

N. Martineau and W. E. Stoddard, Monticello, Wayne county, Kentucky.

Alvin Ipsen and Josiah Call, Liberty, Casey county, Kentucky.

J. M. Bunker and William Crosby, Shelbyville, Shelby county, Kentucky.

Charles A. Cobbley and new companion, Somerset, Pulaski county, Kentucky.

Willard Hansen and J. T. Pond, New Castle, Henry county, Kentucky.

We send greetings to our co-laborers in all the world and the Saints at home.

JOHN F. WAKEFIELD, Jr., President.

THOMAS MARTIN, First Assistant.

E. J. MERRILL, Second Assistant.

### IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE.

CANE Creek, June 2nd, 1897.

Perhaps a few lines from this locality will be of interest to your readers, and especially to those interested in this part of the Lord's vineyard. This place is still fresh in the memory of Latter-day Saints, and all reflect with sorrow on the massacre of Elders Gibbs and Berry on Cane Creek, Lewis county, Tennessee. Little did I think when reading of this cold blooded murder, that it would ever be my lot to see the place and converse with the people of this locality.

As Elder Bench and I were on a tour visiting the Elders of our conference, we found it necessary to go through this section, or walk twenty or thirty miles around. As missionaries get all the walking they want we decided to take the "cut off."

Coming up Cane Creek we were busily engaged in conversing upon present conference duties, but as we came near the place of this sad occurrence, our thoughts flew from the present to the reviewing of events some fourteen years ago, when two of God's servants sealed their testimony with their blood. We ate dinner near the Condor farm, where the shooting took place—passed the houses of Widow Hinson and son, saw the grave of Mr. Hinson, the leader of the mob and the man killed by one of the Condor boys. We stopped at a number of houses and talked with the people. They seemed greatly surprised seeing the Mormon Elders in that neighborhood again. People were not inclined to talk of the past, but by questioning them, we learned their side of the story. We were impressed with the uneasiness manifest while talking upon this subject, proving a guilty conscience and aching heart. All seemed to regret the actions of the mob, and one man said, "it was a big mistake." The mistake is selfevident in following the lives and misfortunes of those participating in that butchery of good men. This people gave me an object lesson demonstrating the truthfulness of Paul's writings where in he says: "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." These people sowed the wind, they are reaping the whirlwind. Surely the curses pronounced upon ancient disobedience and sin, is also being visited upon modern wickedness.

We are, if correctly informed, the first Elders to visit the neighborhood that were known to the people, since the killing. Elder Bean came through here disguised as a lumber man; Elder Roberts came after the bodies in his well known 'make up;' we could not keep from smiling when people were describing that "undertaker." Most people

were kind, though somewhat curious to know the purpose of our visit. Some were at one time interested in the Gospel and I think the time is not far distant when a good work will be done in this country. The wolf would not have made his appearance had there not been lambs near by. Elders Gibbs and Berry were held in high esteem by the respectable people of this and all neighborhoods where they labored; many would shed tears when telling of the last time the Elders visited their homes before going to their place of death. Those who mourn the loss of these servants ought to have comfort in Christ's sayings—"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake, shall find it." We have thirty six Elders in Middle Tennessee Conference, and all are working for the spread of truth, our labors are bearing fruits in a goodly number of baptisms; some Sunday schools and branches of the church. We shall be pleased to hear from Elders and people at home having friends and relatives here.

NELS P. NELSON,

President Middle Tennessee Conference.

### EAST TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.

LOCUST Mt., Tenn., May 26th, 1897.

We herewith present you with a list of the names and addresses of the Elders laboring in the East Tennessee conference. From last reports they are all in good health and spirits, battling bravely for truth and right, which will one day gain a victory in the earth.

We are always glad to receive a copy of the News. We can assure you it is a very welcome visitor. It is not only read eagerly by us, but our many friends in the South, and they are legion. It is very gratifying to note the gradual change in sentiment upon the Mormon question. Much prejudice is being allayed and the people, the more intelligent classes, are beginning to read and investigate the doctrines we advocate, and sacrifice so much to bring to them. Where they will read and attend our meetings with unprejudiced minds, having a desire in their hearts to know the truth, the Spirit of God bears record to their souls that we are preaching the doctrines of Christ. We are sure in saying that there are many thousands of honest-hearted people in the South who believe in all sincerity we are advocating God's word, yet they lack the moral courage to stand by their convictions, and dare to do right, let the consequence follow.

It is a lamentable fact that there are very many here who are what the world charge us with being, namely, priest-ridden. They are afraid of the church lash and their neighbors. They dare not read our literature or attend our meetings, lest they be turned out of the church and ostracised from society. But there are many, very many who, in spite of all opposition, exercise their freedom and reason, the heaven-born and God-given qualities of mankind. We are daily making friends of those who have in the past been avowed and bitter enemies. It is not through any tact or smartness on our part, but through the operation of God's Spirit. The Lord is blessing our humble efforts in the spread of truth, and the seeds which are being planted are falling on good ground, and if properly nurtured

and cared for, will in the near future produce an abundant harvest.

This year will be a rich harvest of souls. Thus far in this month twenty baptisms are reported for the East Tennessee conference.

There are applicants waiting in the counties of Johnson, Carter, Clear-bourne, Rhea and Anderson, Tenn. In the last named county, among other applicants is a gentleman about forty years of age who, eight months ago declared that no Mormon Elder should ever enter his door. By urgent request of our friends he was persuaded to attend our meetings. After listening to two or three discourses upon the Gospel he extended a hearty invitation to go and dine with him. Of course it was accepted. Who ever heard of a Mormon Elder refusing a good dinner, except on Fast day.

The people are beginning to open their eyes to the truth, though there are many who are poisoned to the very core through reading such books as John D. Lee's Confession, J. H. Beadle's Works, Mormonism Unveiled, together with the slanderous reports of those who have no regard for the truth. In some localities where we travel it is simply wonderful the attention that is given us. Schools are dismissed that the students may gaze upon a living curiosity, in the shape of a Mormon Elder. We often meet people who have never seen a Mormon Elder before, and it is quite natural that they should look upon us with a searching gaze when they have an opportunity.

Following is the list of Elders, with their addresses:

J. E. Hart and W. E. Robinson, Asheville, N. C. Box 299.

F. G. Warnick and Soren Peterson, Asheville, N. C., Box 352.

E. K. Fullerup and D. W. Jeffs, Knoxville, Tenn.

E. R. Neeham and James Dunkley, Cleveland, Bradley county, Tenn.

A. E. Braby and C. L. Roberts, Huntsville.

A. W. Ensign, and A. D. Clark, Jacksboro.

J. H. Hinckley and W. J. Depriest, Sweedville.

G. B. Williams and J. C. Manning, Sevierville.

J. P. Aydelotte and W. G. Nuttall, Greeneville.

J. R. Terry and W. Gailey, Elk Park, N. C.

J. C. Bertach and C. H. Ohlville, Boone, Watauga county.

M. H. Welling and J. N. Jensen, Asheville.

W. H. Carter and Alma Swensen, Elizabethton, Tenn.

J. E. HART,

President of Conference.

W. E. ROBINSON.

### THE OVERLAND MAIL.

[Letter No. 4]

Articles and articles have been written upon this subject. Most of them of that sensational character of which imagination is the inspiration. The pony rider has been described by many as a rough, half civilized, daredevil, something approaching the cowboy of the old and vulgar literature.

We have seen him pictured looking as if he had just escaped a vigilance committee and now stolen a sheep for chow and the nearest crowbar to the country to get away on. Some peri-