

FROM THE MISSIONARY FIELDS.

The Monongahela Valley.

Roscoe, Washington Co.,
Pa., Aug. 1898.

To the Editor:

One year in June last I left my home in Harrisville, Utah, to labor as a messenger of glad tidings to the Eastern States. I was appointed to labor with Elder D. P. Thomas in Huntingdon county, Pa., till conference, after which I returned with Elder J. E. Isgreen, and labored in the same county. Much abuse was hurled against the Mormons at that time and place. The newspapers denounced us and advised the people to run us out with a coat of tar and feathers. We even met people who seemed willing to take such advice. At one time we were ordered to leave the town within twenty-four hours, under penalty of being severely dealt with. The document was signed by white caps. We ignored the notice and left it with the Lord, who is able to destroy or save, and remained till we got ready to go. We were not interfered with.

Failing to get any public buildings to preach in during the winter, we went over into Junita county and were the first messengers to raise our voices in that locality in proclaiming the everlasting Gospel.

At conference, which was held in Washington county, I got another companion, W. E. Heller, whom I labored with until new companions arrived, after which Alpheus Rockwood and myself were assigned to labor in the Monongahela Valley and adjacent territory, said to be the richest valley in the world. We have two branches of Saints on the river and their kindness to the Elders in time of need will long be remembered.

A number of the Saints emigrated from this valley to Utah last spring. No doubt Elders of years gone by will remember this valley, for as the saying is, we still find traces of their footprints in the sand. We have preached in school houses where a few years ago the Elders were stoned out. In this locality prejudice is abating and a spirit of indifference has taken possession of the people.

Acting upon advice from Elder Kessler, we have held a number of meetings on the street corners in the towns and cities where we could get before a large number of people; thus far we have had respect shown us by good order, with the exception of one place where the Josephites tried to disturb us with their denunciations of the "Utah Mormons."

While traveling in the country sometimes a faint heart might get discouraged after getting refused lodging time after time, but the Lord always provides as long as we put our trust in Him and has a place prepared for us ahead.

In our travels in Washington county we have passed over some historic ground, such as the home of Sidney Rigdon and Solomon Spaulding. The home of the latter still stands where the people claim the groundwork of the Book of Mormon was written. The present owner very courteously showed us the room where the manuscript was supposed to have been written. The people still claim that the manuscript was copied by Rigdon, and an article appeared in one of the Pittsburg papers recently upholding and reiterating the stale old theory, which article we replied to, but at this writing it has not been published.

We made a special visit to the village of Amity where Spaulding died, to as-

certain how deep seated the old error has on the people in that vicinity. We failed to get a house to preach in and concluded to visit every family and have a talk with them and leave them tracts. At first we met opposition. Our tracts were refused and our testimonies rejected. One man advised us not to remain in town very long if we wished to know what was for our best good. I told him the Constitution gave us rights that had to be respected.

The adversary did not discourage us, for we found a number of friends who did not believe the Spaulding story, and we think in a few years the old theory will be relinquished altogether right at the fountain source.

We visited Spaulding's grave where he was buried in 1816. The tombstones have disappeared below the surface of the ground by relic hunters. His house, which is said to have been built in 1777, is still habitable.

The people have no account of any of our Elders ever being there before.

Our field of labor includes Pittsburg and vicinity, and if anyone have friends in this locality whom they desire us to visit, we will gladly do so, if they will send us their names and addresses.

The "News" to the Elders is as indispensable as a meal to a hungry soul.

Yours respectfully,
L. S. HARRIS.

South Carolina Conference.

To the Editor:

One year ago there was a great excitement in Fairfield county caused by two Latter-day Saints Elders who had been laboring in this and adjoining counties. They had made a great number of friends and baptized several converts of Fairfield county, and on July 3rd and 4th, 1897, a conference convened. This aroused the indignant propensities of a few of the loyal so-called Christian patriotic sons of the Palmetto state, not because of any harm that was being done nor because of any doctrine that was being taught which had the least appearance of immorality, but for the reason Paul received on one occasion: "This sect is everywhere evil spoken of," and because the people were being called out from Babylon to rise to a higher standard of purity and fidelity than their fellow creature. This aroused their carnal jealousies still more and to magnify their loyalty to American patriotism and love for their fellow Christians, on the morning of July 4th, the Latter-day Saints church was burned to the ground. Several weeks later two of the Elders were treated in a most brutal manner, and many houses of Saints and friends were searched. The authorities of the law took the matter into hand, but peace was not restored, so the Elders left the county for a short time, leaving vengeance in the hands of the Lord. The results can now be seen clearly, and it bears a strong testimony that the work of God may be fought against, but everyone who rises up against it will be ground to powder or at least come to naught.

About three weeks ago Elder Ben E. Rich notified the Elders of this conference that our general conference would be held on August 13th and 14th, and Elder Wayne H. Redd immediately took steps to arrange for this happy event. The county of Fairfield was chosen as the place of meeting, and though only one year, ago it was the most bitter

neighborhood in the state, at this time it appears calm as a summer morn and mob violence has entirely disappeared; many who had been our bitter enemies found they had been deceived, and are now our warm friends.

Friday afternoon last Elder Rich arrived, and Elders came in from all directions, and notwithstanding that many of them had walked more than a hundred miles, they wore the most pleasant smiles and were the happiest band of men that one would desire to see. An arbor had been erected in a beautiful pine grove, and at 10 a.m. Saturday morning, it was well filled with Saints and friends who had come from far and near, eager to be fed upon the spiritual food of life, and to increase their faith and renew their determinations to life more saintly lives in the future. I think their hopes were not in vain, for the principles of the Gospel were made so plain and advocated with such power and simplicity that no reasonable person could avoid seeing the necessity of obeying the same.

Elder Rich spoke at the services each day, and in his closing sermon, Sunday evening, explained the second chapter of Daniel. Many were present who did not belong to our Church, and they are loud in their praise of the logical manner in which the Elders presented the principles of the Gospel.

Our Priesthood meeting convened at 7 o'clock Sunday morning, where the Elders received some valuable instructions from our president.

Elders were all assigned to their various fields of labor, and with cheerful hearts and having their testimonies abundantly strengthened, they went with full determinations to do their full duty in proclaiming the everlasting Gospel in city, village and country.

WAYNE H. REDD,
President of Conference.
JOS. T. CARRUTH,
Clerk of Conference.

In the Kentucky Conference.

Livingston Co., Ky., Aug. 17, 1898.

To the Editor:

I left my home on Sept. 10, 1896, for a mission to the Southern States. I was there assigned to labor in the Kentucky conference. My labors have been devoted to three counties, viz. Nelson county, Lincoln county and Livingston county. On Dec. 10, 11, 12, 1897, we held our conference for the second time this year and had a pleasant time. After conference we were assigned to our various fields of labor. Livingston county has been our field. Arriving here on Dec. 25, 1897, we have been laboring here up till the present time. Elder Chas. A. Udy and myself have been traveling together for some time and have met with good success. We have just finished canvassing our county and can say the people have treated us well in every respect. We have endeavored to travel without purse or scrip, believing that is the way to preach the Gospel of the Son of God, and we find that the Lord opens up the way for His servants. We have seen His power made manifest many times.

Kentucky is noted for hospitality. The two years I have traveled in the state I have met with many kind-hearted people.

We remain your brethren in the Gospel,
CHAS. A. CABBLEY,
CHAS. A. UDY.

Minnesota Conference.

Faribault, Rice Co., Minn.,
August 16, 1898.

To the Editor:

The Minnesota conference convened in the Armory Hall at Faribault, Minn., on Saturday and Sunday, August 13th and 14th.