

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Tuesday, January 7, 1890.

FROM CALIFORNIA.

Report of Missionary Progress in the Golden State.

THE TABERNACLE CHOIR'S VISIT.

Seed Treatment by the Newspaper—Opening New Fields—Encouraging Prospects.

No. 612 NEW AVENUE,
San Francisco, Cal.,
Jan. 4, 1890.

To the Editor:

It has been a long established custom at the beginning of a new year for those who have been engaged in business pursuits, whether as individuals, companies or corporations, to take an inventory of stock, balance up all accounts and make out a balance sheet, that thereby they may be able to ascertain what profit, if any, has been made during the past year. If this anxiety is manifested among those in whose hands goods of this world have been entrusted, how much greater will it be with those into whose care and keeping has been delivered a charge that affects the eternal welfare of the souls of men! It was such thoughts as these that caused Elder Tanner, president of the California mission, to cast a retrospective glance over the past year's labor of the Elders who have been working in the state under his supervision. In summing up the conditions of the mission today as compared with a year ago, he found it very satisfactory and encouraging, and believing that your many readers would also be interested in the progress of the work abroad, he requested that I should write you a brief summary of the past year's labors.

January 1st, 1889, Elders H. H. Tanner and M. L. Williams were sent from Salt Lake City to San Francisco to organize a branch of the Church in the state, and that was but one branch of the Church organized in the state, and that was in San Francisco. It was very evident that more than eight or ten persons ever attended the meetings, and with the greatest difficulty the strangers could be induced to attend meetings or investigate the message we brought them. That prospect was anything but flattering; yet upon the request of our president, the Elders arrived in San Francisco arriving last January and others at different times up to the present, there being now sixteen Elders in the mission.

The first field opened up after Elder Francisco was sent away, was San Joaquin, where Elders H. H. Tanner, M. L. Williams, and myself having been sent there last March. It was not long before a branch organization was effected. Meetings have been held there regularly; eight persons have been baptized, and the prospects are highly favorable, notwithstanding the fact that there were but two converts in that vicinity.

Soon after the Sacramento branch was organized Elders J. R. Smith and M. L. Thomas were sent to Los Angeles, where a good work has been performed. A branch organization there has been effected, several others have been baptized, and there are good reasons to believe that more will be added to our number there shortly.

Following close upon the opening up of the work in Los Angeles Elders Parker and James W. Walker were sent to San Diego, where they are working up a lively interest and holding good meetings. Some additions to the Church also have been made at that place.

A short time ago Elder Tanner made a tour through the western part of the state in the interests of the mission, with a view of opening up new fields. He visited the cities of Fresno, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Bernardino, and held a series of meetings, delivering addresses and lectures upon the latter-day work. The meetings were all well attended, some were crowded. His labors were crowned with success in each place visited. He called Elders J. R. Smith and Nathan A. Tanner, who was Bernardino, where there was excellent progress for good work being done.

It seems harder to create the same interest in religious matters in the city of San Francisco than in the out-of-the-city; yet the growth of interest in our cause has been remarkable, and is indeed, rapid. The small meetings that were held in a hall on Mission street, where probably a dozen would assemble, have grown to crowded meetings in a hall on Market street. It

is not an unusual thing to have from 150 to 200 persons at our Sunday evening services. When we take into consideration the fact that in all of the other fields of labor in this city, there are but 100 to 150 members, and then compare with the few that attended a year ago, it is clear that we can realize that God is blessing the labors of His servants.

We have occasional visits from some of our brethren from Zions, and all express their surprise and satisfaction at the fine congregations we have in this city. One of the chief we have, and for which we are very thankful, is the First Ward Tabernacle, United States, scarcely a week past but what very nice visitors and report of our meetings appear. They give us very important, but unobtrusive publicity to our meetings, and hatred as was so prevalent in early days has given way to a spirit of brotherhood. The Tabernacle has even given us fair notices, especially as in the case with the Salt Lake Tribune.

We are all looking forward with great expectation to the proposed visit of the Presiding Patriarch, and the other Field Presidents, who will bring their impressions and prophecies among our people. Already the people are all agitated over the anticipated visit. The people of California, as a rule, are now willing to treat the visiting people with courtesy and kindness, though there are quite a few who prefer to love darkness rather than light; but I am pleased to note that the more we represent the better are they received.

During the visit of the Tabernacle we are sure to receive many messages from the various choirs, bands, organists, etc., who are known to the people. We are anxious to ascertain what our friends are doing, and desire that we endorse the sentiments of the Democrats of Utah.

RECEIVED WITH GREAT JOY.

Statewide—High Mine Strike—Amusements—General Items.

PAYSON, Utah, Jan. 4, 1890.—The news that the President had signed the proclamation declaring Utah a State, was received here yesterday morning with the boming of guns, and fire arms, the ringing of church bells and blowing of steam whistles. Several of the business houses were especially decorated. Within a few minutes after the message was received the church corps paraded Main Street, playing marching music, and we witnessed a grand procession of citizens from the Tabernacle down town. Preparation were made for a grand picnic on the grounds of the Tabernacle on the occasion of the inauguration day, and the citizens Payson will do their utmost to obtain the services of many of our people who represent the great musical organizations known as the Mormon Tabernacle choir.

During the last year thirty-four meetings have been performed in California. There are others who will soon be added to the list. Sunday schools have been established in Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Jose. Many of the young people have an opportunity to be instructed in the principles of the gospel. Three Elders have been released to return home during the year, viz., Brothers H. D. Williams, Clark Nethersole and J. R. Smith, the present president of the San Joaquin.

Elder H. H. Tanner and Henry Petersen, Marriages; P. E. Anderson and James Christiansen, Funerals; J. D. Irvin, J. M. Whittemore and M. H. Thomas, Los Angeles; W. H. Wright, San Francisco; and W. C. Gilmore, San Jose. William Stewart, G. W. McHarris and J. R. Shepherd, San Francisco; and Nathan A. Tanner, San Bernardino. Wolfe writing of missionaries I must not forget to make mention of Sister Anna, who has been a great blessing to the saints here. She is a widow, and her husband died in the service of the Lord.

Every night of the week just past has been occupied by ministrations of various kinds at the open house. On Friday evening a stirring sermon lecture was given by Mr. Pickering, and on Saturday night and day a great deal of time was spent in the temple of the mines, the parties later on will no doubt receive his return.

On Saturday evening, December 29th, Payson gave its largest annual ball.

For the first time in the history of the city, the ball was very full, a crowded swing being within forty miles of the mines, the parties later on will no doubt receive his return.

On Tuesday evening, December 31st, Payson held its annual ball.

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