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## OLD MOTTRAM CHURCH.

MANCHESTER, England, Sept. 27th, 1893.—Sunday morning, Sept. 24, in connection with Elder N. L. Morris, we again visited the Chisworth branch. Another good meeting was held, several strangers being present. After meeting we went to Tintwistle, where we spent an enjoyable time at Sister Harrop's. Sister Harrop has been a member of the Church since her childhood days.

The Tuesday following we left Tintwistle for Mottram. These two towns are in Cheshire, close to the borders of Derbyshire. England has her share of hilly country, Derbyshire taking the lead, though from what I have seen of Cheshire it has its full portion. We were desirous of seeing the old church at Mottram, its history having been an important topic for the Elders who have labored in this part of the country. The church is situated on what is called War Hill. The title suggests recollections of the Danish invasion in these parts. Beside the hill is a pit where the mangled forms of the dead were hurriedly buried. For many miles distant the church can be seen, as it stands in a pre-eminent position. Climbing the hill to the sacred edifice is tiring to the traveler, and having labored within the walls of the church yard, for a few moments we rested our weary limbs. What a splendid view of the surrounding country! It reminds us somewhat of our mountain home. Our thoughts wander back to our homes and loved associates. The picturesque scene of the surrounding country was marred somewhat by the dull, misty weather. Fall appears to be fully set in, reminding us of November in Utah. The church yard is very thickly bedded with gravestones and monuments. Slowly proceeding we read the inscriptions of those who had been sleeping in their graves for centuries.

Mottram old church is supposed to be one of the oldest in the British isle. It appears that no account of it has been written, and hence we found it a difficult matter to ascertain correct information regarding it, but as near as we could learn it was built about ten or eleven centuries ago. Near the door of the church is an old iron mark—a sun dial. Judging from its dingy appearance it has seen many generations pass away. The outside of the church has an ancient looking aspect, portions of the walls having a

musty, crumbling appearance. What a vast number of changes have taken place since the building was erected, and what history it could unfold—battles lost and won; it could record the deaths of martyred heroes who have bled and died for their country.

We stepped in the lobby of the church; here we beheld printed instructions to those who entered, amongst which I jotted down the following rules, which I think would be well to be observed in any sacred place where Christians worship the true and living God:

"Be in time."

"Go straight into church."

"Do not look around every time the doors open."

"Do not whisper to your neighbor."

"Keep your thoughts fixed."

Just inside the church is a registry book, where we entered our names and the city we hailed from (in Utah). We glanced through the book, but observed none had traveled such a lengthy distance as we.

As we entered the interior we heard sweet and solemn strains of music—a young lady practicing, no doubt, for Sabbath service. Passing down the aisle we observed it was paved with large slabs, upon which were carved inscriptions of the honored and respected dead who had passed away centuries ago.

One of the greatest attractions in the church is the beautiful marble pulpit. This is a sight well worth seeing, and one long to be remembered by those who have the pleasure of beholding it. The artistic work is magnificent. All around it are scenes of Bible history, with such prominent characters as Abraham, Moses, Aaron, Joshua and others. The figures stand in bold relief, and are carved in the most artistic style. In one corner of the church, on a tomb, were two figures in sandstone, which apparently had lain there for centuries. The windows of the church are painted with ancient-looking figures. The square belfry was built by Edward Shaw (then lord mayor of London) in 1478.

Sept. 28, 8 p. m.—There is a rumor of an early settlement of the coal dispute, but up to the hour of writing nothing definite has been accomplished.

R. A.

THE EXPENSE of keeping up the two racing yachts is about five hundred dollars a day. And yet they are not able to raise the wind.

## IOWA CONFERENCE.

Minutes of the Iowa Conference, held in the Huntington hall, 104 Broadway, Council Bluffs, Oct. 1st, 1893, Conference President George T. Marshall Jr. presiding. Andrew Jensen from Salt Lake City, Chas. E. Fletcher, Geo. A. Beal, Jos. M. Jepsen, Jas. Cluff, Wm. West, W. J. Butterworth, S. A. Bunker, Hans J. Nielsen, Francis Webster, and Elder Cook, the latter two recently arrived from Zion, were present. Elders M. F. Weaver and J. J. Jensen were unable to attend and Elder F. S. Carroll was detained on account of ill health.

At the opening remarks of Elder Marshall, a feeling of sorrow was plainly manifest among the Elders and Saints present at the announcement of the death of Elder Charles W. Stayner's wife, which kept our beloved brother from our conference.

Elder Butterworth spoke at length on the duties of the Saints. Elder Beal followed, giving some very interesting statements pertaining to missionary labors. The afternoon session was occupied by Elder Andrew Jensen, principally on Church authority and historical events of the Saints since 1830, which was very interesting.

The evening session was occupied principally on the same subjects by Elders Marshall, Jensen and Jepsen. Many encouraging words of counsel were given to all present.

At the Priesthood meeting the reports of the Elders were very encouraging and a energetic feeling was expressed by all present.

Those desirous of corresponding with the Elders may do so by addressing them in their loving fields of labor.

Geo. T. Marshall Jr. and W. J. Butterworth, 191 Graham avenue, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Geo. A. Beal and H. J. Nielsen, Boone, Boone county, Iowa.

Jos. M. Jepsen and Francis Webster, St. John, Stafford county, Kansas.

Jas. Cluff and Wm. Brandon, Maxville, Stafford county, Kansas.

Stephen A. Bunker and J. Cook, Decatur, Burt county, Nebraska.

M. F. Weaver and J. J. Jensen, Warren, Monroe county, Wis.

Elder Wm. West was honorably released to accompany Elder F. G. Carroll home on account of ill health. Elder Chas. E. Fletcher returned home to attend the funeral of his beloved mother.

CHAS. E. FLETCHER, Clerk.