

that goeth forth to proclaim this Gospel of the kingdom; for this commandment is unto all the faithful." The Lord also says: "Whoso receiveth you receiveth me, and the same will feed you, and clothe you and give you money." In pursuance of that promise an army of Elders have gone forth to "reprove the world of all their unrighteous deeds, and to teach them of a judgment which is to come."

For many months past it has been considered easy to canvass country districts without the use of money, but large cities seemed to present a front of aristocratic coolness and indifference impenetrable. It was not until Elders Taylor and Romney thoroughly and successfully worked the city of Lynchburg, Virginia, containing about 25,000 people, without purse and scrip, that all the Elders could reconcile themselves to the wisdom of such a course. Now cities are being "captured" on all sides. Say Elders Dailey and Miner, who are now canvassing Austin, Texas: "This morning we were walking down Main Street wondering where our stamps were coming from this week, when, to our astonishment, a negro came out of a store and said, 'Come here, I want to do something,' and in going in he handed us the amount of money to a cent that we needed." "We are honored guests at the hotels of this country," writes Elder Sloan; and an Elder of the Louisiana conference states that it is difficult for him to travel without having money with him as he no sooner spends it than friends insist upon giving him more.

I refer only to a few of the hundreds of such testimonies in my possession to show the spirit in which our Elders have taken hold of this work, and the determination which characterizes their efforts. A while back we thought that we must at least depend upon money for stamps and washing, but our eyes are fast opening to the fact that our Father in heaven "knoweth that we have need of all these things."

Retrospectively viewing the missionary work in the South one is well nigh overcome with admiration and delight at the progress that is now being made. While two years ago our laborers numbered about 125, we now have over 360. Our success has increased even more rapidly. Just think of it, last month our Elders used 33,000 twenty four page tracts and nearly 1,200 Voices of Warning. Every family in the South gets a tract and a visit; thousands of them are reading the Voice of Warning. Our printers demand of us nearly \$200 per month, while Uncle Sam's charges for stamps alone amounts to \$75, saying nothing of express bills. Books of Mormon are distributed and sold by hundreds and the L. D. S. hymn book is a boon companion of the Southerner; thousands are in use today. The people love to read the "songs of Zion."

Our Elders are the recipients of many compliments because of their gentlemanly deportment, their rare conversational gifts, their devotion to God and their manly appearance.

It may be said that in all this there is nothing unless people are being converted to the truth. We answer, that in such works lie the seeds of conversion. While many tracts are being distributed many meetings are being held. The Elder now who fails to hold at least five meetings each week feels rebuked;

some Elders twice double that number. One pair in southern Alabama held 34 meetings one week. A conference reported 107 meetings, and this was immediately followed by a report from a sister conference, having only 23 Elders to do the work, the enormous number of 161 meetings for the week, one Elder alone holding 11 meetings. Series of from 10 to 20 meetings are being held in neighborhoods strictly upon the first principles of the Gospel. Apostasy is no longer preached.

Such diligence on the part of the Elders is not without good results. In the last seven months Florida has furnished over 106 baptisms. Kentucky lately reported over 60 newly baptized members attending one fast meeting, with several more applicants for baptism in that locality. Other conferences are working as zealously.

Though the Elders are busily baptizing converts the work of organization is not being neglected. Our Sunday schools are becoming common in the South. Branches of the Church are being organized in all sections. The Saints are energetic. They already have erected and properly secured in the name of the Church several creditable meeting houses. The future outlook in this line is exceedingly promising.

In all this we feel to rejoice. God is softening the hearts of the people, as President Woodruff said he would do. If we cannot convert every person, we can at least talk to them and allay the ungodly prejudice so long a persecutor of our people and make them our friends. Some of our Elders have been offered a salary to act as regular preachers for the people. Two Kentucky Elders were, a short time since, urged to accept wages and hold a series of "protracted" meetings for the people.

Though so much favor is being shown us we do not forget that Satan is not dead, nor is he sleeping. Every power possible is being exerted to weaken and finally overcome the Elders. Some are tempted in one way, and others in another. Only by their united prayers and fasting, their determined efforts and the blessings of God are they able to hold up under the pressure.

While the people are serving sin the judgments of God pour down upon them. We hear "the voice of thunders, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea heaving themselves beyond their bounds!" We hear of "wars and rumors of wars," while pestilences and famines are drinking the life blood of nations, all things are in commotion, and "surely men's hearts are failing them for fear!"

Out from the din and clamor of all these things, comes the calm voice of fearless, determined and humble Elders crying, "Repent ye for the kingdom of God is among you;" and there echoes forth this parable of the fig tree: "When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh, so ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh even at the doors."

JOSEPH W. MUSSER.

FROM SWEET GUM.

I have been in the Church now a little over a year. I was baptized by A. Y. Duke and confirmed by the same and

Elder Peterson. Since then I have had quite an experience. Friends forsook me, and would point the finger of scorn at me, but thanks be it to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, the more I am persecuted the stronger I grow, and now I am able to defend the Gospel at all times and under any circumstances I have yet been called to experience. I know that it is the true and everlasting gospel restored to earth and the Lord is pruning His vineyard for the last time.

I rejoice to tell you that I am now in the harness, trying to advance the cause of my Master. I was ordained to the lesser Priesthood just after I was baptized, and since that time, by the help of the Lord, have been trying to prepare myself for the work assigned me. On August 23rd, I preached my first sermon. My subject was the first principles of the Gospel. I am now sowing seed in good earnest, for there is yet good ground, and I believe that some of the seed sown has fallen therein, and has begun to take root and ere long will be ready to harvest. There still exists much prejudice, but not like it was. The people are beginning to see the beauties of the Gospel, and some are honest enough to acknowledge that we have it.

Let me say to the Elders who have visited me, I thank my Heavenly Father for sending me the Gospel and I thank you for bringing it to me, for you prevailed with me and did every thing in your power to prove to me that you were true messengers of God, and had the true and everlasting Gospel. I bless the day that I first saw you, and I write this that you may know that I intend to keep on in the good work.

Here in this life we have many things to encounter with many times dark clouds of disappointment overshadow our pathway. Some of our homes have been visited by death which has robbed us of some one of our family; this has been the case with us. The Lord gave us two sweet little babies; one of them only lived a few days and was taken away. A sweet flower as it were, plucked from earth and planted in a Savior's bosom. We tried hard to keep it with us, but when we saw that it must go we bowed in humble submission to the will of the Lord; for we know that He doeth all things well. If we are faithful here what a grand and glorious scene will be on the morn of the resurrection. When the Savior gathers in his jewels; those sweet little children, methinks, will be the first to greet us. Then all sorrow and trouble will be past. John tells us in Revelations, 21st chapter, that there will be no more sickness nor death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. As I write my heart is made glad to feel the assurance that after having fought life's battles, there is rest for the people of God.

Let us press on in the good work until the Lord removes us from this life; then we can rest peacefully, and our bodies will be resurrected and we will be gathered home. And if we have lived right and brought up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord we will then gather around the throne of God, one unbroken family, never more to part.

W. J. ROGERS.

Alexander McLean, foreman of the Crown mine at Yuma county, Cal., was killed in the mine this week falling rock.