

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.

## PREACHING IN MISSISSIPPI.

MARTIN STATION, Miss.,  
December 24, 1895.

Thinking that a few lines from this part of the Lord's vineyard would be of some interest to the readers of the NEWS, as it is not very often we hear from the Mississippi conference, I send this.

Elder Grantham and myself started a house to house canvass of this, Claiborne county, the 21st day of October, 1894, holding meetings and preaching the Gospel of Christ wherever we could get some one to listen to us, leaving our literature, tracts No. 1 and 4, also the Voice of Warning with all those who would accept of it. At first we found considerable prejudice among the people and at times it became very hard for us to get a place to stop over night; but after becoming a little better acquainted and some of the people began to read the pamphlets we soon made some friends and had no trouble in getting places to stop at. I must say that the Southern people are very hospitable. We had no trouble in procuring private and school houses to preach in, and in our efforts to do good we made many believers, but it seems hard for the people to embrace the truth for fear that the sayings of Paul (Tim. 3: 12) might come to pass. Thus we labored till January 20th, when my companion was released to go home, on account of sickness in his family, having filled a mission of twenty-two months.

I was then to meet my new companion Elder William Martin, who had just arrived at Pine Bluff, Coprah county, from his home in Colorado. I arrived at Pine Bluff on the 21st, where I met Elder J. W. Walker, then president of the Mississippi conference, his companion, Elder Chigman, and Elder Martin. We had an enjoyable time till next day, when Elder Martin and myself started off for Claiborne county again to take up the labor where my former companion and I had left it. We continued canvassing and stopping with the people, having Gospel conversations with them by the friends, till we had seen and given them all a chance to hear the warning voice of the Gospel, leaving it to themselves whether to accept or reject it—to judge for themselves. On April the 24th we closed the county, though before closing it we baptized two hopeful souls into the fold of Christ and blessed one child.

We then had a call to go to Warren county joining Claiborne on the north where Elder Martin and myself labored till the 1st of June, when he received a call to go to Lincoln county and Elder D. M. Faddles, who had been laboring there for a short time, was assigned to labor with me in Warren county. There we continued till the 11th of July when we left for Franklin county, where we were to have conference on the 13th and 14th which the NEWS had a brief account of shortly after.

After conference Elder Faddles and I were assigned to visit the Saints and

friends in Claiborne county where we stayed till the 20th of September, during which time we held meetings and made a few more friends, also baptized two more into the Church.

Leaving Claiborne again at the above mentioned date, we arrived in Warren county the next day ready to take up the labor where we left it in July—canvassing, hunting out the people from the caverns, holes and hills, which there are many of in Warren county, especially around the city of Vicksburg, thus going over the entire county all but Vicksburg as we are to have a special call before presenting the Gospel to the people there. We did not find much prejudice in Warren county so far being as we have found but very few investigating the Gospel, but we hope the good seed we have sown will bear fruit in the Lord's own due time.

The 19th inst. we received a call to go to Vicksburg and will be able to take up the labor there properly a little before New Year; so we would be pleased to have the NEWS sent to that place after this.

I have enjoyed my labor very well the fourteen months I have spent in the South, and am pleased to have the privilege of bearing the Gospel message to my fellow man, which I think every Elder in Israel should prepare himself for, for a great work is to be done yet among the nations of the earth.

The NEWS is a welcome visitor and we read it with the greatest interest, after which we give it to Saints and friends who are just as eager to read the valuable news from the Elders and Rocky Mountains as we boys are.

AXEL NIELSEN.

## A NORMAL SCHOOL.

PROVO, Dec. 30, 1895.—In a recent article the statement was made that the Brigham Young Academy was essentially a normal training school. Many students ambitious to become teachers, having finished the eighth grade of the district schools, come to this excellent institution to learn to teach. Without any reflection upon our excellent system of our public schools, it can be truthfully said that a large part of those entering as first year normals are deficient in some branch, or branches, and extremely proficient in others. Their information usually lies along the lines of the natural bent of the character, rather than a harmonious rounding out of all the faculties. Then their scholastic attainments are information, and not formation. For the most part they are able to receive instruction, but unable to think properly. They are not able to follow a subject through consecutively, and to reason from what they know to what they wish to know.

The first semester, or the greater part of it, is spent in reviewing the important studies of the eighth grade, viz: Normal reading, grammar, arithmetic, with the addition of theology, algebra, geometry and domestic science. The latter considers air, water, food, clean-

ing agents, poisons and their antidotes etc., as well as some other branches. These studies are dwelt upon with special reference to giving thought and reasoning power; the students are taught to economize time, and thoroughly systematize their work, which they must do, if they ever become successful teachers.

The second year the regular college course is taken up, theology C, which includes the Old Testament, especially divine law, the writings of Moses, Songs of Solomon and David, and the Prophets and their writings. The history of the New Testament, Genesis and the power and works of the Gospel. English C, language study courses in A. B., which includes thorough instruction in diction, with practice original composition of the narrative and descriptive class, and also articles for home magazines, many of which have appeared in the Juvenile Instructor. Plain geometry is continued for twenty weeks; psychology, A, which includes the general relationship of mind to body, the collection of psychological facts, and the deduction of principles therefrom. The theory of teaching is taken up in earnest this year. It deals with educational aims, definition of education, outline history of education and the principles of education as set forth by ancient and modern educators; lectures by professors of pedagogy, supplemented by research on the part of the student; comparison of the old methods with the new; relationship of educational factors such as the home, the school, the Church, the state. Persons whose education most affects: teachers, pupils, patrons, school officers, school management—including school organization.

The third and fourth years' normals follow a general academic course on the lines indicated above, and the question is frequently asked by both students and patrons, "How does the normal differ from the regular academic course, are the students taught less or more?"

Here is the essential difference: the academic student takes the same identical course, but studies from the standpoint of utility mainly, while the normal gets not only information but the principles connected with the teaching of it. If language is the study not only the science of languages is mastered but the psychology and pedagogy of language. If it is geology, he not only knows of geology, but how to teach it to others, and the general effect of such teaching on the character and development of the pupil he teaches. So while the academic student is informed and gets his knowledge from the utility standpoint, the normal student is informed and can in turn impart that information to others.

ELLEN JAKEMAN.

## SOCIETY ISLANDS MISSION.

Following is the greater portion of a letter to a relative in this city from Elder Frank Cutler. It was written at Rotoava, Faarava, Tuamotu Islands, under date of Nov. 6th, 1895:

It is with much pleasure that I take advantage of the present opportunity to jot down a few items of travel in the South Sea, to let you know that I