

a series of lectures upon the Gospel and the achievements of the "Mormon" people. According to the latest advices received here he is meeting with very good success. We are having some ex-tremely warm weather here nowadays. for several days the thermometer

It gives us great pleasure to note the progress the work is meeting with throughout the world. The health of the Elders generally, in the Australian colonies, is good, and as we are no exception to the rule, we are enjoying

come visitor. We greatly enjoy perusing new year resounded through the halls its columns, as it is like a letter from and parlors.

Australia they wish the Elders to call upon, please send their names and addresses. Your brother in the cause of truth.

11 Swanson Street, Erskineville, Syd-ney, N. S. Wales, Australia.

#### Christmas Reflections.

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 26, 1899. To the Editor:

Christmas has come and gone once more, leaving behind it a great variety of conditions which are food for reflection. The thought occurs to us that in our own families, where love for the whole household prevails, the parents would feel very much depressed in spirits if the children were to adopt the Southwest Virginia Conference, Jenks, Lincoln Co., W. Va., Dec. 26, 1899. habit of getting drunk as a method of showing their love for other members of the household, whenever the anniversary of a birthday should come.

And we are also of the opinion that would not be highly entertaining to either the parents or the ones who were being thus honored if all, or even a portion of the family, were to devote their time to using the name of the loved one in a series of blasphemous orations as an indication of the value they placed upon the occasion. And we feel that our heavenly Father and our elder Brother Jesus Christ, are not very well pleased with the way in which the anniversary of the Redeemer's birth into mortality is observed both in many of the churches and in the homes of many of His professed followers.

Adkins' on Saturday, Dec. 23rd, and were there joined by Elders O. T. Davis The great quantities of beer and other intoxicating beverages that are used during such holidays have caused and E. S. Winn, who were laboring in Logan, one of the adjoining counties. This increased our band from four t us to wonder what our Redeemer thinks, when He sees us converting pure wholesome water into a death-dealing drink, which is used in paying homage to Him. It seems as if the question could be easily answered, and that all candid persons would say it was a vicious and almost premeditated insult to Him. The fact has been noted in the "News" before, that Milwaukee has a great number of breweries and that they turn out enormous quantities of beer annually. Someone has started the story that Lake Michigan has been lowered eight feet since the breweries began their operations here. They all use the lake water in their manufacture of beer, and trains are running night and day carrying it out of the city, and hundreds of teams are employed daily In delivering it to saloons and resi-dences. Just think of such conditions, and then let us ask ourselves if it is not about time for the Lord to call a halt. When the writer was in California he was told that during the hottest part of the summer the farmers had to soak their hogs up in order to make them hold swill. But the reverse seems to hymns. be the condition here, if we may judge by the dimensions of some beer drinkers. The Elders and Saints here had a very nice time on Christmas eve and day. On Sunday evening after meeting all six of the Elders went by invitation to the home of Sister M. R. Smolders, where we indulged in sing-Z-TRATI ing hymns and in social chat, with a nice supper to lend variety to the occa-We sat up until midnight, when sion. all but Elder Orson Bills attended "mass" in the Catholic church. The services were in German and Latin, so we interested ourselves in viewing the beauties of the cathedral and listening to the music. The Milwaukee branch is in a very good, healthy condition, and we have very encouraging prospects before us. One of the noveltles of this city, just now, is the conversion of a baseball park into a skating park. The grounds have had a small embankment thrown up around quite a large area, and within those limits water has been poured from the water mains until it is completely covered with water which soon Then the gates are freezes solid. thrown open to the anxious public who go and pay an entrance fee of fifteen cents and enjoy a good skate. A band of music is in attendance which converts the sheet of ice into a place of amusement very much like a dancing pavilion, and large crowds patronize it every evening. The weather has been quite cold for several days, but we have had only about two inches of snow in this part of the State thus far.

# STAKE CONFERENCES.

### Fremont Stake.

Rexburg. Idaho., Dec., 27.-The regu-lar quarterly conference of Fremont Stake convened in Rexburg, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 23rd and 24th. There were present on the stand of the council of Apostles, Francis M. Lyman and John Henry Smith. Elder Stephen A. Smith, of Colorado, who is laboring in Fremont Stake in the interest of Mu-tual Improvement, the Stake presi-dency, some of the High Council, Bishops and quorum and organization presiients were also present.

The reports given by the Stake presidency and Bishops were encouraging and showed the Stake and wards generally, in good condition. Elder Steohen A. Smith reported that considerable interest was being awakened among the Mutual Improvement organizations of the Stake

The principles of the Gospel were ably expounded by the speakers, and much valuable instruction was given on the subject of education, the paying of tithes and offerings, the necessity of our fulfilling all our obligations both to the Lord and to our fellow men. The people were urged to get out of debt and to stay out. Elder Francis M. Ly-man showed the necessity of proper records being kept in the Stakes, Wards and in all organizations.

A new Bishopric was organized and set apart for the Lyman ward, and the Stake superintendency of Mutual Improvement was reorganized. The attendance on Saturday morning

was very light, but the other meetings were fairly well attended and a good spirit prevailed throughout the entire conference. A. M. CARHINE, Stake Clerk.

### Malad Stake.

Malad City, Idaho, Dec. 29, 1899 .-The regular quarterly conference of the Malad Stake of Zion was held at Fielding, December 17th and 18th, 1899. There were present Elder Francis M. Lyman and Rudger Clawson, of the Council of Apostles; Rulos S. Wells, of the first Council of Seventies; the Stake authorities and many Bishops and leading members of the Stake. The brethren who spoke advised the Saints to be punctual in attending all the du-ties placed upon them, and if circumstances were such that any of the brethren could not attend to their duties, that they should resign in order. that others who could attend might be appointed.

Elder W. H. Gibbs reported the Stake He said that the tithing had increased considerably this year although crops were much lighter. William Oliver Halford was called and set apart to fill the vacancy in the High Council Bishop Enoch Harris, having removed from the Portage ward, resigned the position and James H. Gibbs was appointed to fill the vacancy, with John F. Conley as first and James W. How-

ell as second counselors. The following brethren were sustained as home missionaries: Charles Uday, Frank Brune, Frank

Walker, Charles J. Smith, William Halford, David Parkenson, David H. Thomas, T. W. Howard, Benjamin Waldron and William E. Morse.

William Anthony was released as Stake clerk and clerk of the High Council, and Thomas P. Johns was selected to fill the vacancy. F. E. JONES, Clerk pro tem.

Maricopa Stake.

Mesa, Maricopa Co. A. T., December 26th, 1899. To the Editor:

in the city of Arnhim and vicinity and also in the Amsterdam conference. He reports the mission in an exceedingly flourishing condition.

Elder John Hansen, Jr., of Riverton, Salt Lake Co., was set apart for mis-sionary work in the Eastern States, on the 20th of April, 1897, and returned home on the 30th of December last. He abored nine months of the time in Minesota, and finished in Chicago. The mission, he reports, is prosperous in the parts visited by him. Sister Marine Hansen was set apart for a mission to Chicago on the 13th of October, 1899. She returned in company with her husband. She says she enjoyed her labors in the ministry very much.

Elder Thomas Blake, of South Jordan, Salt Lake Co., returned home on the 26th of December last, from a mission to England. He was set apart on the 3rd of December, 1897. His field of labor was the Manchester conference, where, he says, he met with fair Success.

Elder Joseph R. Morrell, of Logan. Cache Co., who was appointed on the 18th of August, 1897, for a mission to East Tennessee, returned from there on the 30th of December, last. Elder Morrell was at Knoxville at the time the Elders were arrested for preaching in the streets. He says the incident served to make many friends for the Elders, as is generally the case with measures of persecution.

Elder Charles H. Davis, of Vernon, Uintah county, returned home on the 26th of Dec., last, from a mission to Wales. He was set apart on the 7th of Octobar, 1897, and enjoyed his labors in the missionary field very much. The work in that part is growing.

Elder Albert Jeffries, of Grantsville, Toosle, county, returned home on the 28th of December, last, from a mission to Florida. He was set apart on the 18th of August, 1897. He says he found many friends in that part of the world, and he expects encouraging progress there for the cause of the Gospel.

Elder David Jackson, of Randolph, Rich county, was set apart on the 21st of October, 1897, to labor as a missionary in Indian Territory. He returned after a successful mission, on the 24th of this month. That part of the field, he says, is in a good condition. The Elders have many friends, and the people generally are kind and hospita-

Elder R. M. Robinson, of Grantsville, Tooele county, was set apart on the 17th of December, 1897, for missionary work in the Florida conference. He returned, after a successful mission, on the the 23rd of this month. He says he has much enjoyed his labors as a min-lster of the Lord.

Elder M. E. Kartchner Jr. of Provo City, Utah Co., was set apart on the 16th of Sept., 1897, for a mission to Florida. He met with much success there, especially in Sunday school work, in which he was engaged the latter part of the time. He returned home on the 22nd of Dec., last.

Elder Fred Brain of the Twentieth ward, this city, was set apart on the 15th of Sept., 1897, for a mission to the Southern States. He returned home on the 23rd of Dec. last, after having labored first in Kentucky and then in West Virginia. He says he met with some opposition, but nothing of a serious nature.

Elder George A. Peterson, of the Sec-ond ward, this city, returned home on

special event occurred which put its mark on Philip's work in Milton and became a part of its web and woof had been played. Other persons in the congregation felt more or less hurt by the plain way Philip had spoken, espehard thing to tell, but necessary to re. cially the members who took and read late as best one may. He came home late one evening from church meeting, letting himself into the Sunday paper. They went away feeling that, while much that he said was true, there was too much strictness in the minister's view of the whole subject. This feeling grew as days went on. People said Philip did not know all the facts in regard to people's business and the complications the parsonage with his night key, and not seeing his wife in the sitting room, where she was in the habit of reading and sewing, he walked on into the and sewing, he wanted on into the small sewing room, where she some, times sat at special work, thinking to find her there. She was not there, and

which necessitated Sunday work and so forth These were the beginnings of trou-blesome times for Philip. The trial of the saloon keeper was coming on in a ew days, and Philip would be called

to witness in the case. He dreaded it with a nervous dread peculiar to his sensitive temper. Nevertheless he went on with his church work, studying the problem of the town, endearing him-self to very many in and out of his church by his manly, courageous life and feeling the heartache grow in him as the sin burden of the place weighed heavier on him. Those were days when Philip did much praying, and his regular preaching, which grew in pow-er with the common people, told the story of his night vigils with the Christ

he adored.

It was at this particular time that a [TO BE CONTINUED.]

Phillp opened the kitchen door and in culred of the servant, who sat there reading, where his wife was. "I think she went up stairs a little

while ago," was the reply. Philip went at once up stairs into his study and to his alarm found that his wife had fainted. She lay on the floor

in front of his desk. As Philip stooped to raise her he noticed two pieces of paper, one of them addressed to "The

Preacher" and the other to "The Preacher's Wife." They were anony, mous scrawls, threatening the lives of

the minister and his wife. On his desk,

driven deep into the wood, was a large knife. Then said Philip with a prayer, "Verily an enemy hath done this."



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Wallace, while the music of the occa-sion was furnished by the Misses Hanson and the Mutual Quartet and Miss Rawlins read an appropriate seranged from 100 to 109 in the shade. Refreshments were served, and the rest of the evening spent in an informal way. Throughout the hostess, Sister Nye, who did the honors for the mis-

sion, and Sister Cline, assisted by the young ladies, saw to the comfort and pleasure of all present, and as the guests departed happy wishes for the ood health at present. The "News" is a constant and wel-

On If anyone has friends or relatives in meeting of the association occurred and as it was a fair example of the interest being manifest in the lectures and discussions, in spreading the Gospel ou may pardon the space intrusion, to

HENRY G. GREENSIDES.

with Christ in the watery grave and was confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Sept. 11th, 1899. I am 76 years of age. and have for the last five years, prior to said date, been suffering from a weak chest and could not relish my food, and was wholly unfit for work of any kind. But the second day after being baptized I helped my daughter-in-law with a large washing, and now feel like a new woman. I have undergone a wonderful change, for which I praise God. "I know that this is the kingdom of

THE MISSIONARY FIELDS

Testimonies to the Truth.

Parramatta, New South Wales,

It is now some time since I wrote to

the "News" last, and knowing that

many of our brethren and sisters anxiously scan the columns of the "Church Intelligence" department, in

order to acquaint themselves with the

labors of the Elders in the various na-

Since writing you last I have been given a new field of labor, being trans-

ferred from the Victorian conference to labor as traveling Elder in the New South Wales conference, in company

with Elder John B. Mathlas of Brig-ham City, Utah, with whom I left home April 2nd, 1898. We have had many

experiences of late, which have a ten-

dency to strengthen our testimony and

faith in God's work, as well as in the Gospei. On Sept. 11th last we had the

pleasure of leading to the waters of

joined letter was sent me a few days

ago, and explains itself: "To all whom it may concern:-I wish

to bear my humble testimony to the

world, of the blessings I have received

through obedience to the pure and sim-

Lord and Savior, restored again to the earth through the Prophet Joseph Smith. When the first 'Mormon' Ei-

der came to my door and was talking

with my daughter-in-law, I was im-

pressed that he was a servant of God as his words were healing to my soul,

and consequently, as I was seeking af-

ter truth, investigated with a prayerful

Saints, and when convinced of the truth,

and friends advised me to have noth-ing to do with those 'dreadful Mor-

that they were true, although my folks

I went forth and was buried

art the teachings of the Latter-day

ordinances of the Gospel of our

aplism an aged sister, whose

tions of the world, I pen these lines.

To the Editor:

Australia, Dec. 4, 1899.

God, and I am not ashamed to be called a 'Mormon,' and share trials and persecutions with my brothers and sisters for the cause of truth.

"I trust my experience and testimony will lead some honest souls to investi-gate and enter the fold. I have seen some wonderful visions. At one time while I was sick in bed and thought I was going to die, the Lord placed His hand upon my head, I saw and felt the hand and heard a voice say: 'Draw nigh, my child, and I will bless

you.' "The hand was surrounded by beautiful light. I arose from my bed and stood on the floor and walked two steps and from that time got better.

CATHERINE SMAGG." One of the visions spoken of in the above letter was related to me in detail

The sister was reading the Book of Mormon and expressed her earnest de-sire to know if the book was a divine record or not. I gave her my testimony and referred to James 1: 5, 6; also to Moroni 10: 4, and when I again visited her, she told me she had followed my advice and had asked of God, and related to me the following dream or vision: "Before retiring to rest that evening you were here I kneeled down by my bedside and prayed for God's guidance. During the night I saw in my sleep a beautiful, large white stone building, situated in the top of a large I also saw thousands of mountain. people gathering to this mountain, coming from all nations of the world. All seemed to be happy as they hurried on, pointing to the mountain ahead of them,"

I then explained the doctrine of gathering of Israel, and called her at-tention to Isaiah 2: 2, 3, also to Micha 4: 1, 2. I showed her my album of views of Utah. When she saw the Salt Lake Temple she exclaimed in astonishment: "Why, there is the house I saw in my dream." A few days later when I called, upon my weekly rounds, she told me that God had shown her that Joseph Smith was a Prophet indeed and that the Book of formon was true.

This sister was born in France and raised in the Roman Catholic church. She emigrated to Australia a few years ago. On October 10th my companion and I started into the interior of the country without purse or scrip. When we had been out three days we ister, who, when he learned who we flew into a rage and tried to get asked us if we believed signs followed

He then asked us to wait and he would hour debate upon the principles of the "I shall fight you to a finish hand

bore him our testimonles and epread. On November 19th, we visited the neighborhood in which our friend, the minister, resided. We found the people quite bitter towards us, but to our

To the Editor:

things which go to make up a missionary life, was the entertainment on Christmas night given by the Mutual Improvement association of this city, The mission house was prettily decorated, the Elders from outlying dis-tricts invited and refreshments prepared by the young ladies.

Throughout the State these societies

Arising early on the Sabbath morning all feeling well, we spent the day sing ing hymns and talking over our labors

Tuesday following the regular

permit a closing remark on its efficiency in that way. The association in the

past has always taken part in improv-

ing the general status of Gospel knowledge-but the very general ac-ceptance of the free invitation to

strangers and investigators to attend the meetings is bearing fruit in the

numbers attracted and who remain

In West Virginia.

There are four Elders laboring in Lincoln county at present; and as De-

cember made its appearance we met

at the residence of J. W. Adkins, who

a local Elder, presiding over the

After the place of gathering was de-

cided upon, and a program had been

arranged, we sent an invitation to all

the Saints in this county and then took

our departure again into new fields, with a determination of doing all we

could in sowing the seeds of truth be-

After spending two weeks traveling

among strangers, we again met at J. W

Your Brother

through

To the Editor

Big Loral branch.

fore the holidays.

teners

each meeting attentive lis-

HARRY D. HAINES.

of the past until quite a late hour. When the hour of 10 a. m. Christmas day arrived the people began to gather; but on account of it being cold, not so many came as we had anticipated. Meeting was called to order by Elder M. Ross. After singing and prayer Elder M. A. Ross and others addressed

the assembly on topics suggested by the season. At 12 o'clock the dinner was served. The surface of West Virginia is very rough, and one could not think of the many different kinds of fruit its soil

produces until he is called upon to partake of a Christmas dinner. After dinner innocent games were indulged in, and songs, etc., until the sun was sinking beneath the western hori-zon, when the Saints and friends began to leave for their homes, feeling that they had had an enjoyable time. Th evening was spent in singing songs and

"News" is a welcome visitor and The a great help in allaying prejudice and bringing to light that which has been in darkness

Your brethren in the Gospel, W. C. FIELD. M. A. ROSS.

E. G. CHENEY. J. D. ROUNDY. In Sweden.

Kristianstad, Sweden, November 10th, 1899.

To the Editor: It may be of interest to the readers of the "News" to hear something from the southern part of Sweden, where I have been laboring as a missionary for the past seven months. When I arrived in Sweden last April, after having been assigned my field of labor, I was given the privilege of first visiting my relatives and old friends, whom I had

not seen for 25 years, before be-ginning my labors. I spent a very pleasant month hunting up and visiting them, and bearing my testimony to them; also gathering up genealogies of a great many of my ancestors. In Kristianstad's branch of the Church, to which I was assigned to labor, there are 105 members, but they are scattered over a large portion of

the country, and as we are only three missionaries in this branch, it is nearly impossible to visit them all. We are traveling and preaching the Gospel constantly, and still we have more appointments to hold meetings than we can fill. We baptized several persons last summer and we had the pleasure of leading one honest soul in-

Elder Andreas Peterson, pres-

COT

The quarterly conference of the Maricopa Stake, convened in the Stake taber-Sunday morning, at 10 a. m., December 24th, 1899, Elder Collins R. Heakes presiding. On account of the day following being Christmas it was decided to hold conference but one day and the business portion of the confer-ence was attended to first. The Bishops reluctantly. of the various wards reported the people as being in a healthy and prosperous condition.

Elders Thos. R. Condie, Lewis Hobson and M. A. Stewart occupied the remaining part of the forenoon speaking upon the principles of the Gospel, en-couraging the Saints to keep the commandments of the Lord. At 2 p. m. the meeting opened again and Brother Ly-man Leavitt of the Pine ward made a few remarks, after which Elder A. F. Macdonald of Old Mexico, who was the first president of Maricopa Stake, took up the time in a discourse upon the doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the present events of history as a fulfill-ment of Bible prophecy. The congregation enjoyed a musical as well as a spiritual feast, listening to the beauti-ful songs rendered by the Mesa choir, under the direction of the Maeser sisters,

Conference adjourned for three months.

We had very beautiful weather to hold our conference as there has been very little frost, and the days were exceedingly pleasant. The people have been blessed with good crops the past year. The orange crop, which has just been gathered, is the best in the history of the valley, the first car being shipped to Chicago November 10th, 1899. The future prospects of this section appear very flattering at present.

GEO. A. MACDONALD, Clerk.

## **RETURNED MISSIONARIES**

Elder John E. Groberg, of Far West, Weber county, was set apart on the 7th of October, 1897 for a mission to Sweden. He labored in the city of Gothenburg, in the Gothenburg conference, for on year, after which he was called to labor in Stockholm conference, laboring in Orebro and Upsala branches, The Sweedish mission is in a prosperous condition. He returned on Novemtiny ber 26, 1899.

Elder John P. Lofgren, of Lynne ward, Ogden, was set apart on the 7th of October, 1897, for a mission to Sweden. His field of labor was the Gothenburg and Stockholm conferences, where the mission is in a prosperous condition. He returned home on November 26, day speaking of divine things to the 1899.

City, was set apart for missionary work in Kentucky, on the 18th of November, 1897. He labored the first eighteen months in the Kentucky conference, and then in the office at Chattanooga, Tenn. He reports the mission in good condition. He returned home on the 20th of December last.

Elder George J. Shurtliff, of Louisville, Idaho, was set apart on the 3rd of November, 1897, to labor as a missionary in the Ohio conference. He came home from the mission field, on the 23rd of December, last, feeling well in every respect.

Idaho, was set apart on the 3rd of November, 1897, for missionary labor in western New York conference. He returned home from that field on the 4th of December, last, after a successful mission

Fork, was set apart on the 18th of September, 1897, to labor as a missionary in the Virginia conference. He re-turned on the 2nd of this month, having enjoyed good health during his absence. and found many friends.

