

lease, and the appointment of Elder W. T. Jack, the Elders have written, and extracts have been made from their letters, as follows:

Elder John M. Knight, secretary of the mission, after concluding his friendly expressions to his departing president, says: It gives me great pleasure to report to you the flattering success the Elders are having in the mission since our winter conferences, in old Arkansas, near the place where the rocks came flying thick and fast only three months ago. April 12th was the scene of great rejoicings; six honest souls were added to the fold of Christ, all of them of that noble Farley family, Elders Nielson, Nelson and Peterson performing the ceremony while some of the mobocrats of a few weeks ago looked on with awe and admiration and said nothing. \* \* \* All the conferences are in the best of condition and have all reported some baptisms; in fact, there have been more baptisms already this year than there were during the whole of 1896. Reports show a steady increase in number of meetings held, while our book and tract account far surpasses that of 1896. Everything is in promising shape to make 1897 the crowning year of the Indian Territory mission.

Elder John A. Eardley, president of the Oklahoma conference writes: Since our meeting together in conference at T. C. Flat, I can truly say I have enjoyed the spirit of my mission. I arrived at Manard, September, 1895. I found things different to what I expected to find in missionary life. Things went on this way until I was called to go to Chickasaw, there to take charge of that part of the mission. I had things a little my own way and I struck out in new country. We made many good friends, and I enjoyed my mission better, but not like I should have done, because I was tempted to carry a little money with me. We have endeavored to carry out instructions to the very letter, and I can testify that the Lord has blessed us with friends on all hands. Elder Gallacher and I have had to ask only twice for entertainment since last conference. The Elders' reports show up three times better than they did before, and now we are beginning to reap some of the fruits of our labors. Elders Holmes and Raleigh baptized a family last week. Elders Robinson and Kearns baptized a Baptist preacher also last week, and we are going to baptize a person today and about nine or ten next Sunday. Besides, the spirit of investigation has taken hold of a great many and we look forward to a rich harvest in the near future. So you see what can be done where the Elders will do their duty. Elders Dailey and Miner met with us at Roffs, and a good spirit they brought with them. We learned many valuable lessons from them. Love and peace exists among the Elders. Dear brother, inasmuch as you have been taken away from us, I feel to say, God bless you. May your efforts to do good be crowned with success. "May your joys be as deep as the ocean, and your sorrows as light as its foam."

Elder Frank L. Copening, president of the Arkansas conference, writes: Today, Elder Atkinson and myself are on our way to visit the Elders in their various counties; and, at the time of writing, we are sitting on a log by the roadside, for you know the roads have a charm for the servants of God. I

am more than a thousand times thankful to my heavenly Father that I was counted worthy to represent and preach the Gospel plan in its purity. Every young man in Zion should be ready and willing to go out into the world to herald the Gospel; and have Deity as an instructor. I can assure you that money could not purchase the rich blessings that I already have received from our Father. And I hope I can prove true to the end, and discharge the duties I am called to perform from time to time by the Priesthood. Dear brother, I assure you, Elder Atkinson and myself will do all in our power to make the duties of your successor pleasant and successful, and that we will always be found ready and willing to obey any instruction. We have been treated finely in this county, never going hungry or in need of friends. We have held over fifty meetings in the county since our arrival in it; have only been refused four opportunities to preach, and the indications are for a big harvest of honest souls. We have many invitations to come back and preach again. There is some opposition to us, which comes principally from the preachers, who urge the people not to go out to hear us, or give us entertainment. Some quite lengthy articles appear in the county papers, and once in a while our friends write pieces of praise for us, telling the people to go out and hear the Gospel preached in its purity by us. So we have good crowds as a general rule. One Sunday, at 11 a. m., one hundred and fifty were present to hear us. We have good order whenever we preach. The young people are generally our friends, and come out to hear us on all occasions. For one month now, Elder Atkinson and I have been fasting three days out of each week, and I can assure you that we have never felt better, and know that by doing this, we will receive rich blessings from heaven. I am more than converted that through fasting and prayer by the Elders and Saints, God will pour out further blessings upon us.

Elder James L. Nielson writes from Powhatan, Arkansas: Just a few lines to inform you that the "Arkansas travelers" are still in the field, and that their ranks are not broken. From the reports, we find all are well and getting along nicely. The last week has been the best week I ever spent. I have gained some valuable experience, and it has been clearly demonstrated to me that traveling without purse or scrip is the way, if we desire the Spirit of the Lord to be with us, so we can have influence. After fasting on Sunday we were led to a kind friend, and an investigation. We had a good supper and held a meeting, and were urged to remain another day and hold another meeting. Next night we stayed at a hotel, at which I had paid fifty cents for a bed when I carried money; now, without, we had supper, bed and breakfast gratis. We had fifty cents given us, and we called on a shoemaker to have my companion, Elder Wilson's shoes mended. On finding out who we were and our method of travel, he gave Elder Wilson his own shoes, saying, he could make the old ones do him. He also asked us if we needed any clean shirts or handkerchiefs, etc., but we thanked him kindly and went on our way. Since then we stayed at a \$2 a day hotel, and were invited to return when we came in those parts again. I

am now thoroughly converted that traveling without money is the way to preach the Gospel, and that the fruits of fasting and prayer will bring such treatment as we have received the last week.

Elder Neilson is now laboring in the Kansas conference.

Elder John H. Peterson, Piggott, Arkansas, writes, expressing his kind feelings toward the retiring president, and says: Your instructions while with us here at our conference, and the circulars you have written from time to time, have come to me with the force of inspiration. Not until now have I really appreciated the virtue there is in fasting, coupled with earnest prayer, although I have never failed to observe the regular Fast day ever since I first began attending the B. Y. college. I have realized many blessings from this faithful observance; but it had not dawned upon my mind that that was not sacrifice enough, and that the life of a missionary, a witness for the Lord Jesus, must be one of self denial, humility and ever-increasing faith and devotion to the cause of truth. It seems that since conference, the influence of the evil one has been here strongly, and I have been able to do but little. But, even this has taught me a few useful lessons. I have fasted and prayed more earnestly than ever, and now I am strong and well. My faith is greatly strengthened and my heart's desire is stronger than ever to do a good work during my mission. I have faith that by carrying out your latest instructions relating to fasting and prayer, the way will be opened up for me that I may have opportunities on every hand for preaching the Gospel, which has been my longing desire ever since our conference.

### SOUTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE.

CAMDEN, May 18th, 1897.

The annual meeting of the South Alabama conference convened near Lamison, Wilcox county, Alabama, at 10 a. m. Saturday May 8th, 1897. Public meetings were held at 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. Saturday and Sunday, and Priesthood meetings Monday and Tuesday.

At 10 a. m. Saturday Elder Daniel H. Thomas, president of the South Alabama conference, called the congregation to order, welcomed the people and explained the object of the meeting.

The speakers were Elders Charles H. Alley, Joseph S. Porter and James P. Jensen. They dwelt upon the subject of faith.

At the afternoon session, the following Elders address the meeting: Irving L. Pratt, Samuel R. Brown, W. B. Barnett and D. H. Thomas. The theme was repentance.

At the Sunday morning session Elder G. A. Reid was first speaker, on the subject of faith as a principle of power in God and man. He was followed by Elders W. H. Redd and S. A. Allen, on baptism, importance of and the proper subjects therefor.

Afternoon session was occupied by Elder William E. Jenkins in an address upon the Holy Ghost; and by Elder D. H. Thomas in general instructions.

All of Monday and Tuesday were devoted to Priesthood meetings, in which the Elders reported their labors since our last annual conference, which was held May 23rd and 24th, 1896. Instructions were given as to the manner of labor for the coming year.