

and his family. We would take up the Scriptures here as well as elsewhere, and oft would they be astonished at the completeness of our doctrine, having heard it perhaps for the first time.

The Lord is blessing us in our labors; few have already obeyed, for all the opposition and persecutions we have had here, especially at the first, but, as I have said, this is giving way a truth will prevail.

While at Somerset county Elder Rich and myself visited Rockwood, a small village some ten miles south of Somerset City. In this village stands an old habitation (occupied for many years by different families, but now vacant) where our beloved Prophet Joseph once preached to the people in those parts. We desired to visit this old landmark, as we were informed by reliable friends here that such did take place. How many years since we could not ascertain, as those who were at his preaching have now passed beyond. The old structure is in a pretty fair condition now. The foundation is of stone while the upper part is of logs (hard wood) and must be about 22x16 feet in dimensions. How old, or when built, we could not find out, but it certainly is over 80 years, as we found parties in Rockwood of that age who were born not far off from there and who well remember seeing the old building when they were yet young. We were interested in this matter as we all love to hear of the early efforts of our people, especially of him who was the instrument in the hands of the Lord in bringing about His mighty purposes in the last days. How thankful we all ought to be that we have thus been favored of the Lord to carry on the great work already established and never more to be taken from the earth, but is to continue forever.

I have every reason to believe that the Eastern States mission is in most excellent working condition. Every Elder has but one object in view, that is to deliver the message, the Gospel to the people. Many of the Elders are young in years, yet are they strong in the faith and willing to work, putting their trust in the Lord.

Your brother,
JOHN H. DAVIS.

Virginia Conference.

Goochland, Va., July 22, 1898.

I left my home as some perhaps will remember on the 12th day of July, 1897, to fill a mission to the Southern States. How distinctly do I remember the gloom which pervaded my whole being upon extending the farewell hand to my dear friends and relatives to be gone, the Lord only knows, how long, to labor among a strange people in a strange land, attempting to teach them the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

That which gave me some degree of hope and in a measure dispelled the gloom and downcast feeling occasioned by the natural surroundings and conditions, was the thought and belief that I would be rewarded for all the sacrifices I might be called upon to make for the sake of the Gospel of Christ. The spirit whispered "go," you have been called by the voice of inspiration.

Upon one occasion I remember my father telling me to improve myself, as I may be called to fill a mission. I often wish I had taken his advice in this regard and prepared myself before it was too late.

Upon arriving in Salt Lake I immediately set to work viewing the sights of that fair city. Especially was the jubilee interesting to me. But a few days had elapsed from the time I left Salt Lake City and dear Utah till I found myself seated in the Rosemore hotel, Chattanooga, Tenn., receiving my

place of assignment, or in other words I was being informed as to which would be my future field of labor, which, thank the Lord, was the state of Virginia, one of the grandest fields in the world.

During my entire stop thus far, I am happy to say my health has been excellent, and that my labors have been of the most pleasant character. Friends have been raised up on every hand. I have attempted to the best of my ability to spread the Gospel seeds among the good citizens of this land, and my efforts have not been in vain.

My first experience in the field was had in assisting Elder Elisha Brown, of Draper, Utah, in visiting among the Sabbath school organizations in different parts of the state, which was much enjoyed, chiefly because of its affording us the opportunity of coming in contact with the Saints of the Lord and associating with them, for it is an established fact that surrounding the Latter-day Saints is a divine and more hollowing influence than that possessed by the world, no matter how great the love and friendship held out to us by the world, compared with that love extended by those who have been born of the water and of the water and of the Spirit. My heart rejoices when I can contemplate the firmness and stability of the Mormons, scattered throughout the world. When I behold the opposition that is heaped upon them I am led to believe them a God-fearing people who would do credit to any one of our Mormon settlements in the valleys of the mountains.

Since being released from laboring in the interests of the Sabbath school, I have been engaged in canvassing and holding meetings in several counties of the state. The attempt is made by the Elders to hold long series of meetings in every vicinity entered, that all might be thoroughly warned, leaving them without an excuse when they shall stand before the bar of God to give an account of the deeds done in the body. Oft times churches and court houses are opened to us, but when we meet with defeat we do the next best. We resort to private houses, which are more often opened unto us.

I have been laboring in the beautiful Shennadoah valley for the last three months. We held two long series of meetings.

I have just recently been transferred from the Shannadoah valley to Goochland county, near Richmond, where I in connection with Elder Ruben Hatch will continue on in the good work until our conference, which convenes September 3rd and 4th.

The weather is very warm here, 108 in the shade.

Your Brother,
JAMES WM. DUFFIN.

RETURNED MISSIONARIES.

Elders A. S. Kienke and James W. Vickers, both of Nephi, Juab county, returned Sunday from the Northern States, for which section the former left Jan. 25, 1896, and the latter Jan. 10, 1896. Elders Kienke and Vickers labored in the Southern Indiana conference where they say Church matters are in a flourishing condition. The former was clerk of the conference and spent the first two months of his mission in Illinois. Both had good health and enjoyed themselves very much.

Elder George T. Wride of Payson, Utah county, returned Sunday from the Southern States mission field. Elder Wride left home in September, 1895, and labored in the North Alabama conference, which includes part of the states of Alabama and Mississippi. He had a good time and good health, and says the conference is in a very gratifying condition.

Elder David W. Jeffs of Farmington who departed for a mission to the Eastern Tennessee conference January 17, 1896 is home again, having returned only a few days ago. His health was good most of the time, though he suffered considerably at one time from an attack of typhoid fever. Mission work, he says, is progressing nicely in Eastern Tennessee.

Elder John H. Glenn of the Fourth ward, this city, returned Monday, the 25th inst., from the Southern States mission field. He left home July 27, 1895, and labored in South Carolina, where he reports conditions favorable for the spread of the Gospel. Elder Glenn had good health, enjoyed his labors and is pleased to be home again.

Elders Joseph Dunkley of Whitney, Ida., and James Larsen of Moroni, Utah, returned Tuesday from the South. The former left home June 25, 1895, and the latter April 18, 1898, both laboring in Tennessee, where they report the work progressing. Elder Larsen's early return was occasioned through illness.

Elder E. D. Sorenson of Nephi, Juab county, made a pleasant call on the "News" this (Tuesday) morning having just returned from a mission to the Northern States. He left home January 11, 1896, and presided over the Southern Indiana conference for the past two years. The mission work of the Latter-day Saint Elders is rapidly bearing fruit in that section. The baptisms this year have already eclipsed the record of any previous year and give promise of doing at a rate of four to one before another year rolls around. There are 17 energetic Elders in this field and all are enjoying good health.

Elder R. G. Archibald of Rexburg, Idaho, reached Salt Lake Monday on his return from a mission to Middle Tennessee where he has been laboring since August, 1895. The prospects for good work in the future, he says, are very bright.

Elder Joseph W. Cotterell of Farmington returned Saturday, July 23, from a mission to Hanover, Germany. Elder Cotterell left home on April 20, 1897, thus having been absent only a little more than a year. His early release was authorized by the First presidency on account of the previous condition of his mother, who is suffering from cancer. In Hanover, says Elder Cotterell, the Elders have a great deal of freedom to preach and the mission is consequently in good condition. The only regret he experienced was when he said good-by to the Elders left behind.

Elder George T. Webster of West Jordan returned on Saturday, July 16, from a mission to South Alabama. He left home on October 8, 1896, and has labored in the South Alabama conference all the time. The mission was in good order when he left and the Elders were enjoying good health. Elder Webster enjoyed himself while on his mission and found the people to be very hospitable.

The "News" had a pleasant call Thursday from Elder Albert C. Matheson of the Sixteenth ward, this city, who returned from the Southern States on Monday, the 25th inst. Elder Matheson left home October 12, 1895, and first labored in Mississippi, where for six months he traveled among the people disseminating the principles of the Gospel. After this he went into Alabama where he remained for fourteen months; then for nine months he was engaged in the office at Chattanooga, and afterwards assisted in opening up the Georgia conference where he tarried