

Hevers, and in a little while the mountain sides were converted in to fruit-fields and gardens. The city they builded is described by visitors as one of the most beautiful in the United States and barring polygamy, until corrupted by the influx of Jew and Gentile, in point of morals, the most cleanly (if it be one) there were no other forms of licentiousness. No dance halls; no gambling dens; no guilded clubs; no brothels. The great Temple, which we have already spoken about, was built by voluntary offerings, and is estimated to have cost \$5,000,000. The corner stone was laid by Brigham Young, April 6, 1853, and completed April 6, 1893. In point of education Utah stands about second in the list. The Mormon Church is sending its missionaries to the remotest ends of the earth, who seem to be full with a zeal approaching that of the early martyrs, and are making converts in all the lands. If it continues in the same ration when it reaches the age that Mohammedism is now, its followers will be more numerous. Its extraordinary birth, its growth under the persecution it has encountered and endured, and its girdling the earth with its missionaries, who go out without money, "taking no thought of the morrow," reads like a fable. If it be not a miracle, what is it?"

SUCCESSFUL MISSIONARY LABORS

Jackson, Mississippi,
March 21, 1898.

When Elder Rose and myself left conference, held in Jackson in January, in company with Elders Rollins and Coombs we went through the historic city of Vicksburg and saw the sights there.

One of them was the National cemetery, which is said to be the largest in the United States.

It is a beautiful place, built on the side hills and is covered with flower beds, lawn and evergreens.

At the entrance there is an arch similar to the arch of Titus at Rome, although not quite as large. It is about thirty feet high and twenty feet wide, built of blue sandstone, and on top of the arch is inscribed the following:

"Here lies in rest 16,600 men who fought for their country in the years 1863-5."

From there we went to our respective counties and labored as we were counseled.

We were assigned to labor in Sharkey county, which is in the Mississippi delta, and we labored there but two months, as the county was very small and it did not take us long to finish our work.

We held meetings in the court house and in every other county except one.

Doors, both public and private, were thrown open to us, and the people treated us loyally, we having had larger congregations in some towns than had been known for years, and some people attended every one of our meetings who never visited other churches.

We have had but very little opposition in our travels, and that was only by a new local preacher. We have been refused entertainment twice, and our testimony was never rejected. The people are noble, intelligent, well read, very generous and free-hearted. They have given us money on several occasions. We always had invitations to their homes and on several instances they have sent for us to call on them.

The ministers have treated us remarkably well, and one of them who has a home has a latch on the outside for us.

In selling books we have been very successful, as will be seen from the fact that we have sold seventy, eight Books of Mormon and the rest Voice of Warning and other publications.

We hope to have the privilege of returning to that county in "protracted meeting time," and reap the fruits of our labors.

Elders Pomeroy, Cox, Buchannon, Faddies and Woolley will be released on the 27th.

Our new president, Elder Thomas R. Condie, is well qualified for the work, and will carry it on successful like the former president.

ARMOND T. ROSE,
LEON B. HAMPTON.

The "News" is appreciated by all the Elders; kindly send papers to the above address.

NORTH INDIANA CONFERENCE.

618 Huron St., Indianapolis, Ind.,
March 18, 1898.

The Northern Indiana Conference was held here in the magnificent court house on the 12, 13 and 14 inst.

There are eighteen Elders now laboring in this conference; besides these, about fifteen Elders from the Southern Indiana Conference, Elders L. A. Keisch, president, and Jos. E. Cardon, secretary of mission, were in attendance.

On Thursday evening, previous to our conference, we divided up into two companies, went upon the principal street corners, sang songs and made announcements of our meetings. We had 5,000 hand bills printed, which were distributed in the resident parts of the city. Our meetings being well advertised, quite a number of people came out to hear what we had to tell them.

A number of Elders spoke upon the beauties and the consistency of the Gospel as taught by the Latter-day Saints, and bore their testimonies to the truthfulness of the same.

Monday morning, Priesthood meeting was held in the state building. Here the Elders were assigned their fields of labor for the coming summer. Each Elder gave a short account of the work done during the past winter. From the reports given, some fields are ready for the reapers, while others do not show much signs for a crop at present.

Some new fields are now being opened and the sowers of the good seeds have gone forth with a renewed determination to do their duty, trusting in the Lord that He will crown their efforts with success.

Although we have not been privileged to baptize many in this conference during the past winter, we have been able to make many friends, some of whom are earnestly investigating, and prospects are good for a number of baptisms in the near future.

I have often heard the Elders remark that it is "friends before Saints." This is true and it is necessary for every Elder to conduct himself in such a way that he may win the respect of all those he may come in contact with.

A few weeks ago the Elders of this conference were looking forward to the time when they could meet their co-laborers again in conference and have a time of rejoicing together. That time has come and gone, but it will be long remembered by the many Elders who were present, for indeed, we had a happy time mingling together, talking over our many and varied experiences in the missionary field. We were treated with due respect by the city, county and state authorities. The use of the court house and state building being granted without charge. "By their fruits ye shall know them." These officials have proven themselves worthy of all honors conferred upon them.

The assignments of Elders are as follows:

John Foote and Geo. A. Welling, Geo. E. Barton and Wm. O. Phelps, John Phillips and Nels C. Nelson, Indianapolis, Ind.

Wm. R. Andrew and H. Maughan, Anderson, Ind.

H. S. Arnoldson and J. T. Gabbott, Hartford, Blackford Co., Ind.

J. H. Hale and W. W. Wright, Frankfort, Clinton Co., Ind.

A. A. Bramwell and F. B. Brooks, Kokomo, Ind.

J. L. Parcell and F. W. Passey, Tip-ton, Tipton Co., Ind.

J. L. Ellertson and R. E. Sprague, Crawfordsville, Ind.

The health of the Elders is good. Parties having friends in these parts and wish the Elders to call on them addresses.

GEORGE E. BARTON,
Clerk of Conference.

SHAFROTH'S ARID LAND BILL

The full text of the bill of Congressman Shafroth of Colorado to grant arid lands to the respective states and territories in which they are situate upon their reclamation, is at hand. It has created a good deal of discussion throughout the West, and as it is of decided interest to "News" readers, it is herewith reproduced:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that so much of the arid lands of the United States not held for military reservations, Indian reservations, or other public purposes as any state or territory, through its governor may apply for, shall be patented to such state or territory, or its assigns, when said lands shall, by means of irrigation, be reclaimed for agricultural purposes.

Sec. 2. That each state and territory shall be entitled to reclaim, under this act and all other acts, not more than one million acres of such arid land, all of which must be situate within its own borders.

Sec. 3. That arid lands within the meaning of this act shall be deemed to be lands not mineral, which will generally produce agricultural crops by artificial irrigation.

Sec. 4. That reclamation of any tract of land under this act shall be construed to have been made when an ample supply of water is actually furnished in a substantial ditch or canal, or by artesian wells or reservoirs to reclaim the same.

Sec. 5. That a lien or liens may be credited by the state or territory to which such lands are granted for the actual cost of reclamation and reasonable interest thereon; and such state or territory is hereby authorized to make all necessary contracts to cause the said arid lands to be reclaimed, but in no event shall the United States be in any manner directly or indirectly liable for such liens, liabilities or contracts.

Sec. 6. That any state or territory desiring to avail itself of the provisions of this act may, through its governor, from time to time file in the United States land office of the district in which the lands are situate an application for the temporary segregation of the tract or tracts of land which the state or territory proposes to reclaim, pending the surveying and mapping of the same, which application shall be under oath, and shall state that there is sufficient amount of water available for the irrigation of said lands. Upon the filing of such an application the lands applied for shall be withdrawn from entry for the period of six months.

Sec. 7. That within the period of six months from the filing of such an application the state or territory, through its governor shall file in the office of the secretary of the interior a map of the lands proposed to be reclaimed, which shall exhibit a plan showing the mode of the contemplated irrigation and the source of the water to be used