

papers of the town and the appointments were filled as follows:

On Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock after a spirited hymn upon the street, the congregation was addressed by Elder W. W. Cooper, who spoke upon the personality of God, and Elder A. M. Merkley, who treated upon faith and repentance.

During the evening service Elder Frank May spoke upon the necessity, mode and object of baptism and was followed by Elder J. G. Stewart on the bestowal of the Holy Ghost and authority.

The Monday evening meeting was unfortunately appointed at the same hour, 8 p. m., as the prohibition meeting—Canada—being at present in the throes of a plebiscite campaign looking to the legal abandonment of the liquor traffic. However, a very attentive gathering listened to Elder S. Rolph who discourse upon the apostasy, Elder Sterling Williams concluding the meeting by treating briefly the subject, Restoration of the Gospel.

The public meetings, though not as largely attended as those of the preceding conference three months ago were characterized by good order, strict attention and a plain yet powerful presentation of the Gospel plan.

The Priesthood meeting was held on Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock. The Elders reported their various fields of labor and expressed themselves as greatly encouraged and strengthened by the conference. Instructions were given by the conference president, Elder W. S. Baxter and Elder S. Williams upon some points in connections with the duties of the Elders in their future labors. Elder W. W. Cooper was released from his Manitoba appointment in order to carry the Gospel message to his relatives in Great Britain. All rejoiced in the feeling of brotherly love and union which filled each heart, and according to the statements of those longest in the mission, more of the Spirit of God was present in this gathering of the Elders than has at any time previously been manifested in labors here.

The following day Elders J. G. Stewart and Social Rolph departed for Hartney, having the southwestern portion of the province as their field, and Elders A. M. Merkley and C. F. Jensen Jr., leaving for Carberry to labor in the eastern part of the conference. Elders W. S. Baxter and Frank May leave shortly for a trip to the north and east of Minnesota, while Elders W. W. Cooper and S. Williams are at present at Brandon.

There are many of the honest in heart in this land but the Gospel message of the Latter-day Saints is yet new to its inhabitants.

Your brother in the cause of truth,  
W. S. BAXTER.  
Conference President.

#### San Francisco Conference.

The San Francisco conference of the California mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened Sunday, Oct. 2nd, at 10 a. m., Elder J. W. Nixon presiding. As is usual on these semi-annual gatherings, the Elders came in from their various fields of labor, happy in the work accomplished and rejoicing in the reunion of Saints and friends. The meetings throughout were well attended, by Saints investigators and strangers.

Among the afternoon speakers were two of the sisters laboring as missionaries in the state—Mrs. E. H. Nye and Mrs. B. J. Bennett. Both reported themselves as rejoicing in their work, and bore faithful testimonies to the divinity of the Gospel.

Elder W. E. Stoker, president of the Sacramento conference, addressed the meeting Sunday evening, his subject being "of and the Nations. He said

that "every advance made by the Christian church in the last fifty years has been a step toward Mormonism." After dwelling on the personality of God, he referred to the prophecies that showed the Creator to be interested in the affairs of the nations, and illustrated by the fates of Babylon, Tyre and Jerusalem, and also by the events that have and are taking place in this age.

Monday morning the general authorities of the Church were presented by Elder W. Rollo Einmett, and unanimously sustained.

Elder E. H. Nye was presented as president of the California mission, with Elder W. R. Emmett as secretary; both were unanimously sustained. Also, Elder F. C. Platt, to succeed Elder J. W. Nixon, released, as president of the San Francisco conference, with Florence T. Rawlinson as secretary, were presented and sustained unanimously, after which Elder Nye offered a few words of explanation as to the duties and callings of the officers of the Church, and their necessity to the thorough working of the whole.

Elder J. W. Nixon was the speaker of the evening. He spoke feelingly of his labors in the state, of the spread of the Gospel here; and of the many dear friends and associations never to be forgotten. He bore an earnest testimony to the truth of this latter-day work, urging all who did not have a knowledge of its divinity to seek it at the Fountain Head. His subject was The Authenticity of the Book of Mormon. He proved from the Bible that the coming forth of the Book of Mormon was only prophecy fulfilled, that it was "the stick of Ephraim" that was to "speak low out of the dust as one that hath a familiar voice."

Mrs. Lizzie Edwards of the Tabernacle choir, who is visiting here, rendered a vocal solo, accompanied on the violin by Miss Ardele Cummings and on the organ by Elder J. Y. Smith.

FLORENCE P. RAWLINSON,  
Secretary.

#### Knew Joseph the Prophet.

Elder Charles A. Haacke writes in a letter to the Seventy's quorum of which he is a member as follows:

Watertown, S. D., Oct. 2, 1898.

I feel to relate a few of my experiences in the mission field, but again I feel to hesitate. What could I say as a new beginner of spreading the Gospel, to brethren who have grown grey in the wide field before us? You nearly all know what missionary life is and what occurs and what conditions and circumstances confront the Elders, but old as the story may be, it is always spiced with new experience. Having labored some eighteen months in the field to gather the precious grain, I have received some knowledge that a harvester need, to do his Master's work, although it has the appearance to me that I am engaged and working in the eleventh hour. The grain in some fields is cut and it being precious none must be lost, gleaners are sent out, to pick up a kernel here and there or to straighten and assist a plant that has been trodden down and prepare it for future harvest, for another gleaner to gather it in, when ripe. The fields I labored in have been well gleaned, but a few kernels having been lost at harvest time, took ground and sprang forth among the stubble and stand alone in the immense field and it requires diligent searching to find them and rescue them from the season when they would perish. Though trying at times, it is also encouraging and inspiring in relating my experience.

I will not tire you much, but there is one point I wish to mention above all for it has strengthened my testimony. Having to battle constantly against false accusations against our people

and leading brethren, it is sweet and inspiring when we meet testimony of the good character of our people and leading men, and unexpected. People have told me for the last year and a half that our Prophets and Apostles are individuals not only immoral but dishonest, that they are a blot on Christianity. No matter how much evidence we bring against such accusations, it might as well be cast to the wind. After preaching one night in a country schoolhouse in South Dakota, my companion (Elder Duffin of Woodruff, Arizona) and I were invited for a night's lodgings by an elderly gentleman and his wife, who were attentive listeners at the meeting. We stayed with these good people two nights in succession and on leaving heard the pleasant words: "I believe you have the right Gospel." Again starting on our journey to promulgate the truth, we came to a little house painted a dark red. The inmates were elderly people just preparing dinner. After introduction we were told that they had no time to entertain us as their children had come from the East to visit them. We informed the people we wished to explain the Gospel to them. The lady, 81 years old, asked the question: "Are you Mormons?" We answered that thus the people called us. Speaking a few words to her husband in the room, we received an invitation to come in and partake of their dinner. Now came the unexpected. While conversing by the table the old gentleman, though 88 years of age yet strong and healthy, plowing his own twenty-two acres of land, made the following statement: "I know more about Mormonism than any man in this neighborhood. I have been in Nauvoo; I knew your leaders; I knew Joseph Smith. I visited Nauvoo in the early part of 1844, just before Joseph was killed, I have heard him preach and had it not been for the revelation of the spiritual wife system, in all probability I would have joined the Church."

We asked Mr. David Wood what impression Joseph Smith had made upon him. His answer was: "He was a gentleman in his whole appearance; yes he was a nice man, he taught his people to be a clean people."

Continuing, Mr. Wood said: "I heard him preach and make the following remarks: 'Brethren, if you expect to get into the kingdom of heaven, you must keep your toes out of the ashes.' This is some of the expressions Smith made to teach the people cleanliness." We further questioned him, as to polygamy, telling him that the Josephites make claim that this originated with President Young and not with Joseph, the Prophet. The immediate answer was this: "I know better, for had it not been for that doctrine, I would have joined the Church."

Mr. Wood continuing, spoke very highly of Joseph and the people of those years. He also admitted that Joseph Smith accomplished something which the whole world with all its learning could not do, and that was to organize and govern a Church exactly after the Bible pattern.

My testimony has been strengthened through this and many other circumstances and experiences. Mr. David Wood, now 88 years old, and residing in Kampeskel, Coddington county, South Dakota, was a former resident of the state of Michigan.

CHARLES A. HAACKE,  
Watertown, South Dakota.

#### A Word from South Alabama.

Milligan, Fla., Oct. 5, 1898.

Our branch conference was held on Sept. 24 and 25 in the new church that has recently been erected at Westville Holmes county, Fla. There were present Elders Irving L. Pratt, F. W. An-