

close of the meeting Mr. Beattie came forward with a list of references to prove, as he had before stated, that John the Baptist and Elijah were the same; but he soon dropped that subject and began to abuse the Prophet Joseph Smith, only stopping when, as our friends remarked, "his neck was arched as a turkey gobbler's through rage." We then read from B. H. Roberts' Ecclesiastical History, the foot note "Was John the Elias?" thus giving the people the benefit of new revelation on a point through which much controversy has arisen.

Large crowds attended the four following meetings, when we closed a much successful series of meetings, and went to the neighborhood school-house. Here we were treated well, many of our friends driving from the district where we had before preached. Four meetings were held here at which some were fully convinced of the essentiality of baptism, and presented themselves to receive the ordinance; but they were not yet ready to embrace the Latter-day Saints' Church.

It is customary here for any one to administer in the ordinances of the Gospel, but we warn them of the authority necessary and advise them to investigate further, and we feel assured when spring opens up some few at least from this settlement will embrace the Gospel.

Returning to St. John we found all well. Next day Sunday we held a good Sunday school and two meetings all being well attended.

Since writing last our friend Mrs. George Breckenridge has built us a handsome pulpit in our meeting house; the ladies have given entertainment and donated a beautiful carpet for the stand, and altogether we have saved enough rage to make a home-made carpet for the aisles which we expect to have finished in about another week.

March winds and storms have made it impossible to travel much to Kansas, so all are busy getting up an entertainment to finish payment on our elegant chapel organ.

B. D. NEBEKER,  
ALVIN A. BEESLEY.

#### FROM SUNNY SAN JUAN.

Hon. F. A. Hammond, the venerable Pioneer from San Juan and the genial humorist of the State Constitutional Convention and all round enterprising and useful citizen, is up from his far-away home in the southeast where hardy settlers are subduing the wastes, building a commonwealth, keeping Dave Day's Indians on the other side of the Colorado line and supporting a band of renegades on this.

A News representative met Judge Hammond Friday and immediately sought an interview. The judge gracefully submitted and the following is the result: "We have," he said, "just passed through the driest winter in the history of the county. Not until right recently did we get any snow and then very little. As a result streams that were formerly large and springs that gave forth abundantly are now almost as devoid of moisture as a tinder box. The condition in this respect is such that the memory of the oldest citizen cannot recall anything like it. This drought promises to be very disastrous to our

stock interests on which we are dependent more than on anything else.

"But," continued the judge, "we are not allowing that to discourage us. We are going ahead just as though everything was full of promise; and it is for the matter of that, for San Juan is destined to be a great county. So we are preparing our ground, sowing our seed and pushing right ahead. We realize that unless we sow we cannot reap, and of course we want to reap, so we are attempting to do our part. Another thing: we are trying to help Salt Lake. For thirteen years we have been buying and hauling our goods from Durango, Colorado. Now we propose to patronize the chief city of our new State and by the loyal help we are getting from the Rio Grande we are going to succeed, too. And by the way, I met the first shipment of goods from Salt Lake on my way up here and it pleased me very much."

Concerning the gold placer operations on the San Juan river, Judge Hammond said: "I now have more sanguine hopes for their permanency and success than ever before. My confidence has been much strengthened on account of the good work being done by a New York company sixty miles below Bluff. This company is capitalized for \$10,000,000, and has put in an immense dam in the river, the first ever built of any consequence. How much money they are making I don't know, but it must be a great deal, as they are working sand that was formerly carried on pack mules for half a mile and hauled very profitably. At all other places on the river, and there are camps every ten miles or so along the stream, they are still operating, but under the most primitive methods. In the Blue mountains, nearer this way, some Salt Lake parties have some promising free gold properties. It is understood that they will erect a mill this summer. In case they do so it will mean that others will do the same thing later on."

Judge Hammond has every confidence in the future of San Juan county. It has 4,000,000 acres of land, one-fourth of which can be irrigated. All that is necessary to bring this result about is money; \$150,000 he says would be sufficient. The soil is the very best and raises fruit that will win prize awards wherever exhibited and a climate that is excellent. The people are with promises of success endeavoring to get a daily mail. The service up to date has been a semi-weekly one.

Asked as to how Dave Day and his Indians were faring, Judge Hammond replied that the people were happily enjoying a respite from both. The only trouble they have with Indians now is with seventy-five or a hundred renegades with which they had been afflicted for years. These should be given a small reservation of their own or be supported by the government. The settlers had cared for them about long enough.

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY.

SANTA CLARA, March 22, 1898.

Quite a calamity has befallen the people of Santa Clara within the past three weeks. The measles, in a very severe form, accompanied by sore throat, croup, nose-bleeding, vomiting

and other ailments, are now raging in the settlement. There are about forty-five cases of children that are down at the present time, and every day brings some new cases. Some families have five and six at a time, which makes it rather severe on the mothers. School has been suspended for a while.

Vernon Graf, a young man about 20 years of age, died of heart failure and dropsy. He was a very promising young man and was respected by all.

There is also another trial for the relatives of Brother Ryesaker. He is a little deranged in his mind and causes considerable looking after. The other day he left home and was gone twenty-four hours before he was found. He spent the night in roaming over the hills, and came home the next morning carrying a pair of shoes he had taken with him.

The fields are now very beautiful to look at. The grain and lucern are four to five inches high and the fruit trees are in bloom. The cottonwoods are leaving out and nature looks as though spring is here. The weather is extremely warm for this time of year and if we do not have some rain before long our crops as well as our stock will suffer.

A SUBSCRIBER.

#### REPORT FROM ALABAMA.

MOBILE, Ala., March 25, 1898.

Your valuable paper reaches us regularly, and I can assure you it is highly appreciated, because it contains so much information and news from the East, the West, and in fact all parts of the world; it is perused by Elders and friends with great interest, and I take this opportunity to thank you for it.

I have been in Mobile county a year and two months; being in the city the first three or four weeks when I first came; then Elder Porter and myself were assigned to the county; have since had Elders J. A. West, Ira Call, J. S. Gaudes and Heber Ricks for companions; on the 25th of January Elders E. L. Terry and Geo. E. Jarvis arrived here, Elder Ricks taking Brother Terry for a companion and Elder Jarvis myself. We began canvassing on the outskirts of the city, and I find there is not so much prejudice existing as there was a year ago. The trouble generally is the people have not got time to entertain us; so they do not find out the importance of our mission. We leave tracts with them wherever they will accept them, but there are many that do not want them—their religion is good enough for them, it was good enough for their fathers and mothers and grand-parents they don't know how far back, "so we will just go on in the same old way;" and the spirit of ease, with regard to religion, seems to be quite prevalent.

I fear that is the case with a good portion of those in Zion, and it is time they wake up and realize the greatness of the work in which they are engaged. I realize that one of the best things that a young man can do is to go out and have a chance to compare our religion with that of the world—he then can see its beauties and the weakness of the other.

We have a few Baptists here in this county with some applications for baptism and a few that are investigating. The adversary is always on the watch