

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.

Winchester, Tenn., March 28, 1898.

The news that your valuable paper brings us is very much appreciated, and we always look forward with pleasure to its coming.

In the Middle Tennessee conference we have recently had a change. Our former president, Elder N. P. Nelson, has been called to assist Elder Kimball in the office at Chattanooga, and we now have as our president James Larsen of Brigham City, Utah.

We have in our conference thirty-six energetic Elders, who are proving their faith by their works; and whose works prove that they are in possession of the spirit that characterizes every true Elder in Israel. Our Elders are unanimous in the proclaiming that God lives and that he hears and answers prayer.

The progress that is being made in the missionary field is certainly gratifying to the Latter-day Saints; especially is it so to those who are more close observers of the Signs of the Times. Never were the words of our Savior more applicable than at the present time, when he says, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." The constant cry from every field is, send us more Elders." This cry does not come from the Priests of mission alone, but from the people of the world. They are starving for truth, and are thirsting for righteousness, their appeals for help are heard on every hand, and it is these cries that cause us to reiterate the words: "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few."

I am your brother in Christ,
JESSE P. DALLEY.
Winchester, Franklin Co., Tennessee.

NORTH ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

We take pleasure in sending to the "News" a brief account of the Northern Illinois conference. We held our first service on Saturday evening, the 19th of March; our second Sunday morning and third on Sunday evening, March 20th.

Our first service was not well attended, but the two subsequent meetings were crowded, especially Sunday evening, it being necessary to supply the hall with more seats to accommodate the people.

We had several thousand handbills printed, and the Elders taking their portion of the same, weekly distributed them from house to house for blocks surrounding the hall.

We all feel that our conference has been a great success. The Elders who spoke enjoyed the good Spirit and many strangers expressed themselves as being pleased with the remarks made and promised that this, though their first, would not be their last visit to a Mormon meeting.

Our Priesthood meeting held on Monday, March 21st, was very enjoyable, and it was gratifying to note the spirit of unity and love that pervaded our midst. The Elders gave encouraging reports of their various fields of labor. We all desired to press on in the good work and to love, honor and sustain each other and the brethren over us in authority, by our faith and prayers.

Some changes were made in the assignments of fields of labor and companions, but all expressed themselves as being satisfied in all respects with what had been done.

EDW. P. MIDGLEY,
Clerk of Conference.

Columbus, O., April 19.—Gov. Bushnell today ordered the Ohio national guard to be recruited to its maximum strength, 8,500.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the Sunday schools of the Snowflake Stake was held in Snowflake February 27th and 28th, 1898.

Of the thirteen Sunday schools in the Stake, eight were represented.

Present on the stand were Dr. Karl G. Maeser of the general superintendency and members of the general Sunday School Union Board; Stake President Jesse N. Smith, Stake Superintendent John A. West, First Assistant A. L. Rogers; Patriarch Paul Smith, Bishops and other aged and respected brethren.

Dr. Maeser extended a greeting from the First Presidency and General Sunday School Union board at the commencement of the conference, and also gave the following instructions:

The general superintendency set an example in punctuality, therefore every successful superintendent and teacher will also set an example in punctuality. He urged the importance of teaching the sacredness of the Sacrament, and the way it should be properly administered and partaken of; there should be no mysteries introduced in Sunday school and personal opinions should have no place. There should be testimony-bearing in every department on fast day. Class teachers should have it so arranged that they may face every child and then speak loud enough that all can hear. In order to have a good Sunday school there should be a plan to work to and when the plan is made, follow it. Congregational singing should be in every school, and the choir should face the audience. There should be a concert recitation upon some Gospel lesson at the opening exercises each Sunday. The successful Sunday school will not be without the Juvenile Union and their general instructions through that paper, and these instructions should be read before the whole school. If parents do not have their children pay tithing they make an educational mistake.

Too much reading by Sunday schools teachers is not good; no more than one sentence should be read without explanation and questions. There is no better method of teaching than the "Leaflet" plan. Elder Jesse N. Smith then addressed the conference.

Stake Superintendent John A. West reported our Stake in a prosperous condition.

First Assistant A. L. Rogers reported having organized one Sunday school during the year.

During conference the reports of superintendents of the different schools were made according to the instructions of the General Union board.

The general and Stake authorities were presented and sustained according to the Leaflet supplement plan.

The conference was well attended although Elders John Henry Smith and John W. Taylor had just left us.

SILAS D. SMITH, Secretary.
Snowflake, March 13, 1898.

UTAH STAKE CONFERENCE.

No quarterly Stake conference ever held in Provo has been so largely attended as the one held Saturday and Sunday. This was no doubt owing to the fact that the tabernacle was to be dedicated. Of the leading authorities who were present were Presidents Cannon and Smith and Elders John Henry Smith and Heber J. Grant of the quorum of Apostles, Dr. Karl G. Maeser, the members of the Stake presidency, members of the High Council and the Bishops of the various wards.

President Partridge experienced

pleasure at seeing so many in attendance, and gave a very favorable report of the spiritual condition of the Stake.

Bishops T. R. Cutler, William D. Robinson and William J. Lewis next addressed the congregation; they spoke principally upon the good work of the people of their respective wards in assisting to complete the tabernacle.

Elder Heber J. Grant spoke upon the benefits derived from contributing in a generous spirit to the requirements made upon the people. He expressed gratitude to his heavenly Father for being restored to health, and gave good instructions to the Saints in regard to the duties devolving upon them in connection with the latter-day work.

Elders David John and Reed Smoot of the Stake presidency spoke briefly in a spirit of gratitude for the completion of the tabernacle and the improved condition of the spiritual and moral status of the people.

In the afternoon Elder Heber J. Grant delivered a sermon on the evidences of the divinity of the mission of Joseph Smith and the truth of the Gospel, pointing out the numerous fulfillments of prophecies given by Joseph Smith and his successors and testifying to the gifts and blessings following believers as was promised by the Savior. The speaker urged the young members of the Church to study these facts and contended that if they would do so they could not fail to obtain a knowledge of the truth of the Gospel just as they obtained a knowledge of other things, through the operation of the senses and the reasoning powers. The disposition of many to rest satisfied with a belief in the truth of the Gospel was disparaged as being the result of influences brought to bear by the adversary or, at least, as being pleasing to him.

President George Q. Cannon followed with an earnest appeal to the young to lead virtuous lives. He cited cases where men prominent in the Church had fallen away because of breaking the commandments of the Lord.

Sunday forenoon the attendance was unusually large; it is estimated that about 4,000 people attended the services, many of them remaining standing all the time.

Presidents Partridge and Smoot gave a report of the efforts to finish the building, mentioning the great liberality which had been exhibited by all who were asked to contribute in various ways either in cash or labor, some of whom were not members of the Church.

The dedicatory prayer was then offered by President George Q. Cannon.

President Joseph F. Smith then addressed the congregation. He spoke of the good work that had been accomplished by the people in finishing the house, and expressed great pleasure in the reports given by Presidents Partridge and Smoot of the generosity and kindly feeling that had been exhibited.

Fatherless, and worse than motherless, weighed down by other people's burdens and with some of her own, Florence Forbes, a pretty little seventeen-year-old girl, made a futile attempt at suicide Friday morning at San Francisco. The girl is the daughter of Major Forbes, who died some years ago at San Luis Obispo. He left a family of seven children and considerable property, which his wife frittered away. The mother proved herself utterly unfit and unworthy. She promptly placed her children in the Protestant orphan asylum, and had not even enough maternal feeling to visit them. Unfortunately they were most of them girls, and since their mother went to live with a negro whitewasher they have felt her disgrace and theirs keenly.