THE PALMETTO STATE.

Health and Visits of the Elders—Crop Reports.

SENECA, S. C., Oct. 27, 1894.

Editor Deseret News:

Thinking a few lines from the Palmetto state would not be out of place, I will pen you a few. The health of the Elders is improving; the hot weather of the summer was too much for some of them, but since the cool weather has set in they are improving very fast. There are two at my house, Elders W. H. Cowley and Alvin Smith, who came up from the lower counties with bilious fever, but we have the ill-ness broken up now, and the Elders will soon return to their fields of labor. There is no danger of sickness after white frost which has already killed most of the vegetation here. This county is as healthy as any other except a few months in midsummer. Having been raised here I well know that I am writing the truth; and I am sure that with a few exceptions this is as healthy a county as any in the United States, although two Elders have died here in this state, Elders Charles Robertson and Hyrum Carter, but who knows but that they would have died if they had remained at home? We regret to give up such men as those missionaries, but there is no way to remedy it; the decree has gone forth.

Elder D. S. Dorrity, who filled a mission here and was released a year ago, has just been here with a carload of horses and sold them all at Seneca. He left last night for his home at Kanosh, Millard county, Utah, having remained here about five days. He made many friends while on his mission, and his coming back with a car of horses has done a great deal of good in allaying prejudice in this settlement. Elder E. S. Kimball was here while Elder Dorrity was selling his horses, and advised him to bring in another carload. There is no doubt that his visit to this town did a great deal of good, for many of the popular men of the town came to the depot to bid him good-bye when he started for home, and asked him to come again.

The crops are good in this county, but cotton is only worth 5 or 5½ cents per pound here this fall; it usually sells for 7½ to 8 cents. The low prices will get the farmers further than ever into debt. This county makes about 400 pounds of lint cotton per acre, so you see there is not much in raising cotton. I believe farmers get further behind every year that they work at it.

Your Brother,

JAMES A. SMITH.

PASSED AWAY.

One of the Faithful of Old Kentucky.

SMITHLAND, Livingston Co., Kentucky, Nov. 1, 1894.—For the information of the many Elders, who, like myself, have labored in this conference and had the pleasure of forming the acquaintance of and receiving many acts of kindness bestowed upon them by the deceased, I submit this brief article on the death of Sister Elvira Manley, of Rochester, Butler Co., Ky., who after a long illness and being confined to her bed for about three months, closed her eyes in silent slumber on the 20th of Sept. 1894, leaving behind 10 children, a number of grandchildren and many friends who mourn her loss. The deceased was interred in the Huntsville cemetery, beside her husband.

Sister Manley has for several years been identified with the unpopular sect of the day, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, being the only one of her family circle and surrounding associates who were of the faith, and therefore stood, as it were, alone, amidst considerable opposition, and worldly sympathy, because of her peculiar belief. Yet she was firm and immovable to the last, for she truly has received the promise of the Father, for the Savior said that "whosoever would do His will he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself." Her last words were expressions of great anxiety for the salvation of her family, none of whom have yet obeyed the Gospel as she plainly understood it. All who had the pleasure of forming the acquaintance of Sister Manley learned to love and respect her as a true, kind-hearted, charitable mother, sister and friend; and all feel the weight of the sad parting.

Fraternally, F. C. JOHNSON.

A FRIVOLOUS AND SELFISH BIRD.

Immoral Life and Eviction of Its Hosts and Fellow Nestlings.

A popular fallacy tells us that a cuckoo lays eggs in another bird's nest. She does not. She lays eight eggs on the ground. The eggs are in size, color, spots and shape in accordance with the information obtained, say, in Leigh woods. Out of the eight eggs five or six would closely resemble the hedge-sparrow's. The other two might be those of a titlark, a wren or [illegible]. Her male friend—about three or four [illegible] in each [illegible] like [illegible] fed each an egg and carry it in its mouth to the nest of the [illegible]. Every [illegible] placed in one nest. If [illegible] has provided him [illegible] the [illegible] he seeks another [illegible], knowing [illegible] all the eggs [illegible] various [illegible].

The [illegible] trade with her own brood, and the interloper, having the faculty of being hatched sooner than the others, is of course the first to come out of his shell. He manages to wriggle underneath his brothers and sisters and presents them as a heave offering to the expectant parents, and then, when he has them out, and within 24 hours of his existence is the sole occupant of the nest. He keeps his foster-parents working hard continually, which the [illegible] and [illegible] of the [illegible] as [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] is too big for his house, and he departs [illegible] for ever.

The cuckoo leaves the last week of July. He is a [illegible] being, has the soul of John Brown, always marching on. After leaving Europe he begins to the south of Africa and rests at the Cape of Good Hope, whence he returns to Europe in the spring. Why does he go away and why come back? Food—the food he loves—the [illegible] caterpillar. He will eat other grubs, but these are his hourly food.

It has been estimated in round numbers that out of every 100 hairy caterpillars that wriggle into life 99 are devoured by cuckoos. Everywhere nature is careful to maintain her balance. The cuckoo keeps down the millions of millions of hairy caterpillars and prevents our cornfields from being eaten up by hedge sparrows. The cuckoo is a true conservative, and as long as he lives he forms assemblies in the neighborhood of his birth.—Western (England) Press.

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