

enough to at least investigate? Utah ought to develop Utah's resources.

Sulphur and soda water, besides marble and onyx, are other things that ought to help the country, especially with the advent of a railroad coming this way, which, by the way, is spoken of now and may not be many months off. Placer gold mining is still going on with varied success. It is all right as long as the river is not too bad, muddy or high.

The festive Ute Indian is still loitering around. Of course Dave Day would say there was not a Ute in Utah, but then his word on that question is—well, somewhat shaky.

MELVIN DEMPOEY.

### GIFTS AND GOOD WISHES TO ELDER BEAN.

In view of the changes, promotion and advancement of the much-enlarged conference of Middle Tennessee, we presume a few notes from this part would be of interest to laborers in the vineyard elsewhere, as well as to friends and Saints in Zion.

The good work in this conference, it seems, is spreading like magic. New fields of anxious inquirers are opening up on every hand, which betokens the presence of the Spirit of the Lord with the pruners of the vineyard; and as a forerunner opening up the way and preparing the hearts of the children of men for the investigating of the glorious principles of divine truth. New Elders are continually coming into the field. The latest addition with which our conference has been honored is the presence of Elder Don Carlos Young, of Salt Lake City, who has been appointed to labor in Nashville, with Elder Soren Peterson, of Logan, Utah. The good will, love and esteem in which our president, W. H. Bean, of Richfield, Utah, was placed in the minds and hearts of the Elders of this conference, were expressed by the presenting to him a suit of clothes and sash hat, with sentiments as follows: "The day being near at hand when we say farewell to our beloved president, ere the train comes that will waft him away to the sweet vales of home in the fair western clime, we, your co-laborers and fellow servants, to show our appreciation and esteem for your valiant, untiring energies, fervent spirit and unfeigned love, and in manifestation of the deep-rooted attachments formed while associated with you as a standard-bearer, present these as a slight token of the love we have for you, and we trust you will accept them in the same good spirit that prompts us to make the bequest. In donning this apparel, let it bring to your remembrance the humble band of which you were chief while rambling in the shady lowlands of Tennessee. Viewing the rapid promotion of our conference, we must, to a great extent, attribute to your zealous spirit the spreading, opening and favorable condition of the once dwarfed and isolated field of Middle Tennessee. The wise counsel, elevated example, undaunted courage, humble, submissive, master of passion, with your fidelity and zeal—all will ever be to us a guide and token of the high moral attributes planted within your bosom. May your brilliant armor of righteousness ever shine as a light to erring mortals."

While slow to give the parting hand, we all join in fervent prayers that your journey may be a safe and pleasant one, with a joyous meeting of your near and dear ones.

"Henry Smedley, A. Y. Duke, F. M. Bollwinkel, J. S. Ferrell, Owen M. Sanderson, I. J. West, E. S. Larson, J. H. Hale, W. T. Ogden, John Jacklin, F. B. Rolison, W. H. Kennington, A. L. Reed, H. A. Grover, John A. Wootton, Soren Peterson, H. H. Hunter, Don Carlos Young and William S. Greenwood."

Elder Bean has been honorably released to return home after visiting Lawrence, Lewis and Henderson counties in behalf of the Contributor company to obtain a photograph of the scenes of the martyrdom of Elders Berry and Gibbs. He will visit Salt Lake City, Bountiful, Provo, Heber and Fairview on his homeward trip and visit friends and relatives who will greet him with pleasure. Near twenty-eight months have now expired since he left his mountain home. He has the badge of honor stamped upon his brow with the satisfaction of duty well done. His mantle was placed on Owen M. Sanderson, of Fairview, Sanpete county, Utah. Elder Sanderson has also been an earnest worker, and the Spirit of God that rests mightily upon him makes numerous friends for him wherever his lot is cast. We trust that he will emulate the example of our former president and that peace and harmony may permeate every soul.

Ever praying for Zion and her favored ones and looking forward with an eye of faith to the time when the earth will be filled with the knowledge of Lord, we remain, yours,

A. Y. DUKE,

In behalf of the Elders of the Middle Tennessee conference.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 25, 1895.

### LABORS IN INDIAN TERRITORY.

CHADDECK, O. T.,

April 10, 1895.

Thinking that a few lines from this section of the country might be interesting to some of the readers of the NEWS, especially to those of my acquaintance, I take the liberty of forwarding the following article.

On the 1st of May next it will have been eight months since I left my home, in company with several other Elders, to perform a mission to the Indian Territory. Since leaving my experience has been a varied one. The climate, conditions and customs of the people are so different from those at home that after arriving here it does not require long to realize that one is in a strange country. The wind, which is such an objectionable feature to most people, blows almost incessantly. Indeed the advantages of our own dear Utah is so remarkably apparent in every particular over that of this country that it requires a considerable length of time for our boys to become in a measure adapted or accustomed to them.

My labors have been confined for the most part to the southern part of Oklahoma, near the South Canadian river, which forms the boundary line between Oklahoma territory and Chickasaw nation. The whole of Oklahoma nearly is under cultivation,

with the exception of this particular part. Owing to the unevenness of the land and heavy timber which abounds thereon it will take much work and a long time to bring it to a state of production. Generally speaking the people residing farther north are in better circumstances than their southern neighbors. The land is more regular and the lay of the country more even in the northern extremity, and is mostly prairie land. When the country was opened for settlement the latter was immediately developed; all the soil needed was plowing and sowing and a crop could be gathered in the fall. The timbered land requires a deal of labor to clear it, and is very hard to break. When it receives such attention, it is years before it becomes entirely free from roots. However, when soil which has produced timber in abundance becomes destitute of such through the labor of the husbandman, its yield is nearly double that of land which needs no clearing; so eventually those who have settled on wooded land, while requiring more labor in the beginning will be the better off.

The people, comparatively speaking, in the whole of Oklahoma were prosperous up till 1894. Rain fell in abundance, seasons were favorable and as a result good crops were raised. Land gradually increased in value. From the beginning of last year conditions seem to have reversed. From about the 28th of May, 1894, up to the present, scarcely any rain has fallen. At this writing, excepting in the lowlands, there is no moisture within six feet of the surface. (I am told this by several reliable residents). Snow fell to the depth of eight inches last winter but on account of the complete dryness of the earth, as soon as melted it was instantly absorbed, where the ground was not frozen too hard to receive it. Shortly after, in making an excavation, it could scarcely be discerned that any moisture had fallen. In consequence of this great drought last year all crops fell far short of their average yield. Some did not raise one quarter what they produced the year before. Corn is one of the principal crops, the production of which was very limited indeed last season. This grain forms the principal feed for stock during the winter, and on account of its scarcity many head of both cattle and horses perished through starvation. During our travels among the people the constant cry was poor crops and hard times; 1894 was looked on as an odd year; better times were confidently looked for at the opening of spring; one extreme followed another, was often uttered; with plenty of rain the farmers were positive they could make up the deficiency of the previous season. Vegetation does not receive its vitality here by irrigation as it does in Utah, and all such is entirely dependent on the moisture that comes from above. If none comes seed refuses to germinate, and all verdure remains until all dampness disappears when it withers away and dies. It is now the 10th day of April and none has fallen to speak of as yet, to refresh the parched ground or to enliven the withering grass. The fond hopes of the farmers for an early spring have disappeared. The grass which made