

J. W. Francom and Wm. E. Abbott, Jasper, Newton Co., Ill.

G. M. Pickup and J. D. Bradshaw, Effingham, Effingham Co., Ills.

D. A. Morris and J. W. McKay, Carlyle, Clinton Co., Ills.

J. W. Hicks and F. W. Jones, Xenia, Clay Co., Ills.

W. L. Winn and Jos. S. Phillips, Ramsey, Fayette Co., Ills.

D. M. Guest and F. R. Heppler, Olney, Richland, Co., Ills.

D. P. Stephens and J. A. Coon, Mt. Sterling, Brown Co., Ills.

Edwin S. Sheets, Vienna, Johnson Co., Ills.

EZRA CHRISTIANSEN,
Clerk of Conference.

TRAVELING UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

Belen, Quitman County, Miss.,
February 27, 1898.

After our conference which was held January 29th and 30th, 1898, in Pontoloc county, Miss., Elder Orosly L. Martin and myself were assigned to labor in Quitman county, Miss. We thought we were somewhat favored in being appointed to labor together, as we both came in the mission field together. When we reached the edge of our county we found that we had eighteen miles of bottoms or swamps to cross before we could get to where the people lived and that it was very muddy and dangerous crossing this time of the year. If a storm should come up we might have to climb a tree and take chances on a boat coming along and picking us up, which has been the case more than once with people who have got caught in a storm in these overflowed districts. But we hoped that Providence would not permit us to run into too great danger without forewarning us, so we made the start into the woods and swamps. We were quite particular at first about getting our feet wet, but presently we splashed through the mud and water over our shoe tops till 1 o'clock in the afternoon when we came to a bayou the other side of which we could not reach without swimming. We could not do that and keep our clothes dry so we started back on a different road to what we went in on. After traveling it about four miles it intercepted another road. We decided that this was our road and that we had been lost. This revived us somewhat and we made another start. After traveling all day on a somewhat better road to that of the morning, we came to Captain William Hall's, who served in the cavalry under General Forester. Although he was crowded for room, having ten men building new houses for his tenants, yet he took us in and made us welcome. We stopped with him till after dinner the next day and made an earnest investigator of him. We left him tracts and a Voice of Warning and he promised to purchase a Book of Mormon as soon as he gets settled in his new house. After dinner we again made our way through slush and mud for four miles, when we came to the mouth of Cold Water river. The ferry boat was partly sunk, having sprung a leak the night before, but the ferryman was very generous and put us over the river in a skiff free of charge. We then made our way up the river four miles to a settlement where we stopped for three days and held meetings, distributed tracts and sold a number of books. We again followed up the river four more miles to the next settlement, River Side, formerly the county seat of this county. Here we found one of the finest plantations we have seen in the South, something over four miles in length and two miles wide, owned by a Jew, a rich planter, Lepolian Marks. Mr. Marks received us very kindly and appeared to know more about our mode

of travelling than most people of the South who are accustomed to our Elders, though he had never seen any of them before. When we informed him of our business he granted us the use of a fine church building, in which he owned a half interest. He also said that he would see that it was properly prepared for us with lights and fire. He paid our bill at the hotel for six days while we preached the Gospel to the people and disposed of much literature.

Our next place was the county seat. We first called on the sheriff, who granted us the use of the court house before we applied for it. This is a very fine brick building recently built. Court convenes the first Monday in next month, when a great many people will be in the city from the surrounding country, when we expect to begin our meetings. We then called at the residence of Mr. John A. Cooper, the mayor, whose welcome guests we are at the present time.

JAMES A. LEE,
North Alabama Conference.

IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Gainesboro, Tenn., Feb 21, 1898.

Having many friends at home and being unable to write them separately as I would like, I take the liberty of writing them through the columns of your valuable paper, which is highly esteemed each week by my companion and I, yea, even all the Elders of Israel.

May 17, 1897, I left my home in Fillmore, Utah, in answer to a call made of me, by those in authority, to take a mission to the Southern states, and there do the will of the Father, by publishing the Gospel of Christ which is salvation unto the obedient. On May 27, 1897, I was assigned to the Middle Tennessee conference as my field of labor. Soon after my arrival I came to the conclusion that missionary work was anything but pleasure, and that reports from returned Elders were published so as to encourage the youth in this work. But what a grand mistake I made through not having the experience at that time, which all should have so as to realize the beauty of being a soldier for the cross; for preaching Christ, and Him crucified to this people, brings joy to the heart, contentment to the mind, and satisfaction to the soul. One consolation to all of us who are not proficient in this work is to know that in every Gospel dispensation the all-wise Creator took the weak things of the world to confound the mighty, and the foolish to overcome the wise. And should we falter when the greatest of God's servants were poor fishermen by the sea of Galilee? We are continually sowing the seed of that plant which will by and by flourish and blossom forth in sweet flowers to brighten the rugged pathway of life, that testimonies for truth will take the place of doubt, so as to know of the doctrine whether it be of God or man.

The people are becoming acquainted with the Elders of Israel; and the prejudice that at one time existed in their hearts is fast being removed and kindness enters in its stead. Many can see they have been and are at the present time taught the commandments and theories of man, who only have a form of Godliness but deny the power thereof. While at home a young man may not appreciate the Gospel in its fullness and purity; after seeing what the sectarian world offers we come to the conclusion they have nothing.

General Jackson was a great man, but no more so than are the inhabitants of Jackson county, where Elder James H. Yardley and the writer are laboring at the present time. Unless each neighbor gives us an invitation home at the close of meeting, he is not

up to times. Churches and school houses, we have free access to, and most of the time a good many to hear us explain our faith, or that of our Fathers, of which we are ambassadors. It is impossible to do as much as the people would like, for they want us everywhere. One of the conversions which I witnessed the other day has a similitude of that on the day of Pentecost while Peter spoke by the power of God; while preaching several days ago, the spirit of the Lord came on a lady in such force that she came and wished to be baptized; making four honest souls I have had the privilege of taking into the water while here. Of course some who have crafts in danger are trying to condemn and overthrow our doctrine by telling something they have read concerning our people in dime novels. But the more they find fault the more friends we have. It is impossible to overshadow the work of the all-powerful God.

Our worthy leader, Elder N. P. Nelson of Spring City, Utah, is fast improving this conference, and his timely letters are gratifying to us.

Any one having friends or relatives in this part wishing them to be called upon can write to,

JAMES A. KELLY,
Gainesboro, Jackson Co., Tennessee.

WAYNE STAKE CONFERENCE

The Wayne Stake quarterly conference convened at Loa, Wayne county, Utah, February 26 and 27, 1898.

There were present of the Council of Apostles, Elder George Teasdale; the Stake Presidency, Bishops, High Councilors, and Patriarchs E. H. Blackburn and F. W. Young. Elder Willis E. Robison, president of the Stake, presided.

After the usual devotional exercises, Elder Willis E. Robison made a report of the Stake, in which he stated the health of the people was good and that they had never been in better financial circumstances than at present. The Priesthood are faithful in the performance of their duties, and the Stake is in a thrifty and prosperous condition.

The Fremont, Lyman, Thurber, Giles, Caineville, Teasdale and Loa wards were reported by Bishops H. E. Maxfield, P. J. Christensen, M. W. Mansfield, Levi C. White, W. E. Hanks, George Coleman and Benj. F. Brown respectively. The reports showed the wards to be in good condition, meetings fairly attended. Fast offering and tithing donations were paid more freely than in the past. The ward organizations are in good running order, people building on the new townsites selected, good feelings prevailing, and the various quorums of the Priesthood are doing efficient work.

Elder George Teasdale complimented the Saints for their industry, and spoke briefly upon the law of tithing and other subjects.

At the afternoon session Patriarch F. W. Young reported the condition of the High Priests' quorum, home missionaries and his labors as Patriarch.

Elder Joseph Eckersley reported the Sunday schools to be in a very good condition.

Elder Seth Taft reported the religion classes in operation as doing well.

Elders William I. Callahan, Andrew Sander, Chas. P. Okerland, Ivin J. Turner, William A. Keele, James P. Knight and Peter A. Akelund then addressed the congregation.

Other speakers were Elder Hans M. Hansen of the Stake presidency and Elder George Teasdale.

The latter bore testimony that the Lord would send a desolating sickness to purify the children of Zion, and scarcely should the righteous escape. He pleaded with the youth of Zion to