

number are in good health and spirits, and prospects are bright for the accomplishment of much good among this kind-hearted people. With the completion of a pumping plant now in course of construction, it is hoped that the temporal condition of the mission will be materially improved.

EDWIN C. DIBBLE.

### FROM AN ELDER IN INDIANA.

WESTMINSTER, Carroll County, Indiana.  
April 25th, 1897.

I left home in Taylorsville Salt Lake County, June 27th, 1896, for a mission to the Northern States, with headquarters at Cumberland, Maryland. On arriving there I stood as one left alone in the wide world, with no one in sight that I knew, and did not know which way to turn. I prayed to the Lord to direct me and started out I knew not where. I was led into the ticket office and there the agent pointed to Elder Cornelius Richardson, president of the conference, and to Elders A. J. Allen and P. Gillespie; thus my prayer was answered. Brother Allen told me afterwards that the Spirit of the Lord held him there, and he felt that it was all right as soon as I came. I was assigned to work in Alleghany county, with Elder Allen, and in October was sent into Carroll county with Elder George M. White, of Mill Creek, where we have been laboring ever since, traveling without purse or scrip, and meeting with many good, kind friends. We find a good bit of opposition, and people close their houses against us; but we keep up a house to house visit, thus coming before the people, and are instruments in the hands of the Lord in putting down much prejudice.

The News comes regularly and is read with much interest.

Although my health has not been as good as I would like it to be yet I am desirous of doing my duty.

ALPHONSO M. PALMER.

### LETTER FROM OKLAHOMA.

LEXINGTON, Cleveland Co., Oklahoma,  
April 23rd, 1897.

I left my home in Montpelier, Bear Lake County, Idaho, in company with Charles A. Robison, for a mission to the Indian Territory. We left Salt Lake city, September 3rd, 1895, for this part of the Lord's vineyard. The first year I labored in Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, and since then in Oklahoma Territory. Since leaving my home in the West I have gained many experiences. I feel proud to say that we have one of the most progressive missions in the world. At the present time there are ten Elders laboring in the Oklahoma conference. In February Elder Andrew Kimball attended our little conference, and the many valuable instructions that we received from him as our president were beyond price. They opened our eyes and quickened our understanding, and by obedience we have been able to surmount obstacles, and a glorious work is being performed. Elders travel here without purse or scrip, and receive good treatment. All Elders are enjoying the best of health in this part of the mission.

Since last conference I have been traveling with Elder Franklin Raleigh in Cleveland county, Oklahoma Territory.

After entering our field of labor, we prayed the Lord to soften the hearts of the people toward us. The way has been opened up for a good work, and we have had but very little difficulty in getting meetings. After holding a series of twenty-one meetings we got the people pretty well interested, and a great many began to come over to our way of thinking.

The 9th day of April, 1897, found us on the banks of the South Canadian river. After singing a baptismal hymn, prayer was offered by Elder Franklin Raleigh. We spoke for a few moments on the subject of baptism, to about forty listeners. I baptized Brother Jefferson.

There are a great many who are investigating the truth of the Gospel, and I believe that in the near future we will be able to reap a great harvest. Elders Miner and Dalley are with us at the present time. They are traveling through the various conferences. We spoke to a large audience last night, and will hold meetings here until Monday morning, then all wend our way to T. C. Flat, Oklahoma, where we will hold our midsummer conference.

We have had a very beautiful spring in this part. Everything is looking nice and green, and good prospects for heavy crops.

CHARLES M. HOLMES.

### PRESIDING IN INDIAN TERRITORY

BLACKGUM, Cherokee Nation, I. T.,  
April 23rd, 1897.

As we have the privilege of reading your valuable paper once in two or three weeks, it gives us great joy and satisfaction to know of the success attending the earnest labors of the Elders in their various fields of labor.

On receiving word from our late worthy president, Elder Andrew Kimball, to select a suitable place in this part for our coming conference, we set out from Illinois station, April 1st. We walked to this place, holding a meeting on our way at Cople Settlement. We found the Saints of Blackgum, about thirty in number, in good spirits and enjoying the blessings of the Gospel. They were making preparations to emigrate to Colonia Juarez, Mexico. We held three meetings with them and enjoyed the privilege and spirit as none but Saints can enjoy it. A time being set for us to meet them again and organize for their trip, we journeyed on, holding a meeting at the residence of a Brother John Davis, on the evening of the 6th, with an attendance of over twenty non-members. The spirit of our calling was poured out upon us, and at the close of our meeting one of our earnest listeners applied for baptism. For this our hearts were filled with gratitude to our Creator. The weather being cold and stormy a time was set to attend the sacred ordinance on our return.

We traveled down the Arkansas river through much mud and water, to Tama-haw, where we paid twenty cents, just received for a hymn book sold, and the ferryman put us over the river during a heavy windstorm. We were kindly received and lodged in the town by one Mr. McGee, who invited us to call again.

Not being able to hold a meeting there, we walked fifteen miles to Iron Bridge, where we had an appointment to preach in their meeting house Saturday evening.

On reaching the Sans Bois river, near the town, we found it high and over-

flowing its banks. We explained to the good natural ferryman our mode of travel, without purse or scrip, and asked him to put us on the opposite bank, but he would not, as his boat was not built for preachers. At that moment the proprietor drove up, and on referring the matter to him, he replied that he did not want religion but wanted money. It looked as if trouble was in store for us and that we should not be able to fill our appointments. We trusted in the Lord and not in vain, for there appeared on the scene a former friend, Mr. Williams, who paid our fare, and we went on our way rejoicing. We were kindly entertained by this Mr. Williams, and at the appointed time found an audience of over eighty waiting to hear us preach.

We were blessed with the Spirit of the Lord and at the close of our meeting were given the privilege of holding two meetings in the same building on Sunday.

Our Sunday meetings were held with an attendance of one hundred and forty good and anxious listeners, and they said "Come again." They also favored us by rendering some good singing for our meetings. This we were in a condition to appreciate, although we both sang like birds, but could not think of a tune exactly suited to all the hymns we would be pleased to sing.

Monday we walked eighteen miles to the town of Sans Bois in the Choctaw Nation. There we were welcomed by Mr. J. H. Bristow, an earnest searcher for truth. The next morning we made our way to the governor of the nation. As he owned the church, we had hopes of securing its use. He referred us to the minister in charge, who found too many excuses. We again went to the governor. This time he received us more kindly, saying the church is not in my care, but there is the court house. It is mine and you may use it." The people here become so anxious and interested that we held a course of five meetings with an attendance of eighty at some of them. Our tongues were loosed and our prayers were answered by an outpouring of the Spirit of God upon us. We were made powerful in testimony to the convincing of several honest in heart, two of whom applied for baptism. This ordinance we gladly administered with hearts of gratitude to our Master for His goodness and blessing to us.

We left on Saturday, amid the many good wishes of crowds of friends, with a hearty goodbye and grasp of the hand as they cried, "Come back soon as you can." That day we reached Whitefield, a distance of twelve miles, secured the commodious school house from the trustees, while the minister did what he could to prevent it. We canvassed the town, and at 8 p. m., found an audience of eighty five anxious to listen. We were again blessed with the power given us from above, and treated of the first principles of the Gospel. The people listened with marked attention, and friends invited us home, but we were led to leave the town that night. We called on the ferryman, who had retired for the night. He gladly rowed us over the beautiful South Canadian river, under the light of a glorious moon. This trip over the sparkling water, belted by the beautiful forest trees interspersed with the blossoms of the wild fruit trees and many variegated flowers, was a sight not soon to be forgotten by men