

FROM THE MISSIONARY FIELDS.

On Historic Ground.

Kingston, Caldwell Co., Mo.,

June 28, 1898.

In response to a call from the Prophet of God, I bid farewell to my family and friends, at Woodruff, Arizona, on the 11th of January, 1897, to fill a mission in the Northwestern states. Arriving in Kansas City, Mo., after a pleasant ride of forty-four hours, I was assigned to labor in Kansas City. In company with Elder Wm. F. But of Lehi, Utah. Our labors were prosecuted diligently until conference, held March 27th, when I was appointed in company with Elder B. W. Dixon, to continue my labors in Kansas City and surrounding country. Our efforts to get the truth before the people were crowned with success. Meetings were held both in public and private houses, twelve persons were added to the fold; a branch of the Church and Sunday school organized at Independence, Mo.

In June I was given a new companion, Elder T. H. Ingram of Nephi, Utah. During our labors together, four were added to the fold; a Sunday school was organized at Leeds, Jackson county, Mo., and Thomas J. Adams ordained an Elder and set apart to preside over the school.

In the late war between the North and South, Brother Adams fought side by side with Elder John Morgan, of whom he speaks in the highest terms. He says Brother Morgan was a man of honor and great integrity, and was well respected by his comrades in arms.

For six weeks following the conference held in the court house, in Independence, Mo., October 16 and 17, 1897, Elder Thomas H. Chambers of Smithfield, Utah, and I traveled in the country districts holding meetings in public and private houses. Returning to Kansas City we continued our labors during the winter. While public buildings were closed against us, we had the pleasure of preaching in private houses, engaging in Gospel conversations, distributing tracts, etc., by which we were enabled to allay much prejudice, and sow seeds which we hope will bring forth a harvest of righteousness. Obedient to an appointment of our conference, my companion and I left Kansas City April 7, 1898, to open two new fields of labor in Caldwell and Davies counties. Arriving in Kingston, the county seat of Caldwell county, Mo., a church building, belonging to the "Reorganized church," was thrown open for our use. Here we preached. The news soon spread that the Mormons were in their midst, and many satisfied their curiosity by seeing and hearing.

We visited the Temple lot at Far West, seven miles west of Kingston. The ground is elevated above the surrounding country. From the Temple lot a view of the country in all directions is opened up, as far as the eye can reach. We knelt down, over the corner stone, where President Wilford Woodruff was ordained an Apostle of Jesus Christ, and for the second time dedicated the county, the people, and ourselves to the Lord. We visited the place where the Prophet Joseph's house stood, a quarter of a mile southwest of the Temple lot, and Haun's mill, fourteen miles east of Kingston. This is a lonely place on the banks of Shoal creek. After our guide had shown us the spot where the well was, into which were thrown the bodies of those innocent men, women and children, who were so cruelly murdered by a lawless mob, we, kneeling down, prayed to our heavenly Father. One of the old mill stones lies just west of

the well, in a good state of preservation.

Crossing over to the southeast part of Davies county, we held meeting in a school house, which was filled to overflowing. We continued our work in this county till conference, April 23-25, and were successful in opening up these two fields of labor.

At the conference, in company with Elder Jesse Moses of Smithfield, Utah, I was assigned to Caldwell and Ray counties.

I have now been appointed to assist in opening a field in Dakota, for which part I leave in a day or two.

Praying for the spread of truth and the welfare of Zion, I am

BRIGHAM F. DUFFIN.

Sowing the Seed.

Northwest Virginia Conference,

July 29, 1898.

The day following the date of my last letter, viz: June 7th, we stopped at a hotel in a small settlement for the purpose of seeing one of the trustees of the school house. We were invited in to take dinner and were treated very kindly. While eating dinner a letter was handed us addressed: "To the Mormon Missionaries," which stated that we would be given until 2 o'clock to leave the town and were never to return as the "White Caps" were in town and would not put up with such men as we are. We let the trustee read the letter and he gave us permission to hold meetings in the school house. We did not feel alarmed at this, nor did we complain, as we felt that it was for the best in opening the way for our holding meetings, which it proved to be. We held three meetings there and all were fairly well attended. The people were kind and courteous to us. We were entertained two days and three nights and were treated very hospitably.

We then made our way to a settlement by the name of Pickins, and called on the trustees and minister of one of the churches of the town and obtained permission to hold meeting in their church, but the minister and trustees withdrew their promise. This threw us into a rather unfavorable position, but we trusted in the Lord and were finally successful in obtaining the Baptist church where we held a meeting.

On June 15th we met Elders William Anderson and Saul F. Wiser, who had come over into Randolph county to visit the Saints. We had an enjoyable time together, and on the morning of the 17th we separated, they to return to their field of labor in the Barbour county and we to resume our labors in this county.

We entered Beverly, the county seat of Randolph county, feeling rather weak and timid in commencing the canvassing of the town, but we put our dependence in the Lord for the accomplishment of this work and met with fair success. We also had a good many conversations in which we had the opportunity of bearing our testimonies to the truthfulness and divinity of the work in which we are engaged.

After finishing our work in Beverly and the surrounding country, we entered Elkins, a railroad town and the largest settlement in the county. Two of our Elders did some little canvassing in Elkins several years ago, but owing to the bitter feeling which then existed against the Church and as some threat of violence were given, the city was not thoroughly canvassed. I am

happy to say that we were treated courteously on nearly every hand while engaged in our labor there. During the time we were in town we called on the mayor and also visited ex-Senator Davis, who had become acquainted with President George Q. Cannon in the Senate. He made us welcome and gave us the privilege of looking through his grounds and gardens, which were very beautiful. We also walked through the premises of Senator Elkins, which were also worthy of the time we spent in viewing them.

On the 21st inst. we were happily surprised on reaching the house of Mr. Wort Pritt, to find Elders E. M. Green and Thomas Evans there. They had been laboring in Weston county and had come over to spend the 24th in visiting the Saints and friends. On Sunday, the 24th, we all attended meeting at the house of Brother Baxter White, presided over by our local Elder, Pierce Pritt. The meeting was made up mostly of the Saints, and was number of the Saints gathered at the house of Brother Elisha McClouds of Lee Bell, where where preparations had been and were being made for a day's enjoyment. A grape vine 65 feet in length had been procured and was transformed into an excellent swing, in which much pleasure was taken. After dinner we all gathered 'neath the shade of the forest trees where we enjoyed ourselves in a short meeting, Elder Green presiding.

A photographer who was near by was then brought into the scene of action and our photos were taken. We could not tell whether the photographer was afraid of his glass or not but came to the conclusion that he must have been, as he seemed very nervous in giving us the "shot." Sports of various kinds were participated in and an enjoyable day was spent by all present. This was the first celebration of the nation's day by the Saints and Elders in this part of the conference.

I am sorry to add that Sister Bennett passed from this stage of existence on the 12th of this month. She had a paralytic stroke some years ago, from which she seemed to recover. She was very faithful and devoted to the Church while living and we feel that she will receive her reward now that she has passed away, for the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong, but as the Savior says, "He that shall endure unto the end the same shall be saved."

Elder Bunker and I are still laboring together and are enjoying our labors very well. Have had friends wherever we have traveled. The people are slow to embrace the Gospel, but as a general thing they treat us hospitably, and the prejudice which was once so prevalent amongst them has been removed to a great extent.

Some sickness has existed in this conference among the Elders and Saints but all are again enjoying good health.

Yours respectfully,

CLARENCE GARDNER.

Crickard, Randolph County, West Virginia.

A Gentle View of the Elders.

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. He that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.—Matt. 10: 37; Luke 14: 26.

On the 12th day of April there came to my door two wayfarers, who on being invited to come into the house began saying that they were Mormon missionaries, representing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They were courteous and gentlemanly in their actions and talk. They stated they were traveling without purse or