



IN FACE OF OPPOSITION.

The Gospel Work is Steadily Advancing.

The following is from a letter dated Utah, N. Y., Dec. 18, and written by Elder H. C. Wallace:

This being a comparatively new field for the unfolding of the principles of salvation, we are very naturally meeting with the same unbelief and ungrateful reception that is generally accorded the Elders under like circumstances. People who are revealing in sin do not care to be disturbed while engaged in such "pleasures" as those of the twentieth century.

We find the people of Syracuse and Utica no exception to the rule. Our presence had no sooner become known than the press and clergy became hostile in the utterances against us, but we have become so used to having such uncharitable, unchristianlike invectives that they seem to have urged us on to more diligence, and we sometimes feel impressed to say, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Two papers here in Utica seem to be so much agitated that others are trying to console them. The Buffalo Express tries to soothe their troubled souls: "Utica is very much excited because three 'Mormons' Elders have arrived in that city to preach their religion, but Utica does not have to be converted if it does not want to be." Here's another from a Utica paper of a conservative type: "The 'Mormons' have not annexed Utica yet, though some people seem to think they are going to."

Notwithstanding the fuming and ranting of a few erroneously informed papers, we are gradually advancing and allaying some of the poisoned and prejudiced minds of the people in general.

Just one year ago all Syracuse was up in arms because a few humble and inoffensive servants of the Lord were so cruel as to accuse that wicked city from its lethargy and call them to repentance. The press of that city fumed and fussed for a time, until they had thoroughly advertised us, after which things quieted down and we went on with our work of tractating and holding meetings, so that during our stay there we made quite a number of friends who will always make welcome to the Elders who may be called to that city.

During the excitement of the press and "Christian workers" of Syracuse a great many of the different ministers took up the subject of "The Evil of Mormonism" and similar subjects for the purpose of "informing" their congregations on the doctrines of "Mormonism."

Following is an extract from one of their "charitable" sermons as taken from one of the Syracuse papers, Mr. Baer, a former president of the Y. P. S. C. E., was the speaker. The writer of the article thus introduced him: "Mr. Baer is a magnetic speaker. At times he rises to oratorical passages which are thrilling. He (Mr. Baer) said that he was at present engaged in a campaign of denunciation and education." His address last night was both inspiring and educational.

"Mr. Baer began by calling special attention of his hearers to the 'Mormon' question. He said that he felt very strongly on the subject. He called it a 'burning shame' that Reed Smoot had been elected to Congress. 'Mormonism,' he continued, 'is a religion, not a sect, founded on the inspiring word of God, it places life upside down. It is something that needs not the cologne bottle but the grave yard. It is a light and a curse. I hate and I pray God to help me hate it more.'"

If the sentiments and teachings of the press and clergy were as beautiful as the city, it would indeed be a very desirable place to live in. Many times while walking through its shaded avenues, with its stately elm overhanging until they form a veritable canopy over the heads of the people, I wished that more of our Utah cities were so blessed; such a thing as irrigation is unknown; the trees grow and thrive on the moisture of the soil and the heavy dew that are characteristic of this section, but it seems as though every city has a "serpent in its back yard."

The serpent in the case of Syracuse and Utica has evidently coiled around to the front yard. There is the old, dirty and sluggish Erie canal winding its way through the very heart of the city, with its black, filthy and lapped canal banks that have been lying ever since my mother traveled its course to Buffalo, sixty years ago. When, as a companion equally objectionable, is N. Y. C. R. R., also running through the center of the city, taking twenty trains west and twenty-one east every day, imagine forty trains a day running through Second South street; but I must not spend any more time on Syracuse. O yes I must mention one more commendable feature and that is its Manufactories. Syracuse is called the business portion of the state of Utah, and its Manufactories, City from its manufacture of more typewriters than any other city in the world. It may not be right to envy, but how I did wish we had some of those large manufacturing plants in Salt Lake. Their public schools will hardly compare with those of Salt Lake, but when it comes to the high school it has one of the largest and handsomest high schools in the United States.

While laboring in Syracuse I gratified a desire and ambition which seems to have taken hold of nearly every Elder who has been blessed with a mission to the Eastern States, which is to see the sacred hill Cumorah. Elder J. K. Holmes of Mapleton and the writer visited that memorable hill and battled ground on the 27th of August. We climbed to the top of this verdant and peculiar hill, then stood and surveyed the surrounding country for miles around all clothed in beautiful verdure. There is such a striking contrast between the landscape here and that of our mountain home. The hills are here and there dotted with a

glistening flinty stone, shining in the distance under the summer sun. Many a time have we been led to such inviting spots only to discover the truth of the saying, "All is not gold that glitters."

Instead of the barren hills and glistening stone, we find nearly the whole landscape covered with small groves of trees and a thick growth of grass, which in the earlier part of the day is sprinkled with a dew that sparkles in the morning sun and gives the landscape the appearance of being studded with myriads of glistening diamonds.

At our recent conference held at Albany, N. Y., Dec. 22, according to custom, the Elders, sixteen in all, were assigned to new parts of the great mission field. Any of the "News" readers who may have friends or relatives in this part would be well to write us and give us addresses, and we will be pleased to call on or write to any of them.

IN KANSAS.

A Brief Report of Missionary Work There.

The following letter, dated Preston, Pratt Co., Kansas, Dec. 14, is sent by Elder H. C. Wallace, and Chester B. Walker of Idaho:

We, as Elders of Israel laboring in Kansas, in the St. John Conference, have been traveling together for the past three weeks in the eastern part of Pratt county. Our labors have consisted of traveling in the country from house to house holding meetings. We have met with a great deal of unbelief and hostility, while others are prejudiced against both our people and our faith and teachings. But since people are spending some of their summer months in the west, they are beginning to find out more about the Latter-day Saints. In this way prejudices are allayed.

We have learned by investigation that some parts of this country are in the darkness. And where it was so, we found many friends that would open their doors to the "Mormon" Elders.

The work here in the St. John conference is very successful in regard to bringing faithful souls to light out of the world's darkness. Although the path at times seems very dark and dreary, we are distributing pamphlets testifying of the restored Gospel and Priesthood of God.

Twelve Elders are laboring in the St. John conference and they are all trying to build up the Kingdom of God and advance the principles and doctrines of Christ. The Elders are as follows: W. T. Ewell, J. T. Neilson, W. M. Roole, W. E. Brockbank, A. N. Woodberry, Wm. Muir, J. W. Johnson, Syrus Robertson, C. H. Hammond, E. E. Eyr, Charles M. Bond and Chester B. Walker.

The Deseret News and the Improvement Era are always welcome visitors.

The Elders Spend Christmas With The Saints.

The following communication is dated Coats, Kansas, Jan. 5, and is signed by Elder Lewis Phillips and Chester B. Walker:

On Christmas eve at the L. D. S. church in St. John, the Saints of the branch and Elders, all met to listen to a program that had been prepared by the Saints, the Elders assisting. The program was well rendered.

The Elders spent Christmas day in the homes of the kind and hospitable Saints.

Sunday, Dec. 27, 1903, President Ewell called a Priesthood meeting, which was held in the Latter-day Saints' church, for the purpose of assigning the Elders to their respective fields of labor, and to hear the reports.

Each Elder related his experience, and Elder W. T. Ewell then gave the Elders good instruction, and a spiritual feast was enjoyed.

In this conference are 14 Elders laboring. Thirteen were present.

A meeting was held Sunday evening when the officers of the branch, Sunday school and Relief Society were sustained by the members of the Church.

The Saints treat the Elders with great hospitality, rejoicing with the Saints the Elders left for their respective fields of labor.

We are always glad to see the "News" and Era.

Prospects Bright.

A friend of the "News," E. N. Adams, writing from Easton, Kan., Jan. 5, says:

I am always pleased to read your paper; I could not do without it. We have a flourishing branch here of the Latter-day Saints, known as the Jew branch of the Church. Elder James G. Duffen calls on us as often as he can. We are always pleased to have him visit us. We have a Sunday school, a Relief Society, all in good order. The prospects seem bright for the future.

CONFERENCE IN MISSISSIPPI

A Series of Well Attended and Instructive Meetings.

The following report is sent by Elder O. C. Overton, from Overa, Miss., Dec. 8, 1903:

Conference was held at Overa, Miss., commencing on Friday, Dec. 4. We did not anticipate the starting of the series of meetings until Saturday, but when Elder Ben E. Rich arrived, he informed us that he had received a telegram calling him to come immediately to Salt Lake. A special meeting was therefore called. A large congregation of Elders, Saints and friends assembled.

After the meeting Friday evening Elder Rich turned the conference over to Elder Samuel Cook.

Elders Crosby and Tree had spent considerable time at Overa, assisting the Saints Elders in enlarging the meeting house which proved to be as easy as a house which was much larger than ever before.

We held nine well attended meetings, in which all the principles of the Gospel were fully treated.

We were intending to start for our several fields of labor Monday morning, but we were having such a spiritual feast that the people persuaded Elder Cook to continue conference another day.

At 8 o'clock Monday morning our Priesthood meeting was held. All the Elders of the conference, 14 in number, were present, and expressed themselves as feeling well, both spiritually and temporally, and desirous of pressing on in their glorious labors. Elder Jacob Crosby was chosen as second counselor to Elder Cook. Elder Joseph P. Bodily was honorably released to return home, having filled a faithful mission in this conference.

Sister Emeline Walker, who is with her husband, assisting the Elders at the conference headquarters, and taking an active part in general missionary labors, attended the conference and assisted greatly in making our singing the success it was, as well as taking her turn with the Elders in speaking. Although the weather was very cold,

at about sundown Monday evening, a large crowd gathered on the bank of a small creek, to witness a very impressive scene. Sister Caroline Walton, aged over 60 years, received baptism. Elder Jacob Crosby officiating.

Tuesday morning brought the time for our partings. The Elders left for their new fields of labor, and the Saints for their homes.

We feel to express our thanks and appreciation for the "News" and Era.

CONFERENCE IN KENTUCKY.

Elders in that Mission Have a Profitable Gathering.

The following is a report of the conference of Kentucky Elders held Dec. 12 and 13, 1903. It is sent by Elder Kenneth Molen in a letter dated Louisville, Ky., Dec. 14.

The Elders of Kentucky met in conference at Louisville, Ky., Dec. 12 and 13, 1903. Elder Edgar Perry was present representing the office at Atlanta, Ga. Elder Rich was unable to be with us.

Our Priesthood meeting was held at 2 p. m., Dec. 12. Elder Perry spoke very interestingly for a short time. Elder E. V. Howell was sustained as President with A. J. Bishop and J. G. Nebeker as counselors. Each of the Elders had the pleasure of bearing their testimonies.

The first public meeting was held Sunday, the 13th, at 10 a. m. Elder Agard spoke of the difference between the Gospel of Christ and the many different doctrines of the world.

Elder E. V. Howell spoke on the Holy Ghost and his operations. Elder F. M. Wright's remarks were directed on the necessity of humility and unity. Elders H. H. Burton, Henry Peterson, Perry, S. R. Richards, Henry Peterson, and J. E. Reese bore their testimony to the truth of the Gospel. Elder Perry spoke on the necessity of the Spirit of God.

Our next meeting was held at 2 o'clock p. m. Elder C. E. Cluff gave a discourse on the apostasy and restoration.

Our last public meeting was held at 7 p. m. Elders W. C. Macfarlane and A. J. Bishop were the speakers. President Agard bore his testimony and urged the people to investigate the message God had.

We all met at 10 a. m. on Monday, the 14th, and listened to valuable instructions and experiences of L. E. Chace and C. Cluff, who had been in a few days for their mountain home.

The Elders have all been appointed to their new fields of labor. The work is progressing very rapidly. A good many have accepted the Gospel, and many are investigating. Our baptisms have averaged about ten each month since our conference last April. Our public meetings were well attended. The Louisville papers were very favorable concerning the work being done by the Elders.

The "News" and Era are welcome visitors.

FOR THE SECOND TIME.

Elders Again Carrying the Gospel To Places Formerly Visited.

Elder George T. Foutz writes from West Chester, Pa., Jan. 5, 1904: Years ago many people left Chester county, Pa., and went west. We are now giving this country a thorough canvassing for the second time. Some people who heard the Elders when first canvassing this country years ago, we are having fair success in our labors. We have some families of Saints in and about Chester county, Pa., and about two months ago Elders Israel Hyde, H. Leslie Crandall, H. D. Roper and myself began work in this city (West Chester), and have some friends and investigators here.

It seems the people have the same bitter feeling toward "Mormonism" that their parents had. However, instead of being persecuted as the earlier Elders were, we are treated with silent contempt. This we believe is due to the fact that the opponents of "Mormonism" are now bending their effort to the untiring of Senator Sumner.

If there are any people who would like us to look up and visit some of their relatives here, if they would write to us, we would be pleased to do so. Address to Elder George T. Foutz, 119 W. Market street, West Chester, Pa.

The "News" is much appreciated by the Elders, Saints and friends, and is an excellent worker as a missionary.

STAKE CONFERENCES.

MALAD STAKE.

Report of a Recent Quarterly Conference.

Portage, Dec. 22.—The quarterly conference of the Malad Stake of Zion convened in the Portage ward meeting house, Dec. 20 and 21. On the 20th at 10 a. m., the conference met in joint session with the Portage Sunday school, Ward Superintendent John Heaton presiding.

After the usual opening exercises, Elder Milton H. Wellington took charge of the meeting. Elder Owen T. Davis reported the Sunday school of the stake at progressing. Elders Lewis Williams, Wm. H. Gibbs and M. H. Wellington, then addressed the meeting. The latter said in part: "We should not give up the beautiful view of our farms and the beautifying of our homes to the teaching of our children. The greatest work we can do is to teach the youth of Zion the truth of the Gospel."

Bishop Wm. H. Richards, of Malad City, Elders Jenkin Jones, O. C. Hoskins, Morris Ward, Miles Hall, Levi John, and Elders Thomas Thorp and William H. Gibbs, were the other speakers. The General Authorities of the Church and stake were unanimously sustained.

On the evening of the 21st the Y. M. and Y. W. M. L. A. met in conjoint conference, Stake Supt. R. J. Harding presiding. A good program was rendered.

Elder M. H. Wellington spoke upon the powers of the Priesthood; also of the goodness of God in giving us sufficient organizations under the control of the Priesthood without us joining those that are not controlled by the Priesthood.

The following changes were made during the conference: Lewis J. Bowen was sustained as first assistant Sunday school superintendent. Elizabeth Ann Hughes was sustained and set apart counselor to Sister Alvira A. Harrison.

One of the notable features of the conference, was the beautiful and stirring singing of the Portage choir under the leadership of Charles W. Hall.

J. EDWARD GIBBS, Stake Clerk.

RETURNED MISSIONARIES

Elder James E. Swann, of Preston, Idaho, who was called May 28, 1901, to fill a mission in the northern states, returned Dec. 2 last. He labored principally in the cities of Allegheny and Pittsburgh, where the Gospel work is making fair progress.

Elder Fred G. Nelson, of Brigham City, arrived home Jan. 4, from the Scandinavian mission, for which he was set apart Oct. 18, 1901. He labored in the Copenhagen conference, Denmark, mostly in the city, where he reports the Gospel work making excellent progress. The Elders from Zion are doing a good work; over 40 were baptized in that conference, during the last nine months. Interest in "Mormonism" seems to be reviving since the building of the new meeting hall.

Elder Geo. E. Doty, of Richmond, Cache county, who was set apart Oct. 1, 1901, for the Colorado mission, reached this city Jan. 12 on his return homeward. He labored in the Denver, West Colorado and Omaha conferences, principally in the latter field. While not many baptisms are reported, the Elders from Zion are doing a splendid work, allaying prejudice, making many friends and converting a few.

Elder Edmund C. Howell, of Fairview, San Jose, passed through this city Jan. 12 on his return from Colorado, where he has been performing a successful mission since June 25, 1901. The West Colorado conference was his field of labor. He reports having had a very pleasant time, being received very kindly by the people, the principal drawback being general indifference to all things religious.

he was transferred to England, and spent the remaining time of his mission in the Birmingham conference, in the cities of Walsall and Wolverhampton. He had a most successful mission and reports the work of the Lord prospering in both fields; prejudice is being allayed and the hearts of the people are being prepared to receive the truth.

Elder William P. Murphy, of Ogden, returned Dec. 25 from the Eastern States mission, whither he was sent Dec. 3, 1901. His field of labor was in the West Pennsylvania conference, principally in the cities of Allegheny and Pittsburgh, where the Gospel work is making fair progress.

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