

board and lodgings. Thus Kemper county opened in fine style and furnished us some members for our humble labors. I labored in Kemper county for nearly five months being treated very kindly by the people, always provided with a good bed to sleep on and plenty to eat, and on different occasions given stamps, and clothing besides having our clothes washed for us.

I left Elder S. T. Baker at Scooba, Mississippi, on March 24th, 1897, in company with Elder Porter of Centerville, Utah, going north to Oktibbeha county, Mississippi, where we were to have met Elders John Chipman and S. H. Jones at Starksville the county seat on March 28th, but on account of not getting their notice in time they were no there but a letter to'd us to meet them one week later, which we did, and after meeting they left us in our new county, where I labored until May 29th, one meeting with good success holding ten meetings per week making many warm friends and some investigators.

May 29th and 30th we spent in conference assemblage, where all the Elders of the state were present, forty-two in all. Conference over and Elders given their appointments I was left in Oktibbeha county, with Elder William R. McCracken of Smithfield Cache county, Utah as companion. There we labored until June 30th when I was called as assistant state Sunday School Superintendent to travel with Elder Heber S. Sanders, whom I met July 31st, at Brother S. Sumner's, Wayne County, and with whom I am traveling at present, from county to county, organizing, and putting in order the Sunday Schools, and teaching them to sing the songs of Zion.

The work is progressing nicely, the Elders all enjoying good health and spirits, and doing a noble work.

WILLIAM M. DYE

A VOICE FROM ALABAMA.

Having read the welcome items that are presented in your Deseret Weekly my partner and myself feel it our duty to render unto you our thanks and appreciation of the same. During the short time that I have been assigned to labor as a missionary I have not read any news from this part of the globe and therefore feel to remind the people that such a place as South Alabama is yet in existence and as far as missionary work is concerned the Elders are pressing forward with great diligence. Our labors are proving a pleasure instead of tasks by being greeted on every hand with friends, who once were hard hearted, but who now have cleansed themselves from the power of Satan and have gone to worshipping the Father who rules in heaven and would at any moment seal their testimony with their lives' blood to the truths of the Gospel of Christ which has been planted so deep and strong into the bodies that God has given to all humanity who dwell upon the face of the earth.

I left home in that dear valley of the Rocky Mountains on the 15th of April, 1897, and was landed on Alabama soil on the 21st of the same month where I was met by other Elders who conducted me to a Sister Jackson's at Brewton Escambia county, Alabama to pass the night. After conference which convened on the 9th of May I was assigned to

labor as a Meteoric Elder in Wilcox and Monroe counties, Alabama, and have been working in that capacity ever since. We have made many kind friends, and are receiving openings to make many more. It is surprising with what rapidity the truths of God are being advanced here in the South and what effect it has on the people. The Elders are enjoying good health and the best of treatment and in almost every case are gaining very rapidly in weight. My weight when I left home was one hundred and sixty pounds, but now I would be safe in saying that I balance the scales at one hundred and seventy five or eighty; so you can readily see, that we are not suffering from want of food and kindness. The hardest trial that we have to contend with is the intense heat that is floating over the Southern States.

With best wishes and love and the blessings of God upon those who are doing His will I still remain a loving friend to the citizens of Salt Lake.

ETHER M. DAVEY.

HALES WARD BRANCH CONFERENCE

JONES' MILLS, Alabama,

August 16th, 1897.

The Semi-annual conference of Hales Ward branch convened August 14th and 15th, 1897. Meetings were held at 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. each day.

There were present Elders Daniel H. Thomas, president South Alabama conference, W. B. Barnett, general superintendent of Sunday schools, James P. Jensen, Ezra E. Neeley, Irving L. Pratt, Ezra P. Monson, Amos Cook, Ether M. Davey, as also the local Priesthood, the Saints and many friends from different parts of Monroe and Escambia counties. A good spirit prevailed throughout.

The Elders all spoke with power. Our meetings were held in a large bowery owing to the fact that some one not a friend of Mormonism, burned the Saints' church.

Hales Ward is a thriving branch with a membership of about thirty presided over by Samson O. Hele with James F. Johnson as assistant and James Z. Giger, as clerk. The Saints seem to be doing well, nearly all of them keeping the Word of Wisdom and paying tithing.

A new meeting house 30x40 feet is now in course of erection, which it is to be hoped will not meet the untimely fate of its predecessor.

At the close of our meetings six persons made application for baptism.

D. H. THOMAS, President,

EZRA P. MONSON,

Clerk of Conference.

KENTUCKY CONFERENCE.

CENTRE, Kentucky, August 10th, 1897.

The Elders of the Kentucky Conference met in conference assembly August 7th and 8th, 1897, at the Junction branch meeting house in Metcalfe County, Kentucky. President Elias S. Kimball was absent on account of ill-health, but Elders Albert Matheson and John Woodmansee from the office at Chattanooga were welcomed in his place. The Spirit rested upon us and we had a feast long to be remembered. We had the privilege on this occasion of dedicating the first Mormon meeting house ever built in blue grass state. Great credit is due to the Saints for their enterprise. All the work was performed without any ex-

pense for labor. The house is one of which they may justly feel proud. The sisters used their spare moments in preparing a carpet for the floor.

During the conference four public meetings were held. Of course all could not speak, there being forty-one Elders present, but those who had the privilege accounted it a pleasure and handled the different subjects by the demonstration of the Spirit.

As this is the first Mormon conference held in this part of the Lord's vineyard, led many people to attend. The assembly was estimated at about one thousand people. Some of the Saints traveled two hundred miles to attend conference. Most of the people left feeling well and expressing themselves as being repaid for their visit.

Monday August 9th the Elders met in a secluded spot in the woods for the purpose of a priesthood meeting. All had the privilege of reporting their labors during the past year and then we listened to the instructions of the Elders from the Office. Elder Albert Matheson briefly told us of the progress of the mission and encouraged us to a determination to do more in the next year than has been accomplished in the one just closed. About one hundred and twenty-five have been led into the fold of Christ, yet we desire that the Lord shall bless us with even a greater increase the coming year. At the close of the instructions each Elder bore a strong testimony of the divinity of the work.

The Saints did themselves proud in entertaining the Elders and the visiting Saints and friends. A pleasant surprise was sprung upon the Elders on Monday. While they were in Priesthood meeting, the Saints prepared and set a table sufficient in size to permit forty-one Elders to partake at one time. This was a privilege seldom accorded Elders while on missions. The Saints succeeded admirably in making our stay in their midst a pleasure that would never be forgotten.

The Elders were then given their appointments. After a hearty hand shake and a "God bless you," each pair took up their journey toward their several fields of labor. Elders William King and L. B. Pace were appointed to travel in the interest of the Sunday Schools. We might here make mention of Elder J. E. Naylor who has been honorably released to return home after an absence of thirty months. We are loath to part with him but we know he has done the Master's bidding and that loved ones are awaiting to welcome him home.

Our conference is in a flourishing condition and with the noble band of brethren laboring here, we expect good results in the future.

JOHN F. WAKEFIELD, Jr.,
Conference President.

E. J. MERRILL, Clerk.

FROM ALABAMA.

This hot, sultry day finds Elder F. W. Andrus, of Oxford, Idaho, and myself in the "Sunny South," preaching the Gospel to these people in our weak way. At our conference, May 12th, we were sent out as companions to labor as "meteoric Elders" in Escambia County, Alabama. With light hearts and rekindled resolutions we set out for our field of labor and were not long about our work before some of the fruits of our labors were seen.