

## FROM THE MISSIONARY FIELDS.

In Virginia.

Caddo, Pittsylvania, Co., Va.,  
Sept. 7, 1898.

The most interesting conference ever held in Virginia has just closed. It was held at this place on September 3rd and 4th. Many things combined to make it an event long to be remembered by all who attended. The Forty Elders of the conference were present and with two exceptions all enjoyed good health.

Saturday dawned bright and clear. No better day could have been had for outdoor preaching. We were somewhat disappointed in not meeting Elder Rich, but as our conference proceeded disappointment gave way to love for Elder N. P. Nelson of the Missouri presidency, who filled the place of our leader.

Our congregations were large for the busy season. Many Saints were in attendance, some having walked one hundred miles to be present. During the first day Elders Alonzo Shirts, Jos. Osguthorpe, R. C. Butler, C. F. Hawks, C. J. Call and Samuel E. Taylor addressed the people, who were eager to hear the truth.

On Sunday morning it seemed the Lord tried our faith. Black clouds hung low and early a gentle rain set in. But this did not prevent the people from coming to hear the Mormons in their "big meeting." Fully four hundred people were present. At 10:30 the rain ceased and we began to preach. But soon down came a very torrent of water, and we had to move to the school house, where there was hardly standing room. Every available place was occupied. Carriages surrounded the building and in them sat and listened with rapt attention to the words of truth spoken by Elders John E. Griffin and John S. Blain. Many reasons were given for believing Joseph Smith to have been a Prophet of God and strong testimonies were born of this fact.

By this time the clouds had dispersed and nature again smiled upon us. At 2 o'clock we met in the arbor and the whole time was given to Elder Nelson, who for one hour and a half spoke of the restoration of the Gospel in this day. The people expressed their appreciation by the attention paid.

On Monday came the happiest and yet saddest day of conference. An early hour (7:30) found us assembled in Priesthood meeting and no Elder will soon forget how his heart did burn within while Elder Nelson admonished us to remain faithful and gave us words of advice for our future guidance. Never before has it been our privilege to enjoy a greater portion of the Holy Spirit. Each heart was soft with love and a thrilling testimony was born by each Elder.

As our president, John S. Blain, had been honorably released to return home, the Elders presented him with a beautiful teachers' Bible. As it was given and he thanked us for it, tears came to every eye. Men sobbed and wept. Moments passed before any one could speak. One spirit on high rejoiced with the angels at the fulfilling of an honorable mission by Elder Blain. It will be remembered that his wife died some two years ago while he was in the missionary field. The love of every Elder goes with Brother Blain, and may the Lord gladden his heart!

Our conference loses ten of her noble brethren, who return home, having an

honorable release. May the time quickly come when our ranks will again be filled. During the winter months we will labor on the coast. Headquarters will be established at Hewlett's, Hanover Co., Va. Any information to be sent to the Elders will reach us there.

The blessings of the Lord were pronounced upon us and with light hearts all departed for their fields of labor.

Your brother,

JOHN E. GRIFFIN,  
Pres. Virginia Conference, Hewlett,  
Hanover Co., Va.

## Resting From Their Labor.

Dresden, Weakley Co., Tenn.

August 25th, 1898.

A few days ago, in company with Elder M. B. Olsen, I called at the old Church Homestead at Shady Grove, Hickman county, Tenn., and to our surprise and sorrow we found that Brother I. E. Church and Mary Ann, his wife, had both passed from this life. Brother Church died Nov. 25th, 1897, and his wife followed him on July 20th, 1898. They were both faithful members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. One hundred and forty-eight Mormon Elders have rested beneath their roof and have partaken of their kind hospitality. They leave many relatives and friends to mourn their loss, and though they be dead and passed from our view, yet their kind deeds will live in human gratitude forever.

The relatives of our departed brother and sister requested me to write a few lines to you for publication.

The missionary work in middle Tennessee is prospering. Many branches of the Church and Sunday schools have been organized within the last year, and prospects are very bright for the future.

Your brother in the Gospel of Christ,

ALFRED F. ANDERSON.  
Lincoln, England, Aug. 30, 1898.

## West Pennsylvania Conference.

Coudersport, Pa., Sept. 7, 1898.

We, the servants of the living God, are pleased to have the opportunity of writing a few words in regard to our labors as Elders in this the West Pennsylvania conference.

In connection with Elders W. N. Draper and L. E. Cowles, we are now laboring in Potter county, where we are making many warm and affectionate friends. We also meet with a great many obstacles, and people who are very prejudiced against us. But truth crushed to earth will rise again, and the cloud that has been hanging over us for many years is beginning to show its silver lining and the people of the world are beginning to find out that we are not what we have been represented to be.

There are many good honest hearted people in this part of the vineyard, and if the seed is carefully sown and properly taken care of, a great harvest will be reaped in the due time of the Lord.

We are now beginning to reap the harvest from the seed that was sown by Elders years ago.

This county is situated in the tops of the Allegheny mountains, from which flow the three rivers, the Allegheny, Susquehanna, and the Genesee, all heading near the same point, and is a beautiful locality, being covered with dense forests of timber of different kinds. The principal ones that might be mentioned are the hemlock and maple. The hemlock is sawn into lumber and shipped to various parts of the country, while the bark is used for tanning purposes. The maple tree is tapped every

spring to obtain the sap which is boiled into syrup and sugar. The occupation of the people generally is that of agriculture and lumbering. After the timber is taken off by hard labor, the hillside is converted into farms. As people depend entirely upon the rains for irrigation, their crops are not as heavy as where our system of irrigation is carried on. Although they raise buckwheat in great quantities, which is the principal crop in this section.

The climate is quite healthful, but not so much as in a higher altitude, as the highest point in this range is only between two and three thousand feet above the level of the sea.

One thing we are greatly blessed with is plenty of good pure spring water.

We were pained to hear of the death of our beloved President who has been a faithful and energetic servant of God. But we feel that He who placed Brother Woodruff in that high and holy calling as Prophet, Seer and Revelator is able to raise another in his stead to continue the great work on the earth.

We welcome the "News" and peruse the contents with pleasure.

Anyone having friends in this section wishing us to visit them, we would be pleased to do so by having their address.

Your brethren in the cause of truth,

JOHN E. ISGREEN,  
B. F. LLEWELLYN.

Coudersport, Potter county, Pa.

## Missionary Work in England.

Perhaps some of the many readers of the "News" would be interested in hearing from this part of England. We have been laboring in Lincoln since Aug. 15.

We have met with some degree of success. The first six meetings we held on the streets were well attended and good order existed. The first real disturbance was caused by a Church of England clergyman. He stepped up to Sister Campbell and asked if we were Mormons. "Yes, sir," she answered.

The reverend could scarcely be persuaded to hold his peace till Brother Parkin finished speaking. As soon as the "amen" was spoken Rev. Osborn, vicar of Stanton, said, "These people are liars and deceivers; they don't tell the truth about their religion. Their Elders come here to carry off girls and women to Utah. They are murderers and cut-throats. Their women are low, depraved and down trodden. They are followers of Brigham Young, who had sixty wives," etc.

He spoke for twenty minutes in this manner.

At the first opportunity Brother Parkin introduced our Utah girl to the crowd of nearly two hundred. Sister Campbell stepped forward and in a loud, clear voice, told of the virtue and morality of the women and men of Utah. In concluding she bore a powerful testimony to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Much good was done and more prejudice erased by Sister Campbell's remarks and influence.

Next morning after the meeting we were interviewed by a reporter of the Leader. He gave us a very fair report. A piece of an opposite nature appeared in the Echo. With the assistance of the press, or tracting from house to house, and speaking on the street corners, assisted by a lady missionary from Utah, we are creating quite a sensation in this city of sixty thousand inhabitants. We are constantly meeting with prejudiced people, who will not accept a tract from the hands of a Mormon. Yet we have faith that many of honest heart dwell in this city of church-goers.

Some have shown a spirit of investigation. One gentleman in particular, who is a teacher of the Bible class,

Last Sunday we walked out to a small