

you without saying this much, for my heart is with you; I love you and want to see you do well and grow to be great and good men in the kingdom of our Father.

As a matter of news, it will be interesting to you to learn of my appointment as a chaplain to the Second regiment of volunteer engineers. My friends in Utah kindly secured this appointment for me without my knowledge, and it came as a great surprise. Brother Willard Young is colonel of this regiment. He has been advised by me that I would accept of the appointment so kindly tendered to me, and that I would place myself in readiness to move to the front when wanted. I shall try and prove myself, in a measure, worthy of the blessings of the Lord, and shall strive, with His help, to be as contented and happy in my new field of labor as in the one I have so long occupied and am now about to separate myself from.

I feel desirous of leaving my blessings with you and with this mission. I pray that you may be blessed in all your righteous endeavors, and you will be if you are faithful.

If I have at any time, in my associations with you, inadvertently hurt your feelings, I pray you to forgive me. Try and forget that anything has been said or done by me or any of the Elders to wound your spirit; be forgiving and charitable and take me and them again into your favor, for I regard your friendship and esteem of greater value than priceless jewels.

Though I may, peradventure, be called to the Philippine Islands, I cannot forget you, but shall affectionately remember you and shall pray for you, asking the blessings of the Lord to be upon you continually.

Praying God, our heavenly Father, to abundantly bless you, I remain, most obediently, your devoted friend and brother. Good by, and may we meet again as companions and friends.

ELIAS S. KIMBALL.

July 2nd, 1898.

To the Elders of the Southern States Mission:

Dear Brethren—In assuming the presidency of this, the Southern States Mission, I feel impressed to send you a few words. President Kimball having been released from a four years' mission, transferred the business of the office to me yesterday, and started on his return homeward. I fully realize that in order for my mission to be successful, I must have the spirit of my calling, the help of God, and the love, confidence, faith and prayers of all the Elders who are laboring in this part of the Lord's vineyard. If I have the spirit of God it will be made manifest in my dealings with the humble Elders who are laboring under my direction. The spirit of humility, of meekness, of charity, of love and mercy, are all some of the attributes of Christ; we are all His servants, and have been commanded to follow Him and carefully study the glorious example He has set for us. To be ambassadors of Christ is a mighty calling and carries with it a great responsibility. In order for us to fully magnify our calling we must be clothed with the Spirit of God; we must banish from our hearts all enmity against those who at times despitely use us. We are commanded to love those who hate us, and to do good to those who would injure us. Remember, brethren, that a kind word will often turn away wrath, and therefore I pray you to scatter seeds of kindness wherever you go, among friends or enemies. God has said He will forgive whom He will forgive, but has commanded us to forgive all men. When you see an individual engaged in persecuting the Saints, pray for that man. Perhaps his eyes may yet be opened to the truth;

remember the glorious lesson taught us by glancing at the history of the Apostle Paul, who was once a persecutor of the Saints, but eventually had his eyes opened and became valiant in the cause of Christ. Do not forget that false reports have been circulated against us everywhere; this seems to have been the heritage of the former-day Saints, and also the misfortune of the Latter-day Saints. How necessary, then, that our words, our acts and even our thoughts should bear testimony unto all men that we are falsely accused.

You have been sent with authority to preach the Gospel of Christ and to speak in His name; then be diligent in crying "repent, ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Do not be anxious to engage in the work of tearing down other churches; but rather devote yourselves to explaining the Gospel in plainness and simplicity; point to the beauties of the principles and the perfection of the organization; when you have done this, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, the honest in heart will see before them a vision of such a heavenly temple that they will admit in their hearts it is a better house than the one in which they now dwell, and then mankind will be more willing to come into that building and make up their abode than they would be if you were to use your talents in tearing their present religious house to pieces. You can afford to be patient, because you are the followers of a Master who was the very embodiment of patience; and you can afford to be brave, because you are clothed with the power of God and His holy Priesthood. Do not foolishly seek persecution, try and avoid trouble at all times; but should this be impossible, then let it come, and meet it as humble, charitable and brave men of God should.

Remember the first Sunday in each month, which is a day set apart by the authorities of the Church for fasting and prayer; observe it, brethren, and you will be blessed of the Lord. It will give you strength with Him; you will enjoy the sweet influence of His holy Spirit, and the power of His holy Priesthood will be with you. Should you desire to fast and pray at other times, do so, and you will be blessed and strengthened.

I have felt impressed to call to my assistance, as counselors in this work, Elder N. P. Nelson, who until recently, presided over the Middle Tennessee conference, and Elder L. R. Anderson, who is at present laboring in the field. I feel that these brethren are filled with the spirit of their calling, and will be a blessing to the Elders and Saints of our mission. When you meet them give heed unto their counsel, follow them, because they are the servants of God, and a part of the presidency of this mission. The appointments have been sent out to all the conference presidents, giving dates for holding our conferences, and we hope soon to be able to meet you face to face, shake you by the hand and bless you. You have our faith and prayers, we ask for yours. Store up your minds with useful knowledge, and when you undertake to speak to the people, place yourselves under the direction of the Spirit of God, be led by His influence and follow His whisperings. May God bless you in your labors; may you have health, and may you find friends; but above all, may you have the spirit of your mission and make God your friend.

BEN E. RICH.

A Word from Wolfe County, Kentucky.

Campton, Ky., July 11, 1898.

I received a call to take a mission to the Southern States on the 28th of March, 1897. I took leave of my aged

father and mother and all that is near and dear to me on May 15, 1897, and made my way to Salt Lake City, and from there to Chattanooga, Tenn., together with nineteen others, where we were assigned to our different fields of labor. I was called to labor in the Mississippi conference and arrived at Sturgis, Miss., on May 27, where the Elders all met in conference. I was appointed to labor with Elder Wm. L. Openshaw of Santaquin, Utah county, Utah. Our field of labor was in Madison county, where my companion had been laboring previous to the conference. We had a good time and one long to be remembered. Friends were raised up on all sides to administer to our wants. But as the climate didn't seem to agree with me I was sent to the East Kentucky conference, where I now am laboring. I arrived in Vanceburg, Ky., on Dec. 3rd, where conference was held and where Elders Lyman and Cowley instructed us in regard to our duties. At this conference I was appointed to labor in Wolfe county with Elder Matthew Speirs of Tooele, Utah. He was my companion for about five months, after which Elder Daniel Hibbert from Mesa City, Arizona, was called to be my companion. We are still laboring in Wolfe county.

I am enjoying good health and my labors are a source of joy and pleasure to me.

EDGAR W. JEFFERY.

Celebrating in Indiana.

Evansville, Indiana, July 18, 1898.

We spent a very enjoyable time with our good Saints on July 4, 1898. There were present eight Mormon Elders, fourteen Saints and a number of friends. The day put in its appearance bringing with it a nice little shower which cooled the atmosphere, settled the dust, and made things appear quite pleasant. The birds that sang in the tree tops filled the whole air with sweet strains of melody. At ten o'clock we all gathered in the parlor, where we sang songs and recited. We were invited to the dinner room, where a table was spread with many delicious things. We spent the afternoon out in the open air, where the surface of the earth was covered with a beautiful dark green carpet and the sweet odor coming from the newly blossomed flowers seemed to sweep through the air constantly. On the morrow we all started for our different fields.

Of late a branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized in Phelps, Ind., by Elders Erastus D. Sorenson and James Peterson. There are seventeen Elders working in this part of the Lord's vineyard and all meeting with success. The health of the Elders is exceedingly good. Lately we lost three of our brightest lights, Elders E. D. Sorenson, A. S. Klenke and James W. Vickers, all of Nephi City, Utah, who are now on their way home. It was, I can assure you, a sad parting, as they had gained the love and respect of all who knew them. Brother Fred W. Crockett is now our president. We all wish him success and happiness.

PRESTON C. LEWIS,  
Clerk of Conference.

Georgia Conference.

Covington, Ga., July 18, 1898.

The Elders, comprising the Georgia conference held their first meeting in conference capacity on Saturday and Sunday, July 9th and 10th, at a little town called Union, in Campbell county, Ga. Our new mission president, Elder Ben E. Rich, with his counselors, Elders N. P. Nelson and Louis R. Anderson, were in attendance. A rich flow of the holy spirit was manifest in the remarks of all those who took part in the conference; also in the Priest-