

for four months. Elder Matheson enjoyed his labors very much, and notes with considerable satisfaction the gradual removal of prejudice. Especially is the improvement marked in Georgia, where threatened hostility has been overcome in a wonderful manner. Throughout the Southern States mission, says Elder Matheson, the way is opening up, the people are hospitable and numerous baptisms are being attended to.

Elder William A. Kerr of Ogden returned July 20th from his labors as a missionary in Mississippi and Louisiana. He left June 1, 1895, and while absent, in company with Elder Holt of West Jordan, succeeded in opening up the work in Louisiana, first preaching in New Orleans. Elder Kerr reports good prospects for the future in that section of country.

Elder James E. Brown of Draper arrived Wednesday, the 27th inst., from the Southern States. He left home April 9, 1893, and for two years labored in north Alabama, and the remaining time in Georgia. He says conditions for the spread of the Gospel there are quite encouraging, and the Elders are well treated by the people.

Elder George A. Sanders of Murray, Salt Lake county, returned from Sweden July 3rd, whither he went April 6, 1896. Elder Saunders labored while away in the Stockholm conference, and reports having had a good time among a good class of people. Elder Sanders returned with a party of Saints and missionaries.

Elder Edward F. Stevens of Holden, Millard county, was a caller at the "News" Saturday, having just returned from a three years' mission to the North Alabama conference. Elder Stevens was afflicted with chills and fever for a considerable time, though he was otherwise well and enjoyed his labors very much. The conference is fast becoming a prosperous one and accessions are constantly being made to the Church membership.

## STAKE CONFERENCE REPORTS.

### Emery Stake.

Emery Stake quarterly conference was held at Ferron, July 16th and 17th. The Stake presidency were all in attendance. There were none but local speakers present, but an interesting conference was held. It was very well attended and nothing but good feeling prevailed. All business and voting on the officers were unanimous.

Brother D. T. Thomander was elected Stake tithing clerk by a unanimous vote.

The subject of completing the Emery Stake academy building was discussed, in officers' meeting and in the meeting of the board of education. Brother Alex Jameson was appointed with some other brother whom he may choose, to canvass for subscriptions, the north half of Emery Stake and J. D. Kilpack to go through the south in the interest of the academy. Work has already commenced and it is thought the building will be completed this year.

D. T. Thomander,  
Stake Clerk of Emery Stake.

### Juab Stake.

The Juab quarterly conference was held in Nephi Tabernacle, July 16th and 17th, 1898.

On the stand were Elders J. H. Smith and George Teasdale, of the Council of the Twelve; Elder J. W. Paxman and counselors of the Stake presidency; also a good representation of the leading members of the Priesthood.

After singing, Elder Teasdale offered

the opening prayer. The following Elders were called on to speak: D. Cazler, A. Orme, W. A. C. Bryan, H. F. McCune, D. Broadhead, John Adams, L. A. Bailey Sen., David Salisbury and Israel Bale, all bearing a faithful testimony of their knowledge of the Gospel. Elder John Henry Smith said he was pleased with the testimony of the brethren; believed that all who honestly embraced the Gospel received a testimony; but sometimes a cloud would pass over the vision of a man and he forgot his God.

At 2 p.m., after singing, Elder J. H. Grace offered prayer.

Elder J. W. Paxman said he took great pride in associating with the leading members in conference capacity, and felt pleased in the way the Saints had supported him. He spoke of the good work being done in the various organizations and institutions of the Stake, and asked the parents to look after their children more strictly.

Elder George Sperry endorsed the remarks of the previous speaker.

Elder George Teasdale said it was natural to do right and unnatural to sin. He spoke of repentance and baptism.

Elder Anton H. Lund said of all the blessings we have, the testimony of the Holy Spirit is the greatest. He referred to his recent visit to the Holy Land, and spoke encouragingly of the progress of the work of the Lord there.

At 7:30 p.m. a Priesthood meeting was held. Elder John Henry Smith addressed the Saints, and his remarks were directed to the youth of Zion.

Sunday morning at 9:30 the ward Sunday school, convened in the Tabernacle, Stake Superintendent L. A. Bailey presiding. The Apostles addressed the schools.

At 10:30, conference reconvened. After singing and prayer, Elder John O. Freckleton spoke. He said he felt thankful for having a knowledge of the Gospel, and bore a faithful testimony of the same.

Mrs. Mary N. Hepburn sang a solo. Elder John Henry Smith said sweet singing was always accompanied by a good influence. He spoke of the command given to our first parents to replenish the earth, and of other subjects.

At 2 p.m., after the usual opening exercises, the Sacrament was administered, after which the general Church and Stake authorities were presented and sustained. A statistical report of the Stake was read. The first speaker was Elder Paxman, who thought that all those receiving assistance should be permitted to do some labor for the same.

Elder J. H. Grace bore his testimony to the work of God, and expressed His confidence in the authorities of the Church.

Elder Lund spoke on his recent mission to Turkey, and of the many places of interest in the Holy Land.

Prayer was offered by Elder John Henry Smith, and conference adjourned for three months. An excellent spirit prevailed at our conference.

At 8 p.m. a conjoint meeting was held of the Y. M. and Y. L. M. I. A. Elder John Henry Smith addressed the young folks on loyalty.

THOS. BAILEY,  
Clerk pro tem.

### Weber Stake.

The regular quarterly conference of the Weber Stake of Zion was held in Ogden on the 24th and 25th days of July. There were present of the First Presidency, President Joseph F. Smith; of the Council of the Twelve, Elders F. D. Richards and George Teasdale; Elder George Reynolds; all the presidency of the Stake with leading Bishops and Elders from the wards. The tabernacle choir under Mr. Squires Coop sang some appropriate selec-

tions, furnishing all the music the first day. Besides being the regular conference, the gathering was of a dual nature in that it celebrated Pioneer day, and commemorated the death of the brave boys who went down with the Maine. The morning services were devoted to the regular exercise of the conference. Elder Joseph Hall offered prayer, and was followed by Elder Flygare, who gave a short report of the condition of the Stake. There had been but one High Council trial in the past year; the people were prospering, and were doing their duty in religious matters; Priesthood meetings were held monthly, at which written and verbal reports were given from each ward; all the associations and Priesthood organizations were doing a good work, great interest having been manifested recently in the Improvement associations; the Stake had 117 missionaries in foreign fields, and 24 were working regularly in the Stake.

President L. W. Shurtliff reported two wards reorganized—the Ogden First, and Farr-West; in the First Ogden ward, Datus B. Ensign had been chosen Bishop instead of Moroni Brown, lately deceased; in Farr-West James Martin had been chosen Bishop instead of W. F. McIntire, lately deceased. These Bishops and their counselors would be set apart at a special High Council meeting this afternoon. He referred to the interest taken in Utah at the Omaha Exposition. They look upon us as the founders of the West. The press of the Frontier Guardian is on exhibition in the Utah department, which is behind none in interest, appearance and value. Referring to his own experience he said it is 28 years ago this month since Elder Richards took him from Ogden to preside over Plain City. There he remained for 15 years when he was again called to Ogden to preside over the Stake. In addition to other momentous memories of this day, its interest was added to for him by its being the anniversary of his birth.

Elder George Reynolds took for his text II Nephi 10: 10, and showed how these prophecies had been and were being fulfilled. The prophecy had been fulfilled in Louis Napoleon and his family who assisted in establishing an empire in Mexico. President Taylor had translated the Book of Mormon into French in 1851, and if this ruler had paid attention to the revelations therein contained, which he had an opportunity to do, for a copy of the work was sent to him, he would not have incurred God's displeasure in his endeavor to establish Maximilian, and thus brought upon himself his own destruction and that of his family. Now again it appears that a kingly power is being brought low because it has persisted in going contrary to the expressed wishes of God, who has made this land a land of liberty.

President Joseph F. Smith gave a powerful sermon on the memorable day we celebrate, showing the significance of the great acts that are being accomplished. America is the cradle of liberty; from it freedom will extend to the islands of the sea and eventually to all the nations of the world. It is destined to take the lead among all the nations of the world by the force of love, the leading characteristics of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But it is often the case that before love can bear sway, the force of the sword of compulsion must be felt. We could not have such liberty as we possess but for the violence and misuse that we have undergone. He acknowledged the hand of God in the wonderful victories of our armies and navy; he prayed for their future success, and yet that as many might be spared of the enemy as possible to serve the purposes of God.

The congregation and the choir sang: The Red, White and Blue.