

glions you find savage Indians who think you are trespassing upon their territory and treat you accordingly. Most of the above evils, however, can be materially modified if not removed if one has plenty of money, and for such the opportunities are, I believe, worthy of serious investigation.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

#### ALL ABOUT E. L. WAKEMAN.

Jamaica, L. I., July 13, 1898.

Many of the "News" readers remember with pleasure the series of letters published in over 300 leading American and European journals under the title of "Wakeman's Wanderings." At the time of their appearance Mr. Wakeman held the honor of having the largest number of readers of any American writer living. His letters are clear and beautiful, partaking in many cases of the dramatic, quaintly and fervently depicted.

He journeyed with his readers through Cuba. Explained to them the conditions of the people and boldly sympathized with the oppressed, often bringing upon himself the sharp reproof of friends by so doing.

His description of the Gypsies under the title of "With an Ancient Race," gives him the oft repeated title of "highest living authority on the origin, language, history, traditions and everyday life of that race."

A great deal of his literary material was gathered while afoot, and traveling alone in Ireland, through southern Europe, northern Africa, the Azores, Norway, England, Scotland and among the Lapps and Finns.

Where is Mr. Wakeman now, and with what is his great mind busied? A short time ago two humble Mormon missionaries were passing along a grassy lane to a beautiful house set back a few hundred yards from the highway between Flushing and western Jamaica, two pretty suburbs of Brooklyn. A gentleman of fine physique and stately bearing, clad in the dress of a common husbandman, was working about the place. He very courteously received the tracts offered by the Elders, and astonished them by announcing him self Edgar L. Wakeman. He insisted that the Elders dine with him.

This picturesque homestead was purchased by him that he might retire from the busy scenes of 32 Vesey street, New York city, his former place of residence, and enjoy the quietness of the country while he pursues his literary work. A ramble was taken about the cool, shady place, and Mr. W. enthusiastically explained the plans he had for making his home an ideal one.

The strangers were introduced to Mrs. Wakeman, and the bright pretty little girl and boy that bless that household. One feels at home as soon as he crosses the threshold. The furniture is not showy but very solid and convenient. Most of it was built on the place under Mr. W's personal charge.

"This chair," said he, "was made to last for our children's children, and that sideboard weighs nearly a ton. I am a lover of that which is genuine and solid in furniture and in character. I hate show and pretention and deception."

Everything from basement to attic bears the same stamp or order, utility and good solid quality. His library contains many very rare and expensive volumes, and is valued at more than \$10,000. Upon the walls are some very highly prized pictures by eminent artists, among them being some of Mrs. Wakeman's own work. She displays talent of no mean degree.

The Elders presented Mr. Wakeman with a Book of Mormon, which he thankfully accepted and expressed his intentions of reading. Special mention of these worthy people is due. They made every effort in their power to

minister to the strangers' comfort, even going so far as to bring them far on their way in the family carriage and presenting them with a large basket of table delicacies.

Edgar L. Wakeman was born Aug. 23, 1848, on old "Quality Hill" homestead, about six miles north of Howard, McHenry county, Ill. He comes of a noted English family. In early life he was styled "a brown faced, tunicated country boy." His duties in early life were similar to those of other country lads—rise early, work long hours, and retire late at night, tired and weary. His boyish heart trembled—

"To grow beyond the commonplace."

When the Civil war broke out his two elder brothers enlisted and soon were promoted to offices of rank on account of valor displayed. The young man could not be restrained from going to the conflict. Three times he ran away from home to the war. The first time he was returned to his parents and sent back to school, where the master introduced him to his mates as "a distinguished hero from the seat of war."

The second attempt to join the army also failed. A detective followed him and lodged him and his companions in jail, where the young patriots sang war songs until morning. They were again returned to their parents. The time was successful and young Edgar and his companion succeeded in being mustered into battery D, First Illinois light artillery. The father followed him and thus describes his search:

"I found the little goose clad in a uniform big enough for myself. The stiff artillery jacket collar reached to the top of his head, while the bottom fell to his heels and the sleeves were turned back to his elbows. The trousers were big enough for four boys of his size, and the bottoms were turned back above the knees. In that grotesque outfit he was squatting in front of a fire, vainly trying to toast a bit of pork for his dinner. I saw that he got a decent uniform, told him to go it this time, and came back home feeling as though I had lost about all I had on earth."

His commander, Major E. H. Cooper, said that he was disgusted that the recruiting officer should send him a mere boy. The lad was soon promoted for his energy and bravery. Wakeman was the youngest soldier doing regular duty in Sherman's army.

After the close of the war he attended school, taught, studied law, wrote a number of pieces in verse, and studied for the stage. The Chicago fire of 1871 destroyed the property of his parents and Edgar engaged in any kind of honorable work he could obtain. Some time after this he formed the acquaintanceship of Allan Pinkerton, the great detective. They became friends and for years Mr. Wakeman was private secretary and confidential companion of the service. During this time he was regular correspondent of the Courier Journal. The immense amount of work he did at times seems almost a superhuman effort.

Financial reverses caused him to travel, and in 1886 he began the articles that have made him so famous. "Wakeman's Wanderings" have been read by hundreds of thousands in America and Europe. It is said of him that he never wrote a foolish or indecent sentence during the whole of his literary career. He was often urged by liberal offers of money to write light fiction, but always refused, saying there were less silly readers than sensible ones and the latter he would select as his audience. His poetic nature is unfolded in the many selections he has given to the world. His "Tales of Ten Travelers" have been the means of

earning for him the title "American Dickens."

"He gets close to the people, lives with them, and becomes master of their characteristics with such thoroughness as has never been equaled."

The Elders of Long Island conference are enjoying good health and are succeeding in tearing down much of the wall of prejudice built by our enemies. The Elders laboring here are Marcus Farr, James Thomas, Arthur Burton and E. D. Whiting. Many of the people receive us kindly. Several are investigating our doctrines. May peace be unto all men carried is the prayer of

Your brother,

E. D. WHITING.

#### PARIS SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Paris, Bear Lake County,

Sunday, July 10, 1898.

The conference opened on Sunday morning by the choir and congregation singing, The World is Full of Beauty, and prayer by Elder Wallis Hoop.

Elder Wm. Budge was the first speaker. He contrasted the situation here today with the conditions thirty years ago. The deep snows, the severe storms, the uncongenial surroundings in those days. Now we do not experience much difference in our next lower valley. And now we begin to reap in fulness the fruits of the earth in return for the labors of the people. And now we enjoy the benefits of the house in which we meet, the comfort of our pleasant homes. And we meet with a well dressed congregation.

In the afternoon Superintendent Galloway, by request of Elder F. M. Lyman, read an epitome of his life service in the Church of Jesus Christ. Commencing in 1846 in Glasgow, Scotland, and concluding with his twenty years' labor as Stake superintendent of the Sunday schools in this Stake of Zion. He showed how the number of schools had increased from thirteen in 1879 to 22 in 1898, and from 1,240 then to 3,234 now. He had never been more satisfied than in this work and took comfort in the thought, that no one could accuse him of neglect of duty.

Elder Lyman then took up the subject of Supt. Galloway's retirement from the Sunday school. He said the General Sunday School Union board had instructed them to attend this conference and to adjust and set in order anything necessary in the interest of the schools in this Stake of Zion, that after consultation with the presidency of the Stake they had concluded that Brother Galloway, after long and faithful labors of twenty years as superintendent of the Stake Sunday schools, was entitled to an honorable release from those labors with our blessings upon his head, that the remainder of his active life may be spent as a Patriarch in this Stake. The duties and labors of this high and holy calling are so important and so arduous that they require most careful and strict attention. And he can, by applying himself diligently to this work, be even more useful than he could be in the Sunday school. For this reason he was given an honorable release.

Joseph R. Shepherd was appointed and set apart as general Stake superintendent and John A. Sutton Jr. as first assistant, and Oliver C. Dunford as second assistant; George B. Spencer Jr., as secretary and Joseph Wm. Hayward, treasurer.

In releasing Brother Galloway, said Elder Lyman, his assistants are also released. And all the good wishes and blessings expressed concerning him will apply to them also.

Conference was closed with benediction.

JAMES H. HART.

A good many people are waiting with increasing anxiety for news from Manila.