

exalted a calling in the Priesthood, and hoped they would prove themselves worthy.

Elder Seymour B. Young gave a few more instructions to the brethren just ordained, and invoked the blessings of the Lord on all present.

The weather was fine throughout conference. Meetings were well attended, the spirit of the Lord was poured out without measure, and the Saints separated for a season, having had given to them much food for reflection.

JOSEPH ECKERSLEY,
Stake Clerk.

IN VIRGINIA.

GOLANSVILLE, Caroline Co.,
Virginia, Dec. 2, 1895.

It is not of frequent occurrence that we meet in the far East, those who were in Nauvoo "in ye balcony days." Indeed we find the number growing less each year who saw the Temple, fewer still who shook hands with the Prophet.

But while laboring in Smyth county, Va., during the early fall, we met Brother John Fauning Pitts, who, when a boy, drove team for his uncle from Wythe county, Va., to Nauvoo, making the journey in eight weeks. This was in 1842. A train of fifteen wagons, not all from Virginia, went to Nauvoo, via the Cumberland Gap, Louisville, Ky., (then a small town), Springfield and Carthage, Ill. While in Springfield, they were visited by Governor and Mrs. Ford, at whose house, Bro. Pitts obtained some milk for a sick child in the company. They were courteously treated by the chief executive. The state house was then in the course of construction.

Bro. Pitts described the flood on the Mississippi which extended that spring for miles on the Iowa side and up to the famous stone house on the Nauvoo side. It was on the wharf where he first met and shook hands with Joseph Smith. The description that he gives of the Prophet is that he was tall, finely proportioned, of magnificent carriage and God-like mien; with eyes "wondrous kind," yet able to read the very soul of man. The Prophet was carrying in his arms, Baby Joseph—now the leader of the Reorganized Movement. The Prophet Joseph had kind words for all and after a few commonplace remarks on the flood, left them.

Brother Pitts obtained employment on the Temple and worked there until the south side was up to the square. It was at this juncture that Brother Pitts told us he had often passed this sign, "W. Woodruff, Blacksmith Shop." While in Nauvoo, our narrator often heard the Apostles and other Church dignitaries; among others he mentioned J. M. Grant (who was the first to begin missionary work in this state), Heber C. Kimball, Pauley P. Pratt and Brigham Young. But no sermon was so grand as the one delivered by the Prophet himself at King Follett's funeral. According to Bro. Pitts, thousands were in attendance and for hours listened in breathless silence, rapt in wonder and admiration as Joseph, with the eloquence he alone could summon, thundered forth the Gospel truths. History says that sermon was grand, that he spoke "by the Spirit," but a

description of it at least would be but "words, words, words." It gave us joy to bear how the Prophet was seen visiting the sick, riding in his carriage drawn by the beautiful black horses in which O. P. Rockwell as coachman took such pride. The youthful curiosity of Br. Pitts led him to visit the "mummies," for which he paid Mother Smith 26¢. All this and more brought Nauvoo nearer to us than it ever was before; and it made us grateful that we were emissaries of those glorious truths for which the founder of Nauvoo gave his life.

Brother Pitts left Nauvoo May 27th, 1844, and returned to his home in Burkes Garden, Va., which, by the way, is one of the prettiest and richest valleys in the state. It was here in Virginia that he first heard and gave heed to the Gospel teachings. It was at the time when Jedediah M. Grant and his brother Joshua traveled through southwestern Virginia and it was on this circuit that the Apostle preached his famous sermon from the "blank" text. Since that day the Gospel has had many preachers in this part of the Lord's vineyard, among whom are remembered Elder George Feasdale, the late lamented Elder John Morgan, and Prof. T. B. Lewis.

We are striving to keep up the work made possible by the valiant men of God who labored here in early days. And now, dear Editor, will you send us your paper? We want it—we need it. In speaking of Utah we involuntarily turn to the NEWS, it is our "child of the Desert." We are twenty-four strong and more coming.

The fields of labor now assigned the Elders are as follows:

M. Thomas and R. Day, Norfolk City.

R. H. Fife and N. Whitney Kimball Jr., Halifax Co.

Wm. Cutler and W. H. Dixon, Sussex Co.

O. S. Taylor and C. Wilson Nibley Jr., Petersburg City.

R. J. Bischoff and Alexander Adams, Nausemond Co.

H. M. Bolmev Jr. and H. A. Hollingsworth, Buckingham Co.

T. Jackson and G. H. Webb, Norfolk Co.

Ezra Bingham and Wallace Fife, Brunswick Co.

W. W. Huffaker and Thos. C. Romney, Southampton Co.

H. W. Becketrand and J. H. Gibbs, Mecklenburg Co.

D. R. Matthews and J. G. Linford Dinwiddie Co.

W. K. Burnham and Enoch A. Musson, Princess Anne Co.

We are making many friends and the barriers of prejudice are fast melting away before the light of truth.

M. THOMAS.

AT ANN ARBOR.

ANN ARBOR, Dec. 9, 1895.

It gives me much pleasure to subscribe a few lines to your highly esteemed paper and its readers.

At present the Utah people are enjoying the best of health, and as usual doing justice to their respective studies. Prof. J. J. McClellan was honored with a visit from Prof. J. J. Daynes, organist Tabernacle choir a few days, during which time he was well received by Prof. Stanley and faculty at the

music school. He was given the use of the great Columbian organ for some hours, during which time he had the pleasure of being Prof. Stanley's auditor, and then he, in turn, in a masterly way took the organ in hand and proved to Prof. Stanley that the Mormon organist truly had "music in himself." The two J. J.'s enjoyed each other's company very much. They were seen together all the day during Prof. Daynes' sojourn in the city; and the Choral Union rehearsals, orchestra rehearsals and harmony classes were all attended by them. Our colony is proud to know that our musical world at home was so well represented to the music school here, and are confident that our standard in the musical line was raised in the minds of the eastern professors. They were very well pleased with Prof. Daynes' visit to the school, and with the different topics of conversation upon which they entered. Prof. McClellan's work at the school is, as usual, very satisfactory, and each day some new honor is added to his list. His class of piano students is daily increasing, as well as the Harmony class. His mass will be sung by the St. Thomas choir next Sabbath. The members of the choir sent in a petition that his mass be sung, for they, as also Father Kelley, are better pleased with it than any of the others that they sing. It will be a musical treat for the Utahites, and it is looked forward to with much anticipation. Mr. Geo. H. Done of Payson, is another one of Utah's bright sons. In his examinations in harmony yesterday, he stood at the head and received the highest marking of ninety-five per cent. in the class. He is studying harmony, voice-culture, and choir training also some work on the cornet, and is making a bright future for himself. His work is highly praised by his teacher.

Mr. Stanley Partridge, is another earnest and untiring worker in his line of study, which is piano, harmony and theory.

Mr. Frank Wrightman of Payson, studying piano, harmony and voice culture, is making rapid strides toward the goal, which he will in time reach to the perfect satisfaction of himself and teachers.

The two high school students are working very diligently, and often receive encouraging words from their teachers, especially in Latin and English.

The law students are as usual in the progressive state of their studies and are doing not only themselves honor, but the fair name of Utah as well, paving the way for future students to enter the noted institution.

The literary students are also working very hard, and will soon complete their respective courses with honor.

Winter has at last arrived in dead earnest, being ushered in with Thanksgiving. The Utah people spent Thanksgiving together, indulging in games of different kinds and the musical people afforded the music and singing for the merry crowd, till a late hour, when supper was served, each doing justice to the many delicacies set before them. When the wee small hours began to wane, the guests departed, expressing themselves as having enjoyed a most pleasant evening.