

river to Birkenhead, and the train from there to Hawarden. Hawarden is a small, pretty village with an ivy-covered church, over which Mr. Gladstone's son is pastor. The grounds owned by Mr. Gladstone extend right to the village. We walked up to the lodge gate, which was opened by a pleasant looking woman. I asked her if we could go in and see the castle, and where was Mr. Gladstone, and was there any chance of seeing him? She told us we could go in but she didn't know whether we would get a chance to see "the grand old man."

It was a pleasant walk of about a mile from the lodge to the castle. The road led through the park of fine old oak trees. By it was a brook with pretty water-falls. About forty head of cattle, some sheep, and some tame deer were feeding on the many acres of grass.

Soon we came in sight of Hawarden castle, and oh what a beautiful sight it was! It is built of stone; ivy is creeping over different parts, while all around are lovely beds of flowers. Not far away, on a hill, are some picturesque ruins of another castle which was built in 1260, but was knocked to pieces in Cromwell's time. Near these ruins we saw a tree sawed in pieces—to be made into plates, knives, etc., to be sold or distributed—which was felled by Mr. Gladstone.

Often when Mr. Gladstone wanted a little exercise he would go out on his grounds and chop down a good sized oak tree. His daily life at home is simple and regular. He goes to bed about twelve, and sleeps like a child until called in the morning. Then he doesn't allow himself a moment's hesitation but jumps right up and dresses. He is at down stairs by eight o'clock, and at church (about a mile away) every morning for the 8:30 service. No snow or rain, however severe, has been known to stop him.

Immediately after breakfast a selection of his letters is brought to him. The large quantity of mail that comes each day contains so much rubbish that the sorting is done by a son or daughter living most at home.

Mr. Gladstone has a fine library of about 20,000 volumes. In this he spends part of each afternoon when at home. Then after a short drive or walk he has a social cup of tea, after which he finishes his correspondence. After dinner he returns to his sanctum, which is bright and cheerful, and with an occasional dose he reads until bed-time, thus ending a busy day. In reading books, Mr. Gladstone does so slowly and thoughtfully, and marks passages he desires to remember. He never wastes time. His maxim is never to be idle, but to use every spare moment.

From Saturday to Monday morning he puts away all business of a secular nature, and has his Sunday books and occupations. In his dressing room is his large Bible, which he uses daily. He never travels on Sunday, and when Queen Victoria invites him to Windsor castle on Sunday for one night he makes arrangements to stay in Windsor the Saturday night to avoid Sunday traveling. Two services at least see him at worship on Sunday in Hawarden church, when he is not absent elsewhere.

I went to the little church where he goes every morning and has his prayers. I saw his Bible, which is well worn and soiled with the constant use of years.

His wife's was by it. Both books are about as large as a good sized home Bible. Mr. Gladstone often has been heard to say that if it had not been for his Sunday rest he would not now be the man he is. It has been a great blessing to him physically and spiritually. He is a fine orator, a great man, but he came of so much use to mankind only by laboring hard and using all his spare time in the accumulation of knowledge. This knowledge he has applied for the good of his country.

JOHN C. CUTLER, JR.

## VIRGINIA AND TEXAS.

Elder Elias S. Kimball, President of the Southern States mission forwards the following letters to the News. The first is written at Richmond, the capital of Virginia, and is addressed to the president of the conference, Elder J. De-Grey Dixon. It reads:

While we have an opportunity we will endeavor to write you our proceedings during the past week in the city of Richmond, the capital of the "Old Dominion." Our health is excellent. We have never felt better in our lives either in body or spirit. During the past week, as you will see by our ten meetings held, we have been endeavoring to show to the people of Richmond the truths in Mormonism, a subject some of the people here have never thought of before.

Our meetings have all been held on street corners. We have been unsuccessful thus far in procuring a hall or church in which to preach. Occasionally our meetings have been quite slimly attended, but this has not discouraged us in the least, for we realize that God will not hold us responsible for the sins of this people, providing we do our part in teaching them the truth, and we feel that we have done and are still doing that. While some of our meetings have been small, on the whole we have nothing to complain of. Last night we had about five hundred eager listeners who had their ears and mouths wide open ready to catch the words as they flowed from our lips, which words were dictated by the Holy Ghost and delivered in earnestness like Peter's message upon the day of Pentecost. We commanded them to repent of their sins and prepare for the coming of the great day of the Lord, when every son and daughter of Abraham will be made to appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of the deeds done in the body. In all of our meetings and canvassing we felt that the Lord was with us, and rejoiced in being permitted to testify to the world of the truth of the Gospel. The Lord so blessed us that we had no fear of men in the least, but were calm and perfectly composed. We do not feel boastful of these things and mention them only as incidents of our labors here. Our feelings were expressed by the Apostle Paul upon one occasion, when he said, "for I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation."

Since arriving in Richmond we have done all in our power to procure halls and churches to preach in; we have begged, pleaded, entreated and remonstrated with the people for churches, etc. but to no purpose. Not only did we try to secure public buildings, but private houses also. Our desires and mission have been published in the leading

papers of the city upon different occasions. We have gone before the Lord in mighty prayer beseeching Him to open up the way for us to obtain some place where we could place the Gospel before the people under favorable circumstances, but for some reason this great blessing has been withheld and we have been compelled to preach on the streets.

This morning we have been up to visit Dr. Storke, according to an appointment made with him; had an excellent time. We conversed with him at great length on the Gospel and he certainly does appear to be honest at heart. He believes that we are teaching the undefiled religion of heaven, and is seeking a testimony of the fact. Upon his request we administered to him for the restoration of his health. Upon leaving him he gave us each a silver dollar with which we will probably purchase a hall for a few days in which to hold meetings. We yet have faith that we shall secure a hall. Our labors in this city will be completed in a week or two. THOMAS C. ROMNEY.

W. W. HUFFAKER.

The other is from the capital of Texas, Austin, and is written to Elder A. C. Dalley, conference president:

At your request we give you a report of our work in Austin, the capital of the state of Texas.

The work in the city was finished up last evening; we having fulfilled the prediction of the Prophet Jeremiah in taking "one of a city, and two of a family."

Since conference on September 15th, we have visited 726 families, made 83 re-visits, had 112 rejected testimony of Elders, 14 refused entertainments, distributed 757 tracts, sold 35 books, loaned and gave away 18; held 50 meetings, 33 of which were held on the street and 17 in private houses. We tried in vain to secure 23 different churches and two halls in which to hold services.

We feel that we have performed our duty toward this people, as we have preached night and day, holding as many as three meetings each day. We always offered them books and tracts, and when our books ran out we borrowed some of those we had sold, replacing these later by those received from the office, thus always keeping a supply on hand for the people.

The newspapers and attorneys are our friends. The policemen tell us that nothing but good has been reported of us, and when it happened that we blocked the street with our meetings they waited until we were through before asking us to move to another corner. Infidels and skeptics told us that we were teaching the best common sense doctrines they had ever heard, while professed Christians frequently remarked, "The doctrine is all right, but look at the name."

Five months have passed since we first entered the city in fasting and prayer. Many are the lessons we have learned through experience. We mention a few: Never rent halls, promising to pay for them when you have no visible means of doing so; rather have faith in God and He will provide them for you if He desires you to use them. Always accept at the opportune time all that is offered. Never bargain for things without money to pay for them. When you have seemingly failed, "up and try it again"—faith and will power will assist you in performing wonders.

The subjects we preached on were