

some kind of services on that day in our new church in honor of our beloved President. A few of us formed ourselves into a committee of arrangements. The little church was decorated in a most beautiful manner. We have quantities of evergreens in this country. So when we had completed our work it looked lovely. Elder Shipp was selected to be the orator of the day and Elder Taylor to preside.

Tuesday, March 1st, 1898, at 2 o'clock p. m., the Saints met in the church to celebrate the birthday of President Woodruff. We had prepared a program, consisting of songs and recitations and dialogues by the Sunday school children, in addition to the address of the Elders. Elder Shipp's oration was grand. All hearts were touched.

LAURA E. CARPENTER.

### OHIO CONFERENCE.

We have just concluded a two days' conference held in the I. O. O. F. hall, on Main street, between Third and Fourth, Zanesville, Muskingum county, Ohio, commencing Saturday, Feb. 26, at 7 p. m. Elder Louis A. Kelsch, president of the Northern States mission, was present. Elder David J. Davis, president of the Ohio conference, called the meeting to order. After singing and prayer, Elders John B. Erickson, David J. Davis and Edward F. Turley dwelt upon the subject of faith.

At 10 a. m. Sunday, Feb. 27, our second session convened, there being 13 Elders present besides Saints and friends, who were desirous no doubt of knowing the principles of the Gospel as taught by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There were also present reporters of the leading newspapers of Zanesville. When the voices of 13 Elders rang through the circles of the neat little room able to seat 500 persons, their curiosity was changed to wonderment at the thrilling beauty of such spiritual hymns.

Elders Anders K. Hansen, William F. Burton, George J. Shurtliff, Joseph E. Wilson, and Louis A. Kelsch, dwelt upon first principles of the Gospel. The latter very beautifully portrayed the necessity of Apostles and Prophets, and of being divinely called to preach and officiate in the ordinances pertaining to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At 2 p. m. our services were continued. After singing and prayer Elders R. Garn Clark and Michael Mauss dwelt upon the first principles of the Gospel and the atonement.

At 7 p. m. Elder David J. Davis called the meeting to order. After singing and prayer Elder Louis A. Kelsch dwelt upon the personality of God, the resurrection, Church organization, and the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and bore a strong testimony to the restoration of the Gospel.

Elder David J. Davis made a few closing remarks, invoked the blessings of heaven upon the people, and prayed that the people might see the truth and embrace it.

The work of proselyting is being carried on quite efficiently by the Elders in a house to house canvass. Thus the Gospel seed is being sown, which we hope will generate, bud and in the future bring forth an abundant harvest. We have strong hopes of baptizing a few as soon as spring opens up. Many are truly investigating the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many people here have seen the fruits of the Spirit of God made manifest through His servants.

As Elders of Israel we find that the path of counsel is the path of safety. Our worthy president cautioned us to be very careful, prudent, wise, and energetic in laboring among the people, and gave us many good and interesting instructions which were received by all

the Elders, laboring under his jurisdiction.

At the time appointed to hold conference, the ministers here, unitedly called special meetings, in their respective churches, to prevent the people from coming to hear the doctrines taught by Christ and His Apostles. Elders laboring in the Buckeye state have over 250,000 inhabitants for each Elder to preach the Gospel to. The labor is great and the laborers are few. Many of the people are church going members, fairly well versed in Holy Writ, and somewhat set in their views of worship. Thus it may be seen at a glance that the Elders have no little to do in convincing them that after the days of Christ and His Apostles, the Gospel was taken from the earth and that during the ages following men have been destitute of the authority thereunto belonging. Still the Elders are encouraged to press forward, feeling confident that when the Buckeye state has been canvassed as has many of her sister states, she will produce as many converts proportionately. There are 88 counties within the state; four have been partially visited since the opening of this conference in May, 1897. On Monday, Feb. 28, at 9 a. m., we all assembled in Priesthood meeting. After singing and prayer Elder David J. Davis and Michael Mauss officiated in the administration of the Sacrament. The Elders were assigned their fields of labor, after which each in turn was given an opportunity to express his feelings. All felt well regarding the work and the appointments, a good spirit prevailed and we received much spiritual strength. With renewed determinations all made new resolutions to push the work of the Lord more vigorously in the future.

Elder Louis A. Kelsch spoke at some length upon the duties of the Elders and gave valuable instructions which were good and timely. Elder David J. Davis instructed the Elders in regard to their duties and invoked the blessings of heaven upon them.

The appointments of the Elders, with their postoffice addresses, are as follows:

David J. Davis and John B. Erickson, East Rochester, Columbiana county, Ohio.

Michael Mauss and Ernest F. Malan, Marysville, Union county, Ohio.

Edward F. Turley and Thomas E. Cottle, Zanesville, Muskingum county, Ohio.

R. Garn Clark and William F. Burton, Cincinnati, Hamilton county, Ohio.

Anders K. Hansen and Frederick J. Wadsworth, Cleveland, Cuyahoga county, Ohio.

George J. Shurtliff and Joseph E. Wilson Jr., 845 south 8th street, Hamilton, Butler county, Ohio.

Persons having relatives or friends in this state will do the Elders a favor to send their addresses, also a letter of introduction. The "News" is an ever welcome visitor, as its contents are read with interest.

DAVID J. DAVIS, President,  
EDWARD F. TURLEY, Secy.

### INDIAN TERRITORY MISSION.

Indian Territory Mission,  
Cherokee Conference.

Those interested in the spread of the Gospel may be pleased with a brief account of the labors of the Elders in this part of the Lord's vineyard and to know how they have, through their union and faithfulness, seen the fruits of their labors ripen into maturity. We have truly been blessed of our Heavenly Father and our hearts have been turned in gratitude to Him for the many manifestations we have had of His supreme power in our behalf.

Perhaps there is in no conference a more united band of laborers than the

Elders of Cherokee. Their only desire seems to be the preaching and publishing of the Gospel. The Cherokee conference embraces the Creek, Cherokee and Choctaw nations, but our work during the winter has been confined solely to the latter in the hope that every family might see the Elders and hear for themselves of our doctrine before summer comes and we are moved to the colder climate of the north.

The nine Elders laboring in this field have enjoyed the best of health during the winter and have put their whole souls into their work of spreading God's word. Our labors have been crowned with success for we have had the privilege of leading nineteen honest souls down into the waters of baptism since the New Year was ushered in, and there are many warm friends and earnest investigators who are on the verge of taking upon themselves the name of our beloved Lord and Savior. Several applications for baptism are in which will be attended to as soon as we can get around to the applicant.

In our travels and ministrations we see the power of our Heavenly Father made manifest in many ways. Oftentimes we would be confused or confounded were it not for the help we receive from Him through the dictates of His Holy Spirit.

The following incident will be of interest to the Latter-day Saints for it shows that the authority of God is in the Priesthood which we hold and that the devil himself is subject to our command.

Elder Byron H. Allred Jr., Samuel Linton Jr. and your correspondent have been laboring here at Coalgate, Choctaw Nation, I. T., for some time past and have made a few converts. We found one man named David Lewis who had been baptized in Wales years ago, but did not know whether he belonged to our faith or the Reorganized church. "So," said he, "to settle the question in my mind I will be baptized again." Through our teaching we had converted his wife and three children, but they were reluctant about receiving baptism. Our conference president, Elder Joseph J. Richardson, and his traveling companion, Elder James W. Anderson, came to visit us February 25th. The five of us fasted the Monday and Tuesday following and prayed that the Lord might move upon them to receive the ordinance of baptism and that the power of the Lord might be made manifest on that occasion. Tuesday noon we went to Brother Lewis's home and to our delight found them all ready for the water. After the baptism we returned to the house to hold a confirmation meeting. While we were singing the second hymn Brother Lewis was seized by some unseen power that shook him violently and pulled his face into all sorts of hideous shapes. We recognized in it the presence of an evil spirit, so anointed him with oil and rebuked the destroyer, commanding it to depart. It left but came back in a moment. Then we knelt down in prayer around the room after which it was rebuked once more and departed only to come back again and seize him with even more violence than before. After the third rebuke we confirmed him, that he might have the Spirit of the Lord to assist him in throwing off the evil one. We had scarcely taken our hands off him when it returned and tossed his head around on the pillow, stretched his mouth into all shapes, wringing from him the most agonizing groans. This time we were prompted to command it in the name of Jesus Christ to depart and return no more. As it left the room it seemed as if a heavy cloud were passing away, for we could all feel its dark influence most plainly. After this the Spirit of the Lord was