

to labor in Franklin county, which county had been partly canvassed, it being opened in March, 1894. We arrived in our field of labor October 10, when we launched out with a will to spread the Gospel to the people, principally visiting in new sections of the county, and occasionally visiting the investigators who had become interested during the previous work. In a short time we baptized four into the fold. Many came to witness the ordinance—curious were the ideas some had in regard to our form. The evil one was not asleep but all went along quietly and we continued our labors quite successfully, holding meetings in the different neighborhoods, distributing our tracts, and conversing with the people by their fireside. Our friends increased very rapidly. Invariably when we got the opportunity to hold meetings a great deal of the prejudice was allayed and the people looked upon us in a different light than before. The people urged upon us to repeat our visits among them, which made our work interesting to have so many who are eager to hear the Gospel in its true light and the spirit in which it is given.

The people have become dissatisfied in a great many instances with the different churches where unity does not exist and money seems to be the hue-and-cry among the preachers. The money question seems to cut quite a figure, at least among the poorer class of people where the members are eluded by what they say the preacher. Generally speaking, the people of this section of the country are poor and often we are reminded of the saying of our Savior, "The poor have the Gospel preached to them."

Through the efforts of the people and the desires of two Baptist preachers there was a meeting arranged to discuss the merits of our religion. It took place on the 16th of March, 1895. Great efforts were there used to refute the doctrine of Jesus Christ by other means than the Bible, but all was of non-effect among the thinking class of people and only added to our success and increased our friends. On the day following, Sunday, we held meeting and had quite a large congregation of attentive listeners; at the close two applied for baptism, which ordinance was performed by Elder Holt in a mill pond. The parties baptized were confirmed members of the Church near the banks of the stream, and all went on very peaceably.

We still continued our work as usual until the 1st of April when we got notice to meet Elders and change companions on April 10th. Our report for six months' travel together is as follows: Miles walked, 1,300; visits, 462; tracts distributed, 458; meetings held, 42; baptized, 6; refused entertainment, 12 times.

On meeting our new companions in a little town called Roxie, in Franklin county, we had an enjoyable time for a few hours together before going to our respective fields of labor. Elders Holt and J. W. Chipman had been assigned to labor in Adams county, and C. A. Matthews and I continued the labor in Franklin county, which we did very agreeably, but for the short space of two weeks, when we got notice to meet two new Elders from Utah. Only those

who have had this experience know the pleasure there is in meeting with friends and brethren from home, although not immediately from our wards and perhaps never having met before; but the brotherly love that is formed in a true Latter-day Saint can be felt, and we are no more strangers but fellow-citizens of one faith. Our time was very pleasantly spent for two days among warm friends who treated us with all the honor and respect possible until we received appointments where to travel. Elders Matthews and G. F. Shelley went to Jefferson county, while Elder Sharp and I continued in Franklin county. I first introduced my companion in the little town of Roxie, where we canvassed from house to house, and on the following Sunday, having obtained a building, we held meeting and had an attentive audience to hear our testimony. We continued our labor canvassing and holding meetings, and on the 5th of May, after holding a meeting at a private house, seven of our earnest investigators applied for baptism, which ordinance was performed in a clear creek close by. Having baptized but one previous to this on my mission, it was an enjoyable time and encouraging to me. Many were the lookers on who covered the banks of the stream. The curiosity of many was satisfied no doubt owing to the idea that had been advanced about the Mormons doing things secretly and in the dark. The Elders of the adjoining county, who were laboring close by had joined us in our meeting and assisted us in confirming the newly baptized members of the Church, after which we sang hymns and all rejoiced together.

Our labors continued very encouragingly and the 9th of June a meeting among the Saints was held for the purpose of organizing a branch of the Church, having thirteen members, who were very desirous to go to work as a branch and have a Sunday school. Brother H. F. W. Lee was sustained by the members and ordained to the Priest's office to preside over them. He was also chosen to be their S. S. superintendent with Brothers Thomas and Wallace his assistants and Brother Wm. G. Odson secretary and treasurer. The brethren and sisters are all very earnest in the work and everything is very favorable for a lively branch of earnest workers.

Although the canvassing of Franklin county is nearly completed, there are many sincere investigators who we think will eventually unite themselves to the Church. The Lord has surely blessed us in our labors for which we feel very thankful and feel to give all honor to Him to whom it is due. Our desires are for the welfare of Zion and her people.

Yours respectfully,
FREDERICK C. BEST,
JOSEPH P. SHARP,
MEADVILLE, Franklin Co., Miss.

RETURNED ELDERS.

Elder O. De Mill returned Saturday from a mission to the Southern States, to which he left home May 18, 1893. On arriving at Chattanooga he was assigned to the Virginia conference, where he labored the two years he was in the field. He found the people very

hospitable, and many interested in the Gospel, though the mass of the people are indifferent. There is an improved condition in the mission field, giving good prospects for the future. Elder De Mill had good health and enjoyed his labors in preaching the Gospel. He will continue his journey Monday to his home in Shonesburg, Washington county. He was accompanied on his journey to Utah by Elder C. E. Layton, of Kayaville, Davis county, also a returning missionary.

Elder Oliver Hodgson, of this city, has returned from a mission to Great Britain, where has been laboring for over two years. During his absence he labored exclusively in the Leeds conference, over which he presided for the last seven months. The feeling of prejudice against the Elders is being removed in that conference as in other parts of the British mission, and it is in a prosperous condition. While the feeling of prejudice is being removed, to some extent, there is still a spirit of indifference and of persecution in some instances. Elder Hodgson and other Elders held a series of open air meetings in the conference, all of which were fairly well attended except the last, and at its close the boys indulged in some stone-throwing, but none of the Elders were injured. Elder Hodgson had a pleasant journey homeward where he arrived on Thursday in good health and spirits.

Elder J. W. Walker, of the Seventh ward of this city, who returned on Sunday from a mission of over two and a half years to the Southern States, called at the News Wednesday. He is in excellent health and spirits, and has enjoyed his missionary labors greatly. He left this city December 3, 1892, and was assigned to the Mississippi conference, laboring in twelve counties of that state as traveling Elder, until his appointment as president of the conference in December last. He reports that all the Elders in the conference are in good health. Elder Walker himself has enjoyed good health with the exception of a few weeks when he had an attack of chills and fever. He reports that the success of the Elders in the Mississippi conference during the past two years has been unprecedented, requiring an increase of the missionary force there from eight to twenty Elders. There have been some places where considerable opposition was displayed, but generally the people in the outies, while displaying a distant feeling and considerable prejudice at first have become friendly on acquaintance. The Elders have been treated hospitably, and among those who have displayed a warm friendship for the missionaries and an interest in their teachings are people who hold high positions in the communities where the Elders are preaching the Gospel.

A VETERAN'S BIRTHDAY.

Monday a company of ninety relatives and seventy-five friends met at West Jordan to celebrate the eighty-third birthday of Father Isaac Goff. Brother Goff is one of the pioneers of Utah and is well known throughout the country.

A pleasant and entertaining program was carried out at Goff's hall, and the Young Men's Association