

Written for this Paper.  
ANN MARIA BAKER.

GLOUCESTER CO., Va.,  
Feb. 15th, 1896.

Will you please publish the following inquiry in the columns of your valuable paper, for the benefit of Wm. P. Baker, a faithful Latter-day Saint of this county?

In the month of April, 1846, Brother Baker's father, William, then a widower, in company with his son-in-law, Frank Smith and his family and Brother Baker's two youngest sisters, started from Middlesex Co., Va., for Covington, Kentucky. They arrived at their destination in safety and took up their abode in the last named place. As the old adage goes, "The rolling stone gathers no moss;" so it was with this party; misfortune overtook them; they had been there only a few months when Smith's wife died and he immediately returned to Virginia with his children. It was reported that William Baker married soon after the return of his son-in-law to Virginia, and died a year or two later. His two young daughters for some cause, which cannot be explained, separated and lost track of each other. One of them is married and still lives in Kentucky, but what became of the other no one knows. The missing girl is named Ann Maria Baker, and she was at the time of separation from her sister 12 or 13 years old. A few years after the death of his father, Brother Baker heard that his sister had gone to Salt Lake City with a family from Kentucky. This, of course, was only hearsay, as it did not come from his sister in Kentucky, she having never written to Brother Baker until after she was married. If the girl did go to Utah, it must have been in the early 50's. Do any of the old Pioneers know anything of such a person? If so, will they please communicate such information through the columns of the NEWS or correspond with Wm. P. Baker, Adm'r, Gloucester Co., Va., and confer a great favor upon one who is seeking to learn of the whereabouts of his long-lost sister?

I take pleasure in reporting the work of the Lord in this conference as prospering. The Elders are constantly opening up new fields and extending the circle of their friends. Prejudice is fast disappearing before the mighty wheels of truth and every religious errand is beginning to prosper. A number of baptisms have been performed this year and there are good prospects of many more in the near future. Each family of Saints is visited every month or two by the Elders, in the calling of teachers, who instruct the Saints in all things pertaining to their duties. Testimony meetings are held with nearly every family and most of the Saints bear faithful testimonies of the truthfulness of the Gospel. Most of the Saints that I have visited are hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and are trying to live their religion.

The work in Caroline county is progressing favorably. Since my last article four more members have been added to the fold, and we have organized a Sunday school in their midst, which has at this time an enrollment of seventeen. Bro. T. L. Jones, a very exemplary young man, is the superintendent and Bro. A. S. Lewis is assist-

ant. Two classes are taught regularly, a Bible class and a primary class. The last named is studying the Book of Mormon stories from the chart. The little ones are delighted with the work and are making rapid progress.

The Saints in Caroline county have in course of construction a small church, which I believe is the first one in this conference. When it is completed it will be a credit to them, and an incentive to others to follow in their wake. May the Lord bless them in their efforts to do good. We have three faithful members in this county and a host of friends, a few of whom are earnest investigators.

The weather is lovely and has been all winter; have had no snow as yet in this part of Virginia and but very little rain.

THE NEWS is a welcome visitor in Virginia, and is read with interest by the Elders and Saints.

ROBERT H. FIFE.

#### HINTS ON TANNING.

COLONIA DIAZ, Mexico,  
Feb. 11th, 1896.

Not having noticed a satisfactory reply to the query of Brother C. I. Kempe, "How to use canals for tanning," although repeated in your editorial, "Will Some One Tell," the writer hastens to assure Brother Kempe and the public that the apparent indifference manifested is not due to lack of interest in the success of home manufacture, but to the difficulty always encountered in trying to teach a trade by precept alone where practical illustration is necessary. If Brother Kempe can get a practical tanner to assist him, the following hints from one who has lived here in the home of the canals for a number of years, and who though not a tanner is able to communicate in their own language with the Mexicans who have used canals from time immemorial, will probably be sufficient.

In order to extract the virtues of canals for tanning, the nearer it can be reduced to a pulp the better. The best cheap plan to accomplish this, if the root can be obtained fresh, before it has time to dry, is to run it through a common roller mill, after which the pulp may be spread out and dried and stored for future use. If the root is allowed to dry first, then something stronger must be used, as for instance, the old-fashioned bark mill, or a patent grinder. The Mexicans use two flat rocks for the purpose, literally pounding it into pulp.

In order to make the "liquor," where the root is plentiful, the Mexicans merely leech the pulp something after the manner of the old-fashioned leech for leeching lye from wood ashes. By others, such waste of the precious root is considered sacrilege, and care is taken to extract all of its strength possible by heating, which must be done in a copper or galvanized caldron, otherwise the "liquor" will turn your leather a buffish color by oxidizing the iron in an iron vessel. Success has been obtained by steaming the pulp in a wooden vat heated by galvanized steam pipes running through it.

After the "liquor" is made many have failed to produce first class leather through not taking into account the wonderful strength of the canals, and

and putting their hides into a solution altogether too strong to begin with, thereby "burning" the leather. "Feeding" the hide, or in common English transferring the hide at the proper time from a weak to a stronger solution, can only be learned by experimenting if no teacher is to be had. For making sole leather the Mexicans are not very particular to extract all the lime, by which the hide is impregnated in the process of removing the hair, but in making upper leather they use a "bait" of denmanure to extract all the lime, alleging that lime and canals together will ruin upper leather.

Perhaps these few lines will open the way for discussion as to the best way to proceed on these points, as the writer does not pretend to any practical knowledge of tanning, his only experience having been acquired by falling into a tan vat of "liquor" when a small boy, in which he narrowly escaped drowning; thereby having thoroughly tasted its strength. Yours for home manufacture,

EDMUND RICHARDSON.

#### MINK CREEK, IDAHO.

This has been a season of rejoicing for a while, both to the dance and a few good surprise parties; and on Saturday evening, Feb. 15, our dramatic club gave an entertainment for the benefit of one of our brethren who is shortly to leave us to go on a mission to Denmark.

I am sorry to have to chronicle the death of one of our sisters, Lena Olsen, who died Monday morning, Feb. 17. She leaves a kind and loving husband and fourteen children, two of whom are married, also father, mother and brothers. She was the wife of our Bishop's first counselor, Brother John Olsen, and was the president of the Primary association of this place, which office she faithfully filled up to the time of her death. She was buried Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 19th, when consoling remarks were made for the comforting of the bereaved family. The children of the Primary association paid their last respects to their deceased parent by following her to her last resting place, formed in procession.

The snow is going very fast and the roads are impassable either for wagons or sleighs.

Your brother,  
BENJAMIN EDWARDS.

#### OLD PHASES OF DIVORCE.

The question of divorce seems to be agitating pretty nearly every civilized country in the world just now, says the New York World. The French legislators have tackled the subject and show the extent to which divorce has grown in France. From 1884 to 1894 applications for divorce in France have exceeded 45,000, of which 40,000 have been granted.

M. Faquet, in urging the passage of the divorce law in France, optimistically predicted that it would prevent many ruptures and that married couples would remain more firmly united from the fact that their ties would not be compulsory. Unfortunately exactly the contrary was the result. The