

credit is due our young ladies and young men, and all who assisted to make it a success, for the reason that everything was planned and accomplished in the short space of four days. Those that prepared the picnic were all under forty, while those over forty were to come and be made happy, which was fully the case, I believe.

Next day the picnic that was left was distributed amongst the poor of our ward by the young ladies on the committee, one or two young men taking their teams and assisting them. The good things that were prepared and the abundance of it was an evidence that the Lord is blessing us all, perhaps more than we deserve.

JOS. S. H. BODELL.

LABORS IN TENNESSEE.

LEBANON, Wilson Co.,
Tenn., Feb. 19, 1895.

Having been called by the servants of the Lord as an ambassador of heaven's saving truths to the inhabitants dwelling on this part of the globe, I thought perhaps a few lines would be read with interest by some of the many readers of your valuable paper. No one knows how much comfort the DESERET NEWS gives to an Elder dwelling among strangers, unless he has had similar experience.

One year ago, Feb. 1, I arrived at Chattanooga in company with three others, Elders Glazier, Haladay and Caine. The last two named were assigned to labor in east Tennessee, while Elder Glazier and myself were assigned to middle Tennessee.

The greater portion of my labors have been performed in Wilson county. My parents were reared in this county and it has been the means of raising up many to give our weary heads a resting place, and our bodies the necessary comforts to sustain life. I have here many new relatives also, by whom we are treated with all due respect, courtesy and hospitality. We hope some day to see some of them embrace the message we so freely bring them without money or price, which will make them wise unto salvation.

When I come to sum up the many changes and peculiar experiences in my missionary labors, I can say that in the same length of time I never have had so much joy and satisfaction, though if I were to try and describe every event I have met with I would speak of days dark and gloomy, of days happy and peaceful; of times when it would seem like murmuring would not be counted a sin, and of times when all the powers of heaven were favoring the ambassadors of our Redeemer. Yea, it is a life of varied conditions, and after all its pleasures far outweigh its woes.

The conference is in a prospering condition, as I presume most all have understood ere this, with sixteen young Elders carrying the message from house to house and from city to city, continually opening up new fields and getting entertainment among the prominent and influential, having houses opened to us which a few years past Elders would not have thought of applying for. Prejudice is fast dying away and many of the old weapons and romantic stories once resorted to as a means of destroying Mormonism's effects are failing on every hand

when resorted to. The people are fast becoming tired of the raving songs of sectarianism. It is becoming too shadowy and faint as the people are becoming wiser. They are beginning to see that their views have been altogether too narrow, and they now see the folly in prejudice and are desirous of obtaining something more powerful and substantial. They are beginning to realize that they are living in the time the Savior, Paul and others spoke of, who say in speaking of the last days that the fear towards God will be taught by the precepts of men, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.

Perhaps an experience of opposition, which we had at a Methodist meeting, would not be out of place, as Elders of other fields meet with similar conflicts. Not long since we had taken a trip in a new neighborhood in order to canvass that portion of our allotted field of labor. We were getting along nicely; had many requesting us to hold meetings for them. Among the number was a steward of the said church, who invited us to attend their meeting the Sunday following, and there they would take a vote upon it, the steward having consulted with his pastor on the matter and found him bitterly opposed, which he (the pastor) stated to the people, saying there were reasons best known to himself. The steward then made a little talk, stating that he intended doing his own thinking, and hoped that the rest of the members would look at it in the same way and not vote against it simply because the pastor did. They then took a vote and decided against it, whereupon the pastor took the stand and related something of the massacre in Lewis county, in which Elders Gibbs and Berry were killed, making a scandalous picture of it—as broad a contrast from its reality as day is from night. When he had done he hesitated a moment, then said; "I know this to be a fact for I was an eye witness on the occasion." He then stopped again.

Your correspondent then arose, after seeing and hearing so much, and asked permission just to state our object in their midst, also our desire of stating the truth in regard to the blood of innocence resting upon some of the citizens of Lewis county? The answer from the pastor was, "If the congregation desires to hear your statement, you are at liberty." The steward was at the point of putting it to a vote of the people, but the pastor, seeing the chance was favorable for us to give a reply and knowing he had made an untrue statement, arose to his feet, called upon the congregation to arise and receive the benediction, thus leaving the steward talking.

We remained after meeting a few moments, desirous of speaking to the pastor in regard to what had been said; but he gave us no opportunity. Therefore we left, leaving the people to draw their own conclusions as to the false statements. After we had gone the steward told the pastor he had made a great mistake and he had blundered; he said: "You have not only treated these young men with disrespect as strangers, but you have shown me no respect in setting up and discussing the meeting while I was yet talking." At

this one of the leading members took it up and the result was almost a fight; this would have been, had not the members separated them and drawn them away and got them started for their homes.

As all will be rewarded according to their works and deeds done in the flesh, there must necessarily be One ruling on high who notes all such conduct and holds it for men to meet, except they repent and serve Him. We regard it as a victory for Mormonism; for the course thus pursued made many friends for us; as to the ester, the weapon he used to kill Mormonism, shot the wrong way. I am of the impression that much good will be done in this portion, that the Gospel seed being sown will yet take root in rich soil, and that the fruit reaped will be life everlasting.

With a constant prayer for the advancement of truth and righteousness upon the earth. I am your brother in the Gospel,
JOS. S. FERRELL.

PROHIBITION AGAIN—A CORRECTION.

The very seasonable article by H. D. Johnson in Thursday's paper is based upon an entire mistake as to what is advocated by the friends of prohibition in Utah. He closes the article with these words: "The attempt to forestall legislation by an article in the Constitution * * * might, and probably would, result in the defeat of statehood."

Exactly the opposite is true. The article of the Constitution, the submission of which to a vote of the people is now being advocated, has as its very first clause these words: "To be submitted to a separate vote of the people, as provided by the schedule and ordinance."

The men who are leading in this matter are not novices. They foresee the objection, and saw also the justice of not linking inseparably two fundamental propositions upon which men could honestly differ. As they arranged the matter, if the liquor power could marshal every vote in the Territory against the article and for its traffic, this fact could not affect the rest of the Constitution a particle. The vote on each will be as separate and independent as that for the different candidates on ordinary tickets.

This fact effectually clears away the main difficulty of Mr. Johnson's communication, but another point or two should be noticed.

He further says in substance that since prohibition has not been under the occasion of formal instruction of the delegates to the Convention, they "are under no obligation" to regard the present or future wishes of their constituents in submitting the desired article for the Constitution. The *Herald* lately voiced a similar sentiment editorially, much to the astonishment and disgust of thinking people. Let us examine the idea.

First—Why do we have delegates at all? Why did not Congress appoint a committee in Washington, or New York, to frame our Constitution for us entirely? To ask the question is to answer it. Such a Constitution would not be ours and could not fit us, however abstractly perfect it might be. No "government of the people, by the people, and for the people," as Lincoln