

## WORK IN KENTUCKY.

CAMPBELLVILLE, Taylor County,  
Kentucky, August 31st, 1896.

I send you a short account of our labors in Taylor county since July 3rd, and trust it will be of sufficient interest for publication.

On the 20th and 21st of June, the Kentucky conference, which then had twenty-eight Elders, met at or near Buford, in Ohio county. Elder Elias S. Kimball, president of the Southern States mission, and Orson S. Taylor met with us, and among many other valuable instructions given, was the direction to travel from that time forth without purse or scrip. This to those Elders who had in the past been relying more or less on money was a trial, but the 84th section of the Doctrine and Covenants was read to us, and we then saw that we had to obey or else go home because of disobedience.

Elder Nephi Martineau and I were assigned to labor together, and we left conference fully determined to carry out instructions. We arrived in our field of labor on the 3rd of July, and began to hold meetings and visit among the people. The blessings of the Lord have been with us. Every want has been supplied, even to handkerchiefs and toilet soap.

We have found many friends. Churches and school houses, as well as private residences, have been thrown open to us. We have not had to waste very much of our time in hunting up trustees. They, on the other hand, have been coming or sending to us to come and preach to them. In several instances money has been donated for the purchase of oil; our washing, has been done by our friends, who seem pleased to minister to our wants; friends have been on every hand, and it seems like nearly every family we visit want us to come in and explain the principles of the Gospel to them. For weeks we have only been able to visit a few families daily, because the people are so anxious to hear of the Gospel that our conversations sometimes last for several hours.

Our instructions are and always have been not to offend or antagonize in any respect, and not to study or try to explain mysteries to the people. We have been trying to confine ourselves to the first four principles of the Gospel and those subjects closely connected therewith. While speaking on those principles the Spirit of the Lord has been with us until our frames have trembled, and people in breathless silence and with blanched faces have listened to us explain the Gospel, and with mighty power have we called them to repentance. Since July 4th we have held 77 meetings, nearly all were very well attended. We had a series of meetings, holding from four to ten in each district or neighborhood. Last night we held the last meeting of a series of seventeen. The house was packed, almost to suffocation, and crowds were gathered around the door and windows. After meeting dozens of friends came up to shake hands and bid us good bye. If we were to visit every person who has invited us to come and visit them I fear we would not leave this part for many days.

Elders need to hold eight or ten meetings in a district, if possible, that the

people may get acquainted with them. After meeting the other night the postmaster of a small country town in this county came to us and said, "You have some mail to send off; come up to the office in the morning and I will fix it up for you." Next day we did as directed, and he bought us paper and gave us stamps and envelopes; and how thankful we were for these things, as we really were in need of them. He also gave us some money to help pay for a pair of shoes. Tonight we are to preach in another neighborhood. Several families from that place have sent for us to come and see them, though we have not yet been there. We are receiving so many invitations to call on people that we generally have appointments out a day or two ahead.

JUNIUS J. TANNER.

## IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

ANNA, Union Co., Ill.,  
August 24th, 1896.

Your welcome paper has been reaching us regularly, and we assure you that it is very highly appreciated. If we should miss one issue of that comforting paper it would grieve us more than the missing of two meals (unless we were very, very hungry).

We are laboring in the southwestern part of the State of Illinois, in the little county of Union. The county is very unlevel and quite thickly wooded. The trees of the towns are narrow, crooked and dusty. We travel as the apostles of old, or as the saying nowadays, "By the umbrella and grip-valley railroad." As a general thing, we are treated very friendly by the people with whom we come in contact. Of course, we encounter some that are very indignant and bitter towards us; and who as soon as they see us, say, "We have heard of you and we want none of your tracts," and oftentimes they slam the door and leave us. It is seldom that we are tendered such a reception as this, but a large number refuse our tracts, and the most of them do it in a courteous way. We have missed some few meals, but we have always been blessed by finding some generous hearted person to give us a bed on which to rest our weary bodies. We have held many Gospel conversations and quite a number of meetings, but our general work has been that of tracing up the county.

On the 10th inst. we held a meeting at the home of a family of Saints; and after the meeting was over the most of the congregation remained. We had some friendly conversations with them then we began singing some of our Mormon hymns, which delighted them very much. We do not wish your readers to think that it was the music that delighted them; it was the words. After we had been singing for some time, one of our good sisters entered and asked us if we would go to her brother's house, which was but a few rods distant, and administer to his babe. Her brother is not a member of the Church, and at different times has acted a little unfriendly towards us. But this made no difference to us. We went to his home, and nearly all the congregation followed. Upon our arrival there, he and his wife with tears in their eyes asked us please to administer to their sick babe. We told them we would providing they believed in the laying on of hands for

the healing of the sick. They answered that they did, and promised to exercise their faith in a God who has body, parts and passions. We then addressed the congregation for a few minutes; told them that Mr. and Mrs. — desired us to administer to their sick babe, and if none of them had faith in this we wished them to leave the room. They all remained. We then knelt down in prayer, and after asking for God's blessings we administered to the little one. From that moment the babe began to rest and breathe with much more ease than before. The next morning we called to see it before we went tracing, and its improvement was astonishing.

It was a Monday evening that we administered to it, and on the following Thursday we again called to see it, and the babe was laughing and playing in its mother's lap. Its parents could not show us enough thanks and gratitude for the saving of their babe's life. They then told us that the doctor had given up all hopes of its recovery and said that it could not live longer than 9 o'clock that evening, and it was a few minutes after that time when we administered to it. We told Mr. and Mrs. — that we were not the ones to thank for the recovery of their babe, but it was God our Heavenly Father. We explained to them that we had the authority to administer to the sick, but our Father had the power to heal them. They then asked us to hold meeting in their house, and we have done so, and they paid the very closest attention. Since then they have treated us with great respect.

The news of the healing of this babe has spread like wild fire, and it is talked of far and near. Since then we have been called to administer to two more who do not belong to our Church. We have not seen them since we performed our duty, but we intend calling upon them at our earliest convenience.

We think this will set many to reading our tracts and investigating our doctrines, and perhaps their minds will become enlightened so that they may partake of the happiness and truth as we do.

GEORGE A. HILL,  
EDWIN S. SHEETS.

## THE CITY OF AUSTIN.

AUSTIN, Texas, August 9th, 1896.— I take pleasure in giving you a few facts connected with the work in this city. We ourselves claim no honor for our success, if we have made any; neither do we count the mistakes and partial failures we have made in any way unprofitable to the spread of truth in the South, especially in city work.

On July 1st Elders M. O. Miner and George E. Maycock entered the city of Austin, the capital of Texas, with fasting and prayer, and without purse or scrip. The first night was spent at the home of a news reporter who introduced the Mormon religion through the papers the following day. He, in attempting to retard the progress of our Elders, instead, gave them a good opening by giving our Articles of Faith and stating that polygamy had been abolished. He did this before raising his warning voice to all people to have nothing to do with such delusions.

Feeling it a duty to hold meetings, the Elders got permission to preach in the Convention hall, but there is where they made their first mistake,