

NORTHERN STATES MISSION.

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE.

METZ, W. Va., March 17, 1894.

The Pennsylvania semi-annual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened at Metz, W. Va., March 10th, 11th and 12th.

There were present thirteen Elders from Zion. Elder Charles W. Stayner, president of the Northern States mission, was unable to attend, but sent a letter expressing his regrets. Our meetings were all well attended and the Elders and Saints enjoyed a feast of spiritual food. The weather was remarkably fine for the time of year and the Elders all felt well, both physically and spiritually. The first principles of the Gospel were elucidated in a plain and convincing manner. Our Priesthood meeting was exceptionally interesting, as some of the reports given by the Elders were very thrilling. It may not be out of place to make mention of one of the most interesting to give your readers an idea how some of our Elders are treated.

William J. Henderson and Charles Morris, while holding meeting in Gilmer county, were disturbed by the explosion of a bomb. This was the first Mormon meeting ever held in that vicinity, and a few of the "toughs" were determined that it should be the last, and in order to accomplish their desire they constructed an infernal machine out of a stick of hard timber two feet long and ten inches in diameter and, after boring an inch and a quarter hole lengthways of the stick, filled it up with powder and placed an iron band on either end to strengthen it. They placed it under the school house beneath the rostrum. Elder Henderson had been talking about twenty minutes when bang! went the bomb. The shock shook the house from center to circumference and struck an oak sleeper 8x12 inches which prevented it from coming up through the floor. But for this it would probably have resulted in loss of life, as the house was packed to overflowing.

The bomb made a hole in the sleeper large enough to bury a man's fist. After half an hour the congregation got quieted and the Elders proceeded with their meeting unmolested. They preached two more sermons in the house, and on the last night several of the "toughs" fired off their revolvers and shouted, but went no further with their threats.

Elders O. A. Robinson and Emanuel Bachman, while holding meeting in an adjoining county, received a warm reception of rotten eggs. A young man in the house went to the window, raised it up, and the mob on the outside threw the eggs through, besmearing the inmates with their nauseating missiles and breaking up their meeting.

Other untoward experiences were narrated but I can say that where these depredations were enacted they were frowned upon by the better class of people, and several persons were subpoenaed before the grand jury.

After all of the reports were given in, the general authorities of the Church and Chas. W. Stayner as president of the Northern States mission and Wm. J. Henderson as president of the Pennsylvania conference and John

Q. Critchlow as clerk of the conference, were presented and sustained. Elder Orson Whitaker, ex-president of conference, and Elders O. A. Robinson and Heber J. Meeks as traveling Elders, were honorably released to return home, having fulfilled faithful missions. The Elders were then assigned their field of labor as follows:

Jno. Q. Critchlow, A. R. Wright—Butler Co. Pa., P. O. Reibold.

Wm. S. Roundy, Heber Balls—Taylor and Tucker counties, W. Va., P. O., Grafton, W. Va.

Brigham Ricks, Geo. B. Matson—Wetzel county, W. Va., P. O., Littleton, W. Va.

Joe. E. Wilkins, Lorenzo Durfee—Marion and Preston counties, W. Va., P. O., Fairmont, W. Va.

Wilford Reeder, Chas. Merrie—Alleghany county, Md., P. O., Pratt, Md.

Emanuel Bachman, Albert Perkes—Gilmer county, W. Va., P. O., West Union, W. Va.

Wm. J. Henderson to preside over the conference with P. O., Littleton, Wetzel county, W. Va.

JNO. Q. CRITCHLOW,
Clerk of Conference.

INDIANA CONFERENCE.

TASWELL, Ind., March 20, 1894.—The past week is one long to be remembered by the Elders of the Indiana conference, and also the Latter-day Saints who live in the vicinity of Taswell.

The Elders came in from their respective fields of labor, where they had passed the last six months in assiduously promulgating truth and righteousness, and by Thursday evening, March 15th, eleven Elders were here at Taswell. As our conference did not commence till Saturday, March 17th, at 3 p.m., on the morning of March 16th we all repaired to the residence of Bro. Jeremiah Belcher, where, after some pleasant conversation and quiet chatting, we all joined together with whole soul and energy in singing the familiar songs of Zion, with a spirit and feeling known only to those who have passed through this experience in missionary life.

Time for refreshments came and we were ushered to a table spread with the good things of Indiana, which had been carefully prepared by our good hostess, Sister Belcher. After we had all satisfied the inner man, we indulged in sentiments and music. The afternoon was thus passed until about 5 p.m., when the Elders dispersed in pairs among the Saints and friends in the neighborhood, partaking of their hospitality.

Meetings were held Saturday, March 17th, at 3 p.m., Sunday, March 18th, at 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m., respectively, at which the Elders all spoke under the power and influence of the Holy Ghost, explaining the truths of the Gospel of Christ in plainness and simplicity to those who gathered to hear them. The attendance at the meetings was not large, because the weather was not altogether favorable. The spirit manifested and the teachings received were much appreciated by the Elders and Saints.

One special feature of our conference was the rendition of some beautiful

duets by Elders Hyrum Brimhall and David R. Roberts.

On Monday, March 19th, at 11 a.m., we gathered at Brother Jeremiah Belcher's, where we held our Priesthood meeting. The Elders, in reporting the various fields, said that the prospects for doing good were brighter than for some years past. That prejudice seemed to be dying away and the hearts of the people seemingly were being softened towards the Elders. New fields are being opened and friends gained. Thus the work of God is increasing in the land.

The Spirit and power of God was poured out upon us in rich abundance; upon this occasion strong testimonies were borne by all the Elders and many instructions given in regard to the duties and responsibilities of their high and holy calling. We regretted very much not having the company of our worthy president, C. W. Stayner, who was unavoidably absent.

The Elders were sustained to labor during the next six months respectively as follows:

President Truman H. Barlow and Elder David R. Roberts at Bloomfield, Green county, Ind.

Elders Hyrum Brimhall and Brigham H. Telford at Woodville, Newaygo county, Michigan.

Elders William O. Bentley and Thos. I. Allen at Pulley's Mills, Williamson county, Illinois.

Elders Benj. F. Peel and Nephi N. Rogers at Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio.

Elders William A. Garrett, Ira E. Bradshaw and Christian Munk, at Taswell, Crawford county, Indiana.

All separated feeling well and trusting that another conference will soon come—another happy reunion. All feel like casting their "mites" in the glorious work of the Lord in which we are engaged. Many thanks are due the Saints and friends for their kind treatment of the Elders, because they spared no pains in making everything pleasant and agreeable.

HYRUM BRIMHALL,
Clerk of Conference.

A PIONEER'S VIEWS.

The resources and home industries of our Territory are attracting much attention at this time. These are no new questions by any means, but in the present tight times are brought more forcibly to our attention with renewed importance. As to our resources, it brings to my mind the remarks of President Brigham Young to the Pioneers in 1847, about three days after we had pitched our camp on the site where Salt Lake City now stands. Some of the company were a little disheartened on account of the dismal and forbidding appearance of this desert land as it looked to be at that time. The idea of making homes and a living for their families in a country where there was nothing in sight was very discouraging. President Young was very cheerful and spoke fatherly and kind to us about the prospects. Among other things he told us that all the elements of wealth were here in these valleys and mountains; they were not visible, they only wanted developing. He said there was bread here, meat