

selves. Every Jew in the world is asked to contribute twenty-five cents a year at least. Of course others will give more, but with that as a minimum it will not take a great while to raise the fund necessary for the work. This vast sum may seem a deal more than necessary for the carrying out of our scheme, but it is not. It must be remembered that there may be 5,000,000 people thrown into Palestine if we are successful. Each family has to be supplied with land, a horse, a cow and implements with which to till the soil. The colonists will all have to be started in life, and the expense of doing this will be enormous.

"A committee of twenty-one delegates was appointed to lay out the work and to take charge of it for the present. The committee will have its principal headquarters in Vienna. Neither England nor America is represented in this committee.

"Sixty thousand petitions pledging support were presented to the congress, and 550 telegrams indorsing the work were received on the first day. Probably the most interesting thing about the congress, however, was the reading of papers by the various delegates on the condition of the race in their respective countries. The worst reports came, of course, from Russia. No papers on the subject of the Jews in Russia were read. It would not be a safe proceeding. But the matter was discussed, and it can be said that the Jews are worse off there today than they have been in years. Up to the time of his death the late czar, Alexander III, grew harsher every day in his treatment of the Jews. His son, Nicholas II, the present czar, is following his footsteps.

"The Jews in Roumania are almost as badly off as those in Russia. There are 720,000 of them. They are looked on as interlopers and have absolutely no rights. Their children cannot go to the schools, and they are a poverty-stricken and friendless lot. They are suffering greatly, and there seems little prospect for any relief for them. A paper on the Jews in Galicia, in Austria, told of frightful poverty and great persecution from the anti-Semites. A million of them live in one small quarter, and although they have rights under the law, none are granted to them. In Austria and Germany the Jews do not seem to be so badly off. The poverty is not so great, but they are excluded from all offices and have few privileges. There were no complaints from this country or England, and it was the sentiment of the congress that the race is better treated here than anywhere else in the world.

"Dr. Nordau, in an address on the growth of anti-Semitism, said that when France, under Napoleon, granted the Jews equal rights, other European countries followed suit. They did it in the same way that they would imitate a French fashion, because they thought it the proper thing, he said. In England, though, he declared, it was just the opposite, the statutes giving the Jews equal rights there being the result of the wish of the people. In the other European countries where there are laws giving the Jews the same rights as other people, they are simply dead letters on the statute book.

"I feel sure that our work will be successful. I am heart and soul with it. While I was away I spent two or three days in Russia and got some idea of what the Jews have to undergo there. They are looked upon as animals, not human beings. There are 5,000,000 of them, and they are so jammed into one little district of the nation that life is almost unbearable. They have scarcely enough air to breathe. They have no rights and only five per cent of the children are allowed in the schools. Every effort

is made to keep down the cultivation of their natural intelligence and they are persecuted in one way and another the whole time. The latest outrage was a government edict forbidding any of them to indulge in the wine or liquor business. These are now destitute and unable to turn their hands to anything.

"We think it very probable that the sultan of Turkey will grant us the concessions we want in Palestine. He has never persecuted the Jews. There are thirty Jewish colonies in Palestine now, with a total of about 3,000 persons. That is the result of forty years' work, which will give you an idea of what we've got ahead of us. The last thing the congress did before adjourning was to send a telegram of thanks to Turkey's ruler for his generous treatment of his Hebrew subjects."

### SOUTHERN ILLINOIS NEWS.

Benton, Franklin County, Ill.,  
October 27, 1897.

The semi-annual conference of the Southern Illinois conference convened in this city October 23rd, 24th and 25th, in the county court house. There were in attendance Elder Louis A. Kelsch of the Northern States mission, Elder V. E. Candland of the Southern Illinois conference and the following named Elders: J. W. Francom, John A. Coon, Geo. A. Hill, D. A. Morris, W. E. Abbott, J. E. Bradshaw, F. R. Hepler, E. S. Sheets, D. A. Lowry, M. J. Ballard, M. Stoekey, Ezra Christiansen, P. F. Durfee, D. M. Guest, C. E. Dinwoodey, I. W. McKay, and F. W. Jones, the last two fresh from Utah. There were also a number of Saints present, some of them coming a distance of forty-nine miles.

The weather was all that could be expected and the meetings were well attended, especially the evening meetings, the people being somewhat after the style of Nicodemus.

Conference commenced October 23rd at 2:30 p. m., presided over by Elder Candland and after the usual opening exercises Elder E. S. Sheets occupied the time upon the subject of Faith and Works.

At 7 p. m. the subjects of Repentance and Baptism were spoken upon by Elders P. F. Durfee and W. E. Abbott respectively.

Oct. 24th at 10 a. m. Elders Candland and Dinwoodey spoke upon the subject of the Holy Ghost. At 2:30 p. m. Elder J. M. Ballard spoke upon Divine authority and Church organization. At 7 p. m. Elder Ezra Christiansen spoke upon Apostasy and Restoration, followed by Elder M. Stoekey. On Oct. 25th at 10 a. m. the History of the Gospel was dwelt upon by Elder D. A. Lowry and Individual and General Salvation by Elder D. M. Guest. At 7 p. m. Elder Louis A. Kelsch occupied the time upon the Kingdom of God. On the afternoon of the 25th we held a four-hour Priesthood meeting where the Elders received their appointments and some very valuable instructions and advice were given by Elders Kelsch and Candland.

The work in the southern part of this state is progressing rapidly. The Elders are making better success and more friends than ever before, even in this little town where we were treated very kindly.

The "News" is a most welcome visitor and its columns are read with much interest.

C. E. DINWOODEY,  
Clerk of Conference.

The following is a list of Elders and their respective fields of labor:

J. W. Francom and John A. Coon, Newton, Jasper county, Ill.  
Geo. A. Hill and D. A. Morris, Effingham, Effingham county, Ill.

W. E. Abbott and John A. Bradshaw, Gallatin county, Ill.

C. E. Dinwoodey and F. R. Hepler, Mt. Vernon, Jefferson county, Ill.

Edwin F. Sheets, Vandalia, Fayette county, Ill.

D. A. Lowry and F. W. Jones, Xenia, Clay county, Ill.

M. J. Ballard, Vienna, Johnson county, Ill.

M. Stoekey and Ezra Christiansen, Montgomery county, Ill.

V. E. Candland and P. F. Durfee, Benton, Franklin county, Ill.

D. M. Guest and I. W. McKay, Olney, Richland county, Ill.

### ON THE HEIGHTS

The story in the "News" of the recent climbing of the peak of one of the Big Cottonwood "twins" and the climb remind me of another feat of climbing on a wager. The person who gave me the incident is well known in Salt Lake City, and has been for years a prominent figure in the work among the granite boulders in Little Cottonwood. All who are familiar with "Wasatch" will recognize the two immense granite rocks that appear to be merely sitting on the northern heights of the canyon where nestles the old Sumner Home. I have a good look at them every time I am in the canyon and always wonder when they will "get a move" on themselves and come down to stop at the hotel. One of them, as seen from the villa, looks like a huge bench with convenient foot stool in front. With a fondness for ancient Norseland mythology, and seeing so much about the canyon suggestive of the "Old Thunderer," I named that rock Thor's Chair, fancying that there he might have sat and clove the mountains in the long ago. Telling my friend of my naming of the rock reminded him of his having climbed to it in 1858. A party of workmen came into camp early in the morning and one of them said: "I will wager a gallon of whisky that no man here can go to that rock and back in a day." Four men (dry men) accepted the wager and started. Three gave out and one reached the rock and returned to camp before dark. It was fully equal to the recent trip from Murray to the "Twins."

I threw off the blankets and "turned out" in Alta at 7 o'clock yesterday morning. The mercury was 16 degrees below the freezing point. Drinking a cup of coffee I tramped a mile or more before breakfast and my fingers tingled as if the mercury had been frozen. But such a morning! My sister, Aurora Boree Ellis, came up the eastern slope through a sky in which there was not the faintest sign of cloud. In her hair, like a heavenly Koh-i-noor, gleamed the morning star. Her swift feet sprang from peak to peak as she flew panting before her lover, Sol, and she disappeared in the skies as the god of day flung his far-piercing searchlight over the mountain tops and down the mighty clefts.

I was out all day in the snow and never did Alta appear to me so beautiful. Not a vestige of dirt anywhere visible. The house was in order. The chamber dusted, the bed made up, the spotless counterpane smoothed down and everything ready for the last rest and the dying sleep of the old year. Every apex and cliff, shrub and tree, were adorned with a daintier lace of frost, "not made with hands," than ever fell from the loom of most skillful woman.

I told the Nestor of the canyon—dear old "Baldy Fritz"—that I loved the mountains even better under the snow than in summer. "Yes! You better come up here in February and get chased by a snow slide and see how you like 'em!" Fritz is awfully prosaic. He has a rooster, but no hens.