

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper

## INDIAN TERRITORY MISSION.

The year just past has been to the Indian Territory mission one of the most prosperous and interesting it has ever experienced. There have been 27 Elders from Zion in the field during the year, and we now have 21. There has been an average of about 10 the entire year. All are now in good health and spirits. We also have 7 local Elders, and while we have had no particular aid from them in the traveling ministry, we have been greatly aided by the local Priesthood in our organizations as officers and teachers in Sunday school, and the valuable temporal assistance they with their families have rendered us by way of entertaining the servants of God. Of the 6 Elders that returned home during the summer and fall but two were released on account of sickness. I attribute the great improvement in health the past year to the experience we have gained from what others have suffered, carefully carrying out the rules of the mission and observing the laws of health by keeping strictly the Word of Wisdom, and to the fact that our field has been enlarged, naturally overcoming the hampered condition of former years and giving us a wider scope for changing about. It is a demonstrated fact in our experience that a change of air, food and water is the best medicine for a sick Elder away from home. This report covers our Elders traveling the country occupied by the five civilized tribes, Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks and Seminoles. The latter two nations have only been visited by way of exploring the country and investigating the prospects for proselyting. We have also canvassed that portion of Oklahoma most thickly settled, and paid a visit to some of the wild tribes in the western part of the Indian country. Our report is necessarily incomplete, our report system having only begun with the present year of 1895.

During the year 1894 there have been 39 baptisms, which added to the former baptisms we have on our record make a total of 158. Nine have emigrated and 2 apostatized, leaving 147. Separating from this number those who formerly emigrated to Zion and fallen away, we still have 109 members of the Church somewhere in Indian Territory.

The Elders have blessed 31 children, which, added to those of former years, give us a total of 84. At last report we had 6 Priests and 1 Deacon, since which time 5 of the former and 3 of the latter have been ordained, making a total, including the 7 Elders already named, of 22 local members of the Priesthood.

The Elders have held 417 meetings with an average attendance of 21; distributed 1,146 tracts and sold and given away a great many books. We have organized 4 branches and 5 Sunday schools. The Elders erected a meeting house at Massey settlement, Choctaw Nation, at a cost of \$277.05. The ground was dedicated during my

visit in that region in Jan. 1894. Elder Isaac A. Jensen had the labor directly in charge, assisted by Local Elder James E. Valley, (who, with his family, have since emigrated to Utah,) and Traveling Elders Herman E. Campbell, R. G. Winter and E. L. Saunders. Contributions were received from some of the Saints and some of the traveling Elders. The cash expenditures amounted to \$70.05 and the labor aggregated \$207. This unique log meeting house and the one erected at Manard (also the work of Elders) have the name, of being the best log houses in the Indian nations.

Our Sunday schools in connection with the branches are a great aid in teaching the Saints the plan of salvation and in keeping them in the fold until they become grounded in the Gospel. Two of our Sunday schools are presided over by traveling Elders, there being no local Priesthood in the locality. Our report shows that 109 Sunday school sessions have been held, with an enrollment of 50 pupils, and an average attendance of 30; 19 officers and teachers, with an average attendance of 16. Total officers, teachers and pupils, 69. We also have a day school at Massey settlement, conducted in our new meeting house and taught by Elder J. C. Lyon.

Never have we had a better lot of Elders in the mission; they are doing well in every department. They hold from one to five meetings a week, including our branch meetings and Sunday schools, where not only Latter-day Saints, but many who are investigating the truth assemble to listen to the teachings of the servants of God. The Elders are also active in visiting the homes of all classes, where they converse by the fireside on the truths enunciated by the Prophet Joseph. Many tracts and other religious periodicals are read by which the honest heart learn many truths which help to overcome prejudice and prepare the way for the Elders, who are rarely refused entertainment, and when they are, it generally develops in good to themselves or the cause which they represent. There are no people more hospitable than are the five civilized tribes of Indians and the many good white people who have chosen the Indian land as their abode. While the Indian Territory is somewhat sickly there, is more anxiety horrified at home regarding loved ones laboring in that field than is really necessary. Our brethren are in the hands of the Lord as much in the missionary field as at home. If we would exercise faith for them and assist them by our buoyant encouragement, their faith and wisdom would increase, that through the powers of God they could baffle all obstacles that may arise and fill their missions to their own satisfaction and the wishes of those who sent them.

Before concluding, and by way of justice to Elders who attended our reunion last April, permit me to add the following: The names of Elders Jed. W. Ashton and Ezra C. Adams were unintentionally or erroneously omitted in the historical sketch which was read during the evening. Let me

here say that those Elders filled their place in the march of progression of the Indian Territory mission as ably and faithfully as any.

Elder M. W. Dalton succeeded Apostle George Teasdale instead of Brother Felt in carrying on the work of the mission, while Elder Felt was his able companion. Elder Teasdale continued in charge of the mission until the spring of 1887, when the responsibility fell upon my shoulders.

Let me here thank all who have and are now kindly contributing to the good work which is being carried on in that land. If through typographical errors or omissions of the writers of history any of the noble workers should be overlooked or underrated, God, who sees the sparrow when it falls, will not fail to reward all in their turn for the noble works of life.

Respectfully,

ANDREW KIMBALL.

## AS TO BEET RAISING.

FARMINGTON, Jan. 25, 1895.

In last Friday's issue of the News an article appeared from Mr. F. Fisher, of Salt Lake City, which gives some details of sugar beet raising, and as the article referred to in some respects shoots rather wide of the center, and places me in a rather ridiculous light before the public, I feel warranted in making this reply.

In substance Mr. Fisher quotes me as follows: "In your issue of January 18th I notice an article from a Farmington correspondent on sugar beet raising." It would appear quite ridiculous after admitting that I had no authority nor experience in beet raising that I would write an article as stated. If Mr. Fisher will look the article over again he will find the following: "While I have had no experience in beet raising from which to speak," etc. "Again I have no authority nor experience in beet production, etc., etc. Mr. Fisher is mistaken in the general tenor of the article. The only object sought was the general good of all parties concerned, in view of the fact that the sugar factory has long since made the statement that the factory could not run next season unless the price of beets was reduced to \$4 per ton.

Mr. Fisher states that he raised six acres of beets last year. And many of the farmers around said that he had one of the prettiest stands of beets in Lehi fields. He states that after the expenses of raising and delivering to the factory were deducted, not counting his own time, plowing, etc, he came out nearly \$30 behind. This would make a loss of about \$5 per acre. His being one of the very best stands of beets raised in Lehi, we very naturally draw the conclusion that some of the poorer farmers may have lost more than this amount per acre.

And yet it is quite remarkable that the farmers of Lehi have not long since abandoned beet raising, and that in spite of these conditions there was a decided increase in the amount of beets raised in '94 above that of '93. Mr. Fisher quotes me again concerning the amount of beets raised per acre. In this regard if I am wrong, I have been misinformed and will stand corrected. And for the benefit of the many