

keep off the main streets and preached in the streets where there was no traffic. But we were doing too well there, so the ministers had us stopped. We are now holding our meetings in lots, where the people will let us, and also in houses. Some of the other denominations commenced to hold their meetings on the streets, but they were stopped also. They wanted to know why they were stopped and the chief of police informed them that if he stopped one he would stop all. "Yes" said they, "but we are Christians; we are not Mormons."

I am very pleased to say we are getting more friends, and the work of the Lord is going to prosper here in Carbondale. There are four Elders in Carbondale now, Elders D. T. Edwards, E. T. Burton, George E. Asper and Thomas Blackburn.

On July 21st, we began our outdoor meetings in a town called Olyphant, where Elders W. W. Crockett and A. A. Fuller are laboring, and every Tuesday evening since the above date, we have held our meetings there. I am very pleased that, with the blessings of the Lord, the eyes of many people are beginning to be opened to the true plan of Salvation. I am also glad to state that since my last writing, there have been six more Elders arrive here to assist in the spreading of the Gospel in this part of the country. They are Elpers Hiram Wight, Hubbard Tuttle, Jas. H. Stevenson, Thomas Blackburn, John H. Bess and William R. Derr.

I have made a little change, as you can see above, so that Elders Asper and Blackburn are appointed to labor in Carbondale, Elders Hiram Wight and Hubbard Tuttle to labor in Peckville, a small town about eight miles from Scranton, and Elders J. H. Bess and William R. Deer, to labor in Taylorville, which is on the south side of Scranton, and Elder Jas. H. Stevenson has been appointed to labor in Scranton with the writer.

This makes twelve Elders now laboring in this part of the Lord's vineyard, and there is room for twelve more.

The little town of Olyphant, where we have been holding our meetings in peace for the past three weeks, seems to be moved a little and it put me in mind of the parable of the Savior, of the woman that hid a little leaven in three measures of meal, and it leavened the whole. So it is in the town of Olyphant.

It is moved from one end to the other. On Tuesday evening, August 11, Elder Stevenson and myself went to Olyphant, where we met Elders W. W. Crockett and A. A. Fuller, who are laboring there, also Elders Hiram Wight and Hubbard Tuttle, who came down from Peckville, and at 7 p. m. we began a meeting previously appointed for that time in front of the house of Mr. Richard Evans, who has been so kind to us, in permitting us to hold meetings there. There were from 150 to 200 people assembled, and after the opening exercises Elder Tuttle spoke for a short time on faith and works. The writer then spoke on the general principles of the Gospel. After our meeting was closed two ministers called the people to order and the Reverend B. F. Hammond spoke in the most abusive language of the Mountain Meadow massacre, and the blood atonement, and of the people of Utah, as being a low, degraded, blood-thirsty class of people.

This was more than I could stand and

I spoke a short time in defence of the people of Utah and on the admission of Utah into the sisterhood of states, as a state that the nation is proud of.

Then the Reverend J. R. Ellis stepped forward and said that he was not going to speak on the character of the Mormons but would attack their doctrines. He said "I am a Baptist minister and am one of the first to defend the principles of baptism, but I say unto you all, that baptism is not essential to salvation." As proof of it, he referred to the promise of Jesus to the thief on the cross "this day shalt thou be with me in Paradise." He said that there were no signs to follow the believers, and no need of Apostles and Prophets, that nothing but Bishops and Deacons were necessary to carry on the church of Christ. There are no gifts of tongues or interpretations of tongues, only by learning, and no revelation is needed in this enlightened age of the world. At the same time he declared that there was no other gospel except that which Paul preached.

He also referred to adding to or taking from the Scriptures.

Because of the late hour of the night I announced that we would hold another meeting in the same place on Tuesday evening, August 18th, and that I would answer the points of doctrine referred to by the Reverend Ellis.

Elders Wight and Tuttle returned to Peckville and Elder Stevenson and myself returned to Scranton.

In the Olyphant record of Thursday, August 13th, 1896, was an article entitled "Mormons in Town" and signed B. F. Hammond. During the week, excitement was very high, the ministers working very diligently, doing all in their power against us in public meetings and in private local. Papers and papers of other cities took the matter up, and it seemed as though Satan had turned his whole force loose against us; but we were as diligent as our enemies. Never were there more earnest prayers offered up to the God of Sabaoth, than by us, the servants of God, asking our Heavenly Father to help us in this great strife with the adversary. We asked him to turn the hearts of the people towards us, and to cause that those ministers should lose their influence over the people, and our joy and satisfaction cannot be described at seeing our prayers answered, as they afterwards were, to the very letter.

On Tuesday evening, August 18th, on account of the excitement of the past week, although it was a wet, stormy evening and raining very hard until a few minutes before the time appointed, when it cleared off and was a fine evening, from 300 to 400 people and a number of ministers gathered together. I had also sent for all the Elders to be there and they came, and we had a few Saints and many friends who came from afar, some six to twelve miles. At 7 p. m. I gave out the hymn on page 143, "Oh, my Father Thou that dwellest," etc., which was sang with great power by the sons of Zion. The hymn and the powerful prayer that followed seemed to turn the hearts of the people towards us. I then spoke for over an hour, by the gift and power of the Holy Ghost, proving from the scriptures the different points referred to by the Reverend Ellis one week before. The people listened with profound attention, and were interested from the beginning to the end of my discourse.

After the meeting was closed the two reverend gentlemen before mentioned again called the people to order, and being so full of the spirit of the evil one that it was noticeable in their countenances. They spoke again of the Mountain Meadows massacre and all other old worn-out stories they could think of, (and some they had to be prompted to by those that were in the rear) Some of the people applauded, while the more intelligent people were disgusted. One lady was heard to cry out "Shamel shame on you." After they had said all they could think of against us they left as quickly as possible, the people slowly scattered, and some gathered in groups in the streets, (it was a beautiful moonlight night) and talked for and against us. We all left on the cars that night for our different fields of labor.

After reading the article in the Olyphant Record by the Rev. B. F. Hammond, entitled "Mormons in Town," I wrote a reply to it to the same paper. The editor was very kind to me and my article was published in the issue of Thursday, August 20th, 1896.

The difference in the spirit of our preaching and writing to that of our opponents is noticed by the people. Many of the business men of the town have stopped me on the streets and some have called me into their stores and told me that they were ashamed of the way their ministers had treated us. Different newspapers began to defend us and ridicule the ministers. During the week the Elders were busy delivering tracts and notifying the people that there would be another meeting in the same place Sunday, August 23rd, at 4 p. m. Before the appointed time had arrived on Sunday, the people began to gather on the little lawn and in the street where we had been holding our meetings, and we had the pleasure of speaking to another large and respectable congregation. The people were very orderly and listened with great attention. Some had come from the other side of the valley to hear us. All that has been done against us has turned out to be for our good, for it has been a great advertisement for us; it has aroused the people's curiosity and caused them to come out to hear us; also, as one of the articles in the paper said, "it has caused the people to search the scriptures more in the past few weeks than ever before in the same length of time." So you see how Satan himself has helped to spread the Gospel, for God maketh the wrath of man to praise Him.

I tried to get another article, with the Articles of Faith, in the papers, but the editors of the Gazette and Record said that they had concluded to let the matter drop and have nothing more to do with it. It is evident that the ministers have got whipped at their own game and have sued for peace.

I am pleased to say that the work is being pushed with all diligence in all the cities and towns we can reach, both by holding meetings and delivering tracts. I feel to thank my many friends for responding to my request in sending papers and magazines, which have been used to very good advantage among the people. Many have wished me to write to them. I hope they will excuse me for the present, as I am very busy just now.

D. R. GILL, Sr.,
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