

the glorification of God, was told, and the lesson applied to our day. In closing the speaker bore a strong testimony to the divinity of the Gospel.

Four priesthood meetings were held during the time we were together. Each Elder gave a brief report of the work being accomplished, and it was truly gratifying to note the manner in which the Lord had blessed our labors. After the report by the brethren, Elder Kimball gave us the following valuable instructions: If the Elders will live lives of purity and cultivate the companionship of the Holy Ghost, friends will be raised up on every hand, the scriptures will be open to their understanding, and they will do a great work while on their missions. Do not tear down the creeds of others, but preach the pure principles of truth in simplicity, for this is the commandment of the Lord, preach the first principles and leave the mysteries alone. Study the mode of presenting the principles to the people and much good will come of it. Do not tire the people with too long meetings, but be to the point. The Elders should be broad and charitable to others, so that the same spirit would be shown to them. We should not debate with ministers of religion because nothing good comes from such work. Our duties are not only preaching, but teaching as well those things that will lead the people to be better in their every day duties. Especially should we seek to show the benefits of the Word of Wisdom. The appearance of each one should be the very best that circumstances will allow. Since there has been more attention paid to this matter the Elders have been well treated in localities where before they were insulted. The Gospel should be preached without purse or script. It has been practically shown that this can be done and the blessings of God will attend those who will follow out this commandment. There are those in this conference who have been mightily blessed by going without money. Leave no unfulfilled promises. Much harm is done by returning Elders promising to write to the people and then not doing it.

All the Elders could not convene at Brother Crotty's, so to meet with them on November 24th, Elders Brinton and Rydalch made a pleasant little walk of about 150 miles to Brother J. W. Adkins at Jinks, Lincoln county. The brethren in attendance who were not at Concord were Heber W. Beers, William J. Glade, William N. Casper, William D. Elder, Henry Bartholomew, Matthew Spiers, Isaac H. Langston and Charles A. Higglison. Elders Tolman and Warlock also arrived from Mercer county on the 23rd. Owing to force of opposing circumstances, Elders William H. Burrows and Bion D. Wilcox were unable to be with us.

Two Priesthood meetings were held at which instructions adapted to their conditions were given the brethren, the same as given by Elder Kimball.

At 2 p. m., November 25th, a meeting was held with the Saints and friends at Jinks. The church was kindly tendered to us, and a profitable time was enjoyed. The time was occupied by Elders Glade, Rydalch and Brinton on the atonement, faith and repentance. The same kind treatment

was received here as in Mercer county, and long shall we appreciate the hospitality of Brother Adkins and family and Mr. Joseph B. Stump and family.

Since conference began Elders Elias S. Woodruff, of Salt Lake City, and W. H. Mansell, of Kayaville, have arrived and were assigned to Kentucky as their field of operations.

The future fields of labor and addressees of the brethren are:

Samuel Brinton and W. E. Rydalch, Charleston, West Virginia.

Orlando Bradley and C. B. Smith, Union, Monroe Co., West Virginia.

H. E. Taylor and J. S. Campbell, Concord Church, Mercer Co., West Virginia.

Geo. T. Taylor and John G. Pearl, Greenup, Greenup Co., Ky.

H. H. Cluff and Elias S. Woodruff, Cattlesburg, Boyd Co., Ky.

H. H. Hindley and W. H. Mansell, Louisa, Lawrence Co., Ky.

Judson Tolman and I. H. Langston, Sandy Hook, Elliott Co., Ky.)

Herbert W. Beers and F. G. Warnick, Ineg, Martin Co., Ky.

W. J. Glade and Matthew Spiers, Paintsville, Johnson Co., Ky.

Chas. A. Higglison and W. D. Elder, Grayson, Carter Co., Ky.

W. H. Burrows and B. D. Wilcox, Vanceburg, Lewis Co., Ky.

Henry Bartholomew and W. N. Casper, revisiting and teaching the Saints in the canvassed counties of Raleigh, Boone, Wyoming, Logan and Lincoln.

Nearly our entire force will begin canvassing Kentucky, but a sufficient number will be kept in this state to perform all necessary duties. The conference will be known as the West Virginia conference.

The following is a synopsis of the work accomplished from April 1 to Nov. 1, 1895: Families visited, 11,218; tracts distributed, 12,443; refused testimonies of the Elders, 560; refused entertainment, 936; miles walked, 14,231; meetings held, 223; Voices of Warning given away, 144; Sunday schools organized, 1; baptisms, 34; children blessed, 28; number of Elders increased from 12 to 22; number of Saints emigrated, 10; new counties opened, 12; counties closed, 15; counties belonging to the Southern States mission yet to be closed, 2.

From the report it will be seen that the Elders are laboring with much zeal. There is a spirit of cheerful obedience to counsel and a unity of purpose in spreading the glad tidings of great joy, that is very pleasing. Not only is this the case in our conference, but throughout the entire mission there is a determination among the brethren to do their whole duty as God gives them light.

It will surely give much satisfaction to the presiding authorities to know that the laborers in the Southern States mission are being very well received and entertained by the people. The most influential men in the neighborhoods where we have been working, have been our kindest friends and many of the best houses of worship have been opened to us. Bounteously has the Lord blessed us, and gradually are we beginning to be looked upon as indeed his servants. The Saints go home from our general conferences filled with a new determination to serve the Almighty in spirit

and in truth, and be better men and women thenceforth. So our Elders in the missionary fields go to their places of labor from our conferences imbued with the spirit of their calling, with renewed faith, and a resolve to press forward in the work of the ministry. 'Tis truly a privilege much appreciated to meet as a band of brethren and listen to the cheering words of counsel of our worthy president. The Elders in their testimonies expressed themselves as fully sustaining the authorities both at home and abroad. The earnest labors of Elder Kimball are much valued by us, and we feel to work diligently, so that his brightest hopes for the future of the Southern States mission may be realized, and that truth may be sown broadcast upon the earth.

Ever praying for the welfare of Zion, we are,

Your brethren in the Gospel,
SAMUEL BRINTON, President,
W. E. RYDALCH, Clerk.

P. S.—The brethren of this conference appreciate your kindness in sending them the NEWS. Each week it is welcome, and through its instrumentality many are being enlightened in the plan of salvation.

BANNOCK STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Bannock Stake of Zion was held in the music hall, Rexburg, Sunday and Monday, Dec. 8 and 9. Two meetings were held each day at the usual hours. There were present on the day Elder John Henry Smith, of the Quorum of Apostles; the Stake presidency, Patriarchs, High Councillors and Bishops.

After usual opening exercises President Thos. E. Ricks reported the travels of the Stake presidency for the first three months. All the wards had been visited since last conference and all our organizations are in good condition. Bishops reported their wards in satisfactory condition.

Elder John Henry Smith was the principal speaker Sunday. He discoursed upon the duties of the Saints to take care of the poor, of the privileges attending the observance of fast days; particularly he dwelt upon the spiritual phase of the institution of the fast day, it being a great educational part of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the afternoon he treated upon the evidences of the existence of Deity and the attributes of the Almighty and showed how it was in the reach of all to obtain a testimony of these things.

Other speakers expounded to the Saints the principles of the Gospel and exhorted to lives of righteousness.

Monday President Joseph F. Smith and Elder Benjamin Cluff joined us in conference. The latter was our first speaker. He had known for a long time that the Gospel was true; spoke of our mission on earth, our free agency and the grand philosophical character of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The systems of the greatest scientists are incomparable with the truths of the Gospel revealed through Joseph Smith. He encouraged young men to seek the path of success by surmounting temptation.

President Joseph F. Smith was grateful for the opportunity of visiting the Saints, it being the first time he