

and companion on the 1st of June with fasting and prayer. In fulfillment of a prophecy by Elder E. S. Kimball, they were entertained at a leading hotel the first night. It is an impressive testimony to witness the softening of a man's heart while addressed by two Mormon boys, humble yet determined in spirit. This was their experience with the mayor. A vacant lot was secured and preaching and canvassing begun. Twelve successive nights passed without shelter. Meals were more regular than beds. A meal was generally provided every other day. Yet the work went on, they never faltered.

The Lord saw their determination and they were not forsaken; rooms were proffered by an unknown friend, a boarding house was thrown open with invitation to eat and preach, friends were raised up who seemed pleased to shelter and feed them.

We know not the Lord's way always but He is certain to bless after He has proven. The first great test made, we might look for happy results to follow the work.

The working of Gainesville, Fla., followed by Elders Samuel Isom and L. W. Robbins. Hotels were opened to them, friends were raised up, the streets and one hall were at their service, while many little courtesies were shown.

The description of the work in Valdosta, Ga., is much like the Nephite historian's description of times of peace. All the hotels were proffered as homes, court houses and opera houses were free and streets were at our service. The people who were so kind seemed impressed as those would who had been worked upon by the Spirit. The brethren, Elders S. Isom and W. G. Fisher, expressed themselves as having but to enjoy the ease of their work.

Cities, like counties, are not all alike, but faith is the keynote, the moving power, the full dependence of an Elder in all cases.

Some ordeals are of a trying kind. In Thomasville, Ga., Elders John Z. Brown and Jabez Faux, who labored there, while holding their first meeting on the street were saluted by a volley of eggs (of the cheaper kind.) With calmness and dignity the meeting was carried on to a close without even a reference to the affair though an occasional egg found expression on the railing near.

Succeeding this were the kindly expressions of leading citizens and pro-  
against such treatment.

At their next meeting a leading citizen proffered his house as a home to the Elders.

A mob that had been instigated by a "divine" to draw the Elders from Madison, Fla., dispersed and danger averted by the power of God.

God moves in a mysterious way,  
His wonders to perform,

We agree with Cowper that:

The clouds ye so much dread

Are big with mercy and shall break  
In blessings on your head.

We rejoice with our co-laborers in our glorious opportunities and strive earnestly for the faith once delivered to the ancient Saints.

Respectfully,

FRANK H. CUTLER,

President of the Florida Conference.

## NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

Princeton, N. C., Nov. 25, 1897.

According to special appointment the forty-four Elders of the North Carolina conference came together at Radford's Cross Roads in Johnston county, N. C., on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 20th and 21st, in conference. The

weather was fair and unusually warm, especially on Sunday, which we acknowledged as an answer to our prayers. The meetings were held in an arbor. Thirty Saints came from Wayne county, and it is estimated that nearly 1,000 people were on the grounds on Sunday.

Elders Francis M. Lyman and Matthias F. Cowley, of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, accompanied Elder Elias S. Kimball, president of the mission, to the conference and addressed the congregations at some length. Many of the Elders were called upon to speak.

People came a distance of fifty miles and even 100 miles to attend conference and to hear and see living Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ. Great interest was manifest by the people who listened attentively to all that was said.

On Monday and Tuesday we met in Priesthood meeting. The Holy Spirit was poured out in rich measure and our hearts were filled with unspeakable joy. The counsel given was to the effect that we should get the Spirit of the Lord and strictly follow its teachings at all times. The importance of the living oracles was emphasized.

We were charged strictly that we should not teach without the aid of the Holy Ghost.

Since January there have in the conference been baptized 182 souls and organized 14 Sunday schools and dedicated three church buildings. Another building is in course of construction twelve miles from the place where we are holding the conference.

Since our conference last August considerable work has been done in Raleigh, where last December two of the Elders were put in prison.

The Gospel was preached in public and private houses in the capital of the state. Elders Lyman and Cowley and Kimball left for Virginia on Wednesday morning.

EZRA C. ROBINSON,

President North Carolina Conference.

IRA BAKER,

W. M. EVERTON,

Clerks.

## IRRIGATION LEGISLATION NEEDED

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Congress:

It has been relegated to me to call your attention to a matter vitally affecting the present and future progress of irrigation, especially in this western region, and wherever the natural flow of our rivers and streams has been practically utilized. The amount of this natural flow during the period when needed for crop production is but a small proportion of the winter or flood flows of these same water sources, hence the conservation of them would admit of five or six times as much land being thoroughly reclaimed as at present. The results from such storage in the creation of water power and electric plants it is difficult to compute, but their value for manufacture, transportation—in fact all industrial pursuits—we may safely consider as exceeding vastly that for agriculture alone. In mining and ore production who can foretell the future in money values to be divided from what is now wasted completely, and which when harnessed for use in no wise restricts the water volume needed in agriculture!

Natural sites for reservoir storage in the large way are not nearly as plentiful as is generally supposed, and the cost of thus conserving the flood waters is a most important factor in undertaking their construction—so important that only communities or companies can, as a rule, bring such construction about. Practically such sites as are available are on the public lands of the United States, lying within the mountain ranges way above

the arable lands and utterly worthless for any other purpose than converting into artificial lakes.

Scarce as are these natural sites, a few years ago the government, in a spasm of apprehension, withdrew the greater part of the most available from occupancy or acquirement by the people. While thus depriving the country of their possible use as reservoirs, without any intention of so making them, as a government, it is hard to understand the motive. The only reason given was that they would be gobbled for speculative purposes by individuals. Inasmuch as individuals to hold them would have to expend thousands and thousands of dollars, it would seem that this course of gobbling would have been preferable to the governmental action which, while unable to do anything itself, effectually estopped all others. Fortunately our national Congress has seen its past error and bills are now before it to restore these sites either to the national domain or donate them to the states in which they lie.

For many years past it has been apparent to those familiar with the subject, and to the Congress itself, that some clearly expressed law taking the place of such as are extant should be enacted, whereby private capital can be induced to undertake land reclamation by storing waste waters—such a law as will give to investors proper time for construction and ensure them a title to the lands upon which their works have been built.

The secretary of the Interior, Hon. D. R. Francis, in his report to Congress December last thus speaks on this subject: "Existing laws are ineffective to secure the reclamation of the lands susceptible of irrigation. The demand for congressional action comes to us with irresistible force. Of the 500 million acres of arid lands, about 100 million might be reclaimed, but unless some plan is adopted by which the waters of the perennial streams which are wasted during the winter months could be stored, and reservoirs constructed upon appropriate sites to impound the storm waters, the percentage will be very much reduced."

With a secretary of the Interior so apparently in favor of congressional enactments, it will naturally be asked why is this matter now brought to the attention of your body? It is because after passing a law in 1891 which, faulty in many respects, yet enabled the attaining of title to reservoir sites, and under which hundreds of thousands of acres have been reclaimed and millions of dollars have been spent, the national Congress in 1895 entirely undid all the good it had done and passed a new law which precludes any obtaining of grants to governmental lands for irrigation or power purposes. It is therefore especially desirable that some new act should be passed analogous to that of 1891, amending its faulty portions, and while conferring title to investors will be the means of securing new homes to millions of our people. If after a brief recital of the facts and what it is proposed to have enacted, this convention should resolve to support a measure promotive of such great importance to the whole arid region, the object of this paper will have been effected.

The act of Congress approved March 3d, 1891, granted the right of way through the public lands and reservations of the United States for the use of canals, ditches and reservoirs heretofore and hereafter constructed by corporations, individuals, or associations of individuals upon the filing and approval of the certificates and maps therein provided for. The limits of the right of way were those occupied by the water surface of the reser-