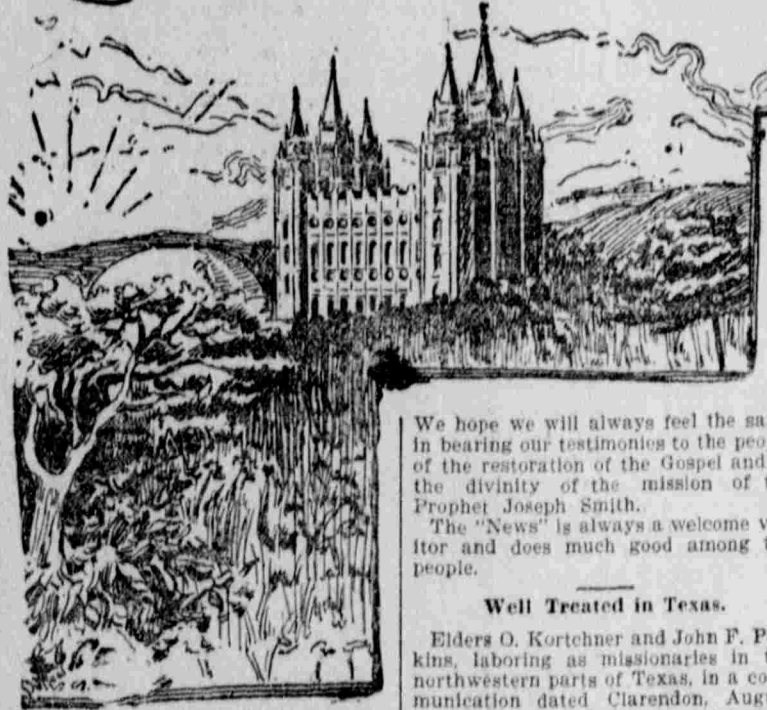


CHURCH INTELLIGENCE



IN THE SOUTHERN STATES

The Harvest Is Great and the Laborers Few.

A Promise of More Elders for the Field Hailed With Joy and Anticipation.

Elders A. C. Strong, E. J. Smith and W. M. McKendrick sent this report, dated Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug. 17th: The time was once, not many months ago, when there were upwards of five hundred missionaries distributed throughout the different conferences in the Southern States, and the effective way they performed their labors is evidenced by the many accessions to the fold, and the daily pleadings for visits from the Elders by the honest investigators. This vast army of "messengers" has been reduced to the small number of one hundred and eighty-five, and even this number is suffering subtraction nearly every week. The records of the mission furnish us with the following data, which will give our readers some idea of the past and present of the mission: Mississippi once had forty-three Elders; now only six; South Carolina, thirty-seven Elders; now only fourteen; North Carolina, forty-four Elders; now only ten; Virginia, forty-two Elders; now only nineteen; the three conferences of Kentucky once had ninety-two Elders; now only twenty-seven. Other conferences have suffered this decrease with less than a year's time. When the fact that our Elders travel without "purse or scrip" is taken into consideration, and that their only means of travel is by walking, one can readily see that our numbers are not commensurate with the vast amount of work to be accomplished. The pleasing intelligence that comes from Zion, that our numbers are to be increased by additional Elders, in the near future, goes a long way to brighten up this condition of affairs, and make it possible for the Saints as well as many an honest investigator to receive a visit from the Elders, at least once a year.

Every daily mail brings with it letters from many parts of the missionary field, requesting a visit from the Elders. They all contain the almost universal question: "Where are the Elders; we haven't seen them for nearly a year." The weekly report from each conference, showing the miles walked and the families visited by each pair of Elders, bears testimony that the reasons justifying the asking of the above question are not furnished because the Elders are derelict in their ministerial duties, but rather because the "harvest is great and the laborers few." Many of these letters are from friends, not only in name, but in very deed—men and women who would willingly lay down their lives for the Elders and the cause they represent; men and women who have done as much, if not more than the Elders, in spreading the truths of the Gospel, because they have made it possible through their hospitality to the servants of God, for the Gospel message to be delivered. Each of us have labored under many such, and understanding the conditions as we do, their pleadings for visits from the Elders cause our hearts to go out to them with a prayer for their future betterment, and no doubt, one of us, with gladness the good news of more Elders coming.

At no time in the history of the mission has there been so many investigators of the Gospel and so many calls for baptism as at the present time. Truly is the time fast approaching, as far as this mission is concerned, that "the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." President Rich is now making a tour of all the conferences where he will meet the presidents of the same, counsel and advise with them regarding matters pertaining to their respective conferences, and no doubt, one of the greatest problems he will have to wrestle with is: "How can we so arrange the handful of Elders in this state as to reach the greatest number of those who wish to be baptized?" The health of the Elders as a rule, is and has been very good. Occasionally one or two are released on account of ill health, and at present we have some few cases of illness and fever. The organization of the mission is so complete that Elder Rich is in touch with every Elder. He watches with a jealous eye the health of each, and the policy of the mission in this regard is forcibly expressed in his own words: "I don't want to send any more Elders home in a box."

TEXANS INTERESTED.

Elders Laboring in That State Report Good Success.

Elders Frank F. Knowlton and Angus J. Fillmore, who have been in San Antonio, Texas, August 21st: We are now working in the city of San Antonio, which is the largest city in the state. We are having very good success in the spreading of the truths of the Gospel among this people, and have had comparatively no opposition, but have been treated very nicely by all the officials of the city. Some are very much interested in the teachings of the Latter-day Saints, and believe we are going to be able to do a good deal of good among this people. The short time we have spent in the field has been the happiest of our lives.

CONDITIONS IN MEXICO.

The Saints in Favor With the Government of That Country.

Prosperous Wards—A Well Attended Conference at Colonia Juarez, and Good Meetings.

Elder James H. Martineau writes from Colonia Juarez, Mexico, August 18th: Our quarterly conference just concluded has been a most enjoyable one. It commenced on Saturday, the 15th inst., and concluded on Sunday, the 18th, there being a good representation of every ward in the State, both from the state of Chihuahua and Sonora, the visitors from the latter state living in Oaxaca and Morelos having to travel by wagon from 130 to 150 miles, and crossing the main range of the Sierra Madre mountains.

Elder A. D. Ivins opened the conference at 10 o'clock a. m., there being present also the authorities Stake Counselors Henry Eyring and Helaman Pratt; High Councilors W. C. McClellan, Isaac Turley, J. W. Waiser, A. P. Spillbury, G. C. Wilson, D. Skonsen, H. M. Payne, L. Wright and F. W. H. Martineau and Charles P. Pugh; also Bishops J. T. Whetton, O. P. Brown, Geo. M. Haws, J. C. Bentley and Geo. C. Naegle.

After the usual opening exercises the president, Elder Ivins, gave a general summary of the condition of the State, and of the labors of the Stake presidency. He said that our relations with the government of Mexico were never better, and our prospects in Mexico never brighter.

Elder Erastus Fillmore reported Diaz ward, Bishop W. D. Johnson being deputed at home by illness. He said the condition of the people spiritually was good and their prospects for a good harvest were excellent.

Bishop G. M. Haws said Chulchupa was in a prosperous condition, and that crops were excellent. He reported his ward—Morales, in Sonora—as being in a very encouraging condition, although the youngest of all our Mexican colonies. Crops were good and they were now planting for a second crop of potatoes. Their spiritual condition was about like that of the other wards as reported.

Bishop J. F. Whetton said Garcia ward was in good condition spiritually, while crop prospects were never better.

Elder Ray Pratt reported the condition of our people at Naco, Sonora, who are engaged in building the railroad, after which Elder H. H. Martineau spoke in relation to our duties as Saints.

The Stake Priesthood meeting convened at 5 o'clock p. m., during which much valuable instruction was given by the Stake presidency, and others, and in especial manner round dancing was not approved, as tending to evil. Sunday morning at 10:30 o'clock a. m. conference opened with singing, and prayer by Elder J. H. Martineau, who presided. Elder Eyring spoke of the duties of the people relative to the education of children, good schools, tithing and kindred subjects.

Bishop G. C. Naegle reported Oaxaca, state of Mexico, saying his ward was in good condition, with market prices at five to ten cents per pound. He referred to the death, August 7th, of Bishop Franklin Scott, killed by lightning in his field, and testified to his worth as a good citizen and true Latter-day Saint.

Bishop J. C. Bentley, Stake clerk and historian, then presented the general and Stake authorities, all of whom were unanimously received. In the afternoon, after the usual opening exercises, the Stake presidency was administered, after which Elder H. Pratt spoke of the great blessings bestowed upon the people of the Latter-day Saints in Mexico, and of the importance of our living so as to merit a continuance of them.

Elder G. C. Wilson spoke of his recent visit to Chicago, Nauvoo, Carthage and other places, and of the great work to be done in this land; after which Patriarch Macdonald spoke briefly but appreciatively of our duties in this land as citizens of the Mexican republic.

Elder Ivins then made a few concluding remarks and conference was dismissed by Elder Miles P. Romney.

A conference of the Relief Societies of the State was held on Friday evening, August 16th, at which valuable instruction was given by the president, Mary B. Eyring, and by the Stake presidency, and Bishop Bentley; and on Monday, August 19th, was held the Y. L. M. I. conference.

A few days ago a young man—Juniata Moffat of Dublin—was instantly killed by lightning while asleep in his bed. His mother was warned in a dream that he would be thus killed a few days previously, and had been quite anxious about him in consequence, and was near at hand when the fatal shaft fulfilled her premonition.

that was waiting out doors. I have preached the Gospel in much plainness to all our relatives and have made friends of them all. The Spirit of the Lord has been working mightily upon my kindred ever since my arrival, and more of them will yet receive the Gospel. At the meetings held at Wigan yesterday about 100 persons were present, and we had glorious manifestations of the presence of the Holy Ghost. I thank the Lord that the brethren were moved upon to call me on this mission, my joy is greater than my ability to express. My cup of gladness is full to overflowing, and I joyfully dedicate myself to the service of the Lord forever. I rejoice greatly that I have been called to work with President Lyman in the office, and am doing all I can to know the will of the Lord, and do it in fear and with love and blessing for all the brethren. I am, your affectionate brother.

GOOD WORK IN GEORGIA.

The Elders Find Many Friends, and Baptize Some Converts.

Success Arouses the Hatred of Enemies—Missionaries in the Hands of a Mob.

Elder Levi Nelson writes from Kirkland, Ga., Aug. 21st:

Since our last conference, which was held in Vienna, Dooly county, Ga., May 26th, we have extended our labors through several of the counties in south Georgia. Considering the prejudice in the minds of the people, we have met with considerable success, having led quite a number into the waters of baptism. As a rule we find the people of south Georgia to be very hospitable and kind, and in general are willing to allow others to enjoy religious liberty, although we find exceptions, as has been proven recently.

On the 16th inst. myself and companion encountered a mob, which was organized for the purpose of breaking up a meeting, to have been held at Millwood, a small railroad town, in the southern part of Ware county. Apportioning having been made the previous religious fanatics of the town called mass meetings for the purpose of organizing their forces, and determine the course to pursue to hinder us from accomplishing our purpose. Upon entering the country to fill the appointment, we were surprised to learn that our enemies had spent the day in search of the "Mormons" Elders, and for a pretense were all the while endeavoring to keep our friends from doing this to keep our friends off their guard. And while making our way through the woods we were taken in hand by two of their number who proceeded to inform us that we could go no farther, and that if we did not do this we would be killed. They then proceeded to teach our doctrine to the good people of their town. While being held in suspense, awaiting the gathering of the mob, there rushed upon us a vicious looking individual with a revolver in his hands, and for a time it appeared as if we would share the fate of righteous Stephen, but his heart failed him and he put out in search of his colleagues, leaving us with the three of his associates who were well armed with shot guns and rifles. To their dissatisfaction, before the arrival of their gang, a company of our friends, learning of the condition of affairs, put in their appearance and were successful in freeing us from the villains. They collected their forces and spent the remainder of the day rending the air with shots and wild yells, and bitter curses of "Mormons" and their friends. As a portion of the town appeared to have murdered in their hearts, we withdrew from the county, feeling that we had done our duty.

We feel to rejoice in tribulations, knowing that the more our enemies rage against the truth, the more the honest in heart become friendly to us. We take great pleasure in perusing the pages of the "News" and in reading the reports of our brethren.

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Elder Franklin E. Seal, of Riverton, Salt Lake county, returned home on the 28th of this month from a mission to Great Britain, for which he was set apart on the 1st of September, 1899. He has been laboring in the Bristol conference during the entire time of his absence. The field, he says, is in a fairly good condition, considering the opposition the Elders have met with.

Elder Alba Stuart, of Uintah, Weber county, was set apart on the 10th of August, 1899, for the Northern States mission. He has been laboring in the Minnesota conference all the time. He says he left that conference in a thriving condition. The Sunday schools have been organized, and the Elders find many friends, and some converts are made. Elder Stuart returned home on the 24th of this month, feeling well in every respect.

Elder Lorenzo Lick in a letter dated McCammon, Idaho, August 23, reports that he was set apart, Dec. 6, 1899, to perform a mission in the Southwestern States. He was assigned to labor in the State of Texas, in the Austin conference, where he labored as a canvassing Elder for eleven months. Then he had an attack of the chills and fever and he was transferred to another field. So he went to the St. John's, Kansas, conference, where he labored until June 15th, 1901, when he was assigned to labor in the office at St. John, Kansas. He remained there until August 10th, when he was released to return home because of continued illness. He states that he made many friends and investigators and had the privilege of baptizing a few down into the waters of baptism.

Elder Samuel J. Parrish, of Centerville, Davis county, returned home on the 15th of this month, from a mission to Great Britain, for which he was set apart on the 4th of August, 1899, and he has been laboring in the Sheffield conference all the time. For the last year he presided over that conference. He says he had excellent health and that the conference was in a good condition, although progress is slow.

Elder Daniel Rasmussen, of Mt. Pleasant, was set apart on the 14th of June, 1899, for a mission to the Eastern States. He has been laboring in the New England conference all the time. He returned home on the 22nd of this month, after an enjoyable and successful mission. He says he has enjoyed the conference the last thirteen months.

Elder Charles T. Hirst, of Paradise, Cache county, was set apart on the 7th of June, 1899, for the Northern States mission. He has been laboring in the Wisconsin conference, where he says, the missionaries are doing a good work. He returned home on the 24th of this month. Since last March he has presided over the conference.

Elder Thomas M. Mumford, of East Mill Creek, Salt Lake county, returned home on the 23rd of this month, from a mission to the Northern States, for which he was set apart on the 7th of June, 1899. He has been laboring in Chicago, Rockford and Decatur, Ill. He reports good progress in the mission.

Elder Milan R. Anderson, of Spring City, Sanpete county, was set apart on the 14th day of June, 1899, for a mission to the Northern States. He has been laboring in the Northern Illinois conference, where he remained until released. He says he is thankful for the experience he has gained during his mission. He has enjoyed it greatly.

Elder Ernest J. Taylor, of this city, returned on the 18th of this month from a mission to Great Britain,