

William Gardner is now presiding. He is on his second mission to this land, and has been here now nearly two years and five months. He is well liked by all, and is the right man in the right place.

Brother Andrew Jenson arrived in Auckland on the 10th from the Samoan Islands. We expect him and Brother Gardner here in about six weeks.

I have received a strong testimony of the Gospel, and learned to trust in our Heavenly Father much more since I came to this land. I remember well receiving word of Cousin David H's death, when I had been here some five months. Previous to that time, I would often get uneasy, and wonder where my next money or suit of clothes was coming from; even when I had some money in my pocket. And I would write home and tell the folks that I was about out of money, and wanted to know if they could not send me some. But there came a change when I read the last humble and kind letter written to you by David before his death. When I read how good he had been to the poor, and gone with part of his shoe sole worn off, and no money in his pocket, I felt so ashamed of myself because I had not trusted in God more, that I went into the woods and asked God to look over my weakness, and if he would forgive me, I would try to put more trust in Him in the future. David's letter was the cause of my realizing my weaknesses. I can say I have never been happier or more blessed than I have since I made those promises. I have been so that I did not know how I would get stamps to send mail home, but when the time came some thing has turned up, and I could see God's hand in it.

I expect to accompany Brothers Gardner and Jenson south when they come through here. We will visit the Here-taunga, Manawatu, and Wairapa conferences, and spend Christmas in the latter place? There is to be a large conference held there. We are all quite well and enjoying the spirit of our mission. I remain your ever loving nephew,  
LEWIS G. HOAGLAND.

### TRAVELS IN WEST VIRGINIA.

BUCKHANNON, Upshur Co., W. Va.,  
January 1st, 1896.

We thought a few lines from this part of the vineyard would be of interest to you and the many readers of your valuable paper. We are laboring in the Northern States Mission and Pennsylvania conference. Our last conference was held on September 1st and 2nd, 1895, at Pratt, Alleghany Co., Md. I was appointed to labor in Upshur and Lewis counties, West Virginia, with Elder J. Y. Barlow, of Bountiful, Utah, as my companion.

At our conference we had a time of rejoicing long to be remembered by the Elders and Saints present. The Spirit of the Lord was poured out upon us, and Brother Joshua R. Clark, president of the Northern States Mission, vouched a prophecy that the Elders would receive better treatment from the people from that time on. He said that the people would open their houses to us, which we can testify to as being true in our case. The people in our field have treated us remarkably well with some few exceptions.

We arrived at our field of labor on the sixth of September, and visited some of our friends and one family of Saints,

and held two meetings in that month. Then we started to labor in Upshur county, our principal field of labor. We commenced a house to house canvass, giving tracts and conversing with the people on the principles of the Gospel as restored through the Prophet Joseph in these days, and preaching wherever we could obtain a house. We can say we have been very successful, having had some of the best church houses opened to us, which is a very rare thing in this part of the country. We have traveled seven hundred and seventy one miles, visited four hundred and seventy-eight families and distributed four hundred and six tracts, held thirty-nine meetings and had one hundred and thirty-three Gospel conversations; were refused houses to preach in twenty-three times, refused entertainments seventeen times, but were only one night without a bed. We have had the glorious privilege of baptizing even honest souls into the Church of Christ, with many more investigating. We feel to thank our Father in heaven for His blessings upon our labors in giving us health and strength and His Spirit to lead us to the honest in heart.

We journeyed on our way as the Spirit led us, trusting as only humble Elders can who are sent out to preach the Gospel without purse or scrip. We obtained a house in a town called Salem, and held two meetings. The house was crowded both nights. The second night we spoke on Church organization, with its gifts and blessings. The congregation listened very attentively. After meeting a young lawyer came up and introduced himself to us. He said there was a blind man over the hill and added: "If you are the true servants of God as you have claimed to be, you will come over and heal him, and I will give you \$250." We told him that gifts of God could not be purchased with money. We asked him if he wanted it for a sign. He said yes. We told him that Jesus said it was a wicked and adulterous generation that seeketh after a sign. After we were out of the house a young man shouted, "My wife has a felon on her finger, come and heal her." Others said, "We will rock them preachers or die." Those who were determined to "rock" us jumped over the fence and ran around us. While we in company with G. W. Williams (now Brother Williams) who had kindly invited us home with him, were going along the road they began by throwing burs at us. Our friends warned them to quit or they would get into trouble. This only seemed to anger them the more and they commenced to throw stones. It seemed to rain stones for a little while. We feel to acknowledge the hand of God in shielding us His servants from harm. We stayed all night with Mr. Williams and proceeded on our journey next day, feeling, as we expressed to each other, that there was some good to be done here.

We received a letter from a friend in Lewis county asking us to come down there and hold some meetings. We went and held two meetings, then we wrote Cornelius Richison (president of the Pennsylvania conference) that we expected to go over to Queens Mills near his field of labor, and perhaps would call on him, but the Spirit led us off in an opposite direction. We attended a Dunkard meeting at Indian Camp. The reverend gentleman took

for his text from the 24th to the 28th verses of the seventh chapter of St. Matthew, where the Savior spoke of the wise man building his house upon the rock. Then he talked of some men going about over the country preaching new revelation. Holding up the New Testament, he said this was all the revelation we needed and there would be no more Prophets till Christ comes.

After meeting we had the privilege of being invited to the same house with the reverend gentleman. After we had got to our host's I told the preacher he had made an assertion that there would be no more revelation, which he could not support by the Scriptures. He asked for proof that there would be and we quoted several of the old prophets. Then he denied the old Bible and required proof from the New Testament. We then quoted from Matthew, 24th chapter, showing that Christ said He would send His angels to gather His elect from the four quarters of the earth. Then he required us to go to St. John's Revelation. We cited him to the two Jewish Prophets that should be raised up to prophecy in Jerusalem, and also John's prophecy of the angel that should come to bring the Gospel. He said, "I suppose you think that old Joe Smith was the man who the angel delivered that Gospel to." We gave him to understand that he was not "old Joe Smith," being only thirty-eight when he was slain; also that we knew that Joseph Smith was raised up a Prophet of God in these last days to receive the Gospel from the hands of the angel. The reverend gentleman then seeing we had him in a corner denied the whole Scriptures, or in other words said he could prove anything from them. We asked how long he had been in the ministry; he said he had been preaching for fifteen years. We then told him that one year ago we had never preached a sermon and if he had the Holy Ghost which he claimed to have it would teach him better than to deny revelation.

Next morning we expected to continue our journey over to Queens Mills, but the Spirit led us to Salem, where we had been stoned as mentioned before. There we found out the reason why we had been thus led. There were six anxious inquiring souls who had been dreaming of us. We led them into the water of baptism and confirmed them members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

We went from there to visit Brother Radabaugh, who has been baptized in the Southern States Mission, and found one more soul awaiting baptism, which ordinance we attended to and confirmed him a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We feel to acknowledge the hand of God in thus guiding us to the honest in heart.

The Elders are all enjoying good health so far as we have heard in this mission.

JAMES C. ALLEN.  
JOHN Y. BARLOW.

Tuesday evening an incoming train on the Stockton division in the outskirts of Sacramento, Cal., struck a milk wagon and reduced it to fragments, killed the horse and threw the driver over thirty feet, inflicting fatal injuries. The latter, William Potter, was a lad of eighteen years, and it is believed he was asleep at the time the accident occurred, as the horse slowly walked on the track and stopped.