

THE NORTHERN STATES MISSION.

I have just completed a tour of about 5,000 miles, mostly by rail, partly on horseback and in vehicles, and attended three semi-annual conferences, during which about forty discourses were delivered on appropriate subjects. Large congregations of intelligent people gathered to hear the preaching. At the Pennsylvania conference some ministers sought to oppose the Elders, but found they had undertaken too much, for they were utterly routed by those whom they assailed. At most of these meetings there were no members of the Church present except the Elders, and yet the strictest order prevailed. Many in attendance expressed themselves thoroughly convinced of the truth of the doctrines taught, and some stated that they would embrace them by entering the waters of baptism at an early day.

The Elders are now in fair health and excellent spirits, although the Northern States Mission is a very hard field to labor in. It requires men of muscle to walk from fifteen to forty miles in a day, preaching the Gospel when opportunities offer, distributing tracts to those who will accept them, explaining doctrine, refuting misstatements and correcting wrong impressions among those who will listen, and living on the meagre fare of the isolated farm houses on their route; for I may here state that the *cuisine* of the country they travel through is not in any sense a rival of the leading restaurant in Salt Lake; neither are the beds built of the finest feathers. But if any Elder can find, after his day's tramp through marshes, over hills, and across fields, a place of any kind to stay all night—especially if he can preach in the vicinity—he does not question the host as to the capabilities of his *Chef de cuisine*, or the quality and style of his furniture. A supper of pork and corn bread, and a glass or cup of water, puts the Elder into regular preaching trim, especially if he can cast his eye upon some quiet nook where he may lay his head without being invited to go to a neighbor's house, a mile and a half distant, to seek for a night's shelter. In fact, creature comforts have been wellnigh discarded from the thoughts of a well-trained missionary. The necessities are all he now desires or expects, because his labors are largely among the poor, or, at all events, among the farmers, who, being themselves inured to hardship, expect others to put up with such as they have, but who, even then, are, in many instances, more hospitable than the rich and refined.

This description, however, does not refer to those places which the Elders call "headquarters," at some of which there are small but prosperous branches of the Church, and at others good, kind friends, some of them quite well off, who treat the Elders with great kindness and respect whenever they return from their periodical tours. But I allude to the labors of the Elders when they leave "headquarters" and go around their districts opening up new fields, and carrying the Gospel into the houses of the poor, away from the cities and towns, and far from railroads, (or any other kind of roads except those which resemble Echo

and Ogden canyons), and search for people who have never before seen an Elder or heard anything of the Latter-day Saints, except the floating rumors which fly upon the fleet wings of hate, and blight the ignorant public mind with their poisonous influence.

How can any person put stumbling-blocks in the pathway of these servants of Christ, and feel justified? Men who leave comfortable homes, as our Elders do, and at the call of heaven's voice go like the disciples of old "without purse or scrip," to test the worthiness of this generation, to receive eternal life, and who lift the poor out of their ignorance and misery should certainly receive as much consideration from the philanthropic observer as would be given to the preacher who receives his salary for taking care of the souls of the rich and those who consider themselves already saved; and they would if they were the "false prophets" they are said to be.

And then the Elders do more actual work than any other class of men—certainly of preachers. They will sit up and answer questions till eleven or twelve o'clock at night, and deem it a great privilege to have the chance to do so, and then rise very early; for no well-regulated farming household is expected to be in bed after the clock strikes four. Breakfast at five o'clock, or at the latest six, is the signal for a dispersion to the fields and the road; so that the eight hour law is a grand failure as regards the work of a "Mormon" missionary, whatever it may be to others who occupy the pulpits of the land.

Much of my journey lay along the B. and O. railroad, with its connections and branch lines. I cannot refrain here from commenting upon the excellent equipment now given this road. On the mountain division are used ten-wheel passenger engines weighing sixty-seven and one-half tons, and with these the heaviest express trains climb the steepest grades with ease and rapidity.

Throughout the field I found the Elders fairly well in health, and in excellent spirits; they are encouraged by the recent desire among the more intelligent classes to investigate our doctrines, and the breaking down of much of the old prejudice which was once an impossible barrier to the promulgation of the truth. Although in some parts school houses were refused, private houses were offered by those who wanted to hear the Elders. In some cases the people insisted on the school houses being thrown open to the missionaries; and when the people speak, it is a voice that trustees have to listen to or run the risk of losing their places at the next election.

One feature of the investigation now going on is quite favorable. Whereas people were once only willing to hear and read what was said about the "Mormons," they now want to hear what the "Mormons" have to say for themselves, and to learn what is believed by them. Speeches of Congressmen furnish no longer the only literature received by the people visited, but the "Voice of Warning," "Mormon" doctrine, Morgan's tracts (Nos. 1 and 2), the works of Orson Pratt and the Book of Mormon, are read with a degree of avidity, and we have room for

a great many more of such works than we have yet been able to obtain. I have invariably found that after the reading of Apostle Suow's "Only Way to be Saved," other works were asked for, showing that the doctrines advanced were acceptable to the reader. I look forward to a prosperous summer's work, even exceeding last year's increase.

The Elders in the field are faithful, intelligent workers, and the class of men who are ever willing to show that they bear no relationship to the tramp of the period, by taking off their coats and giving a helping hand to the over-worked farmer in the time of his pressing need. This element of the missionary character has won for our Elders many lasting and personal friends. CHAS. W. STAYNER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 12, 1891.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

To the Salt Lake Board of Education, *Ex-officio*, the Board of Directors of the Latter-day Saints' College:

Dear Brethren—It is to me a matter of duty and pleasure to submit to you the following report of the Latter-day Saints' College for the fifth academic year. The period named began September 1st, 1890, and ends May 22nd, 1891. It was divided into two terms, the first extending from the beginning of the year to December 19th, 1890, covering, therefore, a period of sixteen weeks; the second beginning January 5th, 1891, and ending with the present exercises, comprising a space of twenty weeks.

THE ATTENDANCE

of students for the year and for the separate terms thereof, is represented in the following statements:

Registered during the academic year,	127
Males.....	132
Females.....	133
Total.....	265
Of these, attended for the two terms entire.....	133
For one and one-half terms.....	38
For one term.....	74
For half a term.....	21
Total.....	265

The attendance during the first term (sixteen weeks) was as follows:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Intermediate Department.....	87	97	184
Academic " ".....	19	21	40
Normal " ".....	15	12	27
Total for the first term.....	121	130	251

FOR THE SECOND TERM.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Intermediate Department.....	65	72	137
Academic " ".....	15	13	28
Normal " ".....	14	10	24
Total for the second term.....	94	95	189

During the first term the seating capacity of the institution was limited to 251 pupils; owing, however, to our crowded condition, and the unhealthful conditions then prevailing generally in the community, it was deemed wise to submit to you a proposition to reduce the attendance. As a result of your action thereon, fifty seats were removed before the opening of the second term; this change added