

MISCELLANEOUS.

REPORT FROM OKLAHOMA.

MARSHALL, O. T., May 10th, 1897.

The NEWS is a regular and always welcome visitor among other interesting things I always like to read of the experience of the Elders who are in the world preaching the Gospel and the thought comes to me that perchance a few lines from this part of the world would be of interest to some of your many readers. I have been laboring in Oklahoma (which is a part of the Indian Territory mission) for more than one year and have enjoyed my labors very much. The people residing in this territory are from nearly every state in the Union, and are inclined to be liberal in their opinions. Our Elders are treated with kindness wherever they go, and are making large numbers of friends with the prospects of many converts.

In my travels I have met quite a number of people who in time past have been residents of Utah. Among them I will mention the Burkett family, who were early residents of Provo. They always make the Elders welcome who visit them. Then there is Mr. Joseph Nelson, who went to Utah in 1852. He is a wool-carder by trade. He worked for several years in the old aid mill; and in Provo after the move south. He tells of going out to Echo canyon at the time the army marched to Utah; also of going out to meet the handcart company, which was caught in the snow. He still claims membership with the Saints and has hopes of uniting with them in Utah in the near future.

There are twelve Elders in Oklahoma at present. All are in good health and are enjoying their labors. All are traveling without purse or scrip, which we find by far the most successful way of getting the Gospel before the people; and all the Elders testify of the blessings which come to those who faithfully observe the word of wisdom and keep the fast day.

The present season is remarkable for the frequency and violence of the storms which have visited the land. Truly the judgments of God are being visited upon the people.

There is a fair prospect for good crops this year.

We would be pleased to correspond with any who have friends in this part of the world. Our address is Hennessey, Kingfisher county, O. T.

We find the NEWS a great aid in our work and many of our friends prefer it to any of their local papers.

GEORGE V. MORRIS, JR.
C. A. ROBISON.

PREACHING IN BROOKLYN.

50 CONCORD, Street, Brooklyn,
May 18th, 1897.

The work here is assuming larger proportions. About three weeks ago Elder Kesler, president of the mission here, introduced the English method of reaching the public, that is, by street-preaching. Our first meeting was held on the aristocratic Brooklyn Heights, within speaking distance of Plymouth Church, where once was heard the remarkable oratory of Henry Ward Beecher, and now-a-days the equally remark-

able theology of Reverend Lyman Abbott. Our meeting was not a complete success, or a complete meeting. Elder Kesler had just made a few introductory remarks, and the growing crowd were just becoming interested, when a policeman made his appearance, and approaching the speaker, inquired in an undertone if he had a permit to conduct street services. The answer being in the negative, the meeting had to be brought to a sudden termination.

The next morning Elder Kesler interviewed the mayor and secured four permits, each for a different ward. A few days later, our president left for a month to attend a series of conferences in the newly added districts in the South. The week of his departure we held three outdoor meetings without interruption. At the last of them a policeman again came along, but upon being shown our permit, allowed us to proceed. He suggested, however, that we notify the precinct officers when we intended holding such meetings, that our officer might be present to preserve order. We considered it a good suggestion and thanked him for his kindness.

It is surprising how quickly a crowd gathers at our meetings. It is, perhaps, because they are not accustomed to such a method of evangelization, as very few of the sects adopt it. Some of our audiences evidently think we belong to the Salvation Army. I heard one or two, who labored under this delusion give voice, on approaching, to such encouraging phrases as "Hallelujah Praise the Lord Amen" but they soon found out their mistake. We feel gratified at the success of our open-air work thus far and look forward to many fine meetings during the summer.

We have also resumed tracting from house to house. My district is largely Catholic and has many tenement houses, or "flats," containing ten, twelve and even twenty families. The Catholics generally accord me respectful treatment, and as a rule, politely decline accepting a tract, while a few others act quite differently. It is somewhat discouragingly to climb up six flights of stairs and then get the proffered tract thrown back and the door slammed in one's face. There are many "ups and downs," in more than one sense, to this branch of missionary work. Still I meet a few here and there who take an interest in the truth, and though exceptional, these suffice to make the work encouraging and bright.

There are, at this writing, the following Elders at "50 Concord"—D. F. Edwards, E. T. Burton, William V. Haight, George E. Hanks and myself. We are all well, and anxious to be of some use to the Lord in this part of the vineyard.
D. J. WATTS.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.

MAGNOLIA, Tenn., May 8th, 1897.

I left my home in St. George, Utah, April 7th, 1896, and, about noon the fifth day, arrived at the terminus in Milford, where I took the train for Payson, remaining three or four days. Our company left Salt Lake City at 7 o'clock, p. m., May 16th, 1896, and arrived in Chattanooga, Tenn., at 2 a. m., on the 20th. At our council meeting, held next day,

with Elders Thad. W. Naylor, James Larsen and Samuel C. Barrell, I was appointed to labor in the Middle Tennessee conference. We had just time enough to pack our grips and eat our dinner before train time. We were accompanied to Nashville by the president of the mission, Elder Elias S. Kimball.

In company with the other Elders, I saw the sights at Chattanooga and Nashville, but as they have been referred to so often, I refrain from other than a passing mention of the same.

On arriving in my field of labor, I was appointed to travel with Elder W. O. Christenson, of Fairview, Utah, in Davidson county. Here I came in contact with some of the rich men of Tennessee, who lived in the country near Nashville.

I remained in Davidson county about a month, when I went to Shady Grove, Hickman county, Tenn., where our conference was held, June 27th, 28th and 29th, 1896. We had a time of refreshing, indeed, the Spirit of God resting in power upon the Elders.

After conference I was appointed to labor in Maury county, which is said to be the "garden spot of Tennessee." My companion, Elder John W. Shawcroft, of La Jara, Colo., and I, remained in this county until Christmas; but space will not permit my relating to the many interesting experiences which we had during our sojourn there. Just before the midwinter holidays, we were visited by our conference president, Joseph D. C. Young, and companion, and we held a series of meetings in our county. We then crossed over the line into Hickman county, where we were met by two new arrivals, and their companions, who came to take them to their fields of labor.

On Christmas day, eight of us, including Elder Young, sat down to a beautiful turkey dinner at the house of Sister M. Anderson, of Shady Grove. Sister A. is a faithful Latter-day Saint, and the Elders have had a home with her for many years.

The first day of January, 1897, I started out with Elder T. W. Naylor, of Salt Lake City, on a tour through West Tennessee, to visit the Elders in their respective fields of labor. Before leaving Maury, we closed that county, and then, after a walk of ninety miles, we came to Elders J. H. Yardley and Ole C. Olson, in Stewart county, where we found many warm friends as a result of the labors of these Elders, and Ray V. Wentz, of Provo, Utah.

We then crossed the Tennessee river, into Henry county, where we met Elders H. A. Grover and J. J. Barker, whom we found well and enjoying their labors. In this county we had quite an experience with a Josephite preacher, who railed at Brigham Young, and challenged us to a debate on polygamy. But after fasting and praying over twenty-four hours, we felt impelled to pay no attention to him, but go ahead and preach the Gospel. We carried out this impression, and the Spirit of the Lord rested in power upon us. As a result, he did himself great damage and made friends for us, many of his own flock being impressed with the contrast of the two spirits manifested.

We next visited Elders A. F. Anderson and S. F. Worsley, in Weakley county, whom we found feeling well and doing a good work. While in that county I was re-called to Middle Tennessee.