

have kindled a spirit of investigation among the people of middle Tennessee until in the majority of the counties the cry is now being heard, "Send us some of your preachers."

More brave "soldiers of the cross" are needed here to do the work that must be done.

Though the majority of the state included in this conference has been canvassed, it has been thought best to send a pair of Elders into each county, beginning at the mountains and moving westward as fast as the counties can be properly worked. Elders are to visit all the families in their respective counties as though no canvassing had ever been done, also hold as many meetings and dispose of as many books as possible.

During the past few months a number of Sunday schools have been organized in various localities and more will shortly be organized. Elder J. L. Bench, who has charge of the Sunday school work, is a very efficient worker and much good is being accomplished through his earnest efforts.

It is amusing, and yet how ridiculous, to notice the aptitude of men of biased minds to invent all manner of falsehoods. Formerly the main cry against Mormons was that the Elders were in the world to get women; now when polygamy is neither advocated, practiced nor tolerated in Utah, the cry has nearly sunk into oblivion.

Recently one of the leading papers of the state gave an account of two Mormon ladies arriving at Chattanooga with a company of Elders.

The cry was formerly heard "Watch your girls or the Mormons will get them." Now some of the men referred to are saying that Utah has a surplus of old maids (which may be true), and they are now being sent into the world to decoy the young men into their traps and carry them away, hence the people are being cautioned to guard against the intrusion of "Mormon old maids."

But no deceptive means are sufficient to submerge the Gospel, for as the poet says: "Truth is mighty and will prevail," and though crushed to earth will rise again. The Lord is with His Elders and strenuous efforts are being put forth to hoist the yoke of tradition and error with which the people are encumbered.

Ten meetings are being held and twelve books sold where a year ago but one meeting was held and one book disposed of.

Wishing the "News" and its readers a happy New Year, I am yours in the cause of truth,

JAMES LARSEN,

Secretary of Middle Tennessee Conference.

#### M. I. A. OFFICERS' MEETING.

The Stake superintendency and the city officers of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations met at the League rooms Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock. There were present Superintendent R. R. Lyman, Counselor Heber C. Iverson, Secretary J. B. Higgs, Corresponding Secretary W. G. Sears, Aids T. A. Clawson, Ernest Heuser, Joseph A. West, L. R. Wells, D. J. Lang and G. S. McAllister, together with sixty-eight ward representatives.

There was no representation from the Twelfth ward, Twenty-third or Sugar House. The Twenty-third, however, sent an acceptable excuse for not being present. Of the county wards Brighton, Center, Cannon, Forest Dale, Farmers, Pleasant Green, East Mill Creek and Wilford were represented.

The opening prayer was offered by Elder Frank Branting of the Second ward.

In his remarks Superintendent Lyman said that when it was impossible for a president to be present at these meetings himself he should not simply extend general invitations to the officers and members of his association, but should make a specific appointment of some one to attend, and such appointed representative should make it his especial business to report the proceedings of the meeting to the president. Some of the young ladies had complained that the young men made the miscellaneous programs too long, not leaving enough time for Guide or Manual class work. It would be well to have not less than one hour of this class work. The Young Ladies should have proper representation upon the stand during conjoint exercises. Superintendent Lyman further stated that some of the associations were invariably late in commencing and he asked that every association make it a rule for the officers to be at the place of meeting at least fifteen minutes before time set for commencing meetings. He also called attention to the request in the January number of the Improvement Era, that every officer and member of the Y. M. M. I. A. put his best thoughts into writing (not more than 100 words) and send it to the editor of the Era together with the name and address of the writer. Also advised that the young men be given something to do in the meetings and not always to call on those of more mature years. If the Bishopric do not attend the meetings they should be invited to do so, as the best associations are those that have these officers in attendance. Don't always adopt the same methods in presenting the subject. See that strict attention is paid by all to the lesson in hand, and quit when the time for dismissal arrives. He called attention to the fact that the program for the monthly conjoint meeting should be in the hands of the secretary of the League not later than the 21st of each month.

It was proposed that Elder James E. Talmage be secured to deliver his best lecture upon Russia in the Tabernacle, Sunday evening, January 23, 1898, for the benefit of the League, and that an admission fee of ten cents be charged. A unanimous vote was taken, and the Y. M. M. I. A. will do all that can be done by them to make it a grand success. Prizes will be offered to the association selling the most tickets.

The lesson of the evening on Christ's public ministry in Galilee was conducted by R. H. Bradford of Center ward. The lesson showed that Elder Bradford had carefully prepared his lesson, and also that the class was awakening to the value of these lessons.

Supt. Lyman then gave the first seven rules of catechization.

The following lectures were announced for January 25, 1898:

First Ward—Elder Joseph E. Taylor, The Law of Tithing.

Second Ward—Elder George Reynolds, The Language of the Book of Mormon.

Third Ward—Mrs. Lizzie S. Wilcox, Woman in Literature.

Fourth Ward—President Joseph F. Smith, Heaven's First Law.

Fifth Ward—Elder John Henry Smith, Loyalty.

Sixth Ward—Mrs. Sarah V. Stewart, Woman's Mission.

Seventh Ward—Elder William M. Stewart, Life and Its Preparation.

Eighth Ward—Elder Charles W. Penrose, The Problem Solved by Mormonism.

Ninth Ward—Mrs. Ruth M. Fox, Prayer.

Tenth Ward—Elder John Nicholson, The Plan of Salvation.

Eleventh Ward—Mrs. Annie K.

Hardy, Women of the Book of Mormon.

Twelfth Ward—Prof. Joseph T. Kingsbury, Thoughts on Life and Man. Thirteenth Ward—Elder Angus M. Cannon, Early Training and Consistent Practice.

Fourteenth Ward—Elder O. F. Whitney, Dispersion and Gathering of Israel.

These announcements were made for February 1, 1898.

Fifteenth Ward—Mrs. May B. Talmage, Longfellow and His Works.

Sixteenth Ward—Elder Angus M. Cannon, Early Training and Consistent Practice.

Seventeenth Ward—Prof. George M. Marshall, The Settlement of Virginia and Colonial Life in the South.

Eighteenth Ward—Dr. M. H. Cannon, The Cliff Dwellers.

Nineteenth Ward—Prof. C. A. Whitney, Fruits.

Twentieth Ward—Mrs. Susa Y. Gates, What is My Girl's Ideal?

Twenty-first Ward—Dr. J. F. Millspaugh, Habit and Its Training from a Psychological Standpoint.

Twenty-second Ward—Elder B. H. Roberts, The Morning of Our Civilization.

Twenty-third Ward—Elder James F. Flashman, Religion in Daily Life.

South Cottonwood—Dr. R. B. Pratt, The Mill Will Never Grind With the Water That Has Passed.

Murray—Elder C. W. Penrose, The Problem Solved by Mormonism.

Forest Dale—Elder Andrew Jensen, Palestine and Its People.

Farmers—Elder O. F. Whitney, Dispersion and Gathering of Israel.

Brighton—Elder Josiah Burrows, A Remarkable Prophecy.

Cannon—Miss M. M. Babcock, The Temple of Our Soul.

Center—Prof. William G. Roylance, Thought and Deed in History.

After singing "We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet," prayer was offered by Elder George F. Woolley of the Thirteenth ward.

Some one by mistake exchanged hats with Brother James Winter of the Nineteenth ward. They can arrange to obtain their own by calling on the secretary at Z. C. M. I.

J. B. HIGGS, Secretary.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL AT FEAST PUEBLO

Pueblo, Colo., Jan. 4.—A very enjoyable sociable was held at the G. A. R. hall, Saturday, Jan. 1, 1898, at 7 p.m., under the auspices of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. About 125 persons, including 55 scholars, assembled in the form of a sociable. First in order was a tree, very tastefully decorated and arranged, with pretty wax candles, strings of colored popcorn, and many other adornments, together with presents for the scholars, the sight of which caused the many little hearts to glow with rapture and their eyes to sparkle with keen delight at the prospect before them, for this was the first treat of its kind ever held since the organization of the branch here in Pueblo. The tree was then drawn, and presents awarded to the scholars, little and big, while the parents of the children, together with a few friends, enjoyed themselves eating nuts, candies, oranges, apples, etc., and in friendly chat. Everybody then sat down and partook of a sumptuous feast provided by the ladies of the Church assisted by a few friends. There was an abundance of chicken, turkey and all kinds of cake, pies and cookies. It was a treat long to be remembered, by those present.

We also had a good program, consisting of solos, duets, trios, recitations,