

dropping off, to be mourned as a loss. The tenderness of youth is not an assurance that we will live many years, for when God calls, the young goeth as soon as the old.

Turning from this, a better page is presented, in the progress of our Sabbath school work, and what a small beginning has grown to. In mentioning this, an incentive may spring up in the breasts of others to do likewise. There lived in our midst a poor cooper, who died with a desire to do the most good with his small remaining earnings. So in the year 1879, from his will there came in possession of the Sunday school in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints two shares of stock in the co-operative store of ten dollars (\$10) each. They increased and dividends were continually drawn, so that as time rolled on and we increased in number, from the few in one school, to the six that we now are, about sixty dollars, has been used up, eight dollars held in reserve, and by adding a little to the other increase, we now have six shares, of ten dollars, so that we each have a share. The Union record, as well as each school record, shows that the name of Brother Neil Bell will always be fresh in our memories, as the original donor. Though separate, yet united, with a complete central organization; missionaries, etc., the work will steadily roll on.

Following this is another noble deed of the same nature, where the poor are receiving relief, by the kind act of Brother George Bennetts, donating shares. These charitable acts are blessing generations after them.

Hard times have vanished. As evidence, store clerks are seen carrying their lynch hatches with them to work. No time to go home to dinner.

Respectfully,

UNCLE GEORGE.

RETURNED ELDERS.

The NEWS had a pleasant call Friday afternoon from Elders Samuel G. Spencer of Pleasant Green ward, Salt Lake county, and Eugene S. Hart, whose home is in Bloomington, Idaho. Both returned Thursday evening from the Northern States mission field, where they have been engaged in promulgating the principles of the Gospel.

Elder Spencer left his home on duty bent, January 5, 1894, and upon arriving at his destination was assigned to labor in southern Illinois. Later he was called to preside over the Indiana conference, comprising the state of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois, and after remaining in that position for upwards of a year, was appointed president of the entire Northern states mission, taking the place formerly held by Elder Clark upon the latter's release.

Elder Spencer's heart is full of love for the people of the Northern states, a people whom he says are very hospitable and kind to the Mormon Elders, and treat them with all courtesy and respect. So considerate are they for the missionaries who travel among them that many hotels and private houses are at their pleasure for entertainment. Very few cases of the Elders having to lie out at nights are reported

at headquarters and a good spirit seems to prevail throughout the entire field.

At present there are 130 Elders laboring in the Northern States. Less than a year ago the mission had but three conferees, whereas there are now eleven. The Elders are very energetic in their labors and go forth among the people with prayerful hearts; in this way they enjoy the spirit of their calling. In the larger cities of the mission the people are generally aristocratic and learned; this necessitates the Elders going forth among them in all the dignity and power of their calling, and thus they accomplish much good and make many warm friends. The missionaries travel almost exclusively without purse and scrip. In some cities the mayors have entertained the Elders and the press has also been kindly disposed and published fair reports of meetings and discourses.

Before leaving for home Elder Spencer visited all the conferences of the mission where he found things in good condition and the prospect for a future harvest very bright. He says that when the young men are called to labor in the Northern States, they generally arrive in Kansas City fearing and trembling, because of their expecting rough treatment at the hands of the people. There is no need of such being the case, says Elder Spencer, for the people in that city welcome the Mormon boys to their midst and show unto them great respect.

Elder Hart, who returned with Brother Spencer, has labored while away in the state of Iowa and Missouri. For a time he was stationed at the mission headquarters in Kansas City, and corroborates the statements of Elder Spencer as to the general condition of the mission. There is considerable inquiry among the people regarding Mormonism and the Church tracts and pamphlets are read with much interest and investigation. During the last year there has been over 150,000 tracts published and sold. Elder Hart feels that a great work will be accomplished in the future, as past prejudices have been allayed to such an extent that there is scarcely any opposition to contend with. There has been a little sickness among the Elders, but nearly all are enjoying good health at present. Both of the Elders have enjoyed their labors so much that it was with reluctance they left the field to return home.

Elder H. S. Tanner of Payson returned Thursday evening from the California mission and called on the NEWS Friday afternoon. Elder Tanner left home on his outward journey, Aug. 15, 1894, consequently he has been absent for nearly twenty-eight months, during which time he has presided over the mission, devoting his energies to the establishment of Church branches in the Golden state, four of which are now organized and in good working order.

When Elder Tanner arrived in California, the outlook for proselyting among the people was anything but encouraging. Indeed it looked as though Mormonism, of all religions, would receive a very cold reception and but little or no consideration from the people. So much prejudice existed

against the Mormons, that the very mention of their names, was sufficient to bring out abuse and to make it next to impossible to be given a hearing. But things changed in time. The Mormons and their doctrines began to be better understood. Their numbers at meetings increased from a former attendance of half a dozen to a crowded hall. Prejudice disappeared very rapidly until today the California mission is in a thriving condition and four branches have been organized. There are thirty Elders in the field and their labors extend into the cities of San Francisco, Sacramento, San Jose, Los Angeles, San Diego and Riverside. The mission headquarters is in San Francisco. The health of the Elders is good, and the press, particularly the leading papers of San Francisco, publish fair and unbiased reports of all meetings. Elder Tanner had some sickness during the early part of his labor, but taken as a whole, he has had exceptionally good health. Three meetings are held each week, two on Sundays and one during the week. He is succeeded by Elder E. H. Nye of Ogden.

Elder John C. Cotler Jr. of this city returned Thursday from the Southern States mission field, where he has been laboring for upwards of twenty-one months. His labors for the most part have been in the state of Kentucky, and his return at this time was occasioned by an attack of rheumatism.

Elder Jonathan H. Hale of Smithfield, Cache county, returned on Sunday evening from the Southern States mission. Elder Hale left this city for his field of labor on April 28, 1894, and was assigned to labor in the Middle Tennessee conference. He reports an excellent feeling among the people towards the Elders in that locality, and the mission is in a prosperous condition. His health has been good most of the time, though he was afflicted with chills and fever for a short time during the past summer. He is pleased to return to his mountain home, though he felt loath to part with his many kind friends who treated him with such hospitality during his labors in the South. During the week Elder Hale has been visiting among friends in Salt Lake and Bountiful, and will leave for his home in the North this evening.

TURKS AND ARMENIANS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—A dispatch to the Herald from Constantinople says: The announcement is made that M. Nelidoff, the Russian ambassador, has again proposed his return at the end of the month. This is looked upon here as an auspicious sign that Russia proposes giving Turkey the necessary time to apply reforms.

Col. Potchikoff starts for Crete today and will probably be president of the police reform committee.

Husni Pacha, the Turkish ambassador to Russia, has telegraphed to the Porte informing the Turkish government of the existence of a complete understanding between Russia and Great Britain in regard to the enforcement of reforms in Turkey.

This information has created a sensation in the sultan's circle. M. Nelidoff, Russian ambassador to Turkey, who is expected back from a visit to St. Petersburg will, it is understood,