

Elder's life would have been in danger. But during that time three or four furnaces or iron works have been shut down, beside fifty or more charcoal kilns, causing the rough element to be more humble and many to leave for other parts. During the last three years the white caps and mobber element have been suppressed to a great extent.

I am thankful to say we are being cared for well by the people, and are receiving the choice blessings of health of body and strength of mind from above. Accompanied with these blessings it affords me great pleasure in saying that the Saints here are enjoying good health, and many of them have left off the use of coffee and tobacco. One brother, at the advanced age of 75 years, after being habituated to the use of tobacco for forty years, as well as coffee, has quit the use of both. This is very encouraging to the Elders to see them unite their faith and works together.

We had the happy privilege of meeting Elders Hickenlooper and Shawcroft last week. Good health is attending them and they are progressing very rapidly, feeling to press on with vim and energy in search of the honest in heart. We each extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to you for your valuable and highly appreciated paper. With the welfare of the human family at heart, I remain your brother in the Gospel,

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Centreville, Tenn.

### MECHANICS IN UTAH.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE,  
Ingham County, Michigan,  
March 16, 1896.

I noticed a statement in your issue of March 13 concerning the fact that certain contractors had sent to Devoer for men to do their work. You wish to know why this is done. Owing to the fact that I have been away from Utah for the last three years, I may not be sufficiently familiar with the circumstances to make any practical suggestions upon this case; but I hope to say something that will do some good. The probability of the sons of Utah being put aside and our home work given to others has set me to thinking; and with your permission I will mention a few of my conclusions:

If common workmen are needed, it would be folly to import laborers. It would be hard to find men who are willing to work as faithfully and do as much for the money as our Utah workmen, unless the new generation has failed to follow the example given them by their parents; for never was a better example of perseverance and toil set forth than that shown by our fathers and mothers. The only reason I can give for the importation of common workmen is, that possibly the contractors themselves are eastern men and not educated Utah men.

My thoughts have been guided by the supposition that the work must be done by experienced men. If this is the case I think I can show where the fault lies. Let us glance at the condition of our new State in this regard. In the past, experienced workmen of nearly all kinds were plentiful in Utah. The people who joined the

Church were mostly of the working class, but owing to the undeveloped condition of the country, hundreds of skilled men were compelled to drop their trades and take to some occupation more suited to a new country. Hence, their skill, the result of years of careful training, was forced to lay dormant. This is particularly true in the case of mechanics. What is the result? Today very few of our old mechanics are left, and their sons have turned their attention elsewhere. 'Tis true that many of our young men have become good practical mechanics, by working with experienced men, and they make up their portion of the population—a very important portion of it, too. But they alone cannot carry on our mechanical side, and cope with men who have spent years in the study of theory and subsequent years in practical training. With the latter class we see our contractors and master mechanic; and I am sorry to know that the sons of Utah are poorly represented among them. The result is that we do the drudgery and eastern men do the brain work; and not only this, but the contractors give very little if any preference to our home workmen.

We are commanded to build temples and houses of worship. We desire that our bridges, canals, dams, etc., shall cope with the rest of the world as far as possible, or at least be the most economical and substantial according to modern developments. How are we to accomplish this? Probably the most is done by those who go East to study. A careful investigation would find them divided as follows: About two-thirds study law or medicine, the other one-third is left to be divided among the subjects of music, literature, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering and the sciences, etc.; and out of all a very small number study purely mechanics. When we come to think of these things we can readily see the cause of the small representation of some branches of education. One trouble is that too many of our young men are looking for a "snap," if you will allow the term. To many the word mechanics means work; and while it is true that at times the work is hard and disagreeable, there are many who would willingly enter this line of work if there were something to attract their attention. It has become somewhat fashionable to study law or medicine and it will take time to get the custom changed. The fact is, we produce no educated mechanics, and this is why the brain work is done by imported heads and we must continue to do the drudgery. Not but that hard labor is just as honorable an occupation as any, for Carlyle says "the horns on the hands are the best of diplomas," but we are entitled to both and should strive to obtain them.

It would be an easy matter to suggest a remedy for the existing conditions, but not so easy to suggest one that could be adopted; but it seems that something ought to be done. The time is not far off when doctors and lawyers will be too plentiful in our State and it would be wise for a number of good energetic young men to study mechanics. They could in turn impart to those whose limited means restrict them from leaving home, and

thus we would in time have produced men to fill all the mechanical needs of the State. There are very few ways in which more could be done for the permanent good of the community than by making it possible to have mechanics taught at home, where our talented young men could study the theory of mechanics. They could thus prepare themselves to do the brain work which is now done by eastern men whose sole aim is money, without regard to whom they hire. Hoping that this will be the means of causing some useful thoughts to pass through the minds of your readers, I am sincerely yours,

E. DAP.

### PUBLIC SCHOOL IN ALABAMA.

RIPLEY, Ala., March 25, 1896.

It is some five or six months since there appeared in the NEWS a statement of the condition of the North Alabama conference. If your valuable paper is not overburdened with missionary writings, perhaps a few items from here now would not be without interest to some of the friends of the Gospel laborers who are in this part of the South.]

Less than one year ago, there were only twelve Elders in this field. As the majority of these were inexperienced in missionary work, the North Alabama conference was justly considered among the weakest in the mission. Since that time it has increased rapidly both in numbers and in strength. This has not taken place, however, without a struggle. With but limited training in the field, Elders have found themselves under the necessity of taking for their companions inexperienced laborers from home, when the Elders themselves felt much more capable of receiving than imparting instruction. Thus each Elder found himself under a load which, however, has served only to develop his powers, so that he soon became able to cope successfully with the duties of missionary life. That energy so essential to success in any pursuit in life has grown as our numbers have increased until today we have twenty-eight zealous laborers, notwithstanding our recruits have been raw workers from home and some of our strongest brethren have been called to labor in other conferences of the mission. We believe that nothing short of well-directed and persistent effort among the Elders coupled with aid from a higher source would have brought about a change so marked and improved.

Now, the term "raw worker" is not used opprobriously. No matter how well informed in the doctrines of the Gospel the new missionary may be, still he can not work to the best advantage in the missionary field without experience. At least the general habits, manners and customs of the people must be learned by him. Before he can become eminently successful in his labors he must study the people almost as closely as he has studied the doctrines which he would have them believe.

At our annual conference meetings held last October, a few new features were introduced into the conference. It was thought advisable for one pair of Elders to spend their time in visiting Saints and friends in closed coun-