

uphill work to hold meetings on any other day. But we have been quite successful at some places during the week.

In getting the statistical report of this island, I find 53 Elders, 14 Priests, 21 Teachers, 18 Deacons; a total of Priesthood, 106; lay members, male, 276; female, 325; children under 8 years, 138. Total, 845; baptism of new members in 1896, adults, male, 20; female, 21; children, 7; children blessed, 27; excommunication, male 2; female 1; deaths, adults, male 14; female 14; children 2; births, male 13; female 6; rebaptism 5.

Since arriving on this is and in October last, there have been 33 baptized and 18 children blessed. We have also ordained 8 to the Priesthood, and reorganized two branches.

We have had our faith strengthened many times by seeing the sick made whole through their faith and our administering to them. As we, like the apostles of old, have received the authority, for which we are very thankful.

We have much cause to rejoice in our labors, being well cared for; the people being pleased to have us call on them and explain the message which we bear, and teach them concerning the glorious truths of the Gospel of life.

We meet with very little opposition. We feel to thank God for choosing us as ambassadors to labor among this people, and warn them of the judgments that are about to overwhelm the wicked.

N. T. HATCH,
WM. D. HILL.

CONFERENCE IN TEXAS.

Our Conference convened February 12th and ended February 15th, 1897, Buda, Hays County, Texas was our place of meeting.

Elder A. C. Dalley, president of the conference, presided. During the several meetings the Elders spoke in a spirited manner on the various principles of the gospel. Some remarkable testimonies respecting traveling without purse or scrip were borne, how that by fasting and prayer and strict obedience of the Elders to the rules of the mission and to general instructions, the Lord had opened up the way before them.

Notwithstanding the fact that in the little town where we held conference, there were no Saints the Elders were kindly entertained.

At the close of conference expressions of regret were manifested by many, and eyes were moistened by a falling tear. One good lady said, "I cannot for the life of me see how a Christian could refuse to entertain Mormon Elders." She said if she could have provided room she would willingly have cared for all. Similar expressions of hospitality were made by many other of our friends. The husband of the lady mentioned is a blacksmith; and indeed it is a peculiar feature, that blacksmiths and carpenters rarely ever refuse to entertain our Elders.

Several of the Saints came twenty miles by train to attend our conference, and she hastened home to prepare for a series of meetings to be held in this place, when our mission president, Elder Andrew Kimball, accompanied by Elders Dalley and Miner, who visited the city of San Antonio, enroute, called in to visit the Saints here who could not attend conference.

Elder A. C. Dalley who has been president of the conference eighteen

months was honorably released from that position and was accorded a vote of thanks and expression of the kindest appreciation of his brethren. He and Elder Miner who has been here a little over two years, were called to act as general Meteoric Elders, with the pleasant labor before them of visiting all the Elders and Saints of this conference, and the Elders of the other conferences in the mission, before returning home.

Elder Hiram Andrew was called to succeed Elder Dalley as president of this conference.

Buda is a pretty little town of about two hundred inhabitants, situated on the line of the I. & G. N. R. R., about fifteen miles south of Austin, the capital of the Great Lone Star State, is also a supply point for a large farming district in a beautiful agricultural country. The Christian Church was kindly accorded us for our conference. Soon after Elder Kimball's arrival, all the Elders excepting Elders Hansen and White, came in. They, it is presumed, had not received knowledge of our meeting in time. The older Elders are well up in the line of their duty; some have arrived since we were visited by our former president, Elder Elias S. Kimball of the Southern States, of which mission we were a part until January 1st, 1897, when we were turned over to the I. T. Mission. All met their new president with a kind greeting, and accepted his counsel and instructions with the same kindly spirit in which they were given.

In connection with the various interesting public meetings, all the time that we could get between and after public services, was utilized to good advantage in council meetings.

Our public meetings increased in attendance with each session; the singing of course being a very interesting feature. At our last session closed, the building, with a seating capacity of about 200, was well filled. Some of the congregation came from seven miles around, and judging from the increased interest; no doubt of the conference had continued longer, many more who are cupious to hear Mormon doctrine and be entertained by good singing as well as preaching, would have been in attendance. Among the daily attenders of our meetings was a representative of the Hays County Times, who requested Elder Kimball to furnish him a synopsis of the entire conference, which he offered to gladly publish.

Elder A. C. Dalley our conference president, whom we are both to lose as such, and Elder M. O. Miner, who now leaves us, taking up their labors in a new sphere, give us an example of never failing faith and dependence in good. They canvassed the great capital city of this state. Austin with nearly 30,000 inhabitants, giving all an opportunity of receiving or rejecting the gospel message; and that, too, without purse or scrip, during which time they were refused entertainment, only fifteen times, and laid out a few times taking lodging with Uncle Sam. Their fasting was principally of their own volition for the purpose of prevailing with the Lord, they not even carried postage stamps with which to write and attend the clerical labors of the conference. At one time Elder Dalley had in the Post Office a roll of papers to be distributed among his Elders. There being three cents due, it could not be procured without the given amount. After fasting

and prayer, and while walking down the street they were accosted by a colored man who was in business and who said, "Hea, you fellows, I was gwine to do something for you for some time. Now that you have proved yourselves," with that expression he handed out three one cent pieces.

There is not room here, for it would take a volume to write down the numerous experiences of our Elders, wherein the Lord has opened up the way for them to get just what they needed.

Elders Chidester and Hansen reported having been the means in the hands of the Lord of converting a large neighborhood of people; but being troubled as to why they did not come into the Church, commenced a series of fasting and prayer, Sunday being a regular fast day with them, and not seeming to be a sufficient sacrifice to give them the necessary strength, they adopted Tuesday as an additional fast, resulting in the ice being broken, and several baptisms. Thursday was set apart as another fast day, with similar results, demonstrating to these young Elders that sacrifice, brings forth the blessings of Heaven.

Besides the kind of entertainment of the people with whom Elders Overson and Wilcox staid, money was given them on several occasions to meet their requirements. Lately Elder Coulam while traveling with his new companion, Elder Harris, was invited into a store and given, new shoes, hat, collar and tie; and Elder Miner received a whole suit on one occasion. Elders Smith and Nelson while traveling together have been unusually successful in obtaining churches of various denominations in which to preach. Last but not least of all Elder Kimball comes to tell us that for the first time in twelve years experience, directly or otherwise as a missionary, since the new method he has had money given him, and the way opened up marvelously for the consummation of his responsible duties while traveling through the mission.

The Elders are assigned to labor in their respective fields as follows: Elder Hiram Andrus and Elder Samuel R. Wilcox in Hays and Guadalupe county. With Sam Marcos, Hays county, as their address; Elders David P. Overson and Jens Hansen in Bastrop county with Bastrop, Bastrop county, as their address; Elders David Chidester and Orson P. Nelson in Caldwell county, with Lockhart Caldwell county as their address; Elders Fred Smith and John White in Travis county, with Austin Travis county as their address. Elders Joseph Coulam and Albert Harris in Gonzales county with Gonzales county as their address.

SAMUEL R. WILCOX.

A LETTER FROM NORWAY.

CHRISTIANIA NORWAY,
February 19th, 1897.

As your readers have previously been informed from the pen of our worthy president P. Anderson of the work being done in this the, now, "Land of Mid-day Darknes," perhaps a few items upon a different topic may prove of interest.

Owing to the lengthy winter of Norway her people have a better chance of participating in the sports of that season than any other country. Here in the southern part we have had sleighing