

THE MISSIONARY FIELD.

The following excerpts are taken from a letter just received from Elder Joseph W. Musser, now laboring in northern Alabama:

Tell father that Mr. Grisham was very grateful for the books sent him. He has been a good friend to us, and I believe will always be, and tell him further that Mr. Grisham brought a sample of lucern, grows from the seed which father gave me to distribute among the farmers, to the Dickson store for exhibition. It was planted about May 1st on an ordinary piece of ground, and it was about a foot long with healthy roots and leaves. The people are beginning to be interested in its growth and development.

We held a meeting at Allsborough last Sunday. We secured a meeting house and made an appointment, but when the preacher learned of it he raised a rumpus, and sent one of his members, who had consented for us to use the house, to tell us we could not have it. We considered this cowardly and so did many of the members of his church. It seems as though the preacher is boss over everything, though in fact he has nothing to do with church houses; the people hire him to preach and reserve the right tooust him at their pleasure, but he gets them worked up with his foolish preaching until they are frightened, and come and go at his bidding. Imagine Elder John Doe visiting one of our wards as a missionary, and after learning that some man not in sympathy with him was intending to hold a meeting there during the week, and suppose John Doe were to tell the Bishop that the house must not be let. The cases are similar, but the people are different. In the South in most cases the Bishop would flatly tell John Doe to take his advice, but not so in Utah, where they would flatly tell him long enough to get worked up over his presumption, and then tumble him out of the window.

We held a meeting, however, in the schoolhouse, and had an attentive audience and made many friends. The parson in the morning had referred to us indirectly from the pulpit, and we took up his subject and had no difficulty in showing the people the difference between his man-made system of religious belief, and our divinely inspired message. The Lord's Spirit was upon us and the congregation appreciated our labors.

Leaving Allsborough, we met a man who asked us to hold a meeting in his schoolhouse about six miles from Dixon; we made an appointment for Saturday evening and Sunday morning, and arriving at Dixon we made another appointment for Sunday afternoon in the Methodist church, and one in the evening in the negro church. The colored people have been after us for some time to preach to them. The negroes here as a rule are not permitted to attend meetings, Sabbath or day schools with white people, and do not associate with the whites. Of course they vote and when their vote is strong enough they hold office, and in some places they are ahead of the whites in education and general intelligence, but of course this is not saying much for either race.

We expect soon to go to the eastern part of the state, about 150 miles from here, to spend some weeks among the Salts there. After our trip East, we will resume our labors in Tippah county, Mississippi. You will notice that this country is on the extreme north of Mississippi and by reason of its higher altitude is much healthier than farther south. This county I presume has never been visited before, and we will appear as strangers in their midst.

It was last January that Elder Mason and Hubbard first set foot in Colbert county, this state, and a cool people it indeed seemed to be to them; no friends, no money; the smiles of heaven seemed their only companions. Today we can travel in most any direction and the warmest of friends greet us.

THE FOURTH AT PAROWAN.

PAROWAN, Iron Co., Utah,
July 4th, 1895.

Perhaps the most elaborate celebration of the Fourth of July ever held here was had today. The usual cannonading at break of day, hoisting of flags at sunrise, with music from our excellent brass, or rather silver, band under the leadership of Frank Burton.

At 9:30 a. m. a procession including young ladies representing every state and territory in the Union, dressed in white, with shields upon their arms coated with the stars and stripes, also wearing crowns upon their heads. In the procession were parties appropriately dressed and carrying suitable banners representing nearly every nation. After marching through several streets the procession went to the meeting house which, after they were seated, filled every corner of the house including the galleries. After the opening exercises Miss MacMonigal, of the Presbyterian church, read very finely the Declaration of Independence, after which Orator of the Day Joseph F. McGregor, a graduate of the B. Y. academy at Provo, also lately a graduate of the law school of the University of Michigan, delivered a most able and eloquent historical oration, showing up the labors and great sacrifices of the fathers and saviors of our country, and urging the present generation to be ready to follow their example if necessary, etc. The parties representing the different nations sang songs, showing up the glory of each land, after which they all joined together and sang "The Song of All Nations," the tenor of which was: "We have left these different lands, America is now our home, and will be forever" and as they sang the last verse they dropped or threw down the banners they had been bearing and each one picked up a flag, the Stars and Stripes, and waved them on high till the end of the song. It had a splendid effect and went off finely. Miss Ella Page, representing the Goddess of Liberty, made a neat speech. Geo. Benson, representing Uncle Sam, sang the Star Spangled Banner in good style.

The day has been a most enjoyable one and a warm spirit of patriotism marked the whole proceedings. Our choir, who are always on hand, did a full share to make the day a complete

success. Donald A. McGregor acted as marshal of the day and did good service.

Committee on arrangements: L. D. Watson, chairman; Ella Rasmussen, Alma Gertrude Watson, Ida Durham, Enoch Rasmussen, Mayor Wm. Holy-oak.

ITEMS.

MARICOPA STAKE CONFERENCE.

Our quarterly conference was held June 23 and 24, in Mesa, Maricopa Stake and it will long be remembered. It was truly a happy event for us in the far south to know that Elder Brigham Young would be a visitor. Elder C. R. Haker, of the Stake presidency, gave a short address of welcome; he was well pleased to see so many of the young in attendance. After this Elder Young used most of the time of the morning in rehearsing the duty of the Latter-day Saints, in speaking of those in authority; as to judging one another; our duty with regard to the law of the land (we must keep the same and not bring dishonor on the word of our President, yet we must not neglect our families). He spoke several times during conference, in which the revelation on war was read and considered, together with many prophecies which are now fulfilled, and others that will be in the near future; spoke of our spectral labors as that involved in saving the living and the dead, to build Temples and labor in these for our absent ones.

Several of the Elders gave short addresses; among these were Brothers Isaac Dana and Ben F. LeBaran just in from the Southern States mission; a short account was given by each of his labors and both thanked God they had been called. They report the feelings of the people toward the Latter-day Saints decidedly better than heretofore.

The general authorities of the Church were sustained, together with the Stake authorities.

The wards were all well represented and reported and a very good number of the Lamanites were present both days. The Priesthood meeting was well attended Sunday morning and good instructions were given.

The health of the people is excellent and a general time of rejoicing was enjoyed.

Conference adjourned for three months.
GEO. PASSEY,
Per J. B.

TO THE YELLOWSTONE.

RIGBY, Bingham Co., Idaho,
July 8, 1895.

A party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Omer Call, Miss Maggie and Master Waldemar Call of Willard, Utah, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Call and son of Nephi, Utah, and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Call and son of Rigby, Idaho, leave the latter named place July 10 for Yellowstone park, where they expect to spend the next few weeks in viewing the wonders to be found there. All except Mr. and Mrs. Albert Call left Willard, Utah, June 28. After a pleasant journey through Box Elder and Cache counties, Utah and southern Idaho—a distance of 200 miles—they arrived at Rigby July 1st; found the people enjoying excellent health; and although