

Fifteen Elders, including Elder L. A. Kelsch, president of the Northern States mission, were present, and a general good time was enjoyed by all.

Four meetings were held, two each day, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Elders were able to lay before the people in all its purity, the faith which was once revealed to the Saints, and make plain to them the plan of salvation.

An excellent spirit prevailed during the entire conference, and a time of rejoicing was had by all.

At our Priesthood meeting which was held on Sunday morning, August 14th, the Elders expressed themselves as pleased in the work, and if possible to labor more faithfully in the future than in the past, and all testified of the many blessings God had bestowed upon them while engaged in their labors for His cause. And the good instructions and kind fatherly advice given to all by Elder L. L. Kelsch will long be remembered by the Elders. The work is progressing well, and many friends are being made.

EDWIN S. SHEETS,  
President Minnesota Conference.  
ANDREW PETERSON,  
Clerk of Conference.

#### Maryland Conference.

Harper's Ferry, Jefferson Co.,  
August 17, 1898.

#### To the Editors

I have been very much interested in the past in reading letters published in the "News" written by Elders who are laboring in the cause of truth in various parts of the world.

I received my call for a mission to the Eastern States on the 17th of March, 1898. I left my home in Paris, Idaho, on the 20th of April. I was set apart for my mission on April 22, 1898, and on the following evening left Salt Lake City in company with Elder Wright and seven Elders that were bound for Scandinavia. On arriving at Buffalo City we immediately took the train for the Niagara Falls, and viewed with much interest the American rapids. Bath Island, Goat Island, American Falls, Lima Island, Horseshoe Falls, Three Sister Islands, Mermit's Cascade, Prospect Park, Inclined Railway Museum, New State Arch Bridge, Captain Webb's Swirl, Whirlpool, Queen Victoria Park, &c. At 8:40 in the evening we took train for Brooklyn, the headquarters of the Eastern States mission. Arriving on the 25th, we were met at the door by H. C. Hansen. As Elder Kesler was away were obliged to remain at the mission house until May 1st, when Elder Kesler returned from holding conference at Baltimore City. When Elder Wright and myself were appointed to labor in the Maryland conference, we left the mission house for Washington, D. C., May 3rd, and were met at the depot by Elders George M. White, S. S. Fience, Arthur Morrison, N. H. Russ, H. D. Hogan and F. C. Pectal. During our stay in this city we feasted our eyes on the various sights.

On May 5th Elder G. M. White and myself left for our field of labor, which was Jefferson county, West Virginia. We have been making a house to house visit through the county, distributing literature and holding meetings wherever opportunities have presented themselves. We find more or less prejudice existing among the people in the parts we have visited.

Elders M. M. Decker and Thomas have spent the past six weeks visiting the Elders in their various fields of labor, administering words of instruction to the Elders. The report the conference in a flourishing condition. Since my entrance upon my missionary labors, many things have I learned. I have learned one grand lesson, Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today. I remember the often presented

opportunities that I have let slip by, in which I would have better prepared myself for defending the Gospel.

Your brother in the cause of truth,  
GEO. F. ASHLEY.

#### South Alabama Conference.

Milligan, Fla., Aug. 15, 1898.

To the Editor:

The annual conference meetings of the South Alabama conference were held on Aug. 6th, 7th and 8th, 1898, in Covington county, Ala., at the Payson branch of the Church, where, in the beautiful water oak grove of Bro. John Nichols, seats were arranged and everything done to make a pleasant rendezvous, for the forty-four Elders in our band, and the many Saints and friends from Alabama and West Florida who were to attend our meetings.

The weather favored us by being cool and cloudy; yet with no rain to stop which we are very thankful to our Father who rules and controls the elements.

Elder Nels P. Nelson of the presidency of the Southern States mission was with us and contributed much to the spiritual feast we enjoyed.

Saturday being a beautiful day, we much as all were feeling well in body and spirit.

The singing was splendid, for the Elders sang as though they were inspired, and after prayer by Elder Franklin W. Andrus, and singing by the congregation, Elder Irving L. Pratt welcomed the Elders, Saints and friends and invited all to join in the spiritual feast and partake of that living food or bread of the Gospel that gives joy and life for evermore.

Elder John H. Pace, Charles H. Alley, Samuel A. Allen and Martin A. Beckstead were the speakers, and all bore strong testimonies to the Gospel and the divinity of the mission of Joseph Smith the Prophet.

In the afternoon Elders James P. Jensen, Joseph Johnson, F. W. Andrus and Nels P. Nelson gave us some very interesting sermons.

Sunday morning we listened to a most powerful and effective discourse by Elder Nelson.

Elder Irving L. Pratt bore his testimony to all that had been said and encouraged all to harken to the teachings we had just heard.

Sunday afternoon two meetings were held. At 1:30 the meeting began and Elder J. H. Melville and Ed Benzley were the speakers. At 4 p.m. another meeting was held, Elders Irving L. Pratt and Elder Nelson occupying the time.

Dinner was served on the grounds both days.

On Monday our Priesthood meeting was held, where we received our instructions from Elder Nelson, who gave us much encouragement and valuable counsel.

The several Elders bore their testimonies and gave a report of their work, after which we were instructed by Elder Nelson and our conference president, Elder Irving L. Pratt. A great manifestation of the Spirit of the Lord was given in our meeting, and all felt its influence.

Our conference was quite a success, and much credit and many thanks are due the Saints and friends in the Payson branch of the Church and all who so kindly assisted in providing for the comfort of the forty-four Elders and the many visiting Saints and friends who came from a distance to visit our conference.

Much faith and zeal for the cause of truth was exhibited by some of our Saints who came four days' travel with team to attend the meetings, one brother walking two hundred miles to get

here, knowing also he must walk back. What great faith.

Many changes were made in our conference and several releases given of late.

Elder Daniel H. Thomas, who has presided over South Alabama conference for one year and a half has been released to return home and Elder Irving L. Pratt has been chosen to succeed him with Elder Franklin W. Andrus as first counselor and Elder Ed. Benzley as second counselor, with Elder Lawrence Peterson as conference superintendent of Sunday schools.

Conference headquarters were established, where the conference president will be stationed, and from here he and may be found at any time.

At present our headquarters will be at Mulligan, Santa Rosa county, Florida, where any friends of the Elders in South Alabama conference may address them.

The following brethren have recently been honorably released to return home. Elders Wm. E. Jenkins, Chas. H. Alley, Joseph Johnson and John H. Pace.

The "News" is ever a welcome visitor with every Elder and all join in wishing you "God speed" in your defense of God's truth.

Your Brethren in the Gospel,  
IRVING L. PRATT,

President.

F. W. ANDRUS,  
LAWRENCE PETERSON,  
Clerks.

#### RETURNED MISSIONARIES.

Elder B. T. Bengston of the Twenty-second ward of this city has returned from a mission to Sweden. He left home April 10, 1898 and was released to return home on account of sickness. He arrived in Salt Lake on Saturday last.

Elder Maurice Wilson, of Virgin, Washington county, Utah, has returned from a mission to the Southern States. He left home October 12, 1895, and labored continuously in the South Carolina and Georgia conferences both of which, he says, are fraught with brighter prospects than ever before.

Elder Edward L. Black, of Kanosh, has also returned from a mission. He left home in the fall of 1895, and was assigned to labor in the South Alabama conference, and was subsequently transferred to Florida. When Elder Black went into that section, there were only forty-five members, now there are over eight hundred.

Elder George W. Rollins, of Centerville, Davis county, is home from Mississippi, where he has been performing missionary duty. He left home December 7, 1895. The conference is in good condition. Elder Rollins brought Elder George R. Harris, of Hennefer, home with him. Elder Harris was ill.

Elder William King of Coyoto, Garfield county, returned Saturday from Kentucky where he has been laboring as a missionary. Elder King reports the work progressing nicely in that section, and says that the people generally are kind and hospitable. He left home Dec. 7, 1895, and enjoyed his labors while away.

Elder E. M. Weller Jr., accompanied by his father, Councilman Weller, called on the "News" today, the son having just returned from a mission to the Louisiana conference. Elder Weller left Salt Lake City for Mississippi, where he labored for a short time, on the 9th of November, 1895. He reports having enjoyed his labors very much and returns in the best of health and spirits.