

works, which a year ago, belonged to the realm of the miraculous.

Before us we have the report of work done in the conference for the month, (four weeks) ending January 30th 1897. By it we see there were 2258 families visited, none of whom were left without tracts, 805 meetings held, 125 books—Voice of Warning and Book of Mormon distributed, and 2,780 Gospel conversations held. Each of these conversations consumed not less than twenty minutes. A Sunday school was established at Peak's Hill, Calhoun county, and another was organized at Blocton, Bible county.

In January we had thirty six Elders, so it will be observed that each pair averaged about twelve meetings and thirty-eight Gospel conversations a week. To hold this number of meetings and conversations weekly when weather and opportunities for doing so are favorable, is not a prodigious feat, but to do so in the face of many hindrances, requires a display of energy and integrity blessed by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

At present we have thirty-eight Elders here. Two more will join us in a few days. Since the several conferences of the mission have become so large, assistants have been chosen to do most of the work which attached to the calling of the presiding Elder. The Elders of the conference, as well as myself, feel that a happy choice was made in the selection of Elders Nels P. Nelson and Joseph F. McGregor to these positions. They are men of clear heads, pure hearts and willing hands. Elder Kimball wrote that we were exceptionally fortunate in having such men to call on for aid.

If our conference can be commended for any one thing, it must be for the love and union existing among the Elders and for their implicit obedience to counsel. Sometimes we are almost led to think, that if a similar spirit pervaded every department of the great latter-day work, a millennial morning, in all its splendor, would soon break on the world.

Herewith we present the names and addresses of the North Alabama Elders.

Albert Matheson, Erastus Christenson, Cullman, Cullman county, Alabama.

Nels P. Nelson, Adelbert Cranney, Huntsville, Alabama.

Joseph F. McGregor, Walter Slack, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Clarence Owens, Aaron Call, Huntsville, Alabama.

James E. Brown, Edward Ried, Jasper, Walker county, Alabama.

Rodney B. Ashby, Moses Jorganson, Ripley, Tippah county, Mississippi.

George T. Wride, G. W. Smith, Gadsden, Alabama.

John Christenson, George Parkinson, Tupelo, Lee county, Mississippi.

Elmer E. Hinckley, George Taylor, Rockwood, Franklin county, Alabama.

Peter Nielson, Reuben Alvord, Iuka, Tishomingo county, Mississippi.

Charles L. Haight, Isaac Hansen, Athens, Limestone county, Alabama.

David Hubbard, Joseph Bellows, Blocton, Bibb county, Alabama.

John Hancock, John Gaylor, Dadeville, Talapoosa county, Alabama.

Edward Stevens, Jesse Wheeler, Sulligent, Lamar county, Alabama.

Orson L. Martin, and new Elder, Greensboro, Hale county, Alabama.

Ernest Ricks, Arthur Smith, Rockford, Coosa county, Alabama.

James A. Lee, James Stanworth, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Frank Ballif, C. E. Penrose, New Albany, Union county, Mississippi.

Charles Sperry, Frank Tolman, Gadsden, Alabama.

Stephan Callan, and new Elder, Ashville, St. Clair county, Alabama.

ALBERT MATHESON.

President North Alabama Conference.

IN THE IOWA CONFERENCE.

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa, Feb. 20th, 1897.

I left Salt Lake City, August, 1st, 1896, in company with Elders J. D. and Thomas Wallace, Joseph Smith, John H. Bess, and William R. Derr of Granger, and E. J. Liddle of Farmer's Ward.

After a pleasant journey of two days, we arrived at Kansas City, where we met Elders Samuel G. Spencer, Eugene S. Hart, C. Burton Jr., and William F. Butt.

While there I had the pleasure of visiting the Temple Lot at Independence Jackson County, Missouri. In walking over this sacred spot, I felt that I was on holy ground, and in my soul I prayed that I may be counted worthy to assist in building here the Temple of the Lord, which, in the future will proclaim the redemption of Zion.

After staying at Kansas City two days. I went to Hampton, Iowa, arriving there about 11 p. m. August 6th. I felt rather lonely on going into a strange city at night, as that was the first time I ever had been away from my friends.

Elder Otto Johnson, our conference president, with whom I had been appointed to labor, did not arrive until the day following, so I was the first Mormon Elder in Hampton. I preached my first sermon (if such it might be called) in the Baily opera house in Hampton, on August 16th, to an audience of over a hundred people.

My labors for the first two months were with Elder Johnson in Franklin County. During that time we walked about four hundred-fifty miles, and visited about 1200 families. We held but two meetings, our opportunities being few.

In October I went to Tama County, where I labored with Elder Myron A. Holgate, of Orderville Utah, for about a month. We held six or seven meetings in that county, but they were poorly attended.

The mayors of both Tama and Chelsea allowed us the use of the city halls at those places to meet in.

In November I was sent with Elder Levi A. Colvin to labor in Des Moines. This is about the size of Salt Lake City, so there is plenty of room to work.

We met with very little opposition in Des Moines; also very little interest. The people seemed totally indifferent except here and there an old lady who thought we "ought to be in better business."

Since February 9th, I have been laboring in Marshalltown, a city of 12,000 inhabitants, with Elder Henry Bisel of Woodland, Utah.

We have not had much encouragement yet, but feel like pressing on in search of those few honest souls who are seeking truth.

I find a great deal of prejudice on account of false and wicked stories which have been scattered among the people, leading many honest souls astray.

Prejudice is being allayed where the people have become acquainted with the

Elders and have been willing to hear the truth.

The ministers are our worst enemies. One told me yesterday that he intends to do all in his power against the work in this city. I told him Mormonism had come to stay, and will roll until it fills the whole earth in spite of all he can do. He sneered at this, but it only showed him to be of the same spirit as the Jews who sneered Christ. This man has been to Utah, but certainly not in search of truth for he brings back many false reports, one of which is that in 1885 Salt Lake City, and the whole Territory of Utah was dominated by Mormons to the extent that a gentile scarcely dared call his soul his own for fear of his life. Such stories from a minister have great weight with the people.

About three fourths of the people where I have labored, outside of the cities, are Germans, honest and hospitable, but terribly priest-ridden. The English speaking people are found mostly among the wealthy, who think it beneath their dignity to notice anything from the humble Elders.

We are, however, getting a few honest souls to investigate, and feel that the seeds we are now sowing in time will bring forth fruit.

DANIEL J. McRAE.

THE BATTLESHIP TEXAS.

GALVESTON, Texas,

Feb. 28, 1897.

On February 16th there anchored in Galveston bay the great battleship Texas. The vessel having been ordered thus she came to the Texans to receive the honors they had in store for her. The 19th was the day set apart for the reception, and long before this the people of the Lone Star state were in anxious expectancy. The legislature adjourned, the governor and his staff came out, prominent people of other cities and towns were there to witness the affair, and thousands more from all quarters availed themselves of the liberal offer of the railroad companies to see the newly repaired man-of-war. By her side floated a pier on which the multitude landed, and climbing the ladder were soon lost among the vessel's various departments. About three miles out in the bay stood the majestic ship; indeed it was a rich harvest for ferry-boat owners and yacht men to carry to and fro the great throng who wanted to go on board.

About midday the little squadron of boats, tugged by the little steamer, all belonging to the Texas, landed at the wharf laden with the captain and escort. They were met by a committee of citizens. Captain Glass and his lieutenants were soon at the Beech hotel, where a great throng awaited the ceremonies. Galveston's Beech hotel is one of grandeur as well as capacity. On a speaker's stand centrally located within speaking distance of the great balcony of the hotel overlooking the ocean were Governor Culberson and other prominent Texans, the committee and, of course, the captain and his associated officers. Not only the balcony, but all the available space on the lawn was taken. Thousands were present eager to witness the proceedings.

With fitting speeches, the governor