

on by Elders Rodney B. Ashby, W. W. Beckstead and James Brown.

Sunday at 10 a. m. we began our meeting with about 500 people present. Elder Kimball had them listen to him for one hour and forty-five minutes on Church organization.

At the afternoon meeting he resumed his subject and continued until he was compelled by the rain to stop. The people clamored for more meetings, so our brethren scattered in various directions, holding meetings in surrounding chapels and school houses. All told, they held fifteen.

The day following there were three applications for baptism. Before hundreds of people, on the banks of a crystal stream, Elder Matheson explained to his hearers the object of baptism, dwelling at length on the consistency and beauty of this principle and ordinance. Then stepped forward Brother Henry Hovaster, his wife and daughter Lizzie and were baptized by Elder Chipman, who had with them months ago turned the midnight oil in search of truth.

In our Priesthood meeting we enjoyed the richest flow of the Spirit of God. There we received words of reproof and rebuke, words of wisdom and counsel, words of encouragement and help. We would that all the youth of Zion had been with us, for the Spirit of God like a fire did burn. President Kimball spoke to us for six hours, words of rich inspiration flowing from his lips.

And so President Kimball continued for six hours. Let us transform an idea Paul expressed to Timothy and say: If any son of Zion desire a mission to the Southern States, he desireth a good work. He will find work which will try him to his heart's center; work which will lead him to know whether there is a God in heaven who hears the prayers and accepts the efforts and offerings of his children; and work which will bring greater happiness to him than he can have brought in any other way.

At the close of conference we received new companions and new fields of labor.

ALBERT MATHESON,
President of Conference.
NELS P. NELSON,
Clerk.

LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI.

MAGEE CREEK, Sept. 5, 1896.

Our conference has come and gone. Pleasant memories remain of the good time we had together. We are pleased to state that there were no circumstances during our whole session that could possibly bring back to memory other than the most pleasant and soul-stirring reflections. If we have worked hard in the past, we will by the help of God work harder in the future. Pleasure sprang from an almost infinite number of sources; but that which brought with it the greatest pleasure of all is the knowledge that "The Spirit of God like a fire is burning."

The conference was a joint one, being a union of the Mississippi and Louisiana conferences, held with the Saints of the Magee creek branch, to whom much honor is due for their entertainment of the Elders.

The first session of the conference was called to order at 10 o'clock a. m.

August 29, by President Pomeroy of the Mississippi conference. He made a few remarks of welcome to those who had assembled, reminding them that they were gathered in the name of the Lord and He had promised to bless them.

A creditable rendition of the hymn "Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation" by local Saints and the Elders was followed by prayer by Elder Chas. Johnson. Another hymn, "Do what is right," was then sung and conference was thoroughly begun.

The time of our first session was occupied by the following Elders. Elder George F. Shelley spoke upon the subject of faith, as also did Elder C. A. Mathew; Elders Elijah M. Weller, M. H. Preece and F. C. Best followed with a treatment of the subject of repentance; Elder Axel Nelson spoke on the Gospel. Then a hymn and benediction was pronounced by Elder Wm. M. Martin. Then we reluctantly left our seats to partake of a wholesome meal prepared for us on the grounds.

At the afternoon session Elder Swen L. Swenson, president of the Louisiana conference, was the first speaker. He spoke upon the necessity of accepting the Gospel and exhorted the people to an earnest and faithful investigation of its principles. Elders J. W. Chipman and J. F. Aatie spoke upon the subject of baptism, Elder S. H. Jones upon the Holy Ghost, and D. M. Faddies on Church organization.

Sunday morning Elder Elias S. Kimball discoursed at length upon Church organization—first giving a delineation of the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; then comparing it with the organization that existed in the primitive Church, and showing their perfect harmony.

In the afternoon Elder Cox spoke upon the Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon; Elder Wm. D. Pratt on the subject of repentance, and Elder Pomeroy on the antiquity of the Gospel. The latter closed with an expression of thanks and gratitude to the people for their attendance and kindness. "Oh my Father" was sung as a closing hymn, and prayer was offered by Elder Joe. P. Sharp, and conference was adjourned for one year.

In our council meeting we heard from President Kimball who spoke to us with great power, the inspiration of the Lord resting mightily upon him. Judging from testimonies that were borne afterward and the expression of the faces at the time, we are justified in the conclusion that every listener said within himself, "By the help of God I will." President Kimball was quick to accept the resolutions of each and took occasion to explain in his usually forcible style that he was not speaking in parables but meant every word of it literally. Another trial of faith, which before would have seemed hard, but now made easy by its comparative insignificance, was now brought to bear upon us when the council came to send our large valises home, leaving us with our hand grip only. Every hand went to the level unhesitatingly in support of the movement. If when three hundred and sixty valises come into Utah any one should ask "why?" readers of the NEWS will be able to answer the question.

In all we were favored with remarks and instructions which took up eight hours and thirty-five minutes; six hours and thirty-five minutes time was taken in two meetings and he gave us one early morning talk of two hours just before leaving us.

We cannot close without mentioning another very enjoyable feature of our conference. The night before leaving was spent in a concert, given by the Elders to show their appreciation of the kindness of friends who so royally entertained them. We confess that we were a little surprised to find that we had so many talented missionaries in the field, and when it came to local listeners they could not find words in which to express their pleasure at having been able to attend. Solos, trios, quartettes, choir singing, recitations, etc., constituted the program. Three hundred people attended our conference meetings, only a few less were at the concert.

E. L. SWENSON,
Pres. of Louisiana Conference.

R. E. CALDWELL,
Clerk.

FRANK D. POMEROY,
Pres. Mississippi Conference.

GEO. F. SHELLEY,
Clerk.

WORK IN MISSISSIPPI.

LIBERTY, Sept. 14, 1896.

With pleasure do we pen a few lines to your valuable paper concerning events of interest occurring in the Mississippi conference. The work of the Lord is rolling forth grandly in this portion of His vineyard. Since conference one year ago in July, we have had the pleasure of adding some eighty-five souls to the fold of Christ through baptism, and blessing some forty children. Still, we feel that a much greater harvest is before us for the next year, for never before were the Elders working with greater zeal and faith, and never before has our Heavenly Father shown greater kindness to us than at the present time.

At our conference six pairs of Elders were appointed to labor as "meteoric" Elders in the closed counties, with instructions to go at once to the county seats and "capture" them, holding series of meetings, etc., there, the president of the conference and companion to accompany them.

I will recount the experience of capturing Liberty, the county seat of Amite county to which labor Elders G. F. Shelley of American Fork and H. S. Sanders of Murray were assigned, we accompanying them. On entering the city the mayor and leading officers were deferentially approached and our mission stated in plain, though humble terms, and friends were made of them. The editor of the county paper received them kindly and made them a subscriber without pay. The sheriff, Mr. Davis, kindly gave us the use of the court house, furnishing oil, etc., thus opening the way gloriously for our entrance upon our duty of preaching to the people. As the shades of evening approached Mr. Davis and Mr. Stratton the editor invited us over to the hotel and lodged us for the night. "Ye shall neither go hungry nor athirst."

We held a rousing meeting on Sat-