

FROM THE MISSIONARY FIELDS.

A West Virginia Conference.

Golansville, Caroline Co., Va.,
July 25, 1898.

Permit me to report the conference just held at the Golansville branch, in the Latter-day Saints church on the 23rd and 24th of July.

Elder Thomas C. Romney and myself were in attendance. Ten o'clock of the first day found a goodly number of the Saints of the branch and adjoining counties and many friends present. We held two interesting meetings each day, during which we set before the Saints their duties as the people of God.

All hearts were made glad. A kind Providence tempered the elements to our good. While but two days before the thermometer stood at 100 deg. in the shade, when the time came for our meeting, the temperature had greatly fallen, making it as pleasant as a May day in the valleys of Utah. We were blessed with a rich outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and each Elder as he stood forth to speak, found an abundant flow of words at his command. The blessings of the Gospel were vividly portrayed before us and all were exhorted to adorn themselves with those virtues which go so far to make up the life of the follower of the meek and lowly Jesus.

The divinity of the Book of Mormon and the necessity of latter-day revelation was clearly and forcibly set forth by Elder T. C. Romney on Sunday morning to a large and attentive audience.

At two o'clock p. m. the largest congregation ever assembled at the church was in attendance. The Spirit prompted us to especially direct our words to our many friends, so the first principle of the Gospel were explained that all might know the true door to the sheep fold of Christ.

We must make mention of the bounteous repast spread by the Saints between meetings each day. Although we have but four families of Saints in the branch, an abundance was furnished to feed the large gathering, so all hearts were made glad in partaking of the good things of earth. The spirit of love prevailed throughout. The Saints are united and we commend them as an example for all to follow.

I have been in the mission field for two years and I can truly say they have been the happiest years of my life. No one can understand my joy until he has had a like experience. For six months I labored as a canvassing Elder in the southwestern part of the state, while the remainder of the time has been spent in visiting among the Elders of the conference. Much of Old Virginia is familiar to me and well do I believe the Virginians might be proud of their native state. No better people can be found than the humble farmers of this land. They are kind, hospitable and charitable, yet often with a fixed prejudice against the Latter-day Saints. Many are accepting the truth and the evil efforts of our enemies only redound to our good and false accusers are fast cutting the string by which their own platform is suspended.

Your brother,
JOHN E. GRIFFIN,
Rustburg, Va.

In the Southern States Mission.

Hartford, Ohio Co., Ky.,
July 15, 1898.

In company with a noble band of Elders I left my home in Salt Lake City, in 1897, en route for the Southern States. In arriving in Chattanooga,

Tenn., I was appointed to labor in the state of Kentucky, during which time I have enjoyed myself immensely, and have witnessed the power of my Heavenly Father, made manifest in my behalf many times. The work of the Lord is progressing very favorably in this part at the present time, and we are looking forward with fond anticipations for a bright and glorious future.

Our conference will convene on the 20th and 21st of August, at which time we will be favored by a visit from our new president, Elder Ben. E. Rich. Praying for the success of all, I remain your brother,

DAVID A. AFFLECK,
Owensboro, Daviess Co., Ky.

In North Dakota.

Fargo, North Dakota,
July 25, 1898.

The Lord has seen fit to carry the Gospel to this northern state. No doubt but what some of the Elders have been here and made their voices heard, but as the mission here is carried on somewhat different now to what it used to be a number of years back, we have come to stay as long as it is possible.

We have had some hailstorms here during the past week in this (Cass) county, and in the county north (Grand Fork county), destroying 20,000 grain in the former county and 16,130 in the latter.

It is a pleasing sight as one travels along the rails, to see the enormous fields of oats and wheat. A good deal of corn is also being raised here, while large potato fields are just in bloom now. No trees to shade the roads; no fresh water streams along the streets, make a very strong impression upon the Mormon Elder and bring very strongly to his mind the hymn: "There is a Place in Utah That I Remember Well," etc.

The most densely portion of the state of North Dakota is the eastern part along the Red river. The population in 1890 was 182,719. This has trebled itself by this time, or at least doubled its numbers. The largest town in the state is Fargo, with a population of about 10,000 to 12,000.

Fargo is a railroad center, and all business of the state is transacted here. But to make a long story short, we will put all preliminaries to one side.

One good brother, Elder Kelsch, has called us to North Dakota to preach the Gospel to the people in this region. My former field was Chicago and Central Illinois, while my brother co-laborer, D. J. Hammon, of Preston, Idaho, has been laboring in Minneapolis and the southern part of Minnesota. Elder Kelsch deemed it best to start there in earnest, and therefore called two more Elders to this state, Brother Elias Nielson, of Logan, whose former field of labor was Michigan; and Elder Lorenzo Day, from Hunter, Salt Lake county, who has just come out here, but a faithful, energetic laborer. All four of us started for Fairmont, N. D., as the starting place, but upon arrival we saw that it was not what we looked for, so after consultation we agreed to go further north. We had to wait for the train, this gave us the desired opportunity to seek a quiet spot where we could dedicate the state to the Lord and prepare another harvest for God's kingdom. The spot selected was a grove of boxelder trees, the only one for miles around, Brother Nielson offering the prayer. After that, each expressed his feelings, which was pleasing to listen to, as each one was going to put the hand to the plow and sow the precious

Gospel seed. When time arrived, we took train for the north, Elders Nielson and Day leaving us at Wahpeton, Richland county, while Elder Hammon and myself continued to Fargo. After finding a place to stay, we paid our usual visits to the mayor, chief of police and newspapers.

Mayor J. A. Johnson was somewhat unfriendly and told us that he would do all that he could to hinder us in our work.) We told him that we came to Fargo to preach on the streets and tract from house to house. He told us that if we obstructed the street he would stop us. We thought that if one religious party had the right to use the public street we, as citizens of the Union, claimed the same privileges. As the chief of police just then drove by in an open buggy, the mayor called him. His way of introducing us to the chief was in this wise: "These men are Mormon missionaries; now, anything that I can do to hinder these men in their work, I shall do." With this he mounted his bike and off he went, leaving the chief alone with us. The chief is a reasonable man. He told us that he will do right to us, to which he has proved himself true, as he allowed us to speak on a place, we had selected and his men preserved order. We started out tracting and called on several families. In the meanwhile some articles appeared in the daily papers.

The papers have been friendly to us and have not published anything against us, but we hope with the blessings of the Lord we will be able to bring the Gospel to the honest in heart, as we believe that there are many honest souls here.

D. J. HAMMON,
CHARLES A. HAACKE,
Fargo, Argus Bk., North Dakota.

News from Georgia.

From previous reports Georgia has been a field where some of us more timid Elders were wont to stay away. But the servants of God we believe, will be looked upon with more favor in the future.

In conference held July 9th and 10th we had a time of rejoicing. The spirit of love reigned supreme in the hearts of every Elder present, and the counsel received will be put in practice, and it is sure that those who are honest will be brought to realize their position before their Maker. The Elders report fair treatment in all their fields.

After conference we were sent to Paulding county, where the Elders had labored before. We found our friends had grown warmer. They can not do enough for us. We have been holding a series of meetings in a church and had a time of refreshing to us. We were treated royally and invited to come back and explain the rest of the Gospel for they were anxious listeners.

The weather is very warm. The crops are looking fairly well, but were cut a little short owing to the dry spring, seven consecutive weeks without rain, a very unusual thing to happen in the state. Our hearts were made sad when we learned that our president, Elder Elias Kimball, had been released from the mission. Still, when God has a work to perform, He will find a man to fill that place. We know there was no mistake made in choosing Elder Ben. E. Rich. He is a father to us. May Zion arise and shine! Elders

C. A. CALL,
F. T. BALLAM.

In the Georgia Conference.

McDonough, Henry Co., Ga.,
July 28, 1898.

I left my home on the 21st of April, 1898, in response to a call on a mission to the Southern States. I left Salt Lake City in connection with Brother