PART 3. THE DESERET EVENING NEWS. 17 TO 24

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

FORTY-NINTH YEAR. SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1899. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. NUMBER 134.

CHURCH INTELLIGENCE

MISSION FIELDS.

Eastern States Mission.

To the Editor:

Assembling by appointment, the Elders of the West Virginia conference met together on the morning of April 8th, at the Union school house, Harrison county, W. Va. The conference continued three days, the 8th, 9th and 10th. There was present of the Priesthood, Elders Wm. H. Stewart, president of the Eastern States mission; Wm. B. Stark, president of the conference; 18 elders (traveling Elders, and one local Elder. We all regretted to part with our former president, Elder F. Kesler, who has returned from his calling, but we know that God would send us another shepherd in a short time, and he did. His title lies in the part of the vineyard.

Although the weather was very disagreeable for the appointed time a number had assembled together. With this assembly came outsiders, and during the meetings of the first day a feeling of opposition was in our midst. After the usual opening exercises, Elder Stark explained the object of our meeting in conference. Elder Stuart in a few words spoke of the importance of attending all the meetings of the conference, and hear what the Elders had to say on the principles of the Gospel of Christ. Then the time was occupied by different speakers on the first principles of the Gospel.

At 2 p. m. the people again assembled and listened to the words of the speakers. A number of principles were clearly explained by the Elders.

Elder Stuart suggested that all unite in faithful and prayerful behalf of God. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, it was thought not wise to hold an evening meeting.

A Christian minister took advantage of this and announced a meeting for that evening. Many of the appointed time the house was filled. The reverend gentleman took for his text the Articles of Faith, and read extracts from the Doctrine and Covenants. He commenced with the book of Mormon, and tried to show that the "Mormons" were in the dark and that "Mormonism" is all a fraud. His reasoning and proof were so weak that instead of bringing opposition against us, he turned the people against himself and his. Sympathy was extended towards us at both meetings held on Sunday, April 9th. The house was filled to overflowing. All the people seemed to be much interested, and the Lord greatly blessed us again by adding to us His Holy Spirit, after several of the Elders had spoken to the people for a short time. Elder Stuart concluded the remarks of the former speakers and set forth the principles of honesty, kindness and charity of character. The attention seemed to be great and many were moved to tears.

Two Priesthood meetings were held, April 10th, at 10 a. m. and 2 p. m., Elder Stuart presiding. The first meeting was mostly occupied in giving in the reports of the last six months labor. At 2 p. m. the meeting was continued and Elder Stuart gave many instructions for our future labors. The Annual Christmas Gift Church and of the Eastern states mission, and the north West Virginia conference unanimously sustained, the appointments were then given out.

The spirit of unity was with us during the entire meeting.

It was decided to hold a concert at the close of the conference and a committee was appointed to prepare a program. The people united with us in the concert at 7:30 Monday evening. The house was again filled to overflowing, recitations and speeches were rendered, and a very enjoyable time was had by the entire congregation.

It would be subject to close without speaking of the great kindness and hospitality of the people in this locality. Although they do not look at the principles of life and salvation as do the latter-day Saints they have surely been as brothers and sister, during our stay and they shall not lose their reward.

Any traveling friends being in this conference when they desire the Elders to visit, may address any of the Elders laboring here.

W. H. HAWKIN,
CLARENCE GARDNER,
A. M. FIFIELD.

Among the Indians.

Meriden, Kas., April 19, 1899.

To the Editor:

Missionary work in this part still continues to progress nicely. We are now able to perform our labors with less difficulty than for six months past.

The snow started to fall so early on Oct. 16th, 1898, and since then it has snowed almost every day for six months. It has been indeed, a long, cold winter and we are pleased to see spring coming. During the winter months our labors have been confined mostly to the farming districts, but now spring has arrived and with it very much.

We are expecting great results this year.

During the past winter my labors have been mostly in Douglas county of this state. The people in the north of country where I labored are mostly German. Many have been the testimonies I have received of the power of God, while laboring in these parts. I have seen as powerful manifestations in administering to the sick as any person could desire to see.

Since the 19th ultimo, I have been laboring with a conference president. Our president, Elder Byron H. Allen Jr., of Afton, Wyoming, was honorably released to return home on the 19th of March. During his ministry he has won the love and respect of all the Elders and Saints under his watch care. Elder Frank E. Van Orden of Washington, Washington county, Utah, succeeded him.

Since last writing my lot has been cast in localities that bring back many incidents that happened in the early history of the Church.

I see by the "Brief History of the Church," p. 46, that when the Elders, who were sent to the first volunteers to the Lamanites, had arrived at Independence, Mo., two of them remained there and started carousing; while Elders Pratt and Cowdery crossed the frontier to the Indians, carrying one night with the Indians, after which they crossed the Kansas river to the Delaware. Oliver Cowdery was appointed to address the Indians. Finally the ministers and agents on the frontier board of the excitement and threats from the Elders were so dense out of the Indian country, as peace-disturbers, and threatened with military interference, if they did not comply with the order." This is exactly what I was told about two weeks since, by a leading chief of a tribe. I was permitted to baptize, at least some of them. However, they told more than I should tell.

In Jackson county, Kansas, is a little piece of land, containing 11.46 acres, or eleven acres and one rood, known as the "Pottawatomie reservation." On this reserve, there is about 55 Indians who live on allotments of land on the Sun. Many of these Indians remember Elders Pratt and Cowdery coming to their camp and preaching to them and being driven out, as narrated above. But I can only the Shawnee and Delaware tribes are gathering, some of the people, who died that week. While I was on the reserve, at the time age of five years and one day, a Shawnee child died, (in the interest) and the subsequent banishment of the Elders from the "Indian country."

A Sioux, or Dakota Indian, who lives only a stones throw from the place where I stopped, aged 17 years, recovered, through the power of God, the statement that prevailed while Elders Cowdery and Pratt were in Missouri. He says an old lady was baptized by them and because of so doing was driven, by the Indians, out of the District from the tribe. It does anything to confirm this? O mean "anything" in the Church gospel?

The privilege of being permitted to labor where these men—Pratt and Cowdery—spoke as the first among the Indians in this country, fills me with joy.

Uncle Sam is intending to open this reserve this fall and settle it up. It is reiterated that after each homestead—160 acres—is given and the other allotments—40 acres—to each child, there will be 16,000 acres for sale.

The people in Kansas, I think that as soon as these allotments are made, and the Indians can do as they will (because they are free to do so) they will choose a land independent of their other part. The reason is obvious. As soon as the Dawes commission made the allotments stop and then the "legal" is thrown upon his own resources and must work or starve. Many of them do they have farms, but instead of farming them they rent to white settlers, and live on the proceeds of the rent. It is the rent they receive for their farms. In consequence of their annuity being cut off they have to work. And as I said the people here claim they have a place picked in Minnesota where they can go and again draw their annuity.

There is a large mission upon the "Pottawatomie reserve" built by the Catholics, and they are used by the government, where the children of the reserve are educated.

Many people of white complexion have mixed in with the Indians and today it is hard to tell which is Indian and which is not.

I ever praying for the welfare of Zion, I remain your brother in the cause of truth.

CHAS. W. GOODLIFFE.
Meriden, Jefferson Co., Kansas.

In Texas.

Lane, Rusk Co., Texas,
April 23rd, 1899.

To the Editor:

Since my last writing, many important events have transpired. Among them is the blessing of the Church from bondage to Spain, and the death of one of our faithful school servants, Wilford Woodruff.

While looking through one of my old scrap books, I found a letter written by Elder M. O. Miner, three years ago. He was one of the energetic pioneers in establishing the work of the Lord in Texas. As it is a dream, my mind reverted back to the old scenes in those pioneer days of 1885, when there were only from 10 to 14 Elders laboring in the great Lone Star State, and my lot was to hold those stricken down with chills and fever and other disease common in the climate during the summer seasons; I was then sorely tried and regarded as the "very offscouring of the earth," by those who knew them not, yet they all held out firm and faithful, and true to their noble calling, though the Lord released one of them from his earthly mission, and his body was sent to his mountain home. I landed I saw them as they gathered together and administered unto him (that had been prepared for the occasion), in a quiet, chaste and solemn manner, and then followed the much needed instructions from their mission president, Elder S. S. Kimball. There were no Saints in attendance, for they had not yet reaped the fruits of their labors, but he and his they were led to those who were strongly searching for the truth, and who will great by receive the message and free God to receive them from sin and the dominions in which they grovel.

Early in 1886, Sunday schools began to be organized in different parts, testimonies continued to arrive from the West, but at the opening of 1887 quite a number of our brethren and sisters were sent to other States. The Texas conference was still that time undivided, and the southern States mission, but was transferred to the Indian Territory mission, with headquarters at St. John, Kansas, and the readers of the "News" are doubtless aware that the name of this mission has been changed to that of the Southwestern States.

Although Satan has not been idleness in his efforts to stop the progress of the work, it has continued to prosper. Other conference have been organized and at the end of 1898 there were four conferences in the Lone Star State and Saints in the State, and there have been about 50 baptisms in this the North Texas conference this year, and the prospects for the future are more satisfying than ever before.

The Saints and Elders of this conference have learned to look forward with great pleasure to the time when we meet in our spring and fall conference and minute our souls together, for we always have a great spiritual feast, as we hear from different places filled with veracity and humility, and our testimonies are strengthened. We have just closed on the occasion of our last conference held March 17th and 18th that will long remain with us.

We were getting ready to attend, and as previous to the time appointed to start on our journey the clouds began to gather, the thunders to roll and it looked very, especially to Lone, the rain began to fall, yet we hope prayerfully to go, and a long rainy season set in, which caused the roads to be dreadful, but the morning dawned rainy and muddy and those who have been in this black land know what it takes a splendid team to pull an empty wagon, will understand what that means yet we started on our journey with prayerful hearts, some walking and some the one traveled his shining face the roads vanished. We reached our destination in peace and safety. Oh! how our hearts swelled with joy and gratitude to our heavenly Father as we stood and gazed upon the beautiful scene of a tour table spread with beauties of life, and our hearts, we hope, were in the same and friends and listened to their expressions of joy as they received the hand of the Lord in helping them to reach their destination, or to the varied experiences of the Saints and spreading the Gospel and so forth. All saints seemed to quite well appointed and seemed to gather, for the weather was beautiful and pleasant—the more appreciated because our being delayed in our first start. An arbor or bower of tabernacle was built of green covers under which the meetings were held.

Notwithstanding the fact that we are very incontinently situated (from we hold our meetings in a school very seven miles) a "round breaker," our little Lone Branch has continued to grow, and we are in numbers and then is at present a good opening for missionary work for the Saints, and the opening of a new conference in Oklahoma, who is stationed here at present.

The "News" is a welcome visitor in our home.

LINNIE GREGORY.
Lane, Tex.

In the Hawaiian Mission.

Laie, Oahu, H. I., April 11, 1899.

To the Editor:

During the past five days the Elders and Saints of the Hawaiian mission have enjoyed the unspeakable privilege of attending the annual conference, which concluded here at Laie, April 9th.

The house was crowded to overflowing, there being between 500 and five hundred in attendance. Representatives from all the branches throughout the islands were present, while many other Saints, Sunday school associations, Primaries and Relief Societies, from West Maui, Honolulu and Waikiki joined with us in making the great time we have had. The homes of the different classes were interesting to the world as inactive in all four days were occupied in our spiritual feast. Twelve meetings were held, which the people were anxious to cease fault-finding, rely on the power of God and not of man, and remember the words of our Savior, "Ask of the Lord, that they might gain the blessings promised by so doing. Much time was spent in bearing testimony of the people abused the Priesthood in administering to the sick by forsaking the true ordinances of the Gospel and returning to the sorcery of their forefathers.

During the concluding session the names of the general authorities together with the appointments for the coming six months were presented and unanimously sustained.

The appointments are as follows:

General Officers.—President, Joseph Woodbury; president of mission; Wm. D. Hill, Edwin W. Fifield, Samuel Pratt, Chas. W. Hancock, Chas. J. Hunt, John A. Anderson, Thos. A. Waddoups, Wm. A. Williams, Wm. B. Dorius, Parley P. Musser, Hyrum S. Clark, Joseph H. Fisher, Albert H. Bellaire, W. J. Cole, Wm. Purdie, M. H. Bush, and Thos. E. Parry, together with Sisters Alice J. Woodbury, Elizabeth Williams, Jennie P. Musser, Ellen Cole and Margaret Pilbeck, as his assistants.

Temporal appointments: Samuel E. Woodbury, manager of the Laie plantation; W. J. Cole, assistant manager; Chas. P. Bush, school teacher; Jennie P. Musser, assistant school teacher; Thos. E. Parry, bookkeeper; Alice J. Woodbury, assistant store-keeper; Ellen Cole, assistant store-keeper; Jos. H. Fisher and Wm. B. Dorius are to be in charge of work as mechanics on the Laie plantation.

Island appointments:

Honolulu, Oahu—Thos. A. Waddoups, president, with Abraham Fernandez and J. W. Jona as assistants; Oahu, East, A. Kaleiwahea and Paul Lua; Kauai, Chas. W. Hancock and Wm. Purdie; North Hawaii, Albert H. Bellaire and Joe Lanakila; South Hawaii, Wm. D. Hill and Samuel Pagel; Hilo, Edwin W. Fifield and Wm. A. Williams; West Maui, Joseph F. Musser and M. M. Bush; East Maui, Robert H. Sant and Lizzie Kaumeheiwa.

Many are the testimonies born by the Elders of the power of God made manifest in our midst, in healing the sick, etc., during the past six months of their labors. The Gospel has been promulgated among the Hawaiians since 1851. There have been 11 persons baptized and 10 children blessed since last October in this mission.

As conference concluded a series of unity, joy and exceedingly sweet comfort, and many wept the well wished and hearty handshakes one with another.

On February 9th, Elder Henry H. Cornabbie set out from Honolulu for Australia. As stated in my last, he changed from that to that part of the Lord's vineyard.

Owing to the release of Elder Daniel Hansen, who returned home some time ago to look after his business affairs, his wife, Clara, has also been honorably released to return home from this mission.

As some of the Hawaiian Saints are emigrating to Zion this season, Elder Jos. O. Matatiaha has been temporarily appointed to take charge of the company.

During the past six months there have been planted about seventy-five acres of new cane ground here, which has now grown into a beautiful green field of cane. There are now three hundred acres of growing cane on the plantation and plenty of work is provided for the native Saints that have gathered here, with inducements for more to come and settle among us.

The new meeting house at Hilo City is now finished, a building that speaks well for our cause and those that took part in its erection.

President Joseph F. Smith, his wife and two daughters together with Elder Dorius, passed through Hilo on a pleasant visit since last conference. The natives were delighted to see them, and they were sorry when they call him, again back to see them. While here he visited the island of Hawaii, taking in the dedication of the new meeting house there. He was pleased to note the progress in the mission, and spoke of it very favorably. Many were the words of comfort and cheer together with good advice and counsel given us by him while here.

The new printing plant erected and set in operation last November, proved a grand success and the appearance of the case has much improved under brilliant.

We are pleased to report the Hawaiian mission as in a prosperous condition and at this the beginning of a new year we all feel like putting forth every effort to spread the truth among this people.

EDWIN W. FIFIELD, Clerk.

Our Work in California.

The Semi-Annual Conference of the Sacramento branch of the California mission was held on Sunday, the 16th of April.

Elders from all parts of the Conference, with a number of visitors, from neighbors calling from Red Bluff to Fresno, began to arrive as early as the Thursday before conference, and on Sunday eighteen missionaries were present.

The Pioneer Hall, where Harvey is erected, was crowded to overflow, and Sister's Fort, where the "Morons fair-tallow" came to California, to the place of worship many Latter-day Saints. Among those who attended the conference meetings were some who remember the stirring times when Elder Pratt and others was dragged across the plains. It was particularly appreciable that the Saints were able to meet in a building dedicated to the memory of the pioneers, the preservation of relics and the early history in the Salt Lake, in which our brethren of other days took such great part.

Besides the Elders gathered, there were also many members who came in from the outside counties to attend the services. Many of them are those who released in the near future and only these spoke, owing to the lack of time.

The Sunday school under the direction of A. G. Bowman, greeting the members and friends and explaining our work. The Sunday school at Sacramento Grove, Utah, was the first speaker on the principles of our religion. He dwelt upon the necessity of faith, and living faith in God, and the wonderful power of those who hold it.

Elder A. C. Bowman, of Weber Stake, followed on the necessity of repentance.

Elder W. D. Jackson touched the question of baptism.

Elder Henry was the last speaker of the morning, presenting various subjects, and concluded by exhorting the members to renewed diligence.

When the afternoon session was called there were in the congregation many who were out of the Latter-day Saints, but who were interested in the Elders, speakers by all odds, made it not easy to tell those who were seekers of truth. From these we hope for much.

The general authorities were sustained, and Elder E. H. Nye was sustained as president of the California mission and A. G. Bowman as president of the Sacramento conference. Elder Nye gave the conference a good address, remarks the gift and power of the Holy Ghost, Elder W. W. Lont, of St. George stake, spoke on the Word of Wisdom, Elder Hyrum Burton, of Bluff, Utah, and Elder Hunter