

and now give my sincere thanks to all through your valuable paper.

I have been called to go on a mission to my native country, Scandinavia, and leave for that part of the Lord's vineyard on Saturday, the 12th inst; this being my third call to that mission, the two previous missions having been filled since the year 1872. I have been home with my family for a short time and enjoyed myself very much with them and with the Saints.

I fully appreciate the good will and kindness shown me by the Sixty-fifth quorum of Seventies, of which I am a member; also the presiding officers of Mayfield, and the good people of the ward; the musicians, led by Brother Hans Westenskow, who came from Mantl and made melody at a gathering in my interest; also Sisters Minia Nielson and assistants, Steenie Olson and Minnie Larson, for their good will and perseverance in training the children of the schools and the Primary associations in the manner which they did, and making a grand success of the concert, etc., got up by them for my special benefit. Their appropriate and kindly feelings towards me I will always remember and cherish as one of the happiest incidents of my life.

To all my friends who have in any way blessed me, I pray our Heavenly Father to richly bless them in return, and that heaven's blessing rest upon all Israel.

PETER C. CHRISTENSEN.  
SALT LAKE CITY, Oct. 10, 1895.

#### ST. JOSEPH STAKE CONFERENCE.

The regular quarterly conference of the St. Joseph Stake of Zion, Arizona, convened in the Plima meeting house at 10 a.m. Sunday, September 15, 1895. Present on the stand were Elders Christopher Layton, Wm. D. Johnson and Morgan H. Merrill of the Stake Presidency; Philman C. Merrill, Patriarch; members of the High Council, Bishops of all the various wards except St. David, besides other leading and influential men of the Stake.

After singing and prayer President Layton made a few opening remarks, alluding to the fact that many farmers have deprived themselves of their last bushel of wheat and at this early hour are around trying to get seed wheat; he felt that the people were a little careless and exhorted them to commence plowing their land and prepare for another harvest.

Bishops John Welker of Layton, Samuel Claridge of Thatcher, Joseph Cluff of Central, John Taylor of Plima and David Matthews of Mathews, reported their wards to be in a prosperous condition, both spiritually and temporally. The organizations were complete; all had raised good crops, enough to sustain themselves and some to spare; had not received a great deal of tithing grain but thought it would come in; said they found that those who pay their tithing as they go along were the largest tithing payers. Diphtheria was reported to have been in the Layton ward which caused the death of two or three children; otherwise the health of the people has been good; felt that some had sold too much of their grain; some were punctual in

attending their meetings, while others were not.

Elder Joseph Fish spoke of the importance of the rising generation; exhorted young men and women to be careful in selecting their companions, and parents to be careful in the training of their children.

At the afternoon meeting the Sacrament was administered, after which Elder Thomas E. Williams spoke; he said at the coming of the Savior those that have done wrong will not be able to face him; therefore we should be obedient. He spoke also upon the subject of education, exhorting parents to watch over their children.

Elder George Cluff continued the subject of education—that it was necessary to be educated in order to understand the law of tithing, to be honest, to have faith, to understand the law of baptism—all are the foundation of the Gospel, and then comes science, etc.

The subject was continued by Elder Wm. Packer, one of the board of education, who said in the early days of the Church they were on the move, and many had not the privilege of going to school; he exhorted all the young to embrace the golden opportunity that is placed before them.

At 10 o'clock Monday the Saints again assembled. Bishop Lachoneus M. Calvin, Alma N. Bryce and Geo. Skinner reported their wards as being the same as the other wards, except in organization; this was owing to them being small and scattered. Elder Benjamin Cluff reported the High Priests quorum; advised the High Priests to attend to their duties and sustain the authorities. Elder Frank Tyler reported the Seventies; some were not doing their duty as they should, we have quite a number of missionaries in the field, and a call for more. Patriarch Philman C. Merrill reported his labors during the last quarter as home missionary; he spoke upon the early rise of the Church in the days of Nauvoo, the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, his personal acquaintance with them, and his being an eye witness to many of their persecutions. Elder Taylor said the day would soon come when all who were personally acquainted with the martyrs would be behind the veil. Previous to his death the Prophet asked his friends if they loved him; they answered yes; "Would you lay down your lives for me?" "Yes." "Then I will lay down my life for you." We did not think he would be killed, but he was. The speaker said he was with Brother Merrill in the days of Joseph, and heard Sidney Rigdon say after the death of Joseph, "If we cannot be united let's divide the Church," and President Young said "Let the Church not be divided."

At the afternoon meeting the general and local authorities were presented and sustained, also the statistical report was read by the clerk. The speakers were the Stake presidency who dwelt upon the various topics discussed upon during the conference and added much that was of importance both by way of encouragement and warning. They exhorted the young to prepare themselves to fill the places of their fathers and mothers and

said if we enter into a covenant with God and do not keep it we will be cast out.

Meeting adjourned for three months. We had a good conference and a good spirit prevailed.

F. W. MOODY, Clerk.

#### TRAVELS IN MISSISSIPPI.

BAY ST. LOUIS, Oct. 1, 1895.—As very little has appeared to your valuable paper concerning the labors of the Elders in the "Bayou state," I thought a few lines would be of interest to your many readers. After our last conference my companion and I were appointed to visit the four counties. We proceeded on our journey, visiting friends and Saints.

In Pike county we visited the Saints and held several meetings with them. We found them trying to live up to the principles of the Gospel; they seemed to be enjoying the Spirit of God. We held fast meeting with them and the Spirit of God rested down upon us in rich abundance. Many shed tears, they felt so good. The Lord truly blesses the Saints when they are trying to do their duty.

After leaving this branch we traveled towards Washington parish, La. On our way we found many friends and many who were desirous of hearing the Elders explain the principles of the Gospel. Many invitations were given to stay over night, but we declined them, as we were anxious to reach our fields of labor. One morning, after traveling for a short distance, we were approached by a gentleman and asked to come in and see the family. We accepted his hospitality; and after eating some delicious peaches we were invited to pray for his little child which was very ill. We did so before bidding them good by.

Having traveled for several days we reached Washington parish, visited a family of Saints and instructed them regarding the duty of Latter-day Saints. Not having seen the Elders for some time they were pleased to see us and we were pleased to see them. We spent a couple of nights with them and then proceeded towards Pearl River county. There being no ferryman at the river, we took the boat and went across. After traveling for thirty miles to get to see a white man, we were royally entertained for the evening.

From there we proceeded towards Pass Christian. On our way we had a conversation with an old gentleman near Poplarville. He is a good friend to the Elders, and although not a member, he believes in the doctrine taught by the humble Elders. On reaching the Pass we gazed for the first time upon the briny water. This little town is principally a summer resort for the people of New Orleans. It has a shelled road extending for about fifteen miles. Vehicles are numerous during the cool evenings.

Going from the Pass to Bay St. Louis, we cross on a trestle three miles in length. During the great storm most of it was destroyed. In the center is a draw bridge to permit vessels to pass. Bay St. Louis is also a summer resort, having several miles of shelled road. About three miles from the Bay we have a branch of the Church organized.