

hymns of Zion, and during their leisure moments carefully investigate the truths of the everlasting Gospel as they take them from the lips of the servants of God, our Mormon Elders. In this way hundreds of people, who otherwise would or could never have availed themselves of the opportunities of the Gospel, take to their homes in the various parts of the country the inspired truths uttered by the Prophet Joseph Smith from the pens of Zion's many writers.

Besides the hot and sultry days of summer spent at the springs, the remainder of the year, except short intervals at headquarters for a change of clothes, a bath, a little rest and recreation, our Elders are out among the people of this nation. They are diligent in spreading the truth. The Gospel has now been given to two-thirds of the inhabitants of this nation of the civilized tribes. There are a little over four thousand Chickasaw Indians, forty-one thousand and white people and a great many negroes. They have a large and beautiful country covering over four and a half million acres. The land is held in common by the Indians and negroes and rented by the white people. The Elders are generally treated kindly by the Indians and the better class of whites, among whom we have a great many friends and some members. At headquarters the Elders have profitable and interesting times, after their return from these long and sometimes trying trips among strangers. At their congregating place the Elders indulge in innocent pleasures, practice music and singing, study the principles of the Gospel, for as a general rule our Mormon boys leave all their studies in this direction until they get in their missionary fields, a lamentable fact indeed, that they do not improve on the past now that they have so many opportunities at home, and instead of making excuses, go to the world well informed. They hold meetings, relate the various incidents of missionary life, strengthen each other's testimony and, in fact, have a general good time. Among the happiest periods of a missionary's life are those at our headquarters.

Respectfully,
ANDREW KIMBALL.

CHICKASAW CONFERENCE.

For some time the Elders laboring in this part of the Indian Territory mission have looked forward to a visit from our president. We have been diligent in notifying the people of the surrounding country and making arrangements for our conference to be held at Sulphur Springs, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, on the 16th and 17th inst. The week previous to conference was one of profit to the Elders and Saints, for we kept Elder Kimball constantly occupied visiting the people, preaching the Gospel, and instructing us regarding our labors.

Conference was held at 11 a. m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, at the house of Bro. J. J. Fry, Sulphur Springs. There were present Pres. Andrew Kimball of the Indian Territory mission, J. H. Holmes presiding Elder of this field, and Elders Joseph H. Lowe, Frank Collett and Alma H. Davis, Priest J. J. Fry, Saints and friends and some inquiring visitors. Elder Lowe was

the first speaker. He outlined the plan of salvation and spoke on the first principles of the Gospel. Elder Kimball occupied the remainder of the time proving conclusively the apostasy and restoration.

At the 6 p. m. meeting the speakers were Elders Collett and Davis; they dwelt on the first principles of the Gospel. Priest J. J. Fry bore a strong testimony to the truth of the Gospel of Christ, after which Pres. Kimball discoursed on the restoration of the same, and the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon; that the Apostle Paul's sayings were literally fulfilled when he declared, "The time shall come when they will not endure sound doctrine." A good old Methodist brother stood it as long as he could and before the dismissal hymn was announced he got his hat and made his exit as fast as possible.

Sunday morning, at 11 o'clock, our conference was continued by singing and music from the guitars. We are blessed with some good musicians and singers, which of course aids greatly in interesting our hearers. It was also in harmony with the beautiful weather we have; the temperature was warm, the sun shone brightly and it was dry and clear. Elder J. H. Holmes plainly depicted the condition of the world, having separated themselves from God as they have by denouncing revelation, Apostles, Prophets, the blessings and privileges of the Gospel. He showed plainly that God had restored these blessings to earth again in these latter days. Elder Joseph H. Lowe showed the evil results of man's disobedience to the laws of God, and spoke on the restitution of all things.

Our afternoon meeting was devoted to the Sacrament and testimonies. Each of the Elders and members took part. General instructions were given by Brother Kimball. Priest J. J. Fry was ordained an Elder and accepted of an appointment to labor with the traveling Elders in this field until he shall emigrate to Utah in the fall.

Conference closed a feast of fat things for us all and ends our visit with President Kimball, who will spend the holidays in the Cherokee nation among his old Indian friends.

J. H. HOLMES.

PAROWAN STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of this Stake convened in the Parowan meeting house on Sunday and Monday, December 17 and 18, 1893. There were present on the stand Elders Heber J. Grant, of the Council of the Apostles, and Rulon S. Wells, of the first Council of the Seventies, Elder James G. Bleak, of St. George, Elders Uriah T. Jones, Morgan Richards Jr., and Francis Webster, of the Stake Presidency, members of the High Council and Bishops of wards in this Stake.

After the usual opening exercises President Uriah T. Jones made some remarks and reported the convulsion of the Stake.

Elder Wells was the next speaker, dwelling upon the apostasy after the Savior and the accompanying darkness; also the restoration of the Gospel of truth to man in these last days with all its gifts and graces, etc.

Elder Grant occupied the remaining time in showing that the amount of

benefit we receive from the instructions we have depends upon the condition of our minds to a great extent; when we are prejudiced our judgment will be unjust, hence it behooves us to divest ourselves of all hard feelings or ill will that we may have towards each other in order that we may receive the full benefit of the instructions given from time to time. It is not merely hearing but keeping the commandments that will save us.

Sunday, 2 p. m.—The sacrament was administered, after which Elder Wells addressed the Saints upon the subject of unity. The strength of the Latter-day Saints depends upon this truth. The Gospel is a Gospel of grace, and though our salvation depends upon our own efforts, yet it is through the kindness of our Heavenly Father that this is made possible. Elder J. G. Bleak discoursed at some length upon the subject of building temples and ordinance work therein; the education of the youth in theology—that sons and daughters born under the covenant have a very great advantage over their parents. He made reference to the Bible, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants, as works containing the words of the Lord and works that should be studied by all Latter-day Saints. Elder Grant said there is somewhat of an heirship in the Gospel. Men are sometimes chosen to degrees in the Priesthood through the faithfulness of their parents; fault should not be found because of this. It is the duty of all having a testimony of the truth to uphold and sustain the servants of God and then they will be blessed.

Sunday 7 p. m.—The usual Priesthood meeting was held and very plain and pointed instructions were given to the Priesthood by our visiting brethren, Wells and Grant.

Monday, 10 a. m.—The time allotted for this meeting was occupied by Elders Morgan Richards Jr., Francis Webster and R. S. Wells, and the necessity of establishing and then patronizing home manufactures was brought very forcibly before the Saints, as also the subjects of reverence for the aged, observance of the word of wisdom and compilation of genealogical records.

The general and local authorities were presented and sustained by vote, as also the list of home missionaries.

Monday, 2 p. m.—Elder Uriah T. Jones was the first speaker, dwelling upon the law of tithing and the force of example. The remaining time was occupied by Bro. Grant in delivering a powerful discourse upon the every day duties of the Latter-day Saints, in which he referred to tithing, Word of Wisdom, home manufacture, educating and training children in the science of theology, the personality of God, and other subjects of much interest to the Saints.

The meetings were well attended, and the speakers were very much blessed in their efforts before the Saints. Conference adjourned for three months to meet in Cedar City.

WILLIAM H. HOLYOAK,
Stake clerk.

Douglas county, Colorado, has more old pioneer settlers to the square mile than any county in the state. The Plum Creek valley is organizing a pioneer club.