

## IN NORTH ALABAMA.

TUPELO, Lee County,

June 18th, 1897.

I left my home in Salt Lake City, December 10th, 1896, at 8 a. m. Took the R. G. W. southward for Chattanooga, Tennessee, arriving there on the 14th, where the Elders met in council with our beloved mission president, Elias S. Kimball. After listening to the inspired instructions of our leader, and the testimony of the Elders, I was appointed to labor in Union County, Missouri, Elder F. F. Ballif being my companion. Upon my arrival at New Albany, Union County, Mo, no Elder Ballif was there to meet me. Never will I forget my feelings at that time. How dependent I was upon the Lord. In a strange land among strange people without purse or scrip. I knew the Lord could raise up friends for me and He did. While I was standing in the railroad Station meditating upon my condition a gentleman walked in and spoke to me. After learning who I was he invited me home with him. I gladly accepted his invitation and was treated royally. The gentleman is W. S. King, hotel proprietor; he is a good friend to the Elders. More than once I have gone into New Albany tired and footsore and found a hearty welcome at King's hotel. And not only a welcome but a sumptuous dinner which is always acceptable to a traveling Mormon Elder.

Elder Ballif and I canvassed nearly half of Union county, giving away about 1,000 tracts and disposing of a great many copies of the Voice of Warning. We made many true and lasting friends among whom can be named B. F. Ponn and wife and also a Mr. Carlisle and family. Mr. Pannel had used tobacco for forty years and Mr. Carlisle had used it for thirty-five. But Elder Ballif and I persuaded them to stop using it, which they did; and now rejoice that they are no longer slaves to the filthy weed.

Sometimes we meet people who are so bitter their hatred crops out like scales on a fish, but when we can get to talk to them they begin to soften and often become our warmest friends. Ignorance on the part of the people is the greatest thing we have to contend with.

After laboring in Union county for about four months I was invited to go to Lee county. It was with no little sadness that I bade by good friends and companion adieu, to continue my labors in another field. Upon arriving in Lee county, I had the pleasure of meeting my new companion, Elder John P. Christensen, of Brigham City, who had been in the field fifteen months; the first seven months he spent in Alabama.

We are traveling as meteoric Elders from city to city, village to village, holding meetings wherever an opportunity presents itself, and establishing branches of the Church. We are traveling over the counties Elder Beckstead did such noble work in; he has many friends, and all have a word of praise for him. In some neighborhoods we have held a series of interesting meetings.

At a place called Ozark we met with good success, holding meetings for a week in a Methodist church, preaching to large audiences every night. The Lord blessed us abundantly by pouring out his Holy Spirit on us and our hearers. The young people were so interested they sacrificed the pleasures of

this life, such as parties and singings, in order to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached by his servants. After meetings one could hear remarks like these: "That was fine." "I heard more scripture tonight than I ever did in all my life." "Are you coming tomorrow night?" "Yes sah! I would walk miles to hear the Mormons preach" &c.

We are looking and praying for a rich harvest there in the Lord's own due time. But of course all neighborhoods are not like this. In some of them we find the people cold and indifferent, and in nearly every case the fault lies in some minister who sees his craft in danger.

One place we were bitterly opposed by a Campbellite preacher, who tried to "dismiss us" on the scriptures, but after making a miserable failure in this, he called us heretics and prevented us from using the church. But this did not stop the progress of the Lord's work, for his actions made us many friends. As Brigham Young said, every time you kick Mormonism, you kick it up stairs.

I am informed by an old gentleman, that once a year his satanic majesty visits the said church to see how it is doing. He stands on a hill just above the church and gazes lovingly on his crowd and repeats these encouraging words: "Go right along boys, your doing fine!" and departs.

Satan tries hard to overcome the Elders at times, but God is always with us to overcome all obstacles. The testimonies we receive from time to time are grand.

Elder Christensen joins me in bearing our testimony to the world that God has divinely appointed servants in the world today. They are warning the people to prepare for the wrath to come. We know there are men on the earth who can truthfully say "Thus saith the Lord." Oh ye young men of Zion prepare yourselves for a mission! The harvest is great but the laborers are few. If you are called on a mission do not hesitate, but go, and God will bless you. 'Tis true we have strange experiences but they are always for our good. One night we slept on the floor of some poor but humble farmer's log cabin, awoke in the morning to sit down to a bit of corn bread and sorghum, but we are thankful for it. Yet the following night finds us in the luxuriant home of a Southern planter partaking of the richest viands the South affords.

The work of the Lord rolls on. Many honest hearts are obeying the Gospel, and God is glorified.

The people are praying for rain; it is dry and hot. I expect to travel with E. E. Hackley and organize Sunday schools. Elder Isaac Hanson will travel with Elder Christensen. The News is always a welcome guest.

EDWIN C. PENROSE.

## THE BLUE GRASS STATE.

CENTER, Kentucky, June 23rd, 1897.

If you will grant us a little space in your most valuable paper we desire to add our testimony to the many that are banded, through your columns, to the Saints at home and the good people of the world, that the work of the Lord is on the march forward.

Because you do not hear from us often we do not wish it understood that we have nothing to be justly proud of in our battling for truth and righteousness

in the "Old Blue Grass State." Among the many things to which we may point with pride is our New Mormon Church now nearing completion. Strange as it may seem to the good people of Kentucky the Saints of Junction branch have, by persistent effort succeeded in building a neat little house. The branch is in a flourishing condition, the Saints are all well and embued with the spirit of the Gospel.

The branch, under the able leadership of the presiding priest, B. B. Wallace, is doing a good work and the Saints as well as the Elders in this part of the Lord's vineyard can be justly proud of their labors. The Sunday school is also doing a noble work. We have invited all people to come and take part with us and many not of our faith are availing themselves of the opportunity of educating their spiritual natures. We look forward with bright hopes and fond anticipation that through the medium of the Sunday school many will be brought to obey the gospel.

At the branch conference held June 19th and 20th there were present Conference President John F. Wakefield Jr., Elders Thomas Martin, E. J. Merrill and D. E. Jones. The Saints and many friends as well as the Elders partook of a grand spiritual feast. Two services were held each day at which the principles of the Gospel were discussed by the Elders present. At noon each day all had the privilege of supplying the temporal man with the luxuries of life at the bounteously spread tables of our open hearted little flock. None are allowed to go hungry around our generous Saints. Generally speaking those who attended conference left the grounds Sunday afternoon after closing exercises, feeling that they had had a grand spiritual entertainment.

Our conference is in a flourishing condition and our noble band of brethren are battling zealously in defence of the Gospel of our Lord. Favorable reports are coming in from all quarters. Success is attending the labors of the Elders, especially among the more wealthy classes.

Our annual conference will be held August 7th and 8th, 1897, at Junction church, at which time the church will be dedicated. Herewith we submit the names and addresses of the Elders laboring in the Kentucky Conference.

President J. F. Wakefield Jr., D. E. Jones, Thomas Martin, E. J. Merrill, Danville, Boyle county, Kentucky.  
D. G. Miller and Raymond Partridge, Hardinsburg, Breckenridge county, Kentucky.

G. A. Pincock and new companion, Brandenburg, Meade county, Kentucky.  
J. J. Tanner and G. E. Miles, Munfordville, Hart county, Kentucky.

J. J. Bowen and new companion, Leitchfield, Grayson county, Kentucky.  
J. J. Croshaw and M. E. Roundy, Frankfort, Franklin county, Kentucky.  
J. E. Naylor and A. R. Whitehead, Jamestown, Russell county, Kentucky.

D. J. Blake and new companion, Stanford, Lincoln county, Kentucky.  
A. W. Platt and P. P. Eldredge, Lawrenceburg, Anderson county, Kentucky.

J. C. Canfield and William Anderson, La Grange, Oldham county, Kentucky.  
L. B. Pace and F. T. Ballam, Albany, Clinton county, Kentucky.

William King and L. J. Bushman, Harrodsturg, Mercer county, Kentucky.