

country. It would not be necessary if their lands were ploughed properly, but as their plows are only poor shovel ploughs at best, it makes quite a difference. One reason why they can keep their lands so straight is that when once laid out they can guide their animals in the same furrows year after year, there being no cross ploughing.

The more board or iron part on the point of an oriental plough is removable. One handle only is used, the pole goes clear through, between the animals, so as to fasten it onto the yoke. The yokes for the oxen, cows, donkeys, camels or what not in use for the purpose, vary according to the financial ability of the owner. If he is poor his yoke is but a pole with bows or ropes or some contrivance around the animal's neck. If he is in better circumstances he has a better yoke for his animals. It is a great sight to see donkeys hitched up in this way—an animal which is really not built for draft, but for burden work. But greater is the sight to see a donkey weighing four or five hundred pounds hitched in with a camel. Many times a cow and a horse or a cow or ox and a donkey, and so on teams in the oddest possible way put together for work and they are asked to do things really impossible for them to do well. Of course they do it in a way, but how is it done? Villagers that are more progressive and in better localities than others have oxen and horses which, though never good, are far in advance of the ordinary. But in all this stretch of country no trees let the eye wander where it will—nothing but the barren hills could be seen.

Along the road Brother Maycock, the leader of our quartette tuned up our "whistles" and soon we were making the hills ring with the songs of Zion. Toward evening we were singing "Hail to the Prophet," etc. when we suddenly run into a crowd of beduins, probably twenty-five, all armed and wild looking chaps. We had not seen them until right in among them, so we kept on until we came to the last verse when we quit, seeing that we had many following ostensibly to listen, but who knows for what else if an opportunity had afforded itself? The sight was exciting. Our driver whipped up and they ran some on foot and some on horseback. One undertook to ride, but one of us rose up and brushed him off. Later on they gave it up, as we were nearing the village where we were to stop over night. A Beduin, be he ever so honest, is still a hard looking customer.

At the village we were housed by an old Arab who took in travelers. In the morning they proved how they obtain fuel in the country, where no wood could be found. In the morning the women of the Khan went to work bright and early to sweep the yard, which had accommodated donkeys and camels to its fullest capacity. The donkey and camel chips were carefully gathered in and put into a sieve. The dust was sifted out, after which they were gathered for cooking fuel. In some places the chips of the animals are carefully gathered in by the women who put water on them and work them by tramping or other processes, after which they are worked into sizes about the size and shape of a pie tin and plastered on the side of the house to dry. When dry they are fit for home consumption or for the market where they are kept in stock for sale. At one village we had our eggs cooked by a brisk fire industriously kept alive, with chips in brick form, by an Arab woman. The eggs were cracked up for being among the best we can have. The gathering and the ability of being able to take care of the chips is a necessary accomplishment of a fellah lady. They would, of course, rather do that than

go for miles to gather weeds and pack them home, for as a rule she must furnish it.

Hama is a town of about 65,000 inhabitants. It is located low in the valley of the Orontes. It has an immense lot of water wheels for hoisting water. Some of them looked to be as much as fifty feet in diameter. These are used to lift the water of the river up into high viaducts which convey the water into gardens and houses.

Dr. Salloom took us upon a high hill in town where we obtained a fine panorama view of the city and its gardens, which was quite charming, and then the oriental houses in the different quarters of the town, having here and there a monument towering into the air.

All is well with the company. In our crew of six, including the teamster, we can handle eight languages, and still in the distribution we are short.

F. F. HINTZE.

SOUTHERN STATES MISSION.

The "News" has been permitted to publish the following:

Chattanooga, Tennessee,

May, 12th, 1898.

Presidents Woodruff, Cannon and Smith, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Brethren—I find pleasure in informing you that all is well in the mission, the health of the Elders is generally good and the work is progressing nicely all along the line.

The Elders are meeting with much success in converting and baptizing the people, organizing and establishing branches of the Church and Sunday schools and building church houses, many of which are very creditable buildings.

In their labors among the people they are making friends of many of the influential citizens, baptizing not a few of them. The persistent energy of the Elders is telling on the decaying and dying systems of men. This fact is patent to all and is commented on favorably by friends and those who are not swayed by violent prejudices. Others not so friendly or so fair-minded are influenced by other than sentiments of a friendly feeling and good will; this class, many of whom are ministers and proprietors of papers, are making violent efforts to destroy our influence in the communities where we are laboring. Sometimes their efforts are not without success, for in some cases they have stirred up much bitterness against us and have driven us from their midst, but only for a short time, for we almost invariably return when the Spirit of the Lord indicates. In many instances where we have returned, after being driven from certain localities, the revulsion of sentiment has been so marked that it has astonished the people themselves, and they have wondered and marveled. Usually in such cases the Elders, as the servants of the Lord, come out victorious over all their foes. Many cases have developed in the mission of violent persecutors and mobbers becoming penitent and obeying the Gospel and accepting baptism at the hands of the very Elders whom they have heretofore reviled and persecuted. The Elders refer to cases where mobbers have accepted the Gospel and on meeting them have wept bitterly that they were so blind, so perverse and wicked as to persecute the servants of the Lord and seek the destruction of His work. All these experiences are similar to those you have met with in your labors in the ministry abroad and are being met with by all the servants of the Lord in the different missions in the earth.

While the war spirit is abroad and there is much enthusiasm and patriotism manifested by the people, yet the people are calm and sober-minded,

loyal to the nation and sympathetic towards the administration. There is no occasion for the Saints to feel any concern for the welfare of their sons, husbands and fathers now laboring in the South. I am of the opinion that they will fare well at the hands of the people at this time, for there is a strong fraternal feeling growing up among this people for those of the North and West at this crucial period in the history of the nation. There seems to be a strong feeling of brotherhood growing in the hearts of the people for those once considered to be their mortal enemies that is really refreshing and cheering. While war is a terrible thing to come to a nation, yet in this case I sometimes think that it will prove to be a blessing, in that it will bring the people of the North and South closer together and do away with the strong prejudices that have so long existed. I shall trust that this will be the happy conclusion of this war that is now upon us.

With all the weaknesses of the people of the South, they are a good people, and when better known will be better appreciated than they have been in the past. I feel to never tire of speaking of their good qualities. I feel that our people should be very grateful to this people for their great kindness and consideration to the Elders. They can afford to be generous and forgiving towards them for the ills that they have heaped on the few Elders when they stop to consider the many kindnesses that they continually bestow on the great number of Elders that are constantly in their midst. They are guests of honor if taken in to the homes of the people. Our people ought to be the most hospitable of any people to be found on the globe, for lessons of hospitality are always before them from which to learn.

My health has not been better for years. All in the office are enjoying good health.

Were the Elders here to speak they would join me in love and kindest regards. Most truly your brother,

ELIAS S. KIMBALL.

IN SKONE CONFERENCE, SWEDEN.

Malmö, May 2, 1898.

The readers of the "News" have been without a letter from Skone conference for so long that some of them may think it no longer exists. The truth is that, though small, no conference in Scandinavia shows greater vitality than this.

Two years ago only three missionaries were laboring here. The idea was prevalent that all the honest seekers after truth had been gathered out, but fortunately Elder C. N. Lund thought otherwise.

In the fall of 1896 several missionaries were appointed to labor in this conference, and Malmö alone had four energetically canvassing the city. Several members of the Salvation Army began investigating and soon their leading musicians and singers were assisting to make the meetings of the Saints interesting.

Sister Alma Lofstrom led the way through, being baptized by an authorized servant of God on March 7, 1897, and she was followed by thirteen other members of the Army, who are today good, faithful Latter-day Saints.

The officers of the Army soon prohibited the members from going to the Mormon hall, but this brought nearly every member here, and a large proportion of our audience nearly every Sunday is from the Salvation Army. A week ago our semi-annual conference was held in this city. Elder Hanson reported eighty-four baptisms in Skone conference during the last twelve months, and ninety-five per cent were grown persons.