

houses and mounds thickly covering an area of twenty-four miles. This was in a part of the country five days' ride on horseback from the railroad."

The Book of Mormon III Nephi, 8, 9 and 10 chapters gives an account of many cities that were destroyed at the crucifixion of the Savior, a few of which are being discovered occasionally by scientific explorers in South America, Central America and North America.

The work of the Lord is progressing, and people are becoming more and more interested in this great latter-day work.

Our Sunday schools are one of the important features. Since June 5, 1897, I have organized eleven Sunday schools in this (the Middle Tennessee) conference, with from twenty to sixty-five members enrolled in each.

The ten Book of Mormon charts that were presented to us by the Deseret Sunday School Union have been received, and we highly appreciate the same, and in behalf of our Sunday schools we tender a note of thanks for them.

There are three or four other places where Sunday schools can be organized as soon as we can get around to them.

We remain your brethren in the Gospel of peace.

JOHN L. BENCH JR.,

Supt. of S. S. in Middle Tenn. Con.

ROBERT G. LOWE,

Asst. Supt.

Mission Address: Smyrna, Rutherford Co., Tenn.

ITEMS FROM IDAHO.

Parker, Fremont Co., Idaho,
March 16, 1898.

We have had the most favorable winter here ever known since the settlement of this place. We have not had one severe or lengthy wind storm up to date. We have had fewer warm spells than usual, and one cold spell when the thermometer registered 38 below zero. There has been much canyon work done since the first snow in getting out firewood, saw-timber, house-logs, poles, etc. Our meeting house, 51 feet long, 21 feet wide, and 16 feet to square, is fast nearing completion; whitewashing and inside painting will finish it.

I am pleased to say we have one of the best choirs in the Snake River Valley, under the able direction of Brother Ernest Bramwell. There are five Sunday schools in this ward which are numerously and punctually attended. We also have four district schools (one of them graded) with the limits of this ward; a number of students attending the Bannock Stake Academy and a few the B. Y. Academy and the B. Y. College.

Owing to the large amount of plowing that was done last fall, we are anticipating a much larger and better matured grain crop the coming season. Our farmers are feeling encouraged, as the advanced price of all the cereals has enabled them to liquidate a great part of their indebtedness.

The area benefitted by sub-irrigation is steadily increasing, as other canals are being taken out. Sub-irrigation is detrimental to our most valuable forage crop—lucerne—but beneficial to most other crops; though a system of drainage will, doubtless, be necessary in order to regulate and control the water supply, and facilitate the early ripening of the grain. The cereal crop of 1897 nearly reached 100,000 bushels in what was formerly known as Egin, which now embraces Hiatt, Egin, Parker, St. Anthony (county seat), Upper Sand Creek and Arcadia.

The health of the people has been unusually good. Some cases of measles lately. Only one death during the year;

that of Miss Nancy Thornton, aged 15 years.

The "Old Folks," including all over 50, were given a dinner and sociable in the meeting house on the 5th inst. Beginning at 11:30 a.m., and continuing until about 4 p.m., the veterans, to the number of fifty, enjoyed themselves in the exchange of experiences and reminiscence. The quantity and quality of the viands spread out were a source of delight and surprise, and if cheerfulness is an aid to digestion, that meal was readily assimilated, while the attention paid to the wants and comfort of the company by the various subcommittees was gratefully appreciated. After dinner a short program was rendered by the old people, consisting of songs, speeches, readings, etc., assisted by the ward choir and the St. Anthony brass band.

A noteworthy feature of the entertainment was the beautiful tribute of praise rendered to the fathers and mothers assembled for their endurance and integrity; by our worthy Bishop, E. Z. Carbine, in a short but touching speech.

The house was tastefully decorated, and a beautiful banner faced the entrance bearing the inscription, "God Bless our Fathers and Mothers."

The committee, Brothers J. S. Rudd, W. L. Flint, M. H. Harmon and Sisters J. H. Mangum and J. E. Remington, with their efficient aides, are entitled to great praise for the able and thoughtful manner in which they performed their duties for the occasion was thoroughly enjoyable from beginning to end.

We have in the Parker ward Sister Delia Carbine, aged 96; Peter Medwest, 97; Edward Davenport, 75; also eighteen between 60 and 70, and twenty-five between 50 and 60. Our reverend Patriarch Arza E. Hinckley and wife of Rexburg, were of the visitors and guests.

May our heavenly Father grant us many happy returns of the day!

JAMES H. MASON.

GOSPEL TRUMP IN KANSAS.

Spirey, Kingman county, Kan.,

March 18, 1898.

At the conference held in St. John, Kansas, for the benefit of Elders traveling in this state of Kansas, I was reappointed to travel with my first and only companion, Wm. Spellman of Pocatello, Idaho.

The county assigned us was Kingman, a county of no small size, being 24 by 36 miles. Since my entrance upon my missionary labors many things have I learned. I have learned one grand lesson, "Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today." Had I followed this but partially, my position would have been less embarrassing. Well do I remember the often presented opportunities that I have let slip by, in which I could have better prepared myself for defending the Gospel.

I recollect the first appearance I made before the public. I wanted to tell them what I heard my father tell the Saints at home, but I knew comparatively little about the Bible, which only made my position the more deplorable. But I resolved that very night to study, to fast and to pray that I might be prepared to defend the cause of truth and righteousness. I knew some thing "Mormon from a Mormon standpoint." Today I know it from a Bible standpoint.

Shortly after entering Kingman county we wended our way to a little railroad town by the name of Cunningham. Generally we go to the county seat first, but this was canvassed. The first thing to do was to see the directors to obtain their consent to use the schoolhouse. We went to one of the main men of the town and asked for his consent. He would not say yes or no, but told us the Christian, or Camp-

bellites, had possession of the building and that we would need to see them. We did so, but to our surprise he had told us something untrue. We returned to the office and inquired for the other directors. He wrote a note and sealed it up. We took the note and handed it to the man he directed us to. However, the man was (being a good reader too,) unable to read the letter, so he handed it to us to read. Here it is:

"These Mormons want to use the schoolhouse to preach in, you can do as you please but I am not in favor of it myself."

Many little tricks are played on us like this. One evening we were holding meeting in the North Rochester schoolhouse, I was doing the talking this night. But as we had been together for an hour it was time to close the meeting, when the people saw we were going to stop they spoke saying: "Go on, we can stay here till 2 o'clock in the morning to hear that." Many of the men offered their coats to make beds for the babies. We are having very good meetings and often find sincere investigators. We have been in Kingsman county six months now and expect to add several to the fold in the near future. Many are convinced of the truthfulness of our message and of the divinity of the Book of Mormon. But the name Mormon is a damper to them.

C. W. GOODLIFE.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

Notwithstanding the very disagreeable weather, there was a good attendance at the Sunday school Union meeting, held Monday evening, March 21, 1898, in the Fourteenth ward assembly rooms. All the city wards were well represented except the Fifth, Eighth, Twentieth and Twenty-third. The following country wards were also well represented: South branch of South Cottonwood, Brighton, Cannon, East Jordan, East Mill Creek, Farmers, Forest Dale, Herriman, Mill Creek, Sandy, South Cottonwood, South Jordan, Sugar, Wilford.

The excellent singing exercises were rendered by the Sunday school children of the Twenty-second ward west branch school, under the direction of Brother Wm. M. Claydon.

Superintendent Thos. C. Griggs presided. Prayer was offered by Superintendent Nels Nelson of the Twenty-second ward branch school.

After the opening exercises Superintendent Griggs stated that in the matter of holding Sunday school teachers' meetings, which have heretofore been held the Sunday following the Union meeting, it was felt that there was more leisure on the first Sunday in the month to hold the teachers' meetings, and it was advisable on this account to make the holding of teachers' meetings general on the first Sunday in the month. Meetings of the officers and teachers should be held regularly every month.

The meeting then divided into the several departments, and appropriate instructions were given in each. Particular stress was placed upon the great necessity of thorough preparation on the part of the teacher, that he may never be at the mercy of his class.

Too much importance cannot be attached to the work done in the several departments of the Union meetings for the benefit of the Sunday school work. Every school in the Stake should be represented in each department as well as the superintendency.

The usual exercises closed the meeting, and it was adjourned for one month. Benediction was offered by Elder Henry Tuckett.

The Fifth ward school will furnish the musical exercises at the April meeting of the Union.

J. H. PARRY, Secretary.