

to the Elders is failing fast of old age. He has relations in Sanpete County, Utah.

I have been in the south about sixteen months, and can give the southern people praise for their hospitality. Have had great satisfaction in my labors.

JAMES A. MUIR.

MISSIONARY NOTES FROM ENGLAND

OLDHAM, Lancashire, England,
April 21, 1896.

Perhaps a few lines from this part of the Lord's vineyard will be interesting to your many readers in Zion and elsewhere. I have just completed my mission, having labored in the Manchester conference since May 1, 1894. My first district was that of Tyldesley and Bolton, where I and my co-laborer, Elder Thomas Greenhalch had the privilege of preaching the everlasting Gospel to a great many, and added four souls to the Church. Our labors in this part were continued until January 1, 1896, when President S. O. Crosby deemed it advisable to move me to the Oldham district (from whence I now write), there to labor with Elder Joseph Nelson of Smithfield.

Soon after my arrival in Oldham the half yearly conference had been fixed to take place on February 9th which was attended by a great many of the Saints and friends. Elder B. R. Birchall of Nephi, Utah, who is over here for a trinity of purposes, was one of the morning speakers, together with Elder J. W. McDuff, who has since returned home to Salt Lake City, and the writer. A good time was spent. In the afternoon and evening President Anthon H. Lund and others dealt out the Gospel in full measure.

Since the above conference six additions have been made to the Church in Oldham and a great many more are on the road of investigation. The public baths were (or the first time) granted, wherein to perform the baptisms. Heretofore it has been necessary to take an applicant for baptism about ten or twelve miles to have the privilege of performing that sacred rite, but the Lord is opening up the way and the prejudice of the world is somewhat dying away.

On the 1st of February Brother Birchall invited us to accompany him to attend a tea party and entertainment where he had been invited to by the chairman of the proceedings. The invitation was accepted and we must acknowledge the hand of the Lord in it, for it gave us the privilege of having a good Gospel conversation with the Rev. M. May, pastor of the church and several other Sunday school teachers.

Sunday, February 2nd, Elder B. R. Birchall was advertised to give a lecture on his "Life among the Mormons" and the lecture was attended by 500 to 600 working men. The president of the Manchester conference was present; also Elders Wilde, Hughes, Nelson and myself. Brother Birchall did justice to his subject and to his church, and many were the inquiries that were made regarding the Mormons living within the confines of the big four walls and other ridiculous tales that are afloat in the nations of the earth.

Before the lecture we had responded to an invitation to dine with Brother

Birchall's parents. They are not members of the Church as yet, but have always thrown open their door to the Elders, and many a time when the Elders have been travelling through the country tracing and sowing the seed of eternal truth, have they halted and partaken of the kind hospitality of what we have every cause to believe will soon be Brother and Sister Birchall.

Sunday, February 23, we had a grand meeting in Oldham. A goodly number of strangers were present and many were the questions that were asked in supplement to a good sermon delivered by Brother George Hynds on the first principles of the Gospel.

Brother and Sister James Walker and family late of the Wesleyan church have come over to our Church, and now express themselves in astonishment, that they could not previously understand the scripture as they do now. About the latter part of March two of the superintendents and a teacher in connection with the Wesleyan church visited Brother Walker's with a view of getting him to return to Wesleyanism. The three followers of the great reformer were there met by Elder B. R. Birchall who, having had the privilege of spending a good number of years in study and expounding the Wesleyan doctrine, was prepared to meet his friends. At the close of a three hours conversation and exchanging of views one of the three Wesleyans took our Elder by the hand, and said it had done him good to hear him stand up to the truth. Truly the Lord's work is progressing in the earth and whereas in the past it has been hard work to reach the masses, now we are making lots of friends, and many are the hearts that are turning unto us and inquiring of the Gospel.

Sunday, April 12, Elder B. R. Birchall was speaking of the Lord's chosen people and one lady (Mrs. Flitton), whose husband has filled the position of captain in the Salvation Army, received a manifestation of the Holy Spirit during the meeting, wherein she wondered whether or not we were the Lord's chosen people, when immediately the Spirit answered her, "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto eternal life and few there be that find it." Mrs. Flitton testified of this to the Saints afterwards, which caused them to rejoice.

I have enjoyed my labors very much and feel to thank God that I was counted worthy to be called to the missionary field. It is a grand school of experience for all our young men.

Sister Stephen G. Batty, her daughter and mother, are coming to Utah, on the steamship Furnessia, April 30, from Glasgow, having accepted the Gospel in Oldham. They will make their home at Sigurd, near Salina. Others will soon follow.

And now, dear editor, I shall close, trusting you will give these items space in your valuable paper, which is much appreciated by all the Saints out here.

The next few days I shall spend in bidding all my friends and acquaintances good by, and then journey to Glasgow to join the company to sail from thither the 30th of the present month, and soon I hope to mingle with my family and friends in the

valleys of the mountains and join my brethren and sisters at Fremont, where many are the anxious hearts that are awaiting me.

W. A. TAYLOR.

HIATT WARD.

HIATT WARD, Bannock Blakc,
Idaho, May 9, 1896.

Thinking a few words from our little settlement on the bank of the Snake river far off in Idaho would not be amiss, I will now endeavor to describe our valley.

To the north we have the famous "Rockies," on the east the world famed "Petons," on the south and west the Rockies extending as far as the eye can reach, while to the southwest some three or four miles we have the Two Buttes, one of which has a crater top some twelve miles around. There is a legend among the Indians to the effect that the lava beds which we have to cross to reach Market Lake, our nearest railway point, were all thrown up during an eruption of the mountains. Of course this is Indian legend, still the fact remains the same, the hollow top of the butte and the lava beds which must have been caused by some mighty burst of nature are there; while through the valley like a thread of silver, dotted on either side with thrifty villages, the mighty Snake river winds its way to the Pacific.

The Hiatt ward was organized Nov. 3rd, 1895. The Bishopric is composed of Bros. H. J. Lucas, C. W. Wetters-ton and F. M. Hiatt. These brethren have the hearty support of all the members of the ward.

Our Sunday school was organized in January, 1895, with a membership of twenty-five, while now we have an enrollment of 104 with an average attendance of 75.

Our Y. M. M. I. A. has been doing good work this past winter, conjointly with the Y. L. M. A. Living as we do so scattered upon our raocche, it was deemed advisable to meet together.

Our Relief society has not yet been fully organized.

Our Primary association, in the hands of Sister Rebecca Wetherston, is doing remarkably well.

On the 29th of February and 1st of March we held our first ward conference, Presidents Ricks and Bassett and Patriarch Hinckley of Rexburg being in attendance, giving some very good advice to the Saints. Father Hinckley blessed the people of this ward in a special manner if they would only prove faithful and true to the covenants they had made with their Creator.

On the 25th of March was "Primary day"—the first event of the kind ever held on this side of the river. The morning was spent in an entertainment very unique in its way, given by the members of the association. In the afternoon the children participated in a dance. In the evening the older ones tripped the light fantastic, for the purpose of obtaining a roll and record book for the association.

There have been five births and three deaths, the latter infants, since the organization of the ward.

The weather is fine; the health of the people very good, there being little or no sickness.

We have a townsite laid off, but as