

going to hold meeting in the evening. Rev. Anderson went up and asked the minister to announce it, but he said, "no sir, I know too much of those people," so he announced it himself. After meeting we went up and asked the minister what he knew of us, but he was very busy just then. "Well," said Elder Richardson, "tell your congregation what you know of us, as we are here to answer to the same." Said the minister "By the way, I have got a few questions to ask you. What do you mean by this eleventh article. "We claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how where or what they may." Of course it was answered to his satisfaction and I think to his sorrow. Then he wanted to know what about the eighth article. "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly. We also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God," said he, "I don't believe that Book of Mormon," Elder Richardson asked if he had read it? "Yes sir," said he, "part of it." "Why do you not believe it?" "There are so many contradictions in it." He was then asked to quote a passage. "Oh" said he, "I did not memorize it." "Well then tell what it treats upon?" Said he, "I would like to talk with you people but I haven't time." So we went home and we were left without an answer as usual. In the evening we were warned not to hold meeting as they were going to break it up. But we went on the same as if we took no note of the warning. When we were singing our first hymn there was a whoop or so out side, and while I was speaking there was some hallowing going on and the door was kicked open a number of times. After Elder Richardson had been speaking a short time it was very quiet and they all came into the house. The remainder of the meeting was very quiet. After meeting was over we went around, shook hands with all, and they seemed to be very well pleased. Some wanted to know why we didn't preach a Mormon sermon. I told them that was just what they had heard, and they were very much surprised, also pleased that they had come. So we gained a great many friends and went home with Rev. Anderson unmolested.

We have met quite a number of similar cases, but nothing very serious has happened as yet, of course we have a great many houses refused us and some people that will not talk to us. We have traveled through the greater part of Huntingdon county and are now visiting Saints in some of the other counties. We arrived in Buck Valley, Fulton county, Pennsylvania, December 4th, and found a very nice people here, who are striving to live lives of Latter-day Saints. But of course they have many draw backs to what we do in the west; they have no house built as yet to hold service in, but are living in faith that they may have one some day. They are just getting the hymn books and we have a singing practice wherever we go. The following are the post office addresses of the Elders laboring in the Pennsylvania conference.

President Cornelius Richardson and D. P. Thomas, Huntingdon, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.
William Hill and Andrew Peterson, Carlisle, Cumberland county, Pennsylvania.

George W. Parrish and Walter P. Rich, Danville, Montour county, Pennsylvania.

Joshua M. Selly and John R. Crawford, Emporium, Cameron county, Pennsylvania.

J. Y. Barlow and Mahonri M. Decker, Butler, Butler county, Pennsylvania.

Johnson Hendershot and Cecil Barnhart, Buck Valley, Fulton county, Pennsylvania.

D. P. THOMAS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.

ALTAMONT, Tenn. Dec. 24th, 1896.

In the latter part of January last Elder J. M. Brown and myself were assigned the county of Lawrence in which to make a house-to-house canvass, to leave each family some literature, converse with the people upon the plan of life and salvation, and hold meetings whenever and wherever opportunity presented itself.

We began this labor, but only three weeks had elapsed when my companion was compelled to return to Nashville owing to his suffering from chills and fever. Elder J. H. Yardley then came to assist me in this work. We were successful in holding quite a number of meetings and allaying much prejudice heretofore existing toward our people.

Lawrence county joins Lewis county, the one in which Elders Gibbs and Berry were assassinated; but as the people are heartily ashamed of so gross a crime as the one in question, you hear very little said about it and then only when they are questioned concerning the matter. Before leaving Lawrence county, we succeeded in adding five to the list of members there, and organizing a Sunday school.

May 21st, I was requested to report at the office, and there remained the balance of the month as also the greater portion of June.

At conference held June 27th 28th and 29th, my name was placed on the revisiting list with Elder S. C. Barrell as companion, and we were given the counties of Grundy, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, and Marion in which to labor.

Our nearest point being some two hundred miles the route we took, and patronizing as we did the grip and umbrella railroad, we were some time in reaching our destination. However, we lost no time in commencing the work on our arrival, and were successful in procuring places in which to hold services as well as having a good hearing.

August 5th, found Elder Young, our president, and Elder W. J. Sloan with us in Grundy county; and during their stay, two applications were made for baptism which was duly attended to. A meeting was held at a summer resort known as Beersheba springs. This furnished an excellent opportunity of getting before some of the leading men of the state who had come here to rusticate during the warmer months and who would have been difficult to approach if they had been visited at home. Mr. Nelson, who is managing the large hotel, kindly entertained us free of charge, upon learning our method of traveling, and informed us that any time we felt disposed to call on him we would be welcome.

On the 19th, our worthy president and companion bade us good-bye, leaving us much food for reflection in the many

words of reproof, and encouragement administered while with us.

Since that time our labors have been principally in two counties where, by the blessing of the Lord we have been enabled to surmount many obstacles by way of tearing down prejudice and spreading Gospel seeds in places heretofore forbidden ground to Mormon Elders. Recently we have had the pleasure of baptizing nine more, to all appearance good honest hearted souls into the fold of Christ.

Owing to the mountainous counties being colder than those situated in lower altitudes we are advised to change fields for the present—a thing we are very loth to do as we have many kind friends as also investigators living here who for unstinted hospitality and generous treatment of Mormon Elders, are only equalled by the broad-minded class of people living in the sunny south.

From here we go into Coffee county where I am to remain in company with Elder W. J. Sloan while Elder Barrell goes to Rutherford county with Elder Larson.

R. G. ARCHIBALD.

ST. JOSEPH STAKE CONFERENCE.

THATCHER, Graham county, Ariz., Dec. 16, 1896.—The quarterly conference of the St. Joseph Stake convened in Pima, Arizona, December 13th and 14th, 1896, Stake Counselor William D. Johnson presiding. Patriarch Phileman C. Merrill and members of the High Council were present. It was very much regretted that our State President could not meet with us. He was at home dangerously sick, but we are happy to state that he is much better at the present time, and it is hoped that by the blessing of the Lord, in response to the prayers and faith of the Saints, he will recover, notwithstanding his advanced age.

The Bishops of the various wards reported their wards temporarily and spiritually. Some were going back, while others were alive to their calling and were doing a good work. But little sickness was reported in our midst.

Patriarch P. C. Merrill bore strong testimony of the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith; told of the travels and persecutions of the Saints until the Saints came to the Rocky mountains.

Elder Benjamin Cluff reported the High Priests as being in a fair condition; exhorted the people to sustain the authority the Lord had established in His Church.

Elder Joseph K. Rogers gave some of his experience in the early settling of Utah, and in this part of the country.

Elder Henry Boyle gave a rich discourse upon the first principles of the Gospel.

Elder George Cluff spoke on the duties of Seventies and their missionary work; exhorted them to prepare themselves for missionary work and to keep themselves free from indebtedness and bondage.

Elder Johnson spoke upon the duties of the Saints. He was pleased with the spirit of the conference and the subjected well upon by the speakers.

The excellent singing rendered by the Thatcher choir, under the leadership of Prof. Edwin W. Currie, helped to give life and make our conference a success.

F. W. MOODY, Clerk.