

Dotson at Hadox, Louderdale county, Alabama, we asked for permission to hold a meeting in their church, but could not secure it, for it was a Methodist church. But we hastened on, delivering our message at every opportunity, till we came to a little settlement by the name of Piney Grove, and after a day's search for the authority we secured the school house to hold meeting in, after which we gave notice that we would hold a meeting at 6.30. At the appointed time the house was full. After the usual opening exercises, Elder Dotson took the floor and gave an excellent discourse on the first principles of the Gospel. After we dismissed several of the people came and introduced themselves to us as our friends, among them Dr. Highland, who gave us an invitation to go home with him. We accepted, and on our way home he informed us that there was a Methodist preacher in the congregation who was going to hold a meeting at Panther Creek church, where we could not get to hold a meeting the day before.

After supper and a few questions asked and answered on the Gospel, a chapter from the Bible being read, and prayer offered, we all retired to rest. Next morning, having four miles to walk to meeting, we bade the family good-bye, and with the doctor in company, we started for the church, taking our seats in the rear of the building. Our ears were open, being eager to hear what the people had to say about us and the Gospel. I heard a noise outside and stepping to the door I found the doctor had a large crowd of men around him reading one of our pamphlets and explaining it to them. To our surprise, when the preacher came in, he came to us and introduced himself as Brother Pollid. After the usual opening exercises he gave us an invitation to the pulpit, which we accepted and took seats beside him. When he arose to address the people he said: "I do not know but that I ought to turn this meeting over to the visiting brethren;" but he continued, and after a very good sermon on the atonement of Christ, he gave us the balance of the time. I thanked him for the honor of speaking to the people on that occasion. After the meeting adjourned, for two weeks, several came and asked us to hold a meeting at night, and notice was given that we would meet with the people at 6.30. At dinner we had a pleasant conversation, and Dr. Highland read the "Kingdom of God," by Parley P. Pratt, from the Voice of Warning. Time rolled on and the time soon came for meeting. The church was full, even the pulpit, and in that pulpit there were "Mormons," Methodists, Baptists and "Christians," as they are called. After the meeting was opened I laid before the audience the Gospel of Jesus Christ from the Latter-day Saints, standpoint. After this we asked Parson Pollid if he would conclude the meeting, but he said he did not have anything to say. We dismissed and had a host of friends make us promise to come and revisit them before we left the settlement. With that promise we parted, and in parting with Parson Pollid we received and gave a good hearty handshake.

In the last month we have baptized

eleven persons and expect to baptize some more in the near future. The work of the Lord is growing. The News comes regularly and is welcome. ERNEST RICKS.

NORTH CAROLINA ITEMS.

MURPHY, Cherokee Co., N. C.,
January 15, 1896.

Having labored as a missionary in the Southern States for the last sixteen months, I thought a few of my experiences would be of interest to the many readers of your valuable paper.

At our last conference, which was held in Anderson county, Tenn., on the 12th and 13th of October, Elder J. N. Allen and myself were appointed to labor in Cherokee county, North Carolina, and on the 17th of November Elder Thomas Cuffin took the place of Elder Allen.

During my labors in the missionary field I have had a great many testimonies of the truth of the Gospel and the power of God. I have seen the sick raised from beds of affliction through the laying on of the Elders' hands, by the power of God, and though the Elders travel without purse or scrip they never want for the necessities and comforts of life. We have got a great many friends in this county and some of them are among the leading men. Among those who have befriended us I would make mention of Mr. W. A. Ash and his family. Mr. Ash is a Baptist preacher and a man of great influence and intellect. He says that we must be a good people, and a people blessed of the Lord, for without the blessing of the Lord we could not have grown in power and influence as we have. He says that he will always be a friend of the Mormons, for he knows they are working for the spread of truth and the good of mankind.

Missionary life is the best place in the world for a young man to prepare himself for a useful life in the Church and kingdom of God, and no one should think his education complete without spending two years, or more, in the missionary field working for the spread of the truths of the Gospel that has been restored to the earth in our day. I feel to thank my Heavenly Father that I have been found worthy to be one of the many humble Elders who have been sent forth to proclaim the restoration of the Gospel in its fullness.

Ever praying for the spread of truth,
J. H. SEYMOUR.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

Hon. John T. Caine auditor of public accounts of Utah for 1894 and 1895 has submitted to Governor Wells his statement. It shows the assessed valuation of property for 1894 to have been \$99,503,243.40 and the amount of tax to have been \$497,516.21, additional assessments reported after the adjournment of the territorial board of equalization, assessed valuation \$170,610, amount of tax \$898.95. These amounts added to the assessed valuation as reported to the territorial board of equalization make the total assessed valuation of the taxable property of the Territory as assessed for 1894, \$99,682,853.40. Total

territorial and territorial district school tax \$498,414.26. This is a falling off from the assessed valuation of 1893 of \$15,431,988.60 and a consequent reduction of revenue as compared with that year of \$77,159.94.

Assessed valuation of the Territory for 1895 was \$97,983,525; amount of tax, \$489,917.62; additional assessed valuation, \$81,496; amount of tax, \$407.78. These amounts added to the preceding make the total assessed valuation of property in the Territory \$98,065,021 and the total Territorial and Territorial district school tax \$490,325.10.

The compensation for assessing and collecting the 1895 tax and the amount of remittance and abatements made by county boards is estimated at \$34,750, of which there has been allowed and credited to certain counties on the books of this office \$21,335.07, leaving a balance to be adjusted \$13,414.93. Of the 1895 tax, \$283,869.50 was school fund, leaving for the Territory for that year, at two mills on the dollar, \$206,456.67. Here are his estimated expenses of State government and maintenance of State institutions for the year 1896:

Legislative Department:		
Expense of Legislature, 90 days' session, 18 State senators, per diem \$4...	6,430 00	
Mileage of senators.....	267 00	
Officers of senate, committee clerks, messengers, etc.....	4,820 00	
Forty-five representatives, per diem \$4.....	16,200 00	
Mileage of representatives, Officers of House, committee clerks, messengers, etc.....	4,830 00	
Stationery and incidental expenses.....	5,000 00	
Printing Governor's messages, reports of officers, daily minutes, laws, journals, etc.....	10,000 00	
Governor's messenger.....	270 00	
Secretary's messenger.....	270 00	\$48,977 00
Executive Department:		
Governor's salary.....	2,000 00	
Secretary of state, salary...	2,000 00	
State auditor, salary.....	1,500 00	
State treasurer salary.....	1,000 00	
Attorney general salary.....	1,500 00	
Superintendent of public instruction, salary.....	1,300 00	
Governor's private secretary, salary.....	1,500 00	
Clerical assistance, secretary's office.....	2,700 00	
Clerk for auditor's office, salary.....	1,200 00	
Books, records, stationery and incidental expenses of the several offices of the executive department.....	2,500 00	
Light, heat and janitor's compensation for the offices of the executive department.....	2,300 00	19,100 00
Judicial Department:		
Three judges of Supreme Court, salary each \$3,000	9,000 00	
Rent, heat, light and janitor's compensation, Supreme Court chambers.	2,500 00	
Nine district judges, salary \$3,000 each.....	27,000 00	
Mileage of district judges, estimated.....	1,500 00	
Supplies for offices, clerks of Supreme and district courts, books, records, blanks, stationery, etc., estimated.....	2,500 00	
Jurors' and witnesses' per diem and mileage in criminal cases, estimated.....	15,000 00	67,500 00
State Boards:		
Mileage and expenses of State officers while traveling as members of various State boards....	1,500 00	
University of Utah:		
Maintenance, remainder present school year....	20,000 00	
Maintenance, school year 1896-97.....	35,000 00	55,000 00