

thankful enough. I relate this to show you that there is great joy in missionary life, as well as some experience that is bitter.

I feel well in the Gospel, and determined to press on and do my duty the best I can in my weak way. Let me exhort you to study the Gospel and become familiar with its principles; and especially with the history of the apostasy from the primitive Church, as there are thousands who say they believe our doctrines till we come to Joseph Smith, and so it is necessary to show that the Gospel had been taken from the earth and restored, as John the Revelator foresaw.

May God bless his people everywhere is the desire of your co-laborer,
JOSEPH EMPEY.

IN LEBANON, KENTUCKY.

LEBANON, Marion Co.,
Ky., Sept. 11, 1896.

While I have a few spare moments I will write you a short description of the county in which I am laboring as a missionary.

This part of the state is a very beautiful place, surrounded with knolls and much timber. There are also many farms, some of which are seen high upon the mountain tops. The people of this county seem to be a very good natured class of people; they will do almost anything for the comfort of a stranger. They somehow become attached to us, Elders and there have been places during my short experience out here, where the people have regretted very much to have the Elders leave them. We have just been holding a few meetings in a place called the "Moore Creek district" and the trustees are becoming somewhat anxious to get us out of the school house, so they have given us notice not to hold any more meetings after this evening. The cause of this comes no doubt from the fact that two of our Elders held several meetings over in a district near by, and it resulted in breaking up one of the Baptist congregations, so it can be easily seen what is the reason for their objecting to our holding more meetings here in this district. This has been the only objection raised to our holding meetings since my arrival here in the missionary field. The people generally treat us with great respect and we are looked upon very favorably.

This summer has been a very hot one, and it is reported to have been the hottest summer since 1865. There is much sickness in this county at present and the people are complaining in all parts of the state of the sickness which has no doubt been caused by the excessive heat.

This letter leaves myself and companion in good health, and enjoying the best of spirits. We rejoice in the work of the Lord, and it is our object to go onward and accomplish as much good as we possibly can. There is much excitement here over the election which is to take place the coming fall. Many are in favor of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 while a few are in favor of the gold standard. I am of the opinion by what I can learn and see, that Kentucky will be a silver state. There will be a great time at the city of Leb-

anon on the 22nd when Hon. Stephen A. Vaughan Jr. will speak upon the gold standard.

The Gospel is progressing in all parts of this state and we are making some converts. Many will not accept the Gospel now, but some time in the future they will be able to declare their faith, while there are others who believe the Gospel but don't like taking a step to embrace it on account of friendship ties.

ALFRED J. SELF.

ELDER BJORKMAN'S DEMISE.

Elder Anton Peterson, of Sjöbo, Utah, now on a mission to Sweden, where he is laboring in the Stockholm conference, writes to a relative of this city under date of August 31, 1896, concerning the burial of the late Elder Andrew Bjorkman, of this city, who recently died in Sweden, while there on a mission. Elder Peterson says:

A week ago Saturday I received from Elder C. A. Ahlquist, of Sugar House ward, the president of this conference, a message that Elder Andrew Bjorkman of your city had died in Dalarna. It was a shock to us Elders here (Upsala) as we had had no intimation that he had been ill. Sunday morning Brother Ahlquist went through this city on his way to attend the funeral of Elder Bjorkman. Meeting Brother Ahlquist at the station, he requested me to accompany him and Elder O. E. Olson to Dalarna, which I did, though having only seven minutes in which to get ready. Arriving at Gustaf's station we were met by Elder Lennberg of Union, Salt Lake county, who was the missionary companion of Brother Bjorkman. On foot we proceeded to Salvarho, four miles distant, arriving there about 4 o'clock p.m. The people there requested us to hold a meeting with them, which we did. We had a good meeting, the house being crowded and many patiently standing listening outside. Monday night we dressed Elder Bjorkman in proper robes for burial.

Tuesday afternoon the funeral took place. The following Elders from Utah were present: President of Stockholm conference, C. A. Ahlquist, O. E. Olson of Mount Pleasant, E. F. Lennberg and Anton Peterson, besides many Saints and non-members of the Church. After singing prayer was offered by Elder Ahlquist; then singing again, after which the four Utah Elders present spoke of the good, worth and labors of Elder Bjorkman; Elder Ahlquist also spoke upon the subject of the first resurrection. A hearse carried the remains of Elder Bjorkman to the cemetery, followed by the Elders from Utah and many Saints and strangers. A beautiful spot 18 x 18 feet had been secured where we tenderly laid Brother Bjorkman to rest. After the parish priest had performed the burial rites according to the law of the land, Brother Ahlquist dedicated the grave, after which we four Utah boys rendered "Nearer my God to Thee." The Saints of Salvarho brought numerous wreaths and flowers, also some that were brought all the way from Stockholm, so the grave was beautifully decorated. The Saints here are going

to plant shrubbery, and trees around the grounds.

"Brother Andrew Bjorkman was one of the first that embraced the Gospel in Upsala. He was born in Bjorklinge, January 22, 1838; baptized May 18, 1864, and emigrated to Utah in 1868. Brother Bjorkman had not been sick at all, he was visiting some Saints one mile from Salvarho at the time of his demise. A blood vessel burst in his right side, and before the doctor arrived he had expired. It was all a matter of but few minutes, and Brother Bjorkman had been called away to continue his work in another sphere. He was beloved here by Saints and strangers alike and will be missed by them. He had been here little more than a year.

Elder Peterson says the Gospel is progressing where he is laboring "slow but sure." Many are inquiring into the principles of the Gospel. By request the Elders held another excellent meeting on the evening of the day of Elder Bjorkman's funeral. There are at present among the Elders of Utah three Americans, only one of whom can as yet speak presentable Swedish, the others having recently arrived. There is a continual need of more Elders in that land. The field is great, but the laborers are few and far between.

BINGHAM STAKE CONFERENCE.

IONA, Ida., Sept. 16, 1896. — The quarterly conference of the Bingham Stake of Zion convened at Lewistown on the 13th and 14th insts. Of the Council of Twelve Apostles there was present Elder John Henry Smith. Also Elder Charles W. Penrose of the Salt Lake Stake presidency, Jno. T. E. Ricks of Bonanza Stake and his first counselor, Wm. F. Rigby.

Sunday 10 a. m. President Steele reported the condition of the Stake. There was a marked improvement among the people. We are blessed with a bounteous harvest. We have nineteen wards in the Stake. The spirit of unity exists among the people. Other speakers during the forenoon were Elders Henry Stokes, A. K. Dabell Sen., and Chas. W. Penrose. The former two related some of their early experiences in the Church and bore strong testimonies to the truth of the work they are engaged in. Elder Penrose dwelt upon the character and mission of Jesus Christ and upon the necessity of our boys and girls having a testimony of the truth of the work they are engaged in.

Sunday 2 p. m. — Remarks were made by Elders R. L. Bybee, T. E. Ricks, Wm. T. Rigby and John Henry Smith. The first speaker endorsed the report of President Steele. Others spoke of the rapid growth of the Snake river valley since its first settlement by Latter-day Saints, thirteen years ago. Elder Smith spoke at some length upon the necessity of the people being economical and trying to keep out of debt; and upon the great struggle for wealth, man's destiny, and the object God had in view when He placed man upon the earth.

The speakers on Monday were Elders Alexander Kinghorn, Samuel T. Barrett, John Henry Smith, Chas. W. Penrose and David Kinghorn. The subject dwelt upon by the speakers,