

carried their swords by their side with dignity. This carriage was driven to the mosque where the prince alighted from the carriage to await the coming of his father: when the ladies of the sultan's harem were taken to one side and left in their carriages as the other visiting harems. The horses were all unhitched and the closed carriages moved by hand into a close row under the shade of the trees.

At this moment everything was quiet all around the palace and mosque, and all bore a strong military aspect with many thousand soldiers all around and in the pleasure grounds, etc., and one would suppose that to be sufficient for the occasion; but not so, there were others to be watched. At the proper moment one and two Turkish guards, dressed very plain, but neat, took up their position at each window in our room. A couple even occupied front seats during the whole period of the visit. At first I was quite astonished to see a guard crowd in to see what he saw every week and he was credited with considerable cheek to crowd a visitor from a good position. But by close inspection all the windows were served alike. It was now plain that even the recommended guests were not beyond open suspicion, hence to prevent a possibility of foul play the ladies and gentlemen were all placed under close guard.

At a given signal that his majesty was ready, the man began his call for the faithful to come to prayer. This brought all eyes toward the palace, and in a minute or so his majesty, Sultan Abdul Hamid came along in an open carriage moved by two beautiful light bay horses, seated with him was Osman Pasha, the hero of Plevna. Now an aged man and the sultan's private counsellor. The sultan did not impress me as being healthy looking. He looked careworn and much aged in the ten years intervening since I had the pleasure of seeing him. No doubt his manner of life and his close confinement in the palace, together with the many responsibilities and cares borne by a monarch who lives on a perfect volcano, not knowing what moment some conspiracy may overthrow him, all tend to age the man.

As he drove by he recognized one or two persons, but otherwise carried a serious expression on his visage. He appears to be a man of medium height and build and looks the picture of a real Turk. Immediately before his carriage were two middle-aged Osmonds, dressed in blue and in the national costume—baggy pants and short blouse or jacket, all heavily embroidered with gold and silver. At the side of the horses too grooms on foot, dressed similarly, only in red, and then at the side of his carriage and behind, all around in fact, was a whole army of attendants trotting along with the pace of the large horses. The whole sight for a minute became quite imposing. Whole regiments saluted, officers of high rank made their salaams. Padishah Yasha, long live the king, was heard from the troops, and in a few moments the sultan was at the mosque where he nimbly alighted and soon disappeared in the beautiful white masonry buildings.

At the mosque a large crowd awaited him. A few sturdy sons of the sunny deserts of Arabia had been waiting in front of the mosque for his coming, and when he appeared they bowed reverently to the ground in making their salaams. Others were at the entrance in front. The sultan entered at the elevated entrance to the left. Many now entered the mosque for services, which lasted about a half an hour. During the services we could plainly hear the chanting of the boys in the mosque, a feature quite known to me as being connected with Mohammedan

worship. They, however, sang quite sweetly.

It is customary to present the sultan with gifts of various kinds in these occasions—so also upon this. Many boxes of goods containing valuables and some small articles were carried to the mosque, and other were sent direct to the palace in carriages. With some of these were sent special petitions. Formerly, when more freedom was enjoyed, men and women could be seen running up to the carriages of the sultan or the queen and hand them petitions in person, but this practice is strictly prohibited now.

During the half hour intervening the services, the guests in our quarters were politely treated to coffee, tea or ice water, as they wished. People chatted freely, there being no formalities or restrictions. A number of American tourists were in the room, and the remark could not be suppressed that the sultan was well protected. One volunteered the news that the sultan was called the sick man, while another, who had some knowledge, insisted he was not so sick as he might be. His only trouble was a little money to get ammunition and war supplies, and his soldiers could live on bread and light bravely in their old clothes and on nearly naked feet.

As soon as the services were over the troops marched in a sort of review; some moved toward the barracks, others who were in the rear, were moved to the front to form a new guard. Soon the sultan's carriage was being prepared. This time a pair of fine iron gray horses were the choice. Our guards now took their respective places at the windows to see that we threw no bombs or other explosives at his majesty as he passed by.

This time his majesty drove alone and held his own reins. He looked rather more cheerful and gave the spectators a better impression of himself than at the first sight. As soon as the sultan had passed, the ladies of the harem and the visiting harems, undoubtedly his daughters, who are married to Osman Pasha's sons, drove to the palace. The ladies were lightly veiled, and to those whose business it was to know, they might easily have been distinguished whose wives and daughters they were. But as it is crime to know such things here, no one seemed to pass an opinion either of their beauty or their ownership.

F. F. HINTZE.

#### Conference in Kentucky.

Center Metcalf Co., Kentucky.

August 28th, 1898.

On Saturday and Sunday last, Aug. 20th and 21st, the annual gathering of the Kentucky conference, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was held in a specially constructed bowery near Larkin, Christian county. Monday was devoted to a Priesthood meeting, at which the conference was reorganized. Elders J. F. Wakefield Jr. and Councillor Merrill having been released to return home, as had also William King, superintendent of Sunday schools. Elder Nels P. Nelson of the Southern States mission presidency, was present, in the absence of Elder Ben E. Rich, who was attending other conferences. At the conference reorganization Elder Edwin G. Woolley Jr. was chosen as president, with Elder John M. Bunker and Elder George E. Miles as councillors. Elders H. E. Jensen and Raymond Partridge were selected as traveling companions to the councillors, while Elder David A. Affleck was chosen as superintendent of Sunday schools, with Elder Alvin Ipsen as his assistant. Six training Elders were selected, in the persons of D. E. Jones, Josiah Call, A. R. Whitehead Jr.,

William Crosby, M. E. Roundy and M. P. Brown.

When conference opened at 10 a. m. Saturday morning, every Elder of the conference, forty-two in number, was present, and the attendance of Saints and visitors was excellent. The bowery was filled with people before the day was over, the estimated attendance being between 300 and 400. Elder Nels P. Nelson, of the mission presidency, occupied a seat near Elder John F. Wakefield Jr., who presided and led the singing, which was very fine, being, as it always is, a feature of such gatherings. The Elders threw their very hearts and souls into the songs of Zion.

At the morning service the time was occupied by Elders William King and John M. Bunker, speaking on faith, while the speakers in the afternoon were Elders Raymond Partridge, George E. Miles and Nels P. Nelson, their subjects being Faith and Faith and Works, Elder Nelson simply taking occasion to make an illustration and a few remarks on the subjects in hand. During the intermission a local photographer secured photographs of the Elders and the congregation. No evening services were held at the bowery, but several well attended meetings were held where the Elders remained for the night.

Sunday was observed as a general fast day and when the hour for the morning services arrived the bowery was filled with people, some from 175 miles distant. Elder Nels P. Nelson occupied the entire time in the morning, speaking on obedience. He enjoyed a rich flow of the Spirit of the Lord and bore a very strong testimony to the truthfulness of the message the Elders are carrying to the world. In response to his call for every Elder present who knew he had obeyed and was teaching the Gospel of Christ to stand to his feet, the solid body of forty-two Elders arose as one man, presenting a living testimony to the hundreds of people present, by which, as Elder Nelson warned them, those who do not obey the true Gospel will be judged. Such a witness seemed to have a great effect upon the people present.

Elders H. E. Jensen and John F. Wakefield Jr. occupied the time in the afternoon, taking up repentance and the Gospel. Thus closed a most enjoyable conference and the seeds of righteousness sown there can not well help but bring forth an abundant harvest in the Lord's own due time.

The conference Priesthood meeting opened at 6:30 a. m. Monday and lasted until 3:30 p. m., a short intermission being allowed for luncheon, which the Elders had taken in their baskets. Elder Nelson occupied several hours in giving instructions, and he was followed with rapt attention. The Spirit of the Lord was poured out upon him in mighty power, and his words of counsel and admonition were timely and received with every attention. He also read a letter from Elder Rich, which was filled with fatherly advice and expression of love and kindness. Every Elder present bore a strong testimony to the work in which he is engaged, and told of the many mercies and blessings of the Lord toward him. The retiring and incoming presidents occupied a short time in the afternoon, and after Elder Nelson had given some additional instructions, he announced the new officers the assignments to the Elders and moved a vote of thanks to the retiring officers, which was heartily given. The announcement was also made that hereafter the president would be alone and have headquarters, taking upon his shoulders added duties and new responsibilities. The conference address for the present is Center, Metcalf county, Kentucky, and the Elders were assigned counties as follows: