

House-wives busied themselves in getting breakfast, husbands "rusted their teams," while boys and girls of younger years played about in tender glee with our prattling babies. At 7:40 a. m. the parting hour had come. It was sad, yet so lovely; sad to see mothers leaving some of their married children behind them, brothers saying good bye to brothers, sisters drooping upon the affectionate arms of sisters, and little cousins bidding farewell to kin and playmate—all amid the falling of tears, which alone can relieve the pent up feeling, separation brings to affectionate humankind—yes it was lovely to look upon the scene, knowing that a few more of the pure in heart were leaving Babylon, to assist in strengthening a stake of Zion.

We traveled twenty miles that day, and camped on a lovely green spot three miles north of Cedar. Our four teams circled as was the custom of former days. Supper over, teams well cared for, we enjoyed our usual festivities and then retired.

July 26th. A distance of two and one half miles was covered this morning before 7 o'clock. Here we were to meet two more teams. One was detained, thus our "lay over" of one day. Our time here was not spent in idleness, however, as books, papers, Bibles, etc., were brought into requisition. Little groups of Saints gathered to talk over, and listen to Gospel principles, as they were being explained. Our sisters, too, did their cooking and cleaning. After the shades of the evening came over us, all assembled again. This time every one took part in the exercises. We sang, "O Babylon, O Babylon we bid thee farewell." Elder Newman well recited, "Poor Little Jim." Elder Fullmer caused a titter here and there, especially among the ladies by singing, "Please Don't Tickle the Baby." Now we hear from L. O. Ward, "The Coon is Going to Heaven on Wings of Angels." It was really funny, and Brother Ward spoke it well. One most appropriate song followed, "Waste Not Want Not," by J. E. Hunter. Sister Hulse and Stelia Hunter sang an interesting duet, and then the latest "Two Little Girls in Blue," come forth from the musical organs of A. N. Wallace chorused by McArthur, Fullmer, Newman and Bowring. Several hymns were then sung as we sat under the broad canopy of heaven, the last being "Tiink Not When You Gather to Zion;" and Elder Wallace offered the closing prayer, as we knelt in suplication to Him who holds the destiny of Nations in His providential hand.

Earlier in the day we held our "farewell meeting." All being comfortably seated. Elder Wallace called the meeting to order. "Ye Elders of Israel" was sung and prayer was offered by Elder James M. Fullmer. The blessings of the Lord were implored for the departing colonies, protection from sickness, pain and sorrow, while journeying homeward. Well chosen and heartfelt were the words that thanked the Lord for former blessings, and sincere were those that so humbly asked for a continuation of His mercies. Remarks of very appropriate bearing were given by Elder Newman who spoke of our fathers pioneering Utah, and then making the desert to blossom as the rose. He said that now a bright and happy future is before the Oklahoma Saints, in their

obeying counsel and planting themselves on the mountain-side of Mexico.

Elder Bowring followed. Several brethren and sisters bore faithful testimonies, being moved to tears, as they said—"Father, thy will be done." Elders McArthur and Wallace gave valuable instruction to those who leave us, and encouraged those who remain to be honest, virtuous, true to themselves and loyal to their country, their fellowmen and their God. Elder Fullmer was at home indeed, with his good counsel and encouraging remarks. He told the Saints to be prayerful, bearing and forbearing, and their journey would be pleasant, their destination reached in safety. Brothers' Newman, Wallace, Fullmer, McArthur and Bowring sang "Farewell" with appropriate words, which caused the falling of tears, even from some of the stoutest. Brave hearts and honest souls seemed to droop under the weight of joy and sorrow.

Thus one more of the happy days so common to our Oklahoma branch has gone forever, but its pleasant memories shall linger in our hearts, until time shall sap our vital forces, and angels call us home to that golden shore from whence no weary traveler doth return. Elder Wallace and I stood in silence, as we saw the six teams pulling their cargo of twenty-six noble souls from the little village of Cedar.

As Brother Wallace and I sauntered toward Orlando—from there to take train to Indian Territory, we met a very pleasant gentleman by name, W. W. Adams. He is a nephew of our venerable Bishop Kesler of Salt Lake City. Our every comfort was granted by Mr. Adams, and though he is a poor man, I must state our bill of fare. We were practically "broke," save car fare, and as there is no "free silver" in this locality, we had to be somewhat "close" in our spending money. So we were invited to eat watermelon. Being our first this year, we placed ourselves very comfortably on the outside of three big ones. Then corn had just come into use, and we had plenty of it. Also green beans, sweet pot toes, and other luxuries gave us what the natives call "your fill."

Bishop Kesler is highly respected by his relatives in Oklahoma Territory. As a Bishop, father and friend, the Elders speak well of him also.

Our corn here is looking better than it did a month ago; yet many will have very little of it, and others have none.

Our Enid friend wants to keep quiet or we may furnish more facts to the sorrow of our "boomers."

All is in good condition in the mission field. We trust it may ever thus remain, until scattered Israel is fully gathered, and Zion rejoices.

W. D. BOWRING

#### AT AN OPET AIR MEETING.

Elder James Duckworth president of the Liverpool Conference of the British Mission, writes from Preston July 10, as follows, to the *Millennial Star*:

Last Friday evening Elders Ira Bennion, Samuel O. Crosby, and myself proceeded to the market place here in Preston for the purpose of holding an open-air meeting. After singing and prayer we had a respectable audience of perhaps one hundred people who listened quite attentively to our remarks. Elder Bennion spoke upon the first

principles of the Gospel, and he was followed by Elder Crosby who took for his subject Divine Authority. No sooner had he ceased speaking than a well-dressed gentleman who had been a very interested listener, and who appeared from his language and manner to be some kind of a local preacher, instantly sprang into the ring, and taking off his hat, he harangued the people for about ten minutes opposing the doctrines we had been advocating, and incidentally mentioning that he was well acquainted with the Mormons and their teaching.

He first tried to show that baptism is not essential to salvation although he declared his belief that all the true Christians should be baptized. The repeatedly used example of the thief on the cross, and a few isolated passages which apparently sustain the doctrine of belief alone, were brought forth to prove the inefficacy of baptism. He then declared that God did not call Aaron, but that Moses called him, and therefore he was called of man. He finished by saying that all are called who would sincerely believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

We permitted the gentleman to proceed without interruption, and he left as soon as he had finished, though he was invited to stay and listen to the other side of the question.

This incident naturally aroused an intense interest in the audience, and when I stepped forward to reply to the charges the people were all eager to listen.

I showed them how unchristian-like it was for one professing to be a gentleman to interrupt us as our assailant had done. The true explanation of the story of the thief on the cross was given, which brought out the idea of preaching to the spirits in prison and salvation for the dead. This was followed by showing that the authority of the servants of God was respected by our Father as though He Himself were present, and according to St. Luke x: 16, and St. John xiii: 20, he that rejects the authorized servants of Christ rejects Christ and the Father. It was also proved that Aaron, being called by direct command of God through Moses, was called of God Himself and not of man.

The interruption, instead of doing us harm as it was intended, resulted in good. We enjoyed ourselves thoroughly, and now the adversary is aroused we feel more than ever determined to continue our labors with zeal and energy. We receive greater encouragement from our open-air meetings than from anything else, for when the Lord sees that we are not afraid to go upon the street and testily of Him and his Gospel, He comes to our assistance and gives us the necessary strength.

#### IT PAYS TO CULTIVATE.

San Jose *Mercury*: E. C. Chapman, who owns a fine orchard near San Jose, has been explaining to a reporter how it is that his trees look better and bear better than most trees and he contrives to raise high-priced fruit. He says: "It is easily explained, sir. I irrigate and cultivate; I feed and water my trees and keep them clean. You've got to do that with man, beast, bird, vegetable or tree, if you want them to thrive. Don't you see? Now, just suppose that you were not fed and watered regularly, and the flies not encouraged to keep away from you, where would you be? It's just the-