

nothing but good to say, I have nothing but encouragement for the people of God. We may be pinched now; but we have been before. We have been pinched in far worse circumstances than we are now. Let us be thankful that affairs are in as good a condition as we find them, and let us try and improve. Let us bear with each other. Where men owe their brethren or their sisters, let them pay as fast as they can, and let the creditors be patient. We will all come out right. We will pay our debts, we will save our credit and our honor, as a people and as individuals. I promise you this, in the name of the Lord, if you will do right and put your trust in God, who has never yet failed us.

I have not alluded to the Pacific Islands. There the Elders are doing excellently. On the Sandwich Islands, the Samoan and Friendly Islands and in New Zealand and Australia the Elders are having souls given to them as a reward for their labors. The Society Islands have been visited by Brother James S. Brown and his son and other Elders. There were a great many baptized on those islands a long time ago. There was a mission sent from Nauvoo, led by Noah Rogers, Addison Pratt, Benjamin F. Grouard and Knowlton F. Haake. These Elders carried the Gospel there and thousands were baptized; but they have been left to themselves to a great extent, and others have gone in and endeavored to seduce them from the path. The prospects are, however, that our young Elders who are there, and who are acquiring the language, will do a good work. We hope to save a remnant of the Polynesian races from the various islands, to be numbered among the people of God in Zion.

I pray God that during this conference both speakers and hearers may be filled with the Spirit and power of God, and that the word of God which is adapted to us may be given to His servants to give unto us. I also pray God to bless in an especial manner President Woodruff, to fill him with life and health, and to make him strong. His visit to Chicago, I believe, restored him to the condition of health that he had at the Dedication. But he is suffering a little from cold now, and I pray that he with the rest of us may be blessed with life and health in the name of Jesus. Amen.

OF HISTORICAL INTEREST.

GARDEN GROVE,
Decatur county, Iowa,
Sept. 29, 1893.

On the 24th inst. I left Chicago, Illinois, to resume my historical labors in Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska. After spending two days in Richmond, Missouri, copying from an old record that gave important information concerning the Church in Missouri from 1831 to 1838, I passed on to St. Joseph, a place which will be remembered by many of the Saints who sailed up the Missouri river in early days on their way to the outfitting places for the overland emigration further up the stream. Also the exiles from Nauvoo, while sojourning on the Omaha and Pottawattamie lands in 1846-48, will recollect "St. Joe" as the place where provisions and other necessities were procured for the "Camp of Israel." At

that time St. Joseph was only a small village or trading point, while Saint Joseph of today is a city with about 60,000 inhabitants, and is considered one of the wealthiest towns for its size in the United States, numbering as it does among its prominent citizens several of the millionaires of the country. The city contains five public buildings, handsome residences and some well paved streets; a grand railway bridge spans the Missouri river immediately below the city. But the old historic steamboat landing near the foot of the bluff and at the point where the Black Snake creek empties into the Missouri river, is used no more as such, steamboat traffic being a thing of the past with all the Missouri river town of the present time. Personally, it was of interest to me to stand on the identical spot where I twenty-seven years ago (on July 27th, 1866), stepped on board the steamboat Denver, which brought the emigrant company of which I was a member to the village of Wyoming, in Nebraska, two days later.

From St. Joseph I traveled yesterday 97 miles in a northeasterly direction to Lamoni, Decatur county, Iowa. This is the headquarters of the so-called "Josephite" church, and is a town numbering over 1000 inhabitants, of whom 950 are said to belong to the above mentioned denomination. The town is pleasantly situated in the midst of an extensive prairie country, gently undulating, and quite fertile. Joseph Smith, a son of Joseph the Prophet, and president of the "Reorganization" lives in a comfortable two-story frame house, situated about half a mile west of the town center. Among the public buildings of the town is a brick church, 50x80 feet, owned by the "Reorganization," of which the main hall is nicely furnished, and the seats are very comfortable. Besides the *Saints' Herald* which is issued at Lamoni, the *Independent Patriot*, a weekly eight-page newspaper (one of the best edited and finest dressed country papers in Iowa), is published at this place by J. R. Lambert, Esq.

From Lamoni I traveled twenty-nine miles in a northeasterly direction to Garden Grove, also Decatur county. This place will be remembered by all students of Church history as one of the temporary settlements founded by the Saints in their flight from Nauvoo, Ill., in 1846.

"On Friday, April 24th, 1846," writes Apostle Orson Pratt, who traveled with the advance companies of the exiles, "we traveled six miles, and came to a place which we named Garden Grove. At this point we determined to form a small settlement and open farms for the benefit of the poor, and such as were unable at present to pursue their journey further, and also for the benefit of the poor who were yet behind."

Three days later, on the 27th, all the men in the camp assembled for the purpose of organizing for labor. One hundred men were appointed to cut trees, split rails and make fence; and forty-eight to cut logs for the building of log houses. Several were also appointed to build a bridge, a number more to dig wells, some to make the wood for

the plows, several more to watch the flocks belonging to the camp and keep them from straying away, while others were sent several days' journey into the Missouri settlements to exchange horses, feather beds and other property for cows, provisions, etc. Through this organized and united labor Garden Grove soon became a place of considerable importance on the line of travel, and the Saints remained in possession till 1852, at which time nearly all of them had migrated to the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

Garden Grove of today contains about 600 inhabitants; it has over a dozen stores, three of which at least do a large business in the general merchandise line; there is also a drug store. The present population are mostly eastern people, Republican in political principles, and friends of education, Garden Grove ranking very high among her neighbors in educational matters. Religiously the honor is divided between the Presbyterians and Methodists, each of which denominations own a church edifice in the place. The village consists chiefly of a long street in a straight line east and west, nearly two miles long; on this street is situated all of the business houses and some of the finest residences. The surrounding farming district is very fertile and productive; I have also noticed a number of fine apple orchards, in and near the town, and I am informed by J. H. Young Esq., one of the merchants of the village, that the farmers of the vicinity are generally all well-to-do; and unlike the hardy tillers of the soil in many other parts of Iowa—only a few of them have their property under mortgage. Immediately west of the village is a small creek running from north to south, locally known as Welden creek, which empties into Grand river way down in Missouri. This stream was sometimes called the east fork of Grand river by the Mormon pioneers and others, but is not known by that name now. The railway track of the Chariton and St. Joseph branch of the Burlington route runs parallel with the main street a short distance south of the village.

Garden Grove is 120 miles by rail northeast of St. Joseph, Missouri, and twenty-three miles northwest of Chariton, Iowa. The present inhabitants, as a rule, speak well of the Mormons, who founded their town forty-seven years ago and are highly pleased with the excellent taste and good judgment of the Saints in selecting the present site for their town; they claim positively that there is not a finer town-site in the state of Iowa than theirs. In August, of each year, the old settlers and others meet together to commemorate the founding of the settlement, although they are aware of the fact that it was in the month of April that the Mormon pioneers first pitched their tents in this part of the country; but the spring season being unfavorable for public gatherings, they celebrate in the summer or autumn.

This evening I continue my journey to Mount Pisgah.

ANDREW JENSON.

GUAYMAS, Mex., Oct. 18.—A coasting vessel was wrecked on a reef near Cape San Lucas. The entire crew of eighteen were drowned.