EASTERN STATES MISSION HISTORY

Maine: W. H. Steed, president, No. 385 Cumberland Ave., Portland—In Auburn, Elders A. J. Miller and A. H. Soutawick are finding friends in their tracting. Elder Fred W. Cox reports that while tracting in Saco, he met a gentleman at whose home missionary meetings were being held, and who gave Brother Cox an invitation to attend. Accordingly, Elder Cox, in company with Elders E. Kohler, Geo. A. Hagan and W. W. Farrer, attended the services, and were asked to take charge of the meeting, which they gladly did, and a splendid opportunity was given to explain the gospel to some 15 people who were in attendance. At the close of the meeting they were asked to come again the following week and hold meeting. This appointment they also filled, to the satisfaction of all who attended. * * * Elders Steed and A. G. Jewkes, Jr., had the pleasure of meeting a prominent gentleman of Portland, and after explaining to him their missions, he invited them to take dinner with him at his home, on the following Sunday, when they had the privilege of conversing with the gentleman and his family, upon the plan of salvation, spending a very pleasant and profitable evening, and receiving a warm invitation to return at any time. * * * While tracting in Biddiford, Elders W. W. Farrer and Geo. A. Hogan were asked into the home of a Methodist minister, who received them very kindly. At the conclusion of a very interesting conversation, the elders were invited to call again. A few years ago, this particular minister was very bitter towards the Latter-day Saints. The reports for March are very encouraging, and snow the work to be progressing nicely.

New Hampshire: John G. Allred, president, No. 31 South St., Concord—While Elder J. H. Russell was tracting at a house the other day, he began an explanation of the Book of Mormon, when he was interrupted by the lady to whom he was talking, who said that the Book of Mormon belonged to her that she was the great granddaughter of Solomon Spaulding, "from whom the Mormons stole the book." After Brother Russell explained further, the lady concluded she was mistaken, and purchased a copy of the book, remarking that she was going to study it for herself. President Allred called upon Mr. Mecham, editor of the "Patriot," one of Concord's leading newspapers, and had a very pleasant conversation with the gentleman upon the subject of Mormonism. Mr. Mecham extended an invitation to Brother Allred to call upon him at his home, which was accepted, and a pleasant time spent in explaining the gospel to the gentleman and his family. Elder Allred had another pleasant experience, while making some purchases in a store. The mayor, whom he met a few days previous, came up to him, shook his hand warmly, and turning to the clerk said, "Treat this man right, he is a particular friend of mine." The elders laboring in Concord were recently invited to the home of Rev. Jno. M. Wilson and had the privilege of explaining the gospel to him. After lengthy conversation, the gentleman asked one of the elders if he would not become a preacher of his denomination, to which the elder replied that he would, providing they would adopt the teachings of the Bible. Before leaving the house, the gentleman said, "You certainly have collected many truths, and I am glad to know that the Mormons are a better people than I have always thought." A Book of Mormon and a Voice of Warning were left at his home and the elders given an invitation to join his Sunday school class. . . . The elders throughout the conference are doing a good work, especially in the distribution of literature. During the month they have disposed of 138 Books of Mormon, 479 small books and 3,594 tracts. . . . Elder W. F. Butterfield received the sad news of the death of his mother, which has cast a gloom over the entire conference, and all the elders greatly sympathize with him.

South West Virginia: Frank Leavitt, president, Box 686, Huntington—The work in this conference has been progressing very rapidly. In Logan county unprecendented success has followed the earnest efforts of the missionaries. During the month of March, 41 meetings were held in this county, with an average attendance of 125; and 22 baptisms have been performed. A branch of the Church has been organized with Elliot Thompson, Miles Curry and Robert Ellis as the presidency thereof. There are now 60 members in the branch with prospects of 100 before the close of the year. A Sabbath school has been organized with 75 members enrolled. Mrs. Betsy Ellis, a non-member, took up a subscription and succeeded in getting sufficient means to purchase a new organ. Work will be commenced at once, on the erection of a beautiful house of worship, to cost, when completed, $2,000. Mr. Simpson Ellis, a tried and true friend, has donated a piece of ground for a building spot, and the necessary lumber for the completion of the house. Eight first-class carpenters have offered their services and many other friends have expressed a desire to help. Elders Leavitt, Orville Harris, Joseph H. Svapp, Elmer Promar and August J. Johnson, while laboring here for the past two months, have had many interesting experiences. The Lord has been very good to them and the people, insomuch that a great many sick have been healed through the administrations of the elders, notably among these is the case of John Shepard, a non-member, who was administered to for deafness, his ears were unstopped, and today he hears as well as ever he did. The success that has been attained in Logan county, has arraigned the ministers against the elders, and they are doing all in their power to stay the progress of the work, but in every instance their efforts to retard the work, have proved a benefit. Recently, President Leavitt spoke, by request, to a very large congregation of people upon the subject of "Salvation for the Dead," at the conclusion of a very able discourse, one of the ministers arose, stating that if the people would remain seated, he would show the fallacy of such doctrine. He denounced the doctrines of the Latter-day Saints, and delivered a bitter tirade against the Mormons. Scarcely had he got started before the people commenced to withdraw from the building, having been disgusted with the remarks, and a very few people remained to hear him through. The minister, at the conclusion of his slanderous remarks, announced his intention of holding meeting there the next night, however the trustees of the house had previously granted the elders the use of the same, and they were given precedence over the minister. At the time appointed for the meeting the hall was filled to overflowing, and for over two hours the elders spoke upon the gospel truths and the next night the elders held a well attended meeting, but the following night had been given to the reverend gentleman, and the elders went to a near by schoolhouse to hold their meeting. The results were that the congregation followed the elders and the minister preached to empty benches. The next day (Sunday) the elders held a baptismal service with an attendance of about 150.

North West Virginia: Oscar F. Rice president, box 571, Fairmont—Successful cottage meetings are being held in Fairmont. Considerable agitation has been caused at Liverpool, a short time ago Elders Thomas J. Aldroyd and Chester Johnson baptized five converts, since which time the evil one has been busy, but despite this the saints are holding their own, and many friends are being made and becoming interested in the gospel. . . . A baptismal service was recently held at Holly, Baxter county, by Elders Joseph C. Grant and Grover C. Udell, with a large attendance, many of those present being people who, heretofore, were very prejudiced but through the zeal and energy of the elders and the blessings of the Lord, their hearts have been made susceptible to the truth. . . . At Centralia, where the people have been so much opposed to Mormonism, the elders were invited to hold meetings, they gladly accepted and six successful and well attended meetings were held, as the result of which many new friends were made. . . . Good meetings with good results have recently been held in Stinson, by Elders Eugene Curtis and A. B. Slade; the prospects seem bright for a good work to be done in this place. . . . Elder S. R. Haslem and William Bradfield have just completed a thorough canvas of the southeast portion of the county of Ritchie, where they met many good people and held a number of successful meetings. Street meetings were held in Cairo. A marked difference is noticed in the feelings of the people with reference to Mormonism, people who formerly would have nothing at all to do with a Mormon elder, are now reading the literature, and are kindly disposed, and willing to listen to the truth. . . . Elder William Bradfield, who has labored with love and energy for the past 29 months, as a missionary, has been honorably released to return home.

East Pennsylvania: Wm. R. Dredge, president, 2528 Sydenham street, Philadelphia—Elders Emil L. Huber and John F. Moody, who are laboring in Trenton, N. J., have made many good friends, most of whom are earnest investigators of the gospel, and some have already signified their intention of being baptized. . . . Elders B. Cecil Gates and J. Alma Ure are meeting with success in their labors in Camden, N. J. Recently, while Elder Gates was tracting at a home, one of the "mission" ministers came into the house, and Elder Gates was privileged to explain the gospel to him at the conclusion of the interview the minister invited Brother Gates and his companion to his home. After a few days the elders paid the gentleman a visit and were very kindly received, and for over two hours talked to him and his family, making a very favorable impression. The elders were led to believe that the opportunity would be given them to preach in the minister's church. Last week the elders were given a special invitation to attend a prayer meeting in one of the prominent churches of Camden by a member of that church, they were escorted to a front seat, and during the "experience" part of the meeting their friend arose and told who they were, and asked that they might be given the privilege of speaking. The minister immediately spoke up, saying that he did not believe in Mormonism and did not care to hear their doctrine. One of the elders replied that they had not come to be heard but to hear. In the minister's prayer, he prayed that the "two young men who were in the city teaching deceiving doctrines, if they were ignorant, might be led to see the light, and their hearts touched so that they would no longer go about teaching false doctrine." At the conclusion of the meeting, many people gathered around the elders, expressing sorrow that their minister should do as he did. One gentleman stated that he had been to Salt Lake City, and was treated well by the Mormons. Before they left the building nearly every one of the congregation had shaken hands with them. . . . A baptismal service was held in Gloucester, N. J., on March 27, on the banks of the Delaware river. Appropriate remarks were made by President Dredge and Elder James L. Heywood, after which Elder Gates led five converts into the waters of baptism. The baptized parties were from Camden, where the branch is prospering, it having doubled in numbers during the past year. . . . The work in Baltimore, under the faithful labors of Elders George S. Heiner, Floyd Rose, A. C. Gardner and John C. Hendrickson, is progressing very nicely. A baptismal service was recently held, when two converts were baptized. Elder George S. Heiner, who has been in the mission field for the past 27 months, has been honorably released to return home. Brother Heiner presided over the Baltimore branch with signal ability, and by his devoted efforts the work has been advanced. He was tendered a farewell party and presented with a gold watch and chain by the members and friends, in appreciation of his labors. Elder William A. Whitehead has been transferred from Philadelphia to succeed Elder Heiner.

Brooklyn: Jno. S. Allen, president, 426 West One Hundred and Twenty-fourth street, New York City.—The elders in the Brooklyn branch report progress in their work; they have been especially successful with the Book of Mormon, getting many volumes in the homes; 98 small books were distributed last week. . . . . Mrs. Victoria Williams, one of the faithful members of the New York branch, recently called upon the chief of the circulation department of the public library, submitting copies of the Liahona, the Elders' Journal, the result of which is a letter from the gentleman, requesting that the magazine be sent regularly to the Aster branch of the library . . . The Star of Newark, N. J., opened its columns to a very able article written by Elder A. V. Watkins, in answer to a vicious attack on Mormonism by Hans P. Freeze, in one of Newark's prominent churches. . . . Elders George F. Ryan and Ross Beatie visited the members and friends at Ocean Side on the 21st, holding a well attended meeting. . . . The street meetings are well attended; at a recent meeting a very large crowd assembled to hear Elder Joseph Folkman.

President Ben E. Rich left for the west on the 22nd, going by way of Chicago.

Joseph Nelson of Salt Lake City is in the city visiting his niece, Sister Lizzie Ogden. He paid the mission office a pleasant call.

New York: Chas. H. Owen, president, 148 Pearl St., Albany, N. Y.—The Sunday school at Albany has been reorganized, and Elder Nephi Wood placed in charge of the same. Methods advanced by the Deseret S. S. union board are being used with marked success. . . . Through a letter of introduction from a friend in the west, Elder H. C. C. Rich, Jr., made the acquaintance of some very prominent people whom he has succeeded in interesting in the gospel. . . . A commercial man recently tried to persuade one of our members of Glens Falls, away from Mormonism by defaming the Mormon people; however, the gentleman was invited to the rooms of Elders William Robbins and William A. Ransom, who were successful in removing the prejudice from his mind, and before leaving he purchased a Book of Mormon and one of the small doctrinal books. The above named elders are laboring among the business and professional men and report much better treatment than they receive from private residences. They are distributing considerable literature among them. . . . In the near future a branch of the Church will be organized in Steuben Co., in the western part of the state. The conference headquarters was formerly located in this county and much good work is looked for.

New England: Samuel Gerrard, president, 57 Worcester St., Boston, Mass.—The elders laboring in and about Lynn, Mass., have met with many friends who have opened their homes to them for the purpose of holding cottage meetings. The services have been well attended and the elders are much encouraged in their work. . . . A Mr. B. F. Close, who attended some of the open-air meetings in Boston Comomns last summer, and who at that time received a small tract, has recently been in attendance at the hall meetings and expressed himself as having heard what he has been looking for, for years. Mr. Close made the statement that up to a short time ago he had been an unbeliever in God, that he had visited many of the churches and had talked with many people, but not until he came in contact with Mormonism, and listened to the Latter-day Saints, had he heard those things which seemed to satisfy him. The foregoing is but one of many cases the elders meet with from day to day. . . . Elder Thos. A. Spackman met with Mr. Colbridge, the journalist, and had a pleasant hour's conversation with him. He treated Brother Spackman with respect and consideration.

West Pennsylvania—A. E. Jacobson, President, Box 1,212 Boyle St., Allegheny, Pa.—The conditions in Allegheny Co., Md., are very favorably reported by Elders Jacob Frei and S. E. Lewis Jr., the other day while Elder Lewis was tracting he met a family by the name of Dunn, who gave him a very hearty welcome, invited him into the house, and after being seated the good lady told him that she was blessed, when a babe, by a "Mormon" elder in Scotland; that her mother had died about six years ago, a faithful Latter-day Saint, and her last request was that they always be kind to the Mormon Elders. The "Evening Times" of Lonaconing, Md., has the following to say of our elders. "Messrs. Jacob Frei and S. E. Lewis, missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are laboring in Lonaconing and are boarding with Mr. Haines on Railroad St. Mr. Frei is from Santa Clara, Utah, and Mr. Lewis from Ramah, N. M. They are both young men, and in an interview with the 'Times' yesterday, said they were not here to interfere with the cherished beliefs of any one. They have decided to take up a house to house canvass, leaving their literature and explaining their doctrines to the people in their homes. They have a branch at Mt. Savage. The missionaries are gentlemen of refinement and the Times reporter spent a very pleasant half hour with them." . . . Supt. of the Fairview Sunday school, J. F. Creager, reports that they are making splendid progress. They have a membership of seventy, many of whom are non-members, Mrs. Barbara Welsh though not a member yet it taking an active part in teaching the kindergarten class, and in addition to this she has organized a choir and is teaching the young people the songs of Zion. Her efforts are very commendable and much appreciated. We own our own meeting house, a nice stone structure, at the above named place, and are making good progress in the work; many who formerly were very much opposed tous, are now our friends and taking an active part with us.

Rhode Island—Frank A. Thorley, president, No. 315 Broadway, Providence —On Sunday evening, March 21 Elders Earl Hawks, W. D. Hammond and J. F. Facer were called to the home of Sister Alice Smith of Greystone, to administer to her. They found her suffering much pain brought on by a very severe cold; after the administration the pain was immediately relieved, and the next morning she was able to be at her work. . . . Pres. Thorley and Elder Jas. E. Anderson were called to administer to Sister Thos. Moore who was suffering from an accute attack of nervious asthma. She was relieved from pain immediately after the administration, and before the elders left her home that evening, she had fully recovered. These two sisters raise their testimonies with the thousands of others that have been borne, to the goodness of the Lord, and that the blessings of the Gospel do follow them that believe. . . . In Providence, the elders are canvassing the city for the third time, meeting people who have read our literature and who have talked with the elders, all such feel kindly disposed toward us as a people, their prejudices have melted away before the rays of knowledge of the true teachings of the Latter-day Saints. In fact this condtion prevails throughout the state and the elders are having much success in their work as a consequence. The newspapers show a tendency to be fair and tolerant. Last month the six elders laboring in this conference, distributed 1,554 tracts, and sold 180 small books and 24 Books of Mormon; twenty-one of the latter being sold by the president of the conference.

SO. STATES MISSION CONFERENCE HISTORY

Arrivals and Appointments—Robert Andrus of Idaho Falls, Idaho, to North Carolina; George B. Carr of Manassa, Colo., to Florida; George Arnold Parkinson of Beaver, Utah, to Ohio; Joseph Nielsen, Hyrum, Utah, to Alabama; Leo C. Nielson, Hyrum, Utah, to Mississippi.

Releases—J. Hobson Stewart, Wellington B. Richins, George F. Emmett, Joel W. Hiatt, Carl Viehweg, John S. Hill, Franklin F. Tuckett, William K. Soelberg, William Decker, William S. Laney, John W. George, Parley P. Johnson, Henry M. Hodgson, Wilford W. Clark, Jr., Michael Johnson, Carl A. Edwards, Walter G. Burke, E. Marion Guymon, Stephen L. Radford, W. Louis Perkins, George H. Johnson, Frank Paskett, David W. Deans, James A. Weaver, George Shaw, Joshua A. Crosby, Daniel C. Alleman, and George J. Taylor.

Summary of Work for March—The following work has been done during the month: Standard Church works sold, 449; other books sold, 2,765; tracts distributed, 23,486; Liahonas distributed, 3,184; Liahona subscriptions taken, 95; Families visited and revisited, 19,290; number of gospel conversations, 13,453; meetings held, 938; children blessed, 53; baptisms, 47.

The elders throughout the mission are in excellent health and spirits, and the reports of missionary work done are very encouraging.

During the month, President Callis has visited the cities of Dalton and Atlanta in Georgia and Knoxville and Northcutt in Tennessee, in the interest of missionary work. On March 29, Prest. Cal. left Chattanooga for Salt Lake City to attend the April conference.

Alabama: Henry A. Gardner, president, box 705, Montgomery, Ala. Elders Bert L. Pope and Jas. W. Hartley held a very successful cottage meeting in Phoenix City. . . . On Sunday, March 21, a baptismal service was held at Nellie. Three converts were baptized. One person was also baptized at DeFuniak Springs, Fla., by Elder Alma O. Stoker and John M. Peart on the same date. . . . Elder Jos. F. Nielsen of Hyrum, Utah joined our ranks on March 17.

Atlanta: O. W. Hyde, president, No. 29 Cannolly St., Atlanta, Ga.—The elders are enjoying good health, and opportunities for meetings throughout the conference are good. Many churches and school houses are being thrown open to the elders.

East Kentucky: G. Franklin Ellsworth, president, box 422, Lexington.—On March 14, a Sunday school was organized at Stinson by Elders G. F. Ellsworth and R. L. Cook; Bro. Jno. Jerkins was appointed superintendent. On Sunday, March 21, Elders Ellsworth and Cook had a very interesting conversation upon the principles of the gospel with a Christian minister of Lexington. That evening at his meeting, the minister made several very kind references to the elders and their work. . . . . Elders Wm. F. Larkin and Jesse B. Lofgreen called for their mail at Saxton, and found to their surprise that the postmaster was afraid to keep it so returned it as fast as it came. . . After 14 months of excellent work in Kentucky, Elder David W. Deans has been honorably released to return to his home.

East Tennessee: Elder W. H. Larson, president, Box 638 Knoxville.—A very successful branch conference was held at Northcutt, March 29 and 21, 12 elders being in attendance. Two priesthood and two public meetings were held. President Callis very ably expounded the principles of the gospel to large audiences at the public meetings. President William K. Soelberg was honorably released from his labors in the mission field. Elder Soelberg has faithfully presided over the East Tennessee conference during the past six months, and elders, members, and friends are unanimous in their appreciation of his efficient services. Elder Soelberg has also spent several months in the mission office, where he gained the love and confidence of all his associates. Elder Wallace H. Larson has been appointed to succeed Elder Soelberg as president of the East Tennessee conference. . . . Elders A. W. Keller and H. James Maxwell report having had to wade a cold, swift stream waist deep in order to get to their new field of labor.

Georgia: L. L. Myers, president, No. 454 Oak street, Macon, Ga.—While Elders William C. Green and Thomas L. Richardson were holding a street meeting in Dexter, they were interrupted by men who endeavored to prove to the crowd that the Bible and the Book of Mormon do not agree in doctrinal teachings. These men were soon convinced by the elders that their arguments were not well founded. . . . Elders F. A. Lamont and E. C. Walker sold the postmaster of Mauk, a Book of Mormon. After a few days this gentleman remarked that the book, as a volume of Scripture, is unrivalled, and that Joseph Smith had indeed been a light in the world. . . . Elders Robert Purnlee and J. C. Healey held a series of street meetings in Sandersville. These services were well attended and at the close of the last meeting a gentleman brought his horse and buggy and took the elders to the place of their next appointment. . . . Three baptisms were performed in Toombs Co., during the week ending March 25, by Elders Geo. M. James and Henry Humphreys. . . . Elders L. L. Myers, Wm. C. Green, and Thos. L. Richardson, while holding a street meeting in Cochran were accosted by a Mr. Peacock who some few years ago was a visitor in Salt Lake City. This gentleman spoke very highly of Utah and her people, saying, "If courtesy is due any people, it is due the Mormons." He introduced the elders to the leading business men of Cochran and has been the means of allaying much prejudice in that city.

Kentucky: T. E. Secrist, president—Box 554, Louisville, Ky—Elders A. T. Willis and N. M. Stewart, while canvassing Shelbyville, met two ministers who treated them very cordially and invited them to return and explain more of thhe doctrine of the Latter-day Saints. . . . With sorrow we report the death of Sister Minerva Bodkins of Christian Co. Sister Bodkins was a true Latter-day Saint and leaves many friends and loved ones to mourn her departure.

Middle Tennessee: J. Elmer Johnson, President, Box 269, Memphis.—Elders Geo. D. Rainey and W. D. Harris report several meetinghouses being opened to them in Rutherford Co. This is something quite unusual in that district. . . . Elder Jno. L. Bushman while canvassing in Memphis, returned to a house where he previously had found no one at home but had left a tract. The lady was anxious to see him, and purchased a copy of each book that he had. She remarked, "I want the truth and don't care where it comes from." . . . Through the administration of Elders W. A. Walker and Christian Bandley, Sister Henderson of Jackson was instantly relieved of a bad fever.

North Carolina: R. B. White, president, Box 547, Wilmington.—Elders N. M. Felk and C. W. Moss conducted a well attended baptismal service at Chinquapin. Three converts were added to the fold through baptism. . . . Two meetinghouses have been completed during the past week, one at Gilreath and the other at Albertson. . . . The following elders have been honorably released to return to their homes from this conference: F. F. Tuckett, Geo. H. Johnson, John S. Hill, Wm. L. Perkins, F. Marion Guymon, Stephen L. Radford, and Walter G. Burke. All of these brethren have been faithful and energetic missionaries.

Mississippi: D. Wm. Stowell, president, No. 416 George St., Jackson.—A local conference was held at Speed on March 13 and 14, by Prest. D. Wm. Stowell. . . . Company work was inaugurated for the coming spring and summer. . . . On Sunday, March 21, Mrs. Julia Dassett of Speed was baptized by Elder F. M. Morris. . . . Elders Roy Oler and W. F. Gibbons, who have been laboring in Harrison Co., report two baptisms. . . . On Sunday, March 21, a baptismal service was held at Redstar, at which six persons were united with the Church through baptism. A large crowd witnessed the ceremony—among them were many who had never before heard the elders. . . . Two baptisms were performed at Darbun on Sunday, March 21, by Elder A. L. Broderick, at the close of a successful branch conference. . . . On March 16, our ranks were strengthened by the arrival of Elder Leo C. Nielsen of Hyrum, Utah.

Ohio: Paul E. Nelson, president, Box 41, Station D, Columbus.—All the elders report good health. A singing class has recently been organized in the Cincinnati branch, with Elder Hyrum Brown as director. Much good is being accomplished in teaching the members and friends the songs of Zion.

South Carolina: Jas. H. Moore, president, Box 276, Columbia.—The elders throughout the conference have been successful in holding meetings. One convert was baptized at Long Island by Elders L. M. Belknap and H. S. Robinson.

Virginia: H. A. Shupe, president, Box 145, Lynchburg.—Elders L. C. Parker and J. H. Thatcher, while canvassing in Norfolk, visited the "Gospel Mission," and sold to the gentleman in charge some doctrinal books. After a pleasant conversation, they were requested to return and address the congregation upon the principles of the gospel.

J. ELMER JOHNSON, Secy.

WORK RENEWED IN NEWCASTLE, ENGLAND

No. 95 Park Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, March 15—The work of the Lord is progressing in this city in a fair degree. The following elders have been laboring here for the past few months: L. S. Mecham, I. A. Packer, W. K. Tarbett, J. W. Burt and J. B. George, the last named has been here but two months, the other five months. They have distributed from door to door 34,850 gospel tracts and sold 2,926 books, which we feel is encouraging, when it is considered that the elders have not been able to labor here with any success for some time. In fact missionary work had about been abandoned here for more than two years prior to our coming here to labor last October, because of the persecution the elders received. At present we are not being molested in any way, though meeting many people who are very bitterly opposed to the truth. We find some who will hear our testimony and who treat us kindly. I. A. PACKER.

Photo to Come

NEW BISHOPRIC IN UNION, OREGON

Union, Ore., March 29.—At a conference that taxed the capacity of the Union ward meetinghouse, a reorganization of the ward bishopric was effected yesterday. Elder Francis M. Hammond, who has presided for four years, in which the ward grew from 150 to 461 souls, was released, as he intends entering the Rush Medical college in Chicago. The resignation was accepted, though with much reluctance. The splendid work done by Bishop Hammond was recognized on all sides, and the members of his flock and the stake authorities were loth to lose his valuable services.

Elder William D. Hanks, who has been acting as assistant superintendent of the Sunday school, was unanimously sustained as bishop, with Charles W. Weatherstone as first and Joseph A. Dalton as second counselors. Elder Hanks is a man of sterling qualities, and it is certain that the work of the Lord in this part will progress even more rapidly in the future. Stake President Franklin S. Bramwell and Counselor J. R. Price with High Councilors James Eardley, James R. Smurthwaite, Henry W. Nibley, E. L. Whiting and Hans J. Nielsen were present and effected the new organization.

Spring is here and the valley is putting on her new dress of green. The farmer's prospects for this season are indeed very bright.

RETURNED MISSIONARIES.

The elders and sister named below have reported at the Church Historian's office their safe return home from the foreign mission field on the dates given. All report enjoyable and successful missionary labors. The gospel work in all the fields represented, they say, is in a prosperous condition.

Dec. 2.—Joseph M. Anderson of Morgan, Morgan Co., from the Northern States mission; set apart Nov. 14, 1906.

Dec. 13.—Ezra H. G. Williams of Ogden, from the Eastern States mission; set apart Feb. 20, 1907.

March 15.—J. H. Dickson of Morgan, Morgan Co., from the Eastern States mission; set apart April 2, 1907. Presided over New York conference part of time.

March 23.—Samuel N. Burgi of Midway, Wasatch Co., from the Swiss and German mission; set apart June 26, 1906.

Marion M. Hatch of Scipio, Millard Co., from the British mission; set apart Nov. 27, 1906.

March 30.—John H. Bringhurst of Taylorsville, Salt Lake county, from the California mission; set apart Nov. 12, 1907. Presided over the San Francisco and Los Angeles conferences.

April 1.—Laura Lions Mathias of Brigham City, Boxelder Co., from the Northern States mission; set apart Nov. 12, 1907.

Willard E. Stoddard of Baker City, Or., from the British mission; set apart Nov. 27, 1906. Presided over Grimsby conference.

April 2.—Earl A. Edwards of Iona, Bingham Co., Ida., from the Southern States mission; set apart March 3, 1907.

Harry H. Gates of Salt Lake City, from the Northwestern States mission; set apart June 19, 1907. Presided over Salem conference.

George Carlos Murdock, Jr., of Beaver, Beaver Co., from the Central States mission; set apart Jan. 31, 1907. Labored in Liahona office, 17 months.

William Kirkup of Franklin, Idaho, from the British mission; set apart Nov. 7, 1906.

Francis F. Vause of Bayer City, Or., from the British mission; set apart Nov. 21, 1906.

April 3.—William W. Parrish of Centerville, Davis Co., from the Northern States mission; set apart Nov. 13, 1906. Presided over Manitoba conference.

Edwin W. Weed of Santaquin, Utah Co., from the Northern States mission; set apart July 3, 1907.

George J. Taylor of Preston, Oneida Co., Ida., from the Southern States mission; set apart May 7, 1907.

Edwin Lubbin of Arco, Ida., from the British mission; set apart Jan. 19, 1907.

Jos. W. George of Logan, Cache Co., from the Southern States mission; set apart [illegible] 23, 1906.

Perkins of Montpelier, Ida., Southern States mission; set [illegible] 7, 1906.

[illegible] H. Johnson of Hyrum, Cache [illegible] from the Southern States mission; set apart March 5, 1907.

William Decker of Mancos, Colorado, from the Southern States mission; set apart Nov. 6, 1906.

Michael Johnson, Jr., of Logan, Cache Co., from the Southern States mission; set apart Sept. 18, 1906.

April 1.—Henry M. Hodgson of Teton City, Fremont Co., Idaho, from the Southern States mission; set apart Oct. 31, 1906.

F. Marion Guymon of Huntington, Emery Co., from the Southern States mission; set apart Nov. 2, 1906.

W. Woodruff Clark of Montpelier, Ida., apart Oct. 3, 1906.

Parley Pratt Johnson of Clearwater, Garfield Co., from the Southern States mission; set apart Oct. 26, 1906.

April 6.—Walter G. Burke of Taylor, Bingham Co., Idaho, from the Southern States mission; set apart Nov. 2, 1906.

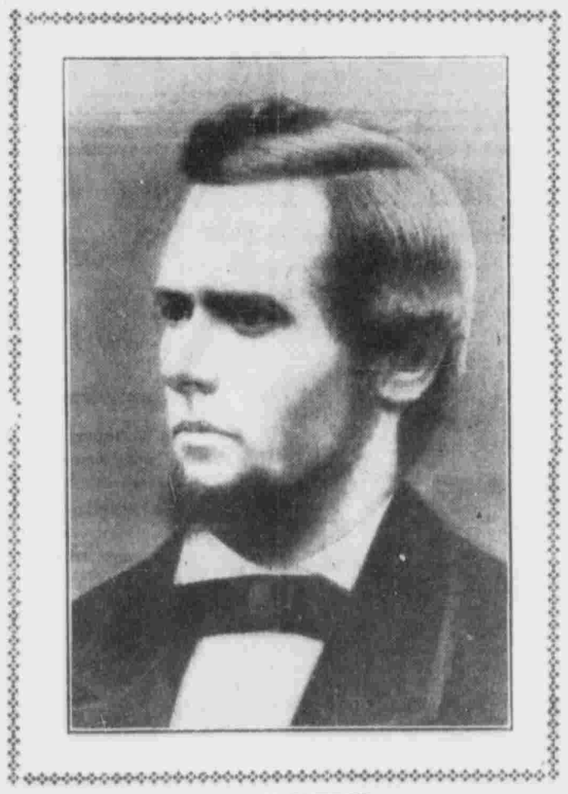
April 7.—George Edward Calvert of Leavitt, Alberta, Canada, from the Central States mission; set apart Jan. 3, 1907. Presided over Missouri conference 16 months.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT SAYS

That outdoor exercise is needed by the American people. That's all very well, but how can people with rheumatism follow that advice? The answer is simple—use Ballard's Snow Liniment and the rheumatism will go, leaving you as sore as a colt. Gives quick and permanent relief from rheumatism, neuralgia, lame back and all pains. Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept., 112 and 114 South Main St.

CHANGE IN BISHOPRIC OF UNION WARD, UNION STAKE.

BISHOP W. D. HANKS. FORMER BISHOP F. P. HAMMOND.



WILLIAM FOWLER,

Author of "We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet."

OF peculiar interest at this time, when articles are being published upon the authors of old Latter-day Saint hymns, is the appended communication, signed by the grandson of William Fowler, who wrote that most universal of all hymns used in Mormon services, "We thank Thee, O God, for a prophet." That the author of this widely sung selection was a man of great mental and physical powers, there can be no doubt, and that his service to his Church was heartfelt and sincere there has never been question. A peculiar fact in connection with his life is the journal he faithfully kept, inscribed in a certain style of shorthand. This journal is in the possession of his family, but up to the present time no one has been found who is able to read the symbols of the system in which he recorded his personal history. The communication follows:

"In the Christmas edition of the Deseret News there appeared articles on authors of some of the Church famous hymns. We wish here to correct some errors and enlarge upon facts concerning William Fowler, the author of 'We thank Thee, O God, for a prophet,' which a search in his journals has brought to light.

"Most of his journals were written in shorthand, he having used a system that today is not in use. No doubt many interesting incidents of missionary experience, etc., could be related, if some one could be found who is familiar with the symbols of this system.

"His father, Richard Fowler, was a British soldier, sent to Australia in the service of his country, taking his wife, Bridget (of Irish descent) along. While there on May 9, 1830, William was born.

"When the little boy was 2½ years old they went to East India to remain for five years at the expiration of which time Richard Fowler was discharged. They then returned to England, settling in Sheffield, where Richard died after two years. His wife followed him three and a half years later, leaving William an orphan at 14 years of age."

"His parents belonged to the Wesleyan faith. He first heard the gospel in 1848. Accepting the truths, he was baptized July 29, 1849, by J. V. Long, and ordained a priest on March 3, 1851, under the hands of Elders J. V. Long, Robbins, Roper and Morris. During the same month he was appointed to do missionary work which he continued for four years.

"In 1858 he was ordained an elder by Isaac Able and Ralph Harrison, and in 1854 he married Ellen Bradshaw of Sheffield. He seemed to have been endowed abundantly with talent, especially in music, literature, and handicraft. There are now in the family a pair of razors which give evidence that he was very proficient in his trade as a cutler.

"The hymn for which he is noted is by no means his only composition. A splendid violin and a piccolo of which he is said to have been master, are now in the possession of and prized very highly by his only son. The violin still makes music in the hands of his son and grandson.

"With his wife and three children he emigrated to Utah, leaving London June 4, 1863, and arriving in Salt Lake City Oct. 3 of the same year. The family finally located at Manti, Utah.

"His ability to continue the work on this earth he so well began was soon ended, as has been the case with so many brave hearts, he gave his life for his religion. He contracted a cold while crossing the plains, which turned to consumption and finally resulted in his death in August, 1865, being then only 35 years of age. His body now rests in the Manti cemetery. His three children, Harriet Allen of Victor, Idaho, H. A. Fowler of Huntington, Utah, and Florence Adair of Salt Lake City, are yet living, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren bear his name."

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