

CHURCH AND MISSIONARY NEWS

CONFERENCE IN NO. ILLINOIS.

Five Rousing Meetings—Prejudice Abating—Appointments.

Mormon, Knob Co., Ill., June 16.—"Mormons" and "Mormonites" have been on everybody's lips in this little town for three days, and will be, no doubt, for some time to come, on account of the three days' "Mormon" conference which closed last night in a room opposite the Hotel Knob on Main street. The chairs were moved out of the opera house to the street and a great crew gathered in the pleasant Sabbath air to hear the "Mormon" preach. The opera house was crowded at the opening session Friday evening and the theater was full during the day, the audience closing Sunday night.

A feature of the conference was the excellent singing—northern Illinois Elders are all singers and made a creditable record for themselves at this gathering.

The citizens of Marion-like many people of the east had rather fantastic ideas of the "Mormon" and their religion, but avowing themselves of the opportunity of seeing the "Mormon" "preachers" and hearing their testimonies. Their opinions must have suddenly changed, since, according to the Marion Daily Journal, "We never thought real people believed in the Bible." "Mormon religion is good," "I've lost my preachers," "A fine book for men," "God bless the Mormons," "Where did you come from?" "What do you want?" "What do you eat?" "Are there any of you?" "They're good singers," "You've given us something to think about," "I believe they are right." A few expressions like those were heard, too, it's a blot upon our morals to have them here." Thus ought to be the attitude of the people in the country, who are also a devoted friend to the Elders since he has no them. He leaves a family of seven children, his wife preceded him some ten months.

The conference closed up a very important period of offering work since March. The Elders have been in the country without headquarters and many without money. Friends were raised up to minister to their wants and some of these people are now earnest investigators. A company of 150 men and women, mostly young, are investigating and won over to returning to the Gospel. A Sunday school was organized among them May 21. One family living near Marion refused to keep two of our brethren. "A glass of water and a crust of bread is all we ask," said one of the Elders, "and the people would not give them. However, they attended conference Sunday afternoon and were so favorably impressed with what they saw and heard, that they asked the Elders to forgive them and to call and stay at their home any time.

Prejudice has been broken down in many parts of the western counties of Illinois, and through this gathering in Marion hundreds of minds have been diverted of it, thus removing the greatest barrier to the progress of the Gospel.

Elders H. G. Webb and P. P. Christensen narrowly escaped mobbing at Bettendorf, Henderson county. This is the only trouble reported. Two preachers invited the citizens to violence.

President G. E. Ellsworth came down from Chicago to attend the Sunday services of conference and returned yesterday to Salt Lake City to return to his home at Mendon, Utah.

Appointments of labor were made as follows: Chas. W. Ward, president Rock Island branch; Nathan Clayton, president Monmouth branch; H. G. Webb, W. L. Wickham, John Weston, George W. Johnson, C. E. Booth, F. Mortenson, Peter S. Duray, Murray Bywater, W. S. Atwood, Henry county; President Ashley Bartlett, P. P. Christensen, C. E. Booth, George Smith, Jr., as traveling Elders; M. Mortenson to keep headquarters at Galvin, Henry county.

ASHLEY BARTLETT,
President North Illinois Conference.

CONFERENCE IN MISSISSIPPI.

New Church House Built by Elders And Saints—Baptisms.

Meridian, Miss., June 2.—The Mississippi conference convened at Dabson, Pike county, Miss. May 31 and 32, there being present 19 Elders from Zion, and about 60 local Saints. We were also blessed with the presence of President Ben E. Rich.

The Saints at Dabson had contributed very liberally in both labor and means for the erection of a meetinghouse which was completed the day before conference, making it a very suitable place to hold conference. The house is indeed a credit to the Saints. The work on the house was directed by Elder Martin Anderson, president of the other Elders, helped to put it in condition, and it is as neat and cosy as any meetinghouse we have in the south.

President Rich instructed the Elders along the line of their duties, as did also the president of the conference, Elder M. E. Rich, chairman.

Elder M. E. Rich was released to return home, after 28 months of faithful labor.

The Elders have been assigned to labor as follows:

President E. D. Buchanan, M. Anderson and R. A. Pitwell to the city of Meridian; Elders C. T. Corbridge and W. A. Anson Hatch to Neshoba and Choctaw counties; Elders C. C. Pulley and W. B. McNeil to Noxubee and Webster counties; Elders G. A. Present and G. S. Kenney to Madison and Leake counties; Elders W. H. Thompson, Chester L. Smith to Tate and DeSoto counties; Elders D. L. Smith and Cheaney Jenkins to Columbia and Chickasaw counties; J. E. Gubler and W. O. Patterson to Pontotoc and Union counties; Elders E. J. Tracy and David Powell are to work their labor here. Elder Tracy had been summoned to court as witness, and was to appear June 16, after which he is to be transferred to East Tennessee. Elder L. H. Pierce was also transferred to the East Tennessee conference.

The Elders at Dabson one week and the Sunday following our conference had the three honest sons into the fold of Christ.

The Elders of this conference have done and are doing a good work, making many friends and true converts to the Gospel. The Elders are treated well by the people of Mississippi and though the missionaries may not occasionally

have their "action's" and went with the Elders to their appointed fields of labor.

M. W. MERRILL,
Secretary of Tutuila.

NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE

L. D. S. College for Maori Boys—Mission Prospects.

Missionaries for Europe.

The following missionaries arrived in New Zealand mission field on April 16, 1905: Alexander E. Seguinot, Peter Matteson, Mount Pleasant; Martinus Nielsen, Carterfield; Peter M. Jensen, Carl John Larson, Salt Lake City; Gustaf H. Johnson, Idaho Falls; Henrie Raverton, Clarkson; Alvin J. Jacobsen, Monroe; John Erickson, Fred Hansen, Jacob Hansen, Christian P. Christensen, Spring City; Samuel Peterson, Kanesville; George Blaum—Robert F. Allin, Payson; Miles L. Jones, Ogden; Nephi A. Skinner, Nouman; Charles A. Shaw, North Ogden; John A. Murray, Ogden; John G. Gunnell, Wm. H. Langton, Salt Lake City; Uriah Gee, Mount Pleasant; Switzerland and Germany—Abraham C. Crook, For Turkey—John F. Woodbury, St. George; Appointments—The Elders who arrived for the conference on April 16, 1905, are appointed to labor in the following conferences: Robert F. Allen, Nephi A. Skinner, Livermore; Miles L. Jones, Frederick Langton, London; Charles A. Shaw, Manchester; William A. Murray, Shfield; Franklin L. Gunnell, Leeds; Uriah Gee, William F. Langton, Grimsby—Milford Haven.

The expenses incurred last year by the Saints of Moaomoung, owing to the erection of new buildings, amounted to about \$6000, and yet you can't even pay rent half the above amount.

The parties who furnished the money, food and labor necessary to entertain the guests at these immense gatherings are Halopga Te Ahunga, Fruiti Ariani, and their immediate relatives. Their names are now household words among the hundreds of people who have paid their debts to these hospitable hosts.

There were Saints present from every conference in the North Island. Among other influential Saints may be mentioned Hon. Peter Taumata, Paora Hopkins, Te Whatahoro, well known to nearly all the Elders who have returned from this mission. Among many more.

From this conference a number of the members of the church are to be sent to the islands of Samoa.

Pago Pago, Tutuila, Samoa, May 15, 1905.—The Tutuila conference of the Sa-

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Abraham Cole Answers Final Summons.

Brenham, Texas, June 6.—Abraham Cole died June 5, 1887, at his residence at Waco Bluff, Jasper Co., Texas, after an illness of six months. Deceased was a member of the church for a goodly number of years, being among the first to accept the gospel in these parts. He was one of the early participants of the movement in the country, and especially a devoted friend to the Elders since he first met them. He leaves a family of seven children, his wife preceded him some ten months.

CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK.

New York, June 16—On June 4, 1905, the end of the New York conference was observed. About 4000 of the 6000 Saints present had held their semi-annual can-



COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, AS IT LOOKED IN 1853.

In the long story of the growth of the west, during the last half century there is much to indicate how much better than they knew the people builded who drew the "Mormon" into the wilderness. It is well known that the first outlet for the persecuted people came through a sea voyage to California, which was undertaken on the ship Brooklyn, and which brought the first printing press and editor, Samuel Brannan, to the Pacific coast. Also it is well known that while this good ship was on the sea, another band of "Mormons" who had enlisted in their country's service, was forcing its way across the southwest to raise the American flag over Los Angeles, and to later discover gold in California, also to print the first news of this discovery in Brannan's newspaper, prefacing the glorious days of 1849.

It is also well known that the first trail to the west was made by another band of "Mormon" pioneers who were driven out of Nauvoo, and founded the colony in Salt Lake valley, meeting members of the San Francisco company on the way. This is the most interesting picture in the history of the west, a town that grew up in the trail of the western emigration, and whose early history is intimately connected with the westward movement.

Before taking its name as Council Bluffs the place was known as Kanesville, and consisted of one of those ancient Indian trading posts, where mere chandlers that was brought up the river along the Missouri river that these Indians met each other for peace conference, and it was just a little further along the river, in the same series of pluffs that Sioux of War Lewis Cass took his famous council with the Pawnee.

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