

His body lay in the tomb. When I referred to the dying thief, I noticed our three friends look at one another, and at the close of the meeting one of them arose and said that while on their way to meeting they had arranged among themselves to ask me if belief alone was not sufficient, and what became of the thief on the cross? They said they were perfectly satisfied with my explanation, and asked for some of our Church works, which we readily supplied them with.

Thus we feel the Lord is opening up our way for the introduction of the Gospel. We meet with many in the streets who will stop and shake hands with us now we have become acquainted with them. Our health is good and we hope by the help of the Lord to be able to sow the good seed, leaving the issue in His hands. I find the News of great assistance and encouragement to me, for the Latter-day Saints can always rely upon its advice and counsel.

WILLIAM M. PURRINGTON.

### AT THE ANTIPODES.

MELBOURNE, Victoria, Australia.

September 18th, 1896.

In looking over the News, which comes to hand regularly like a messenger of glad tidings, I notice contributions from various parts of the Lord's vineyard; and considering that your readers so seldom hear or read anything about this section of the earth, I thought it would not be without interest to tell you how we are progressing.

We are located in the extreme south of Australia where occasionally the chilly blasts of winter remind one that good warm clothing would not be amiss. We are laboring in the city of Melbourne, which, by Victorians, is claimed to be the principal city in Australia, but its claims are disputed by Sydney, the capital of New South Wales. There is a sort of continual animosity existing between the people of the two cities, and it is said even to extend so far that a citizen of Melbourne would stand about as much chance of getting a job in Sydney as he would if he were out in the middle of the Sahara desert. Melbourne is dotted with church buildings where people swarm on Sunday with their prayer books in their hands. And it can be said to Melbourne's credit that Sunday closing is put into effect and a walk down the principal streets of a Sunday morning will see them deserted and all the shop windows hid by great wooden shutters.

The people will accept our tracts, but a great majority of them do not seem to be inclined to investigate for themselves. Occasionally, however, we meet with one who is willing to argue with us. Some two months ago, while out tractting, I made the acquaintance of a sergeant of the police, who, with two or three other men, held a Bible class every Tuesday evening to study the work of God as he informed me, and he invited me to come down on the following Tuesday. Accordingly, when Tuesday evening came, Brother Stephenson and myself betook ourselves to the sergeant's house and found the whole class consisting of the sergeant, his wife and two daughters, and two gentlemen, one of them of the Plymouth brethren, ready to begin. After we were made acquainted with each other, we all seated ourselves around the table with a Bible

The scripture chosen for the evening was St. Mark, 16 chapter 15 verse to the end of chapter and second chapter of Acts. The sergeant and one of the other gentlemen made a few remarks on the most unimportant part of the subjects and then asked me to say a few words. I took the 15 verse of 16 Mark for a text, and lectured to them for about half an hour on the principles of the Gospel as laid down by Christ, and concluded by showing that an apostacy had taken place and that it was necessary for a restoration to be brought about. Then Brother Stephenson continued the subject from where I dropped it, and showed them that angels had again visited the earth and restored the Gospel in all its beauty, concluding by bearing his testimony to the truth of the work. After we were through the gentleman of the Plymouth brethren sect asked us if we claimed the power to confer the gifts of the Holy Ghost. We replied that we did, whereupon he took it upon himself to inform us that any persons who would dare make such pretensions were imposters. We explained to them our position but we could not change their minds.

A week later we again took part in the Bible class. Upon this occasion we were there before the other two gentlemen. In a short time, however, they put in appearance, and completely ignoring Brother Stephenson and myself they shook hands with everybody else in the house, after which we sat down to the table with our Bibles. The sergeant explained that it was agreed between them that Mr. C., (the gentleman of the Plymouth brethren) would take charge and together with another gentleman would do all the talking and the rest of us would be the audience. This, it seemed to me, was a hint that they had heard enough from us. Mr. C., began by reading the 12th chapter of Exodus and then proceeded by means of a strange twisting of scripture to heap abuse upon us. But, as in all other instances where men calumniate us, it turned in our favor instead of against us. Since that time the sergeant and his family have been friends to us. Thus we see how the Lord works to bring about His purposes.

Trusting that this may tend to encourage some Elder as I have been encouraged through reading similar experiences, I am yours for "MORMONISM."

### NORTHERN INDIANA CONFERENCE.

CRUMSTOWN, Indiana,

October 21st, 1896.

This conference convened at Crumstown, St. Joseph County, Indiana, October 17th, present President Spencer of the Northern States Mission, twelve Elders, Sister Catherine Rokestraw, her son and daughter of Metz Indiana.

The opening day being stormy not many were in attendance besides Elders and members. After the opening exercises President Spencer said we would proceed to hear from the Elders each one to speak upon the subject assigned some two weeks ago by Elder E. M. Boyer, president of the conference, as follows: Faith, Elder Hyrum Smoldson; Repentance, Elder Alfred A. Bramwell; Baptism, Elder John Gabbath; the Holy Ghost, Elder W. F. Mayhew; Divine Authority, Elder Uriah George Miller; Church Organization, Elder John Toole; Scattering and Gathering of

Israel, Elder John Stout; Tithing, Elder David J. Davis; Apostacy, Elder John L. Ellertson; Does the Bible Sustain the Book of Mormon? Elder S. G. Spencer.

Besides these subjects, Elder Spencer gave a very timely and interesting discourse in a meeting at the house of Mr. James Woolter, using as his text Is. xxiv 1-5; and another at Crumstown on Marriage, by special request.

Some of the meetings were not largely attended owing to the rainy weather, and the scattered condition of the people. At a priesthood and counsel meeting held on Monday morning Elder Spencer gave the Elders valuable instruction upon topics immediately connected with their labors as missionaries. He pointed out, by relating his own missionary experiences, how the Elders may approach the people, in order to get into their confidence, overcome prejudice and secure their hospitality. He relates that, in all his travels as an Elder in this mission, he has never as yet asked for a meal or a bed, although going without purse or scrip, and never done without either. The Elders all agreed that we travel henceforth without headquarters and without money. Heretofore a mistake has been made in the Elders having headquarters and paying, as most did, for the same. They have trusted in the Lord during five days of the week, and in their purse the remainder. Some have done even less than this, going to headquarters every night or two.

It has come to be thought that the Northern States mission is not as pleasant nor inexpensive a one as the Southern States, on account of the supposed coldness and inhospitality of the people. Such an idea grows out of the fact that the same glowing reports are not forthcoming from this mission. This idea we wish to correct, for the people here deserve showing up in their true light. There are numerous warm hearted people in country and city, here, who will entertain the Elders. They must be approached differently, however, from those in the south.

In this connection we wish to mention the names of Mr. James Woolter, Mr. John Reeves, Mr. J. H. Pontiers, Mr. George Sensenbough, who, with their families, have entertained the Elders during conference. These kind people have united themselves to the Elders, and the Elders to them, in a way that the most friendly ties have been established.

The Elders have all been given new companions, and assigned fresh pastures in the large cities, to labor during winter.

The following are the new appointments with full post office address:

Logan, Cass County, Indiana, Ernest M. Boyer, and David J. Davis.

Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana. John Stout and Joseph Cardon.

Lafayette, Tipton County, Indiana, John Toole and William R. Andrew.

Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana, Walter F. Mayhew and Hyrum S. Arnoldson.

Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, Alfred A. Bramwell and John Gabbath.

Angola, Steuben County, Indiana, Uriah G. Miller and John L. Ellertson.

If any reader of the News knows of relatives or friends in any of the above named cities, he will do well to communicate their names and full address