

MIDDLE TENNESSEE.

SALT LAKE CITY, April 2, 1896.

To Elders and Friends in Middle Tennessee:

Dear Co-Laborers and Friends.—Being under much obligation to you for your hearty support and congenial affiliations while associated with you in the noblest of all vocations—that of disseminating the Gospel's sacred truths—I am assured that a reference to you and our duties and accomplishments for the past year in Middle Tennessee is due you.

When we reflect upon the integrity, zeal and undaunted courage you manifest to the hallowed call of the Priesthood you have nobly sustained, gratitude burns within my heart to God and to you for the favorable condition our conference is now in. As we see the mist fast clearing away for the light of truth to illuminate to the nations the real and awful position in which they linger with procrastination, we are made to rejoice as we see with faith the prompt and literal fulfillment of the prophetic declaration recently made as to our promoted condition in the eyes of the nation, with many sure manifestations continually given. While we are on duty in the vineyard we are left in no doubt as to the nurture and admonition of heaven being our guiding star, if our hearts are kept open, honest and sincere with a fire divine lighted within by which mists of darkness are driven away.

There is much cause for us to rejoice because of the promoted interests of Zion so prevalent in the midst of the hospitable Southern people. We have received such cordial treatment with unstinted hospitality that our Utonians would do well to emulate to their eternal credit. In becoming attached to the cause of truth in its more responsible duties there is a feast of joy to the heart and peace to the mind that is beyond the achievements of the most successful royalty in worldly attainments. I would that every young Elder in the realms of the Gospel would be called early to the ministry that they might hasten to learn the duties and devotion they owe to God and one another, which too long lie buried under the carnal cares of life. The actual presence and oft association of the Elders with the people does much to wear off the lingering prejudice that has clouded their minds like a shroud in past times; they touch the better qualities of man by the spirit's presence and they agree that there is a magnetism of friendship that urges a renewal of their presence.

Our present condition, as we all accede in Middle Tennessee, is very encouraging; several have declared their intention to enter the fold in Nashville and elsewhere in the near future. A fruitful season is expected from the seeds already sown and new fields are being sown and cultivated steadily with every reason to expect a bountiful harvest in the autumn time of gathering. I desire to express myself in unambiguous terms to the fervent and sterling band of Elders over whom I have been honored in presiding. There have been cords of love bound about each

heart that time will not obliterate or tear asunder. Keep on the armor of righteousness with unabating zeal, ever hoisting the banner higher, unfurling it to the breeze, and let unity characterize your lives ever as it has while enlisted in the ministerial duties and a power strong and lasting will be engendered in every soul to master the evil allurements so oft found in the pathway of mortality.

There are five branches now organized in Middle Tennessee, three of which have been started in the last year; five Sunday schools all recently organized there are doing splendidly, while others are lightly attended because of certain existing disadvantages. There is anticipation of a branch soon to be organized at Nashville. We have some active workers there for the cause of truth, especially those residing on MacLamore and Market streets. There are also friends and Saints throughout the country who have never wavered, and may God bless them. Our thanks are extended also in hearty gratitude to all, for their kindness and support.

Our trip homeward was pleasant indeed. We visited Independence and were invited by a Bro. H. H. Robinson, of the reorganized faction, to partake of his hospitality and to converse in regard to our position with reference to them. We also met with a Mr. Headrick with whom we wended our way to the Temple block in earnest conversation. There is a sentiment manifest that shows forth a longing for the day of union and a desire to bridge over the chasm widened by the stubbornness of a few who were not willing to submit to God's appointed way of proceeding. We were kindly greeted and purchased a photo of the Temple grounds, and also of a group of Elders of the Northern States mission, some of whom we met at Kansas City, remaining with them during the night. Brother Preator and family and another family or two live at Independence; also Bro. Hale at Kansas City. They seem to be full of faith in the Gospel and are delighted to meet the Elders.

Thanking the News for past favors I am yours in the Gospel,
O. M. SANDERSON.

PORTNEUF ENTERPRISE

CHESTERFIELD, Idaho,

March 25, 1896.

Spring is evidently near at hand in this locality. The recent rains, together with the warm sun of the past few days, have melted most of our snow. Should the present weather continue, plowing will commence by the first of April.

With the coming of spring our valley has bright prospects before it. The people have organized a company to take out a canal from Bear river. Commencing near Soda Springs the canal will run westward a distance of six miles where it will enter the Portneuf valley on the east. At this point branches of the canal will be made to conduct water to the various parts of the valley, which when watered will furnish homes for a few thousand industrious, energetic people. The tract of land lying under the proposed canal contains not less than 100,000 acres, considerable of which is already taken by settlers. We

are informed that quite a number of new settlers are going to move in here this spring from Utah and other parts of the country.

The Portneuf valley is located immediately north of Gentile valley. The Oregon Short Line railroad passes through the center of the valley from southeast to northwest, Bancroft being the station. It is located about central from all points of the valley. There are two ward organizations, Chesterfield, organized some 14 years ago, and Lund ward, organized but a few months ago. There is some talk of organizing another ward at Eighteen Mile Creek.

We have had as good a stock range as can be found in the rocky mountain region. Timber is plentiful and can be had at a distance of from 4 to 7 miles from the various parts of the valley.

Work on the canal will commence about the first of May, giving the people time to put in their crops. The construction work is to be done by the settlers. The most of it can be done with teams, scrapers and plows.

Settlers wishing to secure homes will do well to take advantage of the inducements offered them here; each man will have the privilege of working out his water right. B.

IN NORTH CAROLINA.

WILMINGTON, N. C.,

March 27, 1896.

We have been laboring in the city of Wilmington for the past four months. Wilmington is the metropolis of the state and is a commercial center of no small importance. It is a seaport town or port situated on the Atlantic coast near the mouth of the Cape Fear river. Ships laden with cargoes go to and come from all parts of the world. The principal exports are cotton and resin; as much as 11,000 bales of the former are loaded on one ship. Some monsters of ships are occasionally anchored in this harbor, about 500 yards from the place of wharfing. The city has some very beautiful residences and some elegant churches, representative of many of the principal denominations. It is the most cosmopolitan city of North Carolina.

We have almost finished tracting the city and have called upon a number of the ministers and have tried to procure their churches to preach in, but in vain. However, not to be daunted, we hired the best hall in the city, paying the handsome sum of \$10, and held two meetings, one on Sunday afternoon and one in the evening. We advertised it in the principal newspapers and one minister was courteous enough to give notice in his church of the meeting. We have tried the policy of calling upon newspaper editors with very favorable results, so that we have not been "roasted" by any of the journals of the city.

Our meetings were rather poorly attended, but in our humble way we presented to those who did come out the way of life and salvation. We know that in the corrupted currents of this world of Error, pampered in luxury, dwells in the palaces, while Truth, a poor, shivering pilgrim, wanders over the earth amid the scorn and scoffs of men. In the light of this