

result from this you cannot conceive of. God has chosen us expressly for this purpose and to do this work, and we cannot get out of it. Personally I tried to get out of this responsibility. The Lord revealed to me in my youth that I was to be an Apostle. In after years I besought Him that He would not choose me to hold this office, for I had seen what I would have to go through, and I shrunk from it. But we are chosen, and we cannot get out of it honorably. No matter what the consequences may be, we have to magnify this Priesthood in the midst of His people and in the earth. Every one of us have had a charge of this kind given to us.

Brethren and sisters, ask the Lord about these things. Go to Him and beseech Him, in the name of Jesus, to enlighten your minds and to fill you with His Holy Spirit, that you may see and understand, and soften your hearts, and then strive to live the principles of the Gospel that Jesus taught, and that we in our humble capacity have been endeavoring to teach to you, so that when men come into our midst they will see a people who will excite their admiration; for just as sure as we live and as the Lord has spoken, this people will at some time—and the distance of that time depends upon our faithfulness—be sought after, their counsels will be sought for, and men will say: "Those Latter-day Saints are capable of governing themselves, and of maintaining good government; they love their fellow men, and respect their rights, and we want to live among them, or we want to have their influence among us." The time will come in this land—I tell you now, ye saint-hearted ones, the time will come when the counsels of the servants of God will be sought for in our own land and in all the states where our people live, because our conduct and our management will stand out in such bold relief in comparison with the management and conduct of others, that they will want to get our counsel and our help in their extremity. This will be the case, not only right here, but elsewhere. And today, let me say to you, if our people were united, we would hold the key. We occupy a position where our influence, if we were united as we should be, would be more potent than that of any other state or community in these United States. I do not overstate this in the least. I know what I am talking about, and it is the truth. But our divisions, our partisanship, our loss of the Spirit, our quarreling one with another, our upbraiding one of another, weakens us and takes away the strength and the power that God has placed within our reach.

I pray God to bless us during the remainder of this conference; to pour out His Spirit in power upon His servants and upon all, that our hearts may be filled with the light of truth, and with the joy and peace of the Holy Ghost. Oh! that we could understand how willing the Lord is to bless us; how His arms are stretched out filled with blessings for this people, if we will prepare to receive them. He will save us; He will deliver us from our enemies; He will make our path plain; and if we die—why, what is death? It is only a change from this condition into a better one. We of all people should be the least afraid of death, because God has made the greatest of promises to us. If we are valiant in His cause, He will reward us and crown us with glory; for He loves

valor. The Lord loves a people of integrity, a people who will not betray one another, or fight against one another. He loves men and women of this kind. And He loves the women of this Church, because of their integrity. No women have ever shown greater heroism and more integrity than the women of this Church have done. They have been superior to the men in many respects. Fewer of them have shown cowardice or unwillingness to face and bear all the consequences of their acts. I know the Lord loves the women of this Church, and He loves the men, too, who are humble. There are thousands of them who are humble and obscure men; their names do not appear prominently; we do not hear their sermons; they are not famous among us; but the Lord looks upon them and loves them, because of the integrity of their hearts and their valor in His cause. There are thousands of men and women in this Church who would gladly, if it were necessary, lay down their lives for the truth.

Well, the Lord bless us all; bless His servant, our President, and grant that he may be strengthened and made able to perform the duties that devolve upon him. The Lord has wonderfully blessed him, and we feel that He will continue His blessing—in fact, we know He will, whether in life or in death; but we want him to live. Our prayers are for that, and your prayers, too. I know that President Woodruff feels that your prayers have prolonged his life, and that he would have gone away from us four years ago, if it had not been for the prayers of the Saints and the administration of the servants of God. He knows now that the people are praying for him, and it gives him confidence, comfort and strength. The Lord bless us in the name of Jesus. Amen.

#### DOWN IN LOUISIANA.

CROWLEY, Acadia Parish, Louisiana.  
April 10th, 1897.

We have just finished canvassing the beautiful parish of Acadia and thought a few words from here would be of interest to the readers of the News.

I met my companion Elder B. W. Hansie of Salt Lake City, on the 18th of November, at Clinton, East Feliciana, and from there we went to bid the Saints good bye before our departure for the southwestern part of this state. After a good day's journey we passed through Port Hudson, which was a place of blockade during the civil war; also Mount Pleasant a beautiful cemetery where many a brave soldier is laid to rest until the day of resurrection.

The next morning two Mormon Elders stood on the bank of the Mississippi river, wondering how to get across the mighty waters, when a ferryman came by, took us over and safely landed us on the other side. With thankful hearts we traveled up the line for a long distance, that being the only way for us to go. From the level we followed a wagon road that took us over to the S. P. R. R., and from there we kept it for some distance when we came to the Atchafalaya river. There we found a watchman to keep tramps from crossing the bridge. We didn't feel as though we were tramps so we told the ferryman who we were and how we traveled; he kindly took us across.

After a two days' travel we were de-

lighted to see a country that put us in mind of our mountain home. It was indeed a treat, after being in piney woods for a long time, to get where we could see for many miles. The next day we dedicated the parish and the good people to the Lord.

In the evening we were entertained by a friend who had met some of our Elders in Mississippi. He knew what we wanted, and took us in and gave us the best he had. It began to rain and we had to remain for several days before we could go on. We were informed that we could not travel in the winter in this parish, but by the help of the Lord we have done it, and had plenty to eat and a good place to sleep.

This is a very low parish as to altitude, and a few years ago it could have been bought for about twenty-five cents an acre. Tens of thousands of wild horses and cattle once roamed over the prairies of southwestern Louisiana, but today they are no where to be found. The Creoles, as they are commonly called, possessed the land. They are descendants of the French who were banished from Acadia by the English many years ago. These people are very kind and hospitable, but are illiterate and are entirely under their priests. They have very few schools, and many do not believe in sending their children to school.

Before the S. P. R. R. came here there were a few Germans living here. They introduced me, and many of them became well-to-do. After the P. R. came through, the country was boomed and a great many people from all parts of the Union came here; many did well, and others lost all they had. At the present time thousands of acres are planted every year in rice. One acre will produce from fifteen to twenty-two sacks, each sack holding about two hundred pounds.

Last year Providence failed to smile on the rice growers and many of them made a failure; only those who had pumps raised rice, and they received an enormous price for it. One company of brothers were offered \$75,000 for their rice in the field; and by the way, they received their ideas of irrigation from two Mormon Elders who stayed with them one winter, while preaching in Michigan. They plow the land and make a line around it. This holds the water and thus keeps the grass from taking it, and it grows fine. The rice got so low that many became discouraged and many today don't care much about raising it. When rice is at good price they can make money.

We have now finished the parish. We will bid our friends goodbye and open up another parish.

Your paper is a welcome visitor.

WILLIAM A. KERR,  
B. W. DANSIE.

#### VISITING IN GREAT BRITAIN.

42 ISLINGTON, Liverpool,  
April 24, 1897.

Historian Franklin D. Richards.

Dear Brother—Since writing to you from Holland in February last I have visited eight out of the thirteen conferences in the British mission, and have been successful in all except one in obtaining such historical information as will be needed in preparing the history of the mission hereafter. I have also gathered a large number of old records in the different conferences, which have been packed up in boxes