurate with the achievements of the despised people of God.

I am happy in the thought that the day of deliverance for all the faithful servants of Jehovah is nigh at hand, and the thoughtless ones who now seek the destruction of just and true men will reap the reward of their deeds. May more earnest efforts be put forth by our people to release the deserving poor from this land of deep tribulations; for the Lord has said that none will be spared who are left in Babylon.

W. G. BICKLEY.
NORTHAMPTON, England, Dec. 20, 1890.

JACKSON'S DAY.

The 8th day of January is becoming a sort of national holiday. It was on this day 1815 that the famous battle of New Orleans was fought. Andrew Jackson commanded the American forces, Sir Edward Pakenham, brother-in-law of the Duke of Wellington, commanded the English troops. The English left 2,600 soldiers dead and wounded on the field, while the loss on the American side was eight killed and thirteen wounded. The anniversary of this battle is becoming a democratic holiday, with Andrew Jackson as the Saint of the occasion.

Last night at the Federal Court room this event was commemorated for the first time in Salt Lake City. The room was comfortably filled by what seemed to be enthusiastic Jacksonian Democrats. The meeting last night was held under the auspices of the Central Democratic Club of Salt Lake City. F. H. Dyer, ex-marshal, presided. Judge Judd, Parley L. Williams and Colonel Lett occupied seats on the bench. At 8:20 Mr. Dyer called the meeting to order, stating that the object of the meeting was the commemoration of the battle of New Orleans, and the perpetuation of the fame of Andrew Jackson.

Parley L. Williams was next introduced. His speech was a life sketch of Andrew Jackson, stating that the hero was born of Irish parents on the borders of the Carolinas in 1767. Mr. Williams touched briefly on the principal events of Jackson's life, concluding with his death at the Hermitage near Nashville, Tenn., on June the 8th, 1845.

Next followed Judge Judd, the orator