PUBLIC SCHOOL IN ALABAMA

A Utah Boy's Experience as Visitor and Teacher.

Attending a Mississippi Funeral—Preaching to the People—Kindnesses Mutually Received.

RIPLEY, Miss., March 25, 1896.

To the Editor:

It is some five or six months since there appeared in the NEWS a statement of the condition of the North Alabama conference. If your valuable paper is not overburdened with missionary writings, perhaps a few items from here now would not be without interest to some of the friends of the Gospel laborers who are in this part of the South.

Less than one year ago, there were only twelve Elders in this field. As the majority of these were inexperienced in missionary work, the North Alabama conference was justly considered among the weakest in the mission. Since then time it has increased rapidly both in numbers and in strength. This has not taken place, however, without a struggle. With but limited training in the field, Elders have found themselves under the necessity of taking to their shoulders responsibilities heretofore borne by others. Thus the Elders themselves are more capable of receiving their impending instruction. Thus each Elder found himself under a load which, however, has served only to develop his powers, so that he soon became able to cope successfully with the duties of missionary life. That energy so essential to success in any pursuit in life has grown as our numbers have increased until today we have twenty-eight active laborers, notwithstanding our recruits have been raw recruits from home and some of our strongest brethren have been called to labor in other conference of the mission. We believe that nothing short of well-directed and persistent effort among the Elders coupled with aid from a higher source would have brought about a change so marked and improved.

Now, the term "new-market" is not used opprobriously. No matter how well informed in the doctrines of the Gospel the new missionary may be, still he can not work to the best advantage in the missionary field without experience. At least the general habits, manners and customs of the people must be learned by him. Before he can become eminently successful in his labors he must study the people almost as closely as he has studied the doctrines which he would have them believe.

At our annual conference meetings held last October, a few new features were introduced into the conference. It was thought advisable for one chair of Elders to spend their time in visiting Saints and friends in close contact. It was also deemed wise for the president of the conference to visit the Elders in their respective counties and there hold a series of six or eight meetings in addition. Wherever people might be found desirous of hearing our teachings. This was required of him, as well as to encourage and counsel the Elders in regard to their duties. Perhaps no other two changes have been productive of more good. On hearing that a "big Mormon preacher" would be along, an exciting interest has often been aroused in the minds of many people, which has led to his fresh some well attended meetings. Indeed, persons not having been within church walls for fifteen years have come out to the meetings. It must not be supposed however, that friends have always been found with "open arms ready to defend us against our enemies." Opposition often has been met, and we are thankful that ways to overcoming this opposition have been found as often.

On one occasion in Alabama, the principal of a school was invited to give notice to the students that we would hold meetings at a given place. This he did, and he also gave the students to understand that it would not be in keeping with his wishes for them to give such "hoes and pigeons and follows" a hearing. After our meetings were over, we visited his school, telling him that we were interested in educational work and that we were desirous of learning the methods of teaching employed in the South. He asked if we ever had the pleasure of meeting school. On his receiving an affirmative answer, seemingly in fear the distinguished of our works, he invited us to take charge of one of his advanced classes. The invitation was accepted. As the duties of the class to requested that we take charge of reading, we saw no conflict with hearts and the day and less spent by the "Mormon" acting as teacher and the teacher as critic. By this time he evidently had a "change of heart," as he desired us to speak to the students on educational topics. This we attempted to do by telling of the development of education in Utah, of her present school system with some of its results, and of her comparative standing with some of the old and leading educational states in the Union. At the close of the talk the teacher was profuse with his praise. When we bade him and the students good bye, we had gained their respect and good wishes. The whole surrounding neighborhood was beside themselves, which resulted in a touch to our Gospel of truth.

While visiting in the state of Mississippi we have met comparatively little opposition. One Sabbath morning we attended a large funeral near by the schoolhouse where we intended to hold meeting in the afternoon. As the pastor failed in reaching the cemetery in time for the burial. We were asked to conduct the services. Here was presented to us a good opportunity to speak upon the resurrection. After the services were over, the bereaved fathers thought it strange that they had not listened to the resurrection in a similar way, as all the doctrine advanced, they said, was scriptural. A favorable impression had been made on a large proportion of the people who now became determined to hear us speak in the afternoon. However, prompted by a desire to stop our progress, there was a minister who planted the school trustees to close the doors of the school house against us. Determined not to be baffled nevertheless, we gave notice that we would hold a meeting that night in a cottage in an adjoining neighborhood. At night a large crowd came out to hear us, varying this name is yellow to adjoining settlements. When night came we found the chapel well filled with listeners, some of whom had twelve miles to travel. During the meeting the spirit of the Lord was richly enjoyed by the speakers, and at its close, they became divested of scales of friends desirous of changing their minds and of asking an interest in their prayers. Thus our way has been made clear before us, and we have been permitted to sow seeds which we have reason to believe will germinate, and with proper watchfulness and cultivation, grow and spread into beautiful shrubs such as the King of the harvest will not fail to own.

We are now working in the northern counties. We are indeed thankful to have gone within the boundary and quietness of the home of Judge H. P. Williams, for we were somewhat tired, having held thirty-three meetings during the past four weeks. Voting, Judge Williams and wife are now to be numbered among the saints of the earth. Their high intellectual attainments coupled with their upright course in life have been an attention to people of refined sensibilities, hence we have many worthy admirers. The judge and his wife have acted as father and mother in aiding of Utah who will never forget them.

On the 27th of February we received notice that Elder Rufus Murphy would soon be released to return home, that Elder Albert Mathews of Salt Lake would be appointed to succeed him as president of the conference. On the same date Elder Jas. W. Musser, also of Salt Lake, was invited to work in the office at Chattanooga.

REED MURPHY,
ALBERT MATHEWS.

SCOTT'S EMULSION

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ESTRAY FOUND NOTICE.

ON [illegible] STRAYED INTO [illegible] Tuesday [illegible] JOHN S. MATTOS, Fort Douglas.

ESTRAY FOUND NOTICE.

ON [illegible] STRAYED INTO [illegible] JOHN S. MATTOS, Fort Douglas.

STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE Stockholders of the Mineral Mining Company will be held at the office of the Company in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Monday, the 6th day of April, 1896, at 10 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of a board of five directors and officers for the ensuing year and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting.

JACOB S. BEAN,
President.

JOHN M. DONNE,
Secretary.

Dated this 1st day of April, 1896.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT IN accordance with and under the power and authority granted to and vested upon the undersigned, Trustee, by that certain Mortgage executed and delivered to the undersigned Trustee by [illegible] and wife, dated the [illegible] day of [illegible], 1893, and recorded in Book [illegible] of Mortgages, page [illegible], of the records of Salt Lake County, Utah, to secure the payment of the sum of [illegible] Dollars, and interest thereon, and the costs of this notice and sale, and the expenses of the trust, and default having been made in the payment of said sum and interest, and default having been made in the payment of said sum and interest, and default having been made in the payment of said sum and interest