

to be sent to Darmstadt to open up a new field, and Brother Seegmiller and myself were appointed to labor here. Since then we have been going from house to house with our tracts, and have found a few good friends. We have great hopes of baptizing some as soon as spring opens. I am the youngest missionary in this field at the present time, but with the help of God will try to do my part toward spreading the truth in this land. May God be with you to aid you and guide you through the new year in the prayer of your brother and co-laborer.

T. W. Y. STEVENSON.

GREENVILLE, Madison County, Fla., Jan. 21, 1897.—Dear Friends and Associates:—Having been laboring in the missionary field for nearly eleven months, I feel somewhat more competent than formerly to write a letter purporting to give you an idea of the very singular life of a Mormon missionary. Before I commence my narrative, however, I am led to speak of a subject which we are so deeply interested in, and which, to us who appreciate its benefits, is one of the grandest of our institutions—the Sunday school. There I commenced to go, when I was so small that the parental hand was necessary to help me over the distance traversed, and to protect me from the surrounding dangers. While at some periods of my life I was negligent in regard to my duties in the Sabbath school, and did not realize the importance of the teachings and instructions I received there, yet I obtained information that to me is now what the ax is to the woodman.

My first speech in Florida was in a large Baptist church. The congregation assembled, and after singing and prayer my companion told me to occupy half of the time. My effort perhaps was a feeble one, but I realized then the benefits I had derived by attending Sunday school; and not only then but many times since have the teachings and instructions I received in that institution come up like "jewels in the sand."

Our Sunday schools in Utah are far superior to any of those I have yet visited elsewhere, and while we have established Sunday schools in the South which are not blessed with the conveniences that characterize those in Utah, still there seems to be a great interest in them displayed by those attending.

Mighty changes are taking place daily in the world. Where heretofore our friends have been few in number, they are now many, and as days come and go our bitter enemy, prejudice, loses ground, and a friendlier feeling to the Gospel of Jesus Christ takes its place. In times past Elders have held but few meetings and had but few listeners here. Now meetings are being held in churches, school houses and in public halls of all descriptions, and people flock to hear what this "peculiar people" believe—hence prejudice and false impressions are being cleared away and the "little stone" is rolling faster and farther every day. I do not wish to convey the idea that persecution is becoming extinct, for it will exist to a certain extent until Christ comes to rule. "They who live godly in Christ Jesus

shall suffer persecution." Until the evil one is bound we will have to fight him.

There are also many changes in the experiences of the Elders. When an Elder arrives in his field of labor he is expected to commence his labors without purse or scrip, to keep the Word of Wisdom, be humble and prayerful, and teach nothing but the first principles of the Gospel to the unbeliever or worldling. When this is done the Elder goes forward and in a short time has the spirit of his mission, gains the confidence and respect of the people, and does a powerful work in the vineyard. Now, why I say a change or revolution is taking place daily is because every day the obedient servant strives to follow the instructions given by our inspired leader, Elias S. Kimball, who is constantly putting forth every effort for the strength and advancement of the mission. In some of the years gone by the missionaries were allowed to travel with money in their pockets to pay for their washing and writing material. They would travel from house to house all day distributing their literature and when night came on they would have to ask for entertainment. If they ever got a chance to preach they would have to hunt a place to do so, and when they found a place, faith, repentance, baptism and Holy Ghost (the milk of the word) was not always enough, but they would sometimes choke the people with addresses on the apostasy, spirits in prison, salvation for the dead, and other meaty subjects too far advanced for their hearers here. When they wanted their washing done they paid for it—in fact this was the rule when I arrived in Florida. Since conference last summer the Elders who have been living up to instructions very seldom had to ask for entertainment. On the other hand, people have delighted to ask and have them stay over night, their washing has been done by the people gratis, money, stamps and writing material have been given them, and in many other ways they have been blessed.

Now, I would say to young men who expect to go on missions, when you start out don't "black your eyes" by drawing up all kinds of oaks and gloomy pictures. My motto, as given by our ex-Bishop, has been a guard against hoisting many a black cloud before me: "Don't cross the bridge until you come to it." The old bridge will perhaps be replaced with a new one, and then you will have gone through that much worry for a thing of naught.

If you come to the South and are sent to Florida, be assured of one thing: you will have plenty of ministerial labor to perform, and "the laborer is worthy of his hire." The Lord is the guide and employer of this humble little band of laborers, consequently we are given our "hire" in the shape of good feather beds and plenty to eat, spread with an occasional yellow legged chicken, with some of the most hospitable people on earth to dish it out.

Before closing I wish to bear my testimony to the divinity of the work which we are engaged in; for I have seen the power of God made manifest through His servants. My testimony

is that there is a God in heaven who is the supreme ruler; that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to give us a law for our salvation, which He established by the shedding of His blood; that Joseph Smith was the instrument in the hands of God to receive the Gospel in this age, the Gospel being revealed to him by "the angel," and that God's servants are going throughout the world today, proclaiming the glad tidings, with "signs following the believer." This is "my testimony to the whole world, and I feel to say like Paul, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."

May we all be among those of Christ's disciples who receive of that last great and grand commendation: "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." is the humble prayer of yours in the bonds of faith,

W. H. SUMMERHAYS.

ELDER TEMPEST'S REPORT.

ANACONDA, Montana,
Feb. 2, 1897.

Perhaps a few lines from Montana will be perused with interest by a large class of your readers. I find the missionary letters are anxiously read by those who are interested in the work of God on earth, no matter by whom they are written, or from what part of the earth they come.

A few years ago it was prophesied that the state of Montana would soon become a useful and pleasant field for missionary labor of our Elders, such a one would have been counted foolish in the extreme. Yet, this is the state of affairs here. Already there are six Elders actively at work.

Elders C. J. Black and Geo. S. Young are at work in Jefferson valley. They have been laboring there for the past three weeks and meet with no serious obstructions, except, perhaps, the low stage of Fahrenheit thermometer, which registered during the late "cold snap" down in the 30's below. As a rule, the people treat the Elders kindly and listen to them as they relate the story of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Whether any obey the same or not is for the future to develop.

Elders F. H. Mason and W. Thornley are at present laboring in Butte and vicinity, where they have been for the past two months or more meeting with no great opposition. Their labors have been to warn the people of their duty to God and to obey His mandates; preaching at the fireside and in public as occasion presented itself. The good seed sown yet may find fertile soil in which to develop.

Elders Willard Johnson and the writer are at present in Anaconda, doing their mite in spreading the truth there and in the surrounding country.

Since this mission was opened last summer, a good work has been accomplished. A large and flourishing branch has been organized; also a Sunday school with average attendance of about thirty, well officered with devoted, constant workers, and well supplied with books, etc., for its use. The school is conducted on the graded system, and is trying to con-