

FROM THE MISSIONARY FIELDS.

Michigan Conference.

The first conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints held in Michigan for upwards of sixteen years, convened at Saginaw May 21, 22 and 23, 1898. Five public meetings were held during the conference, and a Priesthood meeting. President Louis A. Kelsch and Secretary Jos. E. Cardon of the Northern States mission met with us.

At the first meeting Elder J. P. Sorensen spoke on the mission of Christ; stating that it was of a two-fold nature; first, it brought about the resurrection; second, made it possible for mankind to gain eternal life through strict obedience to Christ's laws and ordinances. Elder W.G. Miller touched briefly upon faith and repentance; also said the people of Saginaw had heard our people misrepresented by Saginaw ministers; and asked the people to attend our several meetings and hear the other side from those who were representatives of the Mormon people.

Three meetings were held Sunday. Elder Albert Goodrich occupied the time in the forenoon treating the subject of repentance. Elder Elias Nielsen spoke in the afternoon upon divine authority, showing the necessity of men being called of God before officiating in His most holy ordinances. During the evening meeting Elder Alvin Allen showed how the Church of Christ existed anciently; proved from the Scriptures that an apostasy from this pure religion should come, and from the condition of the religious world that it had come; bore testimony of the Gospel being in the earth again.

At our last meeting Elder Jos. E. Cardon showed the necessity of mankind complying strictly with the laws of God. Elder Louis Kelsch touched upon general principles of the Gospel, pointed out the condition of the religious world and told why it was necessary for the Lord to raise up a prophet in these the last days.

Priesthood meeting was held at 9 a.m., May 23. After partaking of the emblems of the Lord's Supper, each of the ten Elders reported their past labors. Many friends had been raised up to the Elders and some were sincerely investigating the Gospel. Three persons had been baptized and one more, a lady, had the Elders to administer that ordinance to her at close of conference. All Elders had been laboring in new fields, hence could not at present see the results of their efforts. President Kelsch gave many timely instructions to Elders and encouraged them in their work.

Elder J. P. Sorensen, who had filled an honorable mission, was released to return home.

Appointments are as follows:

U. G. Miller, Manistee, Manistee Co., Mich.

Alvin Allen, E. A. Neeley, Traverse, Grand Traverse Co., Mich.

Albert Goodrich, I. B. Whitney, Frankfort, Benzie Co., Mich.

P. J. Petersen, Rufus Reese, Newaygo, Newaygo Co., Mich.

Elias Nielsen, J. R. Stewart, Harrison, Clare Co., Mich.

U. G. MILLER,

President of Conference.

ALVIN ALLEN, Clerk.

In Wisconsin.

Green Bay, Wisconsin,

May 9, 1898.

I thought perhaps the people of Zion would like to know how two humble Mormon Elders are getting along in this part of the Lord's vineyard. I left my home in Logan City a little over a year ago to take a mission to the

Northern States. I was assigned to labor in the state of Wisconsin, in the city of Waukesha. My companion and I tracted the city and found a number of friends, while others rejected the doctrines of Christ. From there we opened up the city of Racine, where we made our winter quarters. There we found a number of friends.

This spring we held our conference in Fond du Lac county, in the little village of Oakfield. There we all enjoyed a spiritual feast, and partook of the blessings of God. It is a happy time when all the Elders of the state meet together and relate their experiences to each other.

After the conference the Elders were assigned to their fields of labors. I was assigned to labor in the city of Fond du Lac. A few days later one of the Elders was called home on account of sickness in his family. Then I was assigned to take his place in the city of Green Bay. Elder G. D. Balls is my companion. He left his home in Hyde Park, Cache county, three months ago.

The people of Green Bay think it is strange to see Mormons in this county. They thought they were all killed off. We have not held any meetings in this city yet, but we expect to hold some open air services.

We are enjoying good health. The "News" is a welcome visitor, and we look forward to every Tuesday morning, when we receive the news of Utah.

L. T. JONES.

G. D. BALLS.

Letter from Nazareth.

Nazareth, Palestine, May 23, 1898.

The day before yesterday we left Haifa for a run toward Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee. The road from Haifa leads up the Kishon east with Mount Carmel on the right and the plains of Kishon and Akka on the left. This valley is very fertile if handled properly, but in its present condition it is nearly useless. When the rainy season sets in it is flooded and the grain is drowned out, as the land is quite level. Now this can largely be remedied especially higher up where the brook is more steep and the ravine deep, hence the drainage is measurably easy. The soil which is of a reddish loam is very rich all over and as a rule very productive. What it needs is proper farming and attention. At present it produces fever. A practical German with whom the writer conversed upon the subject stated that all grain products were very profitable as the export was good and prices for home consumption above European markets. Also fruits would find a splendid market if only the people put in of the best qualities. But he said that the German colonists had suffered so much because they had tried to farm as in Germany and had brought in varieties not profitable. He said, if the eye was open to the demand of the market, growing the right kinds and putting them up saleable, then it would pay alright and people did well, but where people remained narrow-minded and partial to old country ways and ideas, they could not do well. In a word, with carefulness, said he, the country is well adapted for a livelihood and certainly needs progressive measures. As for the Beduins or Arabs on the west of Jordan, they were now completely subjugated by the government and would naturally yield to progress. At present they are quite necessary to the country, they are acclimated and can do the work better than one who is not acclimated, therefore they should be employed as much as possible. This man is a business man of twenty-eight years experience in Palestine. This meets the idea of the

writer who has now spent a good deal of time in Turkey and Palestine. The country contains a hidden treasure of wealth. Not in mineral but in agriculture and fruit growing. It is provided with a fine climate, making it very fertile. The early and the latter rains have been retained according to blessings pronounced by the servants of the Lord in this generation, even so much so that in many places the water is superfluous. This is not upon the hills or mountains but in the low lands. The hills are made just as productive by terracing them off and planting olives, figs, pomegranates, almonds and grapes. We are told that the finest varieties of peaches and apricots can be grown here. Now to accomplish these things it takes care and experience. It cannot be done at once, but the various moves here prove that it is within the possibilities, and that they can live and do fairly well. At least as well as anyone can stand it and serve the Lord. Great riches and easily accumulated wealth is not the best things in the world to make good Saints. Labor, seasoned with such blessings and trials as the Lord sees fit to bestow upon His people, usually produce all the worldly wealth necessary to the upbuilding of His kingdom and for the perfection of His Saints. More than this is not needed.

Yesterday we left for Tiberias. While there we sailed on the sea along the west coast down to the mouth of the Jordan or rather to the outlet of the sea where the river leaves and proceeds on its winding course down the Jordan valley to the Dead Sea. The coast is quite steep on either side and but for a small narrow strip of land along the bank of the sea, the sea and the mountains would join. On its shore grow oleander, which is now in bloom; also other flowers being out and the mountain side being green with grass, make altogether a pleasant sight. The sea was quiet and the weather warm and pleasant. Here we were sailing on the same water the Savior and His Apostles had so often sailed on and where the Savior walked on the water. Where the miraculous draught of fishes was made and where the Savior often taught. The thought was impressive and furnished much instructive conversation.

At this juncture of the Jordan and the Sea of Galilee our boat halted on the east bank, and soon we (Brother Lund excepted) were fixed for a swim in the sea. The water was delightful. Soon one suggested a swim through the outlet down the river. The invitation was accepted and one of our party with confidence in his ability to swim through all right started down smiling, the other two being ahead. Now the water leaves the lake at a fall of about three or four feet to the hundred yards, so the current was quite strong and at one place it flowed quite swiftly. The river is open, and as it was seen that everything was clear for a long way down the river, no danger was suspected. So down went the three Yankees. But an old Arab boatman yelled at the top of his voice not to go and succeeded in stopping the two who crawled out and began yelling also. By that time the third was going down the swiftest place smiling at the sport, saying in Turkish, "Never mind, its all right," all the time pushing ahead. The old man by this time was nearly wild. He did not understand that it was intentional. He believed the stream had carried our man off. Now, however, a serious moment arrived, our man swam down all right, but when the swift point was passed and he desired to land he saw a large whirl pool off to the left. He missed the point of the landing and quickly surveying the situation he determined on a move for the other side. By this time the calling was terrible and for a