

prayer was offered by Elder J. J. Barker. The speakers Saturday morning were Elder J. P. Creer who delivered a very pointed sermon, showing the impossibility of comprehending the meaning of the scriptures without the Spirit of God. Elder Robert G. Lowe spoke upon man's duty to Delty. In the afternoon—Elder A. L. Cullimore produced scriptural evidence demonstrating that the baptism of water precedes the baptism of the Spirit. Elder John W. Shawcroft then showed that the manner of receiving the Holy Ghost is by the laying on of hands. At night the time was occupied by Elders N. P. Nelson and Osborne Richins, who spoke upon the divinity of the latter day work.

Sunday morning long before the appointed hour every seat was taken and at 10 o'clock standing room was not to be had within the walls of the court house. On the outside of the house at each window a crowd of people stood during each service, morning and evening, listening to the Gospel truths. Over five hundred people attended the meetings on Sunday. Elder N. P. Nelson occupied the time during the morning. In the afternoon Elder James Larsen was the speaker and at night Elder John L. Bench.

Monday Priesthood meeting was held in the school house where the Elders were instructed concerning their duties and were assigned to their fields of labor. One thing regretted was being deprived of the presence of Elder Ben E. Rich. Elder Nelson, of the mission's presidency, was with us and all proved to be well.

Four of the Elders continued holding meetings until the following Friday.

On Sunday, July 24th, preachers of various creeds held meetings in every church and school house surrounding Byrdstown, expecting to draw the crowd from the Mormons, but their efforts were of no avail.

A considerable number of Tennessee Saints attended the conference, some of them came seventy miles, some in vehicles, some horseback. All went away rejoicing feeling amply paid for their trip.

It is asserted by clergy and laity that never before in this dispensation was discontent among church members of the different denominations as prevalent as at present. A spirit of invidious caviling seems to have sauntered into every neighborhood. No confidence is placed in spurious religion, but truth is sought after.

Much interest is being manifest by Elders and Saints in the establishment and maintenance of branches of the Church, Sunday schools, etc., and our number is daily augmenting by those who are not afraid of truth.

The "News" is ever a welcome visitor to Elders and Saints and all join in sending best wishes to same.

Your truly,

JAMES LARSEN.

The Power of God Manifested.

Milwaukee, Wis.,

Aug. 8, 1898.

The Milwaukee force of Elders, consisting at present of Elders Andrew Larsen, R. M. Lynn, C. W. Huhl, Thos. P. Thompson and myself, felt that a few words from the "Cream City" would be acceptable to the "News."

We have received the kindest treatment from the city officers, and in our house to house canvass we are generally treated with respect.

We have held sixty-seven meetings in Milwaukee during the last nearly four months. We have been treated kindly, with but one or two exceptions, during all our open air meetings.

As a testimony that God still lives and a testimony that God still lives power of His Spirit for their benefit, we submit the following circumstance:

One of Milwaukee's citizens, now a brother, came to us, after having perused some of our tracts and books, with his heart filled with joyful emotion from the testimony he had received that we were the true representatives of Christ, but his tongue being bound by an unseen power and trembling in every limb, he could not express his desires for several moments. Finally, however, he overcame the evil power and was able to express his wish to be added to the Church. We made the necessary preparations and proceed to comply with his wish on the evening of July 30th. He was still laboring under the oppressive influence. But after the ordinance of baptism was performed he came forth freed from the oppressor and now, when he meets us he greets us with a hearty grip and smile and says he is indeed born again and believes he is getting young again. He is now 63 years of age.

He relates to us the manner in which he was led to us. He always prayed the Lord to lead him into truth, and he received a vision in which he beheld four men, whom he described as being brilliantly clothed, bright and shining and which led him to Lake Michigan and baptized him. At the time he did not know that there were Elders in the city.

The "News" is as welcome as a returned friend.

We send greeting to all our friends and dear ones who read these lines.

Your brother in Christ,

ELDER JAS. NIELSEN.

819 5th St. Milwaukee.

Louisiana Conference.

Victoria, La., Aug. 6, 1898.

According to instructions from Elder Ben E. Rich, the Louisiana conference of thirty-six Elders was called together July 30th and 31st. The word did not reach us in time to make elaborate preparations, but as soon as it was received we set our heads to work for a suitable place for such a gathering. Our minds were at once directed to the Summerfield tabernacle in Grant Parish, some five miles above Colfax, the parish seat. This is a large square building built expressly for summer use with a seating capacity of six hundred people. It was built by the community and over the speaker's platform in the east hangs the motto, "Welcome to All." The Elders laboring in Grant parish had been granted the privilege of speaking in this building some time before and had made several friends in the vicinity.

Could we get the tabernacle for this occasion? was the question. With the spirit of charity, gratitude and love that usually characterizes the labors and efforts of the Latter-day Saint Elders visited the chairman of the committee in charge of the building. He expressed his willingness, stating also that he would give notice and call the members of the committee together, obtain their support and approval. Some slight objections such as usually occur when the "Mormons" are in question, were brought forth, but overruled by a majority and the building was ours for the dates mentioned above. A sufficient number of families within a radius of three miles expressed a willingness to entertain our Elders and according to previous instructions all the Elders but four had arrived July 29th from the adjoining parishes. Two of these came in Saturday about noon and the other pair through losing their mail were not present. Elder N. P. Nelson from Chattanooga, Tenn., was in attendance.

There was a very large congregation on Sunday, over three hundred people all gathered to hear the Gospel as taught by our Elders. After the morning service the good, kind people, as is their custom in this section, spread a

nice lunch and invited the Elders to partake of their hospitality.

The service in the afternoon was somewhat disturbed by a very heavy shower of rain, which lasted for some time, during which there was a little confusion. All passed off pleasantly, however, and we are led to believe from the expressions which followed that the people generally were well pleased. Monday, Aug. 1st, Elder Nelson met in council meeting with the Elders, where each Elder reported his feelings and bore his testimony. The terrible heat had quite overcome some of them and they were not feeling as well as usual. None, however, were seriously sick and in a few weeks we hope to be able to report "all well." At the close of the timely instructions the following Elders were released to return home: R. E. Caldwell, John Wood, E. M. Weller Jr. and Arthur Dall.

Respectfully,

J. A. CONWALL.

Victoria, Natchdoches Ph., Louisiana.

From the Mississippi Conference.

Jackson, Miss.,

Aug. 6, 1898.

We have recently concluded a three days' conference, our new mission president, Elder Ben E. Rich, being in attendance. The face of every Elder except one or two who were sick proclaimed this one of the most pleasurable of our conventions. Many causes figured in that and from the zeal they displayed upon leaving to resume their respective labors, the meetings were equally as profitable.

The place designated for our conference was a county wherein our Elders had not been previous to our January conference. At that time able Elders were assigned that field.

The little town of Mechanicsburg, Yazoo Co., and distant from Beulonia, its nearest railroad station, was the place chosen. A bowerly was constructed, ample accommodations for all provided, and July 30 was fixed for the first of the three days' series. A protracted rain of one or two weeks' duration had made the roads difficult to travel, but this abated so effectually that the whole heavens seemed to smile down such a welcome as only a true Southern friend could excel. Eleven o'clock a. m. and all seated in our bowery anxiously awaiting our president, who for three hours had been traveling by coach from Bentonla. There was more than anxiety causing the uneasiness of that heaven-favored congregation. Since daylight, another gathering of boys and men armed with shooting implements were assembling one mile further down the road toward our railroad station, till 150 had collected and they too were awaiting Elder Rich. Passing the unfriendly crowd, he soon hove in sight but was followed by a committee of the armed men, who, upon arriving, informed us that their purpose was to expel us from the county and that 2 p. m. was the time of grace fixed. Argument being useless, they were answered affirmatively and arrangements inaugurated to continue our conference at Jackson, twenty-six miles south of Bentonla.

No difficulty was experienced in procuring the necessary money and conveyances, but the bitterest trial was in parting with our dear friends, who would have willingly died in our defense had we but yielded to their earnest persuasions for us to remain. Space would not allow us to report the speech of Elder Rich, who spoke to our friends upon patriotism and fealty to God; then that brave, composed and faithful body of Elders, armed only with the helmet of righteousness and the sword of God's truth. The sad farewells uttered by our friend in near-