

and being disgusting to every passing beholder. Let the ambition of each and all be to make our homes and lands, if not as the garden of the Lord, at least as the Eden of the earth; and begin to bring back some of that beauty and luxuriant excellence to the earth with which it was adorned when man received it from, and was made lord over it by, the gift and decree of its Creator, who is Lord of Lords. R.

### FROM INDIAN TERRITORY.

Elder E. L. Saunders, of the Tenth Ward of this city, in a letter written from Maudard, Indian Territory, says:

Six months have passed since I left Salt Lake City to go and labor among the Lamanites. There is a good work being performed in this part of the Lord's vineyard. There are five civilized tribes of Indians, the Cherokee, the Choctaws, Creeks, Seminoles and Chickasaws. My labors have been among the Cherokees and Choctaws. Since my arrival I have helped to complete the meeting house, this being the second edifice of that kind the Saints have in the Indian Territory.

The people here live principally in log houses. The Indian Territory is quite a hilly country, and is covered with different kinds of large timber. The houses and farms are in a very scattered condition. The white people are mixing with the Indians to such an extent that it looks as though in a few years it will be difficult to find a full blood Indian. The Indians have very large farms but as a rule they rent their farms by the year to the white people.

The weather is very changeable, making the country very unhealthy. The diseases the people are mostly subject to are chills and fever, and the malaria fevers as they are called here. There are several large rivers running through the territory, the Arkansas, Illinois, Canadian and Grand rivers, besides other small streams.

The Indians are very hospitable as a rule. The Gospel is mostly preached to the people around the fireside, as the different denominations are very much prejudiced against the Elders, it is very hard to get houses to hold meetings. Brother Gheen and myself, held a meeting in a school house on Sunday evening, February the 10th. The subjects we spoke on were Restoration of the Gospel and Salvation for the Dead. A Campbellite preacher jumped up in the audience and disturbed our meeting. He got the people excited by telling them that we were frauds, and that the doctrine we preached was false. He said we could not find Joseph Smith's name in the Bible; that there was not any book to come forth, and that revelation had ceased, because the people were so smart. He declared that God had closed the heavens; then he referred the people to the 22nd chapter of Revelation, 18th and 19th verses. By the blessing of the Lord, we were able to prove to the people that we are preaching the only true Gospel, and what we preach was in perfect accord with holy writ; that it was the Gospel spoken of by Daniel, Ezekiel, John the Revelator, Isaiah, Zechariah and other prophets, and that the stick of Ephraim was to come forth and be united with the stick of Judah. After

meeting was dismissed Mr. Preacher came after us with all force, but we soon gave the proof to all our claims, and gave him a few questions that he could not answer. This made him very angry, and he departed when we bade him good night. We were then invited to go home with Mr. Gabel to spend the night and were treated very kindly, being invited to call on the folks and preach whenever our time would permit.

We then worked our way east along the Arkansas river, holding a meeting the night following at a private house, where we had good order and a large congregation, and were treated with respect and kindness.

There are now twenty-one faithful Elders working for the cause of truth in this mission, and they are meeting with much success in bringing honest souls to the knowledge of the Gospel. The minds of the people have been poisoned so much with false rumors that have gone out about the Latter-day Saints, that it is very hard work for the Elders to refute all the misstatements; there are so many.

I would exhort all my young brethren to study up the principles of the Gospel, that when the time comes for them to take missions they will be prepared to meet all obstacles that fall in their way, and that they all may have a testimony for themselves, so that when the time comes that the Lord will pour out judgments upon the ungodly the Saints may stand firm and enjoy the blessings the Lord has promised to those who love Him and keep His commandments.

### A VETERAN'S STRONG TESTIMONY.

MINERSVILLE, Utah,  
March 21, 1895.

By request of Philo Dittie, through O. B. Huntington and your valuable paper, I send you the following, asking you kindly for the publication of the same: I was born the 27th day of May, 1816, in the town of Lima, Livingston county, N. Y.

In 1825, I went with my Aunt Elizabeth, the wife of Sydney Gilbert, to the town of Mentor, O. In 1826, I went to Kirtland with Uncle and Aunt Gilbert, and in 1828 I went into the store of Whitney & Gilbert. In October, 1830, Oliver Cowdery, Peter Whitmer, Parley P. Pratt and Ziba Petersen preached their first discourse in Kirtland and brought with them the so-called "Gold Bible," of which I still have a copy. Myself and S. Gilbert and many others of our friends were strongly impressed with the truth of the doctrines set forth and we obeyed the same. In September, 1831, I went with Sidney Gilbert, W. W. Phelps and others from Kirtland by water to Independence, Mo. On account of unavoidable delays I did not arrive at Independence until Jan. 1st, 1832. After arriving at Independence I went into Gilbert and Whitney's store as a clerk. I saw Bishop Partridge and Chas. Allen tarred and feathered. Allen was to be whipped but, being a mason, he gave the sign of distress as the whip was drawn to strike him, which I saw go like an arrow out of the hands of the mob into Col. Lucas's lot. I was in the upper story of the court house, where I had a good view of all that was go-

ing on. I assisted in removing the tar from Allen with case knives. I saw the *Morning and Evening Star* printing office broken into and destroyed by the mob. I was in the store of Gilbert & Whitney when the mob commenced their depredations after night on this store and stood my ground until the Bishop sent for me to come away from there. On November 13, 1833, about 200 of our people being driven that day across the river, lay all night on the sand beach, after which our family moved to Liberty, in Clay county, Mo. In the spring of 1834 we moved to Hill farm on Brush creek, after which Zion's Camp came up. I saw Governor Boggs every day with the mob and at other times.

I fear that I have made this report too lengthy, but I wish to bear my testimony to the truth of this work, and all that I have passed through has been the strongest testimony to me that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God and that Brigham Young was a Moses in the wilderness to this people, and that Presidents John Taylor and Willford Woodruff were and are the proper helms to the ship Zion.

Your brother in the Gospel,  
JAMES H. ROLLINS.

### BENEVOLENT PERFORMANCES.

WEST WEBER, March 15, 1895.

Today, March 15, Elder Martin McFarland leaves his home in this place, having been called on a mission to the Southern States. Two others have also been called—Elder N. C. Christenson leaves on April 1st on a mission to Turkey, and on May 11th John Johnson leaves on a mission to his native country, Sweden. On the 11th of this month a party and picnic was held in honor of these three brethren. The first two had been earnest workers in the Y. M. M. I. A., so the officers of the association and some of the members, in connection with the officers of the Young Ladies' association and officers of the Elders' quorum and Relief Society, under direction of the Bishopric of the ward, formed themselves into a committee and they made it a thorough success in every way. Every family in the ward was visited and kindly invited to come to the party and bring along their picnic, etc. In accordance with this invitation the people gathered at our amusement hall, where a most excellent program was carried out. After singing by our ward choir, a most earnest prayer was offered, then singing again and all seemed to partake of the spirit of the association; the rest of the time until after four o'clock was spent in listening to songs, recitations and short speeches; then a short time was spent in social chat, while some were busy setting tables and arranging supper. After all had eaten until satisfied the people spent the time until 12 o'clock in dancing, with songs, recitations and short speeches from the missionaries about to leave us. At the close W. C. Hunter, who had been appointed to take charge of the proceedings, announced that \$139 had been handed in to help the missionaries.

About a month ago a few of the young brethren and sisters in the ward, by the suggestion of the Bishop, united