

A GOOD REPORT.

PEAKS of Otter, Bedford County,

August 4th, 1897.

Last evening we spent the night at Mr. Burkholder, between the peaks, and this morning at 8 o'clock called at the Mons Hotel and were very pleasantly received by the manager and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Thompson, of New York. Our object in calling was to give out an appointment for preaching at the Peaks chapel in the evening.

After conversing for a while with the mayor and prosecuting attorney of Bedford City, we were invited by the manager to come and take supper, and, after preaching, spent the night. We informed him that we traveled as did the ancient Apostles, without money, and preached the Gospel without purse or scrip. He said, "that is all right, I understand; be here at 6 p. m. as this is the hour we take supper." We accepted the invitation with pleasure, and when the hour came were on hand. We then preached the gospel and they all seemed well pleased.

At 8-30 a. m. we began to ascend the mountain which is 1,500 feet to the top. After an hour of hard climbing we found ourselves on top of the peaks which rises to an altitude of 4,000 feet and we could truly say we were above the clouds. The pine trees of Virginia no longer obstruct our view as has been the case now for sixteen months. We looked down on the Blue Ridge and saw the rolling hills for miles and the scene is beautiful beyond description. People come from all parts of the United States to go on the peaks, and behold the beautiful sunrise in which the sun apparently comes out of the earth like a great ball of fire.

The air is cool and refreshing and puts us in mind of the mountains of Utah, "where the pure breezes blow and clear streamlet flow," and is pleasant indeed after suffering the intense heat in the valley and woods below. We stood on a large rock from which, through the agency of man and gun powder a large rock weighing many tons, was loosened from its resting place for ages, and when starting it went several miles out in the valley, crushing mighty trees before it. A portion of it now resting in the Washington monument D. C. The price of admission to the Peaks is 50 cents—but the manager Mr. Arnold Thompson, on learning that we were ministers preaching the gospel of Christ, and especially from Utah, gave us permission to take in the views, and took pleasure in showing us around free of charge.

The Lord has blessed us abundantly in our labors—and much prejudice is being allayed through the influence of the Holy Spirit.

After holding a series of meetings in a district and we endeavour to hold them wherever we can—we have no trouble in finding friends and instead of us asking for entertainment we have to refuse many invitations.

At Blue Ridge spring, another pleasure resort, and mining district, we held forth for several days, preaching to the miners and citizens. They had been preached to so much that they were almost tired; but at the close of our last meeting the following expressions could be heard from all sides—"I am in love with that preaching." "That was the best sermon I ever heard." "I never heard the scripture made so plain be-

fore" etc. When we entered the place at first we applied for the church to preach in and were refused, but the Lord does not give commands unless He prepares a way for the fulfillment thereof, so we took the matter to Him in fasting and prayer and one morning as we were about to leave the neighborhood, word came to us that a Campbellite preacher, wanted to see us, we went, and he granted us the privilege of holding forth in their place of worship. The Temperance hall. The preacher, Mr. St. Clair came out to hear us, and endorsed all that was said, invited us home with him, and we spent most of our time with him.

In one vicinity a Methodist church was thrown open to us, where we preached for a week with perfect satisfaction. Passing through there again a month later—nothing would do but we must preach, so we gave out three appointments and those who opposed us at our former meeting came out to hear us, and afterwards took us home with them. Nothing is too good for a Mormon Elder, after he has been preaching the old time Gospel in its purity, and many of the people say, "If we cast them out we had better cast our Bibles out also."

The Southern States people are kind hearted, and especially is that the case in the Old Dominion State. We have plenty of opposition, for they that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution; but it comes as a rule from clergy, "Freely ye have received full give."

Our conference is taking rapid strides.

The News is a welcome visitor and brings good news from home. We will be pleased to hear from our friends at any time.

R. C. BUTLER,
D. H. SAUNDERS.

EASTERN STATES MISSION.

BROOKLYN, August 9, 1897.

As Mormonism is becoming quite a live subject in certain villages in Long Island, no doubt your readers will be interested to learn the particulars.

About five weeks ago, Elder Kesler, president of this mission, appointed me to labor in Oceanside and vicinity—a section of country where years ago, flourished a large branch of the Church, and where a few of its members still remain, faithful and true. For the first two weeks I confined my efforts to Oceanside, distributing tracts from house to house, and holding many conversations. The people received me kindly, with but few exceptions. I stated to them that I was a minister of the Gospel and a representative of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; and, if I thought they did not fully identify me by that name, I told them we were more commonly known as "Mormons." This would generally open up an interesting conversation, and give the opportunity of removing much of their prejudice, by an earnest face-to-face discussion.

The third week of my Long Island work I went to Freeport, intending to spend several days there, but the first evening of my visit I felt impressed to go to Lynbrook. So, next morning, I took the early train to Lynbrook, and found the address of Sister Rosa Abrams. She and her husband, Lewis Sanford Abrams, lived in Salt Lake City for many years, and returned East about ten years ago. But they have

tender recollections of their old mountain home; and when I called on them and told them I was from Utah, they were very glad to see me like a son. Since then, when visiting Lynbrook, I have made their house my home. I shall never forget their kindness.

The people of this part are generally religiously inclined, and sincere in their belief; but I fear that near developments will prove there are some very prejudiced persons in their midst—those who "answer a matter before they hear it." I have been around Oceanside and Lynbrook three times, and have already found many friends—friendly enough, at least, to welcome me into their homes and feed and lodge me.

We have held meetings every Sunday lately in this part, usually at the house of Sister Amanda Petit. Friday evening we held a meeting at her son Elmore's house. Yesterday week we held a fine meeting at Mr. Abram's house, Lynbrook, nearly a half-hundred being present. Next Sunday we meet at Mr. Smith Soper's, another kind friend of mine, and whose family are all firm in the faith and highly respected by their neighbors, notwithstanding their prejudice against our religion. Shortly after yesterday's service, at Sister Petit's, a gentleman called and introduced himself as a New York Sun reporter. Elder E. F. Burton was up assisting me at the meeting, and the reporter inquired for both of us. He showed us a clipping from the World, and said he had come from the city to get the other side of the story. We gave him the other side with pleasure. I also gave him copies of the tracts I had been distributing, and my missionary card.

I have expected some opposition to manifest itself, for it always follows the persistent offer of truth. Now that the adversary is beginning to rage, I feel to trust the outcome with the Lord, and to go on fearlessly in my duty to my fellowman, knowing that "Truth is mighty and will prevail." Truth and error cannot agree; and no matter how mildly the message is delivered, it meets with hatred and persecution. I have attacked no person or sect, but have earnestly preached the word of God, and have given facts—hard facts—from the Bible. I feel encouraged to go on in the good fight. J. D. WATTS.

SO CANADA is going to send police overland to Klondike. It may be set down as an assured fact that the Dominion government will keep a tight grip on that country, cold as it is.

CITIZENS WHO refrain from taking an active interest in securing good government for their own municipality cannot expect sympathy when they complain of being misgoverned.

THE FRIENDS' society is looking for lands in the West, because those in the East are too dear. They will probably find that good land in the West is fairly high-priced, too.

PRINCESS KAULANI wants to be queen of Hawaii. The island republic, however, doesn't seem to crave her aid with as much zeal as that of fair Columbia.

THE CHIEF weakness of many an alleged reformatory platform is that he demands the freedom of doing the wrong for everybody else.