

the wine and beer drinking Europeans, and, consequently work cheaper. Hence their competition is feared, and the feeling is prevalent that Jewish immigration on a large scale will virtually be a deathblow to European thrift.

It is, however, a great question whether the Jews will be likely to avail themselves of the permission so dearly bought. It is known that a great many of them have given up all hope of ever possessing their own land, and they look upon Palestine as a very poor spot upon which to grow rich—their only aim in this life. A change of opinion in this respect will, however, soon take place when the current of immigration turns this way; and, under all circumstances, it may safely be supposed that those men who have paid an enormous sum for the right of immigration mean business on a large scale, and that they knew the time for this long predicted and anxiously expected movement was close at hand. The transaction itself is a proof that the Jews are now prepared to return to Canaan.

One event will follow another as naturally as the links in a chain. The Jews will gather; the land will become prosperous as of old. It will be a desirable spot; the great ones of Europe will view it with greedy eyes; it will be declared neutral ground, for the jealousy of powers will prevent any one from possessing it. It will become a free country, and its autonomy will be guaranteed by the combined powers—something like Turkey has been for centuries. But it will be impossible to harmonize the various interests of the powers. England will want supremacy; perhaps Russia will want to protect her numerous churches and convents, and to keep the way open for her thousands of pilgrims who come here every year in order to obtain blessings for this life and the life to come. Germany will have a word to say on account of her colonies, which are all under German protection. Thus everything is already preparing for the great conflict. The materials are all there. The least spark will ignite the whole, and the great battle of Armageddon, predicted by the Apostle John on Patmos, will take place before the coming of the Lord.

Blessed is he who can read the "signs of the times" and be prepared.
J. M. S.

HAIFA, Palestine, March 21, 1889.

IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Imagine yourself transported from your editorial room in your own beautiful city of Salt Lake to a snug little valley nestling cosily among the hills near the southern boundary of Pennsylvania, where the Pennsylvania Conference took place on the 13th, 14th and 15th of this month. It is known as Buck Valley, and is in the county of Fulton. Rolling hills surround it, and down the valley meander tiny streams, and on the slopes of the hills timber

of various kinds is found. The people mainly subsist by farming, and seem to be in comfortable circumstances. Their hospitality to our Elders has been worthy of all praise.

Here, in this pleasant retreat, with the weather all that could be desired, assembled the Elders laboring in this conference, to give reports of their missionary labors and experiences and bear testimony to the people gathered to hear us of the restoration of the Gospel preparatory to the coming of the Son of God to establish His kingdom on the earth and inaugurate a reign of peace and righteousness. The audiences during most of the time thronged the hall so kindly placed at our disposal by the people of this place.

We here insert, for the benefit of interested parties, the names of the Elders attending conference: Brother Harris, Assistant President of the Northern States Mission; Heber Bennion, President of Conference, and the following as traveling Elders: A. H. Woolley, Theo. Tobiason, W. P. Fulmer, Leroy Holt, Mark Bigler, W. R. Stevens, Hyrum Bown, Sylvanus Hulet, John A. West, Joseph Bartholomew, Thomas H. G. Parks, J. D. Leigh and S. H. M. Stewart. Elder Edward W. Hunter, laboring at present in Canada, was unable to attend.

Our meetings were all that could be desired, the people paid strict attention, the Spirit of God was abundantly poured out on the Elders and on the hearers. Great freedom of speech was enjoyed, with the result that the honest in heart are like the people of Berea, searching the Scriptures to see whether the things spoken of are true or not. The hospitality of the people of Buck Valley was unbounded, although efforts were made by some "Christian(?)" folks to turn them against us; but their efforts were in vain. As usual, some few were found who bitterly opposed us, and the emissaries of Satan were busily employed in circulating lies about the Elders and Saints, with this result—that the people could judge between truth and falsehood, and were enabled to see how lying stories cut out of whole cloth were manufactured against us.

To show the efforts made by some to hinder the spread of truth, I will relate one or two circumstances that transpired. Hearing of the time set for conference, a sect known as "Christians" started meetings upon the evening preceding conference, evidently with the purpose of drawing the people away from us, but to no purpose, as the people came and thronged our meetings, and their efforts to hinder resulted only in good.

Another circumstance transpired which caused a ripple of excitement for a short time. At the close of our first day's meetings—in the night, for they loved darkness, their deeds being evil—came some persons who are at present unknown and tore down two doors of the hall where we held conference, and carried away and broke up the steps leading into the place. At this point of their proceedings they

desisted from further mischief. If they had any thoughts of this stopping our meetings they must have been sadly disappointed, as they continued as previously announced. The indignation of the people was aroused at this wanton and malicious act, so that I do not think any will be found to acknowledge having had any hand in the deprecation.

At the council of the Priesthood Elder Leigh, owing to ill-health, was honorably released to return home. Elder Parks was also released to return, having filled his mission to the acceptance of his brethren. We much regret his departure as far as his labors in the field are concerned, but hope he may prove as useful at home as he has been here.

April 15th, four missionaries from home arrived, bringing in their company Sister Bennion and child. The names of the Elders are I. K. Wright, Orrin Randall, W. B. Grahame and I. W. D. Hunter. You may be sure that baby of Brother Bennion's received an ovation from Elders long absent from loved ones, and had to endure the infliction of being kissed by us all, which it bore with exemplary grace. Some of us no doubt felt a little—just a little bit—of home sickness creeping over us as we took it in our arms.

After the arrival of the Elders we soon completed the pairing of them to their different fields of labor, with the following result: Elders Stewart and Randall, Bartholomew and West, in Buck Valley and surrounding country; Fullmer and Holt, to Wetzel County; Stevens and Brown, to Potter County; Elders Bigler and Grahame, Hulet and I. W. D. Hunter, to West Virginia; A. H. Woolley, to Long Island, and Elders Ed. W. Hunter and I. K. Wright to labor in Canada. Elder Tobiason returns to Michigan, and Elder Bennion has been released as President of the Conference and will travel, accompanied by his wife, amongst the Saints and friends, returning to Kansas to close a useful mission begun there nearly two years ago. Elder Samuel H. M. Stewart has been appointed to succeed him as President of the Pennsylvania Conference.

As pleasing a conference as could be wished is closed. The time has come to bid each other adieu, the farewell hymn is sung, the parting grasp is given, and two by two the Elders wend their ways to labor in the vineyard, sorrowing at parting from each other but looking hopefully forward to the time when they shall part no more.

Invoking the blessing of God on those who have ministered so ungrudgingly and abundantly to our wants while here, and trusting they may come to a knowledge of the truth, is the unceasing prayer of those who partook of their hospitality, in which, we have no doubt, all Saints at home and abroad will join by a hearty Amen.

A. H. WOOLLEY,
Clerk of Conference.

BUCK VALLEY, Fulton County, Penn., April 19th, 1889.