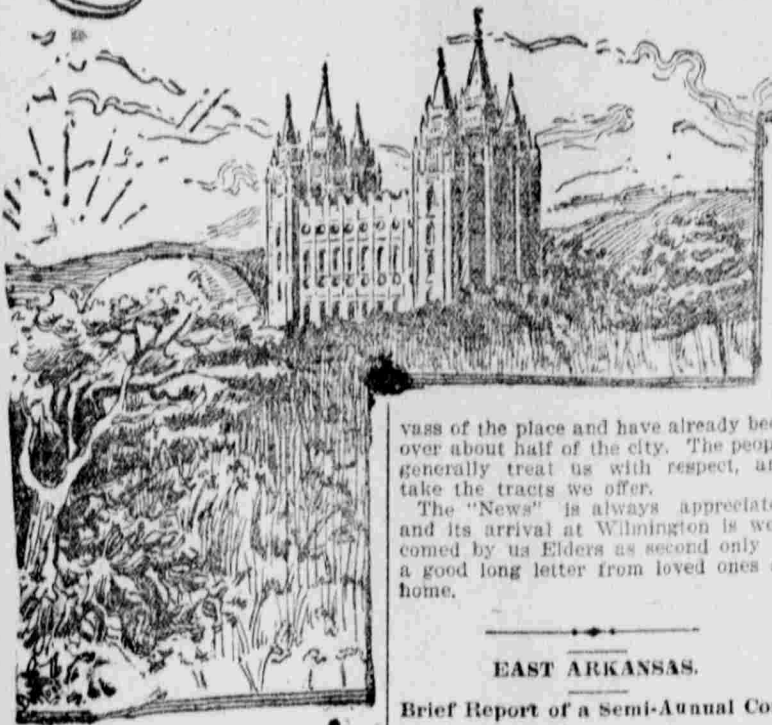


CHURCH INTELLIGENCE



THE WORK IN MICHIGAN

Elders Visiting Some of the Prominent Cities.

The Conference Reported to Be in a Good Condition With Some Progress Made.

Elders John H. Nilson and Frank A. Britton write from Jackson, Michigan, Feb. 26th:

We are always much pleased to read the "News" and especially the letters and reports of the Elders from their various fields of labor, throughout the world.

At conference held August 25th and 26th, 1900, several Elders were appointed to begin the work in cities, which heretofore had not been visited by the Latter-day Saints. Among the cities thus visited were Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor, Pontiac and Jackson. The last named city being the largest of the four, more Elders were stationed there and after being worked for six months, it was thought profitable to hold our semi-annual conference in Jackson, February 23 and 24, 1901.

We were successful in finding and hiring a suitable hall for gathering. The number who gathered to hear of the Gospel of Christ were not as many as we would wish, but they who were thus assembled were amply repaid and blessed.

On the evening of the 23rd Elder Louis A. Kelch, of the Northern States mission, and Elder John A. Britton, from the Chicago office, arrived.

We were also much pleased to welcome to our conference, Brother Stephen and Sister Sarah Brower, two noble Saints of Delwood, Eaton county.

At 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon we all met together in Priesthood meeting to report our labors, receive companions and fields of labor and to receive instructions concerning our work and manner of working.

Among the cities outlined for the summer work were Adrian, Coldwater and Battle Creek, the people of which, for the first time, will have the privilege of hearing or rejecting the servants of God.

The General Authorities of the Church and of the Northern States mission were unanimously sustained, and in like manner were the following Elders sustained in their respective capacities.

Elder John H. Wilson, president of the Michigan conference with Edward A. Wood as first and Abraham E. Zundel as second counselors, and Elder Frank A. Britton as secretary of the conference.

The reports of the Elders were very encouraging.

Through the kindness of the prison officials the Elders in body were permitted to go through and visit all the prisoners of the State penitentiary. This opportunity was appreciated by the Elders.

The Elders twenty-one in number are located in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, Pontiac, Coldwater and Adrian.

The headquarters of the conference is at 283 Howard street, Detroit, Michigan, where the president and secretary are located. Any one having friends or relatives in the State of Michigan, who would like us to call upon them, will be most pleased to receive the names and addresses of the parties, and will endeavor to locate them.

Letters of such nature addressed to the secretary will receive prompt attention.

Considering the age of this conference, we compare favorably with other conferences, the work is advancing, many books are being read, literature are being scattered and read by the people, new openings being made, and with the aid of our Heavenly Father, the co-operation of brothers and sisters, and with the help of the "News," the summer's work looks bright.

IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Elders Laboring in Wilmington Hold Well Attended Meetings.

The following communication is dated Wilmington, N. C., Feb. 25, and is signed by Elders W. W. Butler and A. G. Keetch:

Wilmington contains a population of about twenty-three thousand souls, 40 per cent of whom are colored. It has fine church buildings of all the leading denominations, and several other large public buildings. The government post office building of granite, and situated at the corner of Front and Chestnut streets, is among the most prominent.

Then comes the court house and the opera house on Third street. The Masonic Temple and Orton hotel on Front street, and many other large buildings in different parts of the city, all built to stand the wear and tear of time for many years yet to come. The dwelling houses are mostly frame structures, but in the main part of town they are up to date buildings, and as a general rule are built for comfort, and a home in the full sense of the word. The city is built on the east bank of the Cape Fear river, about thirty miles from its mouth, and among the grand sights we see here, not least by any means are the large ships, which are continually coming and going on the majestic river.

As is usually the case in seaport towns we find many broad minded people here, who are willing to allow all men that God-given right to worship as they choose, so long as they don't infringe upon the rights of others. As a consequence what time we have been here the past two months, we have enjoyed our labors very much. We have held some meetings on the street, which were well attended.

We are making a house to house canvass of the place and have already been over about half of the city. The people generally treat us with respect, and take the trouble to hear.

The "News" is always appreciated and its arrival at Wilmington is welcomed by us Elders as second only to a good long letter from loved ones at home.

EAST ARKANSAS.

Brief Report of a Semi-Annual Conference.

Elders N. K. Beal and Don W. Conover send this report, dated Cord, Feb. 25:

The Elders of the East Arkansas conference of the Southwestern States mission, have once more had the privilege of meeting in their semi-annual conference. Elder James G. Duffin was with us. Our conference lasted two days, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 16th and 17th. Our meetings were well attended by Saints and friends. We had the privilege of dedicating our new meeting house. All the Elders gave in good reports of the past six months' labors. The work of the Lord is progressing with rapid strides. Three of the Elders were honorably released to return home, and departed for their respective homes. On Monday the Elders gave their companions and fields of labor, and all departed. Our conference is in an excellent condition.

We expect to labor in the cities during the summer season, and the health of our Elders is fair, considering the low, unhealthy fields they have to labor in.

The "News" is much appreciated here, and is a great help.

WEST ARKANSAS CONFERENCE.

The Gospel Preached in Power and Plainness.

From a letter dated Fort Smith, Ark., Feb. 23, and signed by Elders Wm. Bennett, B. R. McMillin and P. H. Smith, these extracts are made:

The West Arkansas conference convened in this city February 30th and 1st. All the Elders of the conference, thirteen in number, were present. Our mission president, Elder G. Duffin, was also present and gave much valuable instruction. He also preached the Gospel in great power and plainness. The conference presidency were unanimously sustained as president of the conference with Elders B. R. McMillin and P. H. Smith as counselors. There was little interest manifested in the conference by the citizens of Fort Smith. The Saints, however, were very kind in making the stay of the Elders in the city as pleasant as possible. Our Hebrew brethren willingly granted us the use of their neat and elegantly furnished synagogue. Their kindness and generosity will long be remembered by us, and they have certainly manifested a spirit toward us that is an example to many who scorn and despise them.

ELDER MEET WITH OPPOSITION

Influence of Intolerant Articles in the Newspapers.

Elder Charles A. Olsen writes from Washington, Davis Co., Ind., February 25:

The Ohio conference was transferred to the Southern States mission August 15, 1899, and I was assigned to labor in the Southern Indiana conference. At Jeffersonia considerable prejudice was exhibited by the people. Yet we had the privilege of holding some street meetings.

In company with Elder Jesse Pay, we were assigned to labor at Rising Sun, Ind., but our labors in that city were of short duration as the papers published an article entitled "The Mormons" and their pernicious doctrine has arrived." In which was stated that we should not be tolerated in that midst. People closed their doors against us. We tried to tract the city but the tracts in some instances were torn in pieces in our sight and in other instances we were driven away. During the remainder of the winter until conference we labored in Lawrence, Monroe and Green counties with fair success. In February, 1900, myself, in company with H. F. Williams, arrived in this city. We have been quite successful in our labors here. We have had the privilege of entering into the waters of baptism with thirteen converts which are now very energetic in advocating the doctrines of Christ and testifying to the truth of the Gospel.

My present companion is Brigham E. Jones, of Malad, Idaho. We have a number of friends and some investigators.

CONFERENCE OF ELDERS.

Favorable Reports and Enjoyable Public Gatherings.

The following report is signed by Elders F. W. Kingston, T. C. Barlow and E. A. Nye, and is dated Barlow, Clay Co., Ind., March 1st:

The Elders of Southern Indiana met

in semi-annual conference in the Brazil court house at 7:30 p. m., the appointed time for meeting, the circuit court room was filled with an intelligent class of people. The speakers of the evening were Elders F. W. Kingston, W. W. Cranney and L. A. Kelch. Each bore testimony to the fact that God's authority has been taken from the earth for many centuries.

Thursday, Feb. 14th, the Elders met in Priesthood meeting. In listening to the Elders report their labors during the past six months, one could not help but recognize the fact that they had been assisted by the Spirit of Truth. All enjoyed the spirit of testimony and expressed themselves as having enjoyed their labors while in the territory.

The question is being asked by not a few people, wherein does the secret lie of the success of the Latter-day Saints? The answer is brief: This people set worthy examples and teach correct doctrines. The authorities of the Church were sustained. Elder L. A. Kelch was sustained as president of the Northern States mission, John A. Sennan, secretary, Elder F. W. Kingston as president of Southern Indiana conference, with Elder T. C. Barlow as first counselor and E. A. Nye as second counselor.

The hour of 1:30 p. m. having arrived, found a fair crowd of people gathered again to hear the Gospel explained. The speakers were: Elders T. C. Barlow, Franklin Christiansen and L. A. Kelch.

The "News" is a potent factor in delaying prejudice among those who are unfamiliar with our people and our belief. To any one who has ends in part we extend an invitation to write us.

GOSPEL WORK IN MEXICO.

A Recent Conference Held at Colonia Juarez.

The Different Wards Reported as Doing Well Both Spiritually and Temporally.

Elder James H. Martineau writes from Colonia Juarez, Feb. 26:

On Friday, the 22nd inst., the conference of the Relief Societies of this Stake was held. President Mary B. Eyring presiding.

The quarterly conference of the Stake convened Saturday morning at 10 a. m. Present on the stand were the Stake presidency, Patriarchs W. R. Stowell, A. F. Macdonald and Charles Pulpiner, members of the High Council and Bishops Haegle, Haws, Whetton, Hardy, Bentley and Johnson.

President Ivins spoke of the growth of the work of the Lord in Mexico and of the increased payment of tithing during the last four years, although last year, on account of drought, was the worst for several years.

Bishops John F. Whetton, of Garcia; George W. Hardy, of Pacheco, and G. M. Haws, of Chihuahua, reported their wards as prosperous; very little sickness returned from the hospital, and spoke of his experience in the Church and exhorted the Saints to faithfulness.

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In the afternoon, after singing by choir and prayer by Patriarch W. R. Stowell, Elder Jesse W. Richards, who has returned from a mission, related some of his experiences during his mission to the Southern States.

Counselor Joseph S. Cardon reported Dublin ward, and Bishop George C. Haegle the Omacua ward, both being prosperous in condition. There had been some smallpox in each ward, introduced by an emigrant, but no deaths from it.

High Counselor Orson P. Brown spoke of the founding of Colonia Juarez and the difficulties encountered and overcome in establishing ourselves here.

Elder Helaman Pratt spoke of the progress of the Mexican government and the great work to be done in Mexico.

Bishop Joseph C. Bentley next reported Juarez ward as in good condition, with a marked increase in tithing received during the past year, and also last year's drought, and considerable sickness last fall from pneumonia. The tithing received averaged over \$100 for each tithing payer in Juarez.

A Priesthood meeting convened in the evening, numerous speakers, exercises by Patriarch James H. Martineau, and Elder Ivins spoke of the necessity of understanding the Mexican laws relative to estates of deceased persons; and by his request Elder Edmund Benson explained the laws concerning wills and bequests, and the proper course to pursue, that widows and orphans might retain their legal property rights. Elder Ivins strongly advised all to attend to this matter.

Elder Ivins spoke of the law of tithing, its obligations and benefits and Bishop Bentley pronounced the benediction.

On Sunday conference convened at 10 a. m., and after singing, exercises by Bishop W. D. Johnson reported the Dublin ward as being in same condition as those already reported, and was followed by Elder Eyring, who referred to the urgent necessity of our people preserving chastity and virtue, and that our young people should never enter any place of doubtful or evil report. Benediction by Elder Franklin Spencer.

In the afternoon session after singing and prayer by Patriarch J. H. Martineau, the sacrament was administered, and Stake Recorder J. C. Bentley presented the general Church and Stake Authorities, all of whom were sustained by unanimous vote.

Patriarch A. F. Macdonald spoke of the importance of proper education of the mothers and daughters of Zion. He was followed by Elder G. C. Wilson, who exhorted all to emulate the energy, patience and indomitable courage of those who pioneered in Utah and in Mexico.

Elder Ivins then spoke in a very instructive and eloquent manner relative to our duties as Saints and testified to the remarks of previous speakers. Conference then adjourned for three months. Benediction by Patriarch W. R. Stowell.

In the evening the Mutual Improvement associations held a conjoint session, which was, as usual, most interesting. Short addresses, interspersed with solos and quartets, made an enjoyable entertainment.

The choir, led by Prof. J. J. Walser, added very much to the enjoyment and interest of the conference, while the delightful weather and the blooming of peach and almond trees gave tokens of the near approach of busy spring time.

Branch Conference.

A friend of the "News," J. R. Smith, writes from Trenton, Fla., Feb. 24, concerning a meeting of the Elders in the Zarahemla branch:

Down on the old Swanee river, in Lafayette county, Fla., the Elders met with Elder John H. Bankhead, president of the conference, Elders C. H. White and P. N. Nelson administered

the Sacrament of the Lord's supper, and Elder J. H. Bankhead addressed the meeting.

After an intermission of thirty minutes meeting was again called to order by Elder Bankhead. Elder C. H. White addressed the people upon some of the principles of the Gospel. Elder P. N. Nelson followed endorsing the words of Elder C. H. White.

In the evening meeting was called to order and presided over by Elder J. H. Bankhead. Elder Peter E. Van Ouden addressed the congregation. Present James W. Smith was the next speaker. The meeting was well attended by "Mormons" and non-"Mormons."

On his return home, a distance of twenty miles, the writer found at his residence, Elder John K. Leeson, Jr., and Taylor Bingham, who had made converts of his two daughters and four sons, who were baptized the following Sunday, the 17th of February. Their father and mother rejoiced to see them, and they bore testimony to the fact that they had been taken from the earth for many centuries.

Thursday, Feb. 14th, the Elders met in Priesthood meeting. In listening to the Elders report their labors during the past six months, one could not help but recognize the fact that they had been assisted by the Spirit of Truth. All enjoyed the spirit of testimony and expressed themselves as having enjoyed their labors while in the territory.

Gone to His Reward.

Elder John A. Call writes from Woodbury, Texas, February 24th, that Brother William Lester Cole passed away to his home near Reed's Switch, Tusk county, Texas, of heart failure. He had little or no warning, as he was sitting in a chair when death eluded him and claimed him. The family set the struggle between life and death, carefully laid him upon the bed, only to see him breathe his last a few seconds later. He was buried December 13th, 1898, by Elder William N. Anderson. All who knew Brother Cole are deeply touched at his departure, but feel that his reward is sure.

Feeling Well in the Ministry.

Elder John Evans writes from Star Tannery, Frederick county, Va., Feb. 26:

It is now nearly seven months since I left my home in the sunny vales of New Mexico. On arriving at Brooklyn I was appointed to labor in the Maryland conference.

The first two months I labored in Clarke county, Va. On the eleventh of November I went to Baltimore, Md., where I labored until our conference convened on the 15th and 16th of December. There I was assigned to labor for the winter in Frederick county, Va. in company with Elder Ambrose Shurtz. We have met with some opposition, but we have a host of friends and we are gaining ground.

We have, I believe, a few investigators, and we are hopeful of seeing the fruits of our labors in due time.

The most of our friends are in the vicinity of Gravel Springs. The minister here opposes us, very bitterly and reviles us, but we feel that it is all for the best, for it only causes the people to investigate our teachings more closely.

We cannot get the privilege of holding meetings in the churches, but our friends open their homes and give us the privilege of explaining our doctrine. When school closes we will have the privilege of holding meetings at the school house.

We are well satisfied with our labors and we are always ready to bear our testimony to the divinity of the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

A TESTIMONY ABOUT JOSEPH

Those Who Knew Him Speaking Well of Him and His Family.

Elder Carl Madsen, writing from Thisted, Denmark, February 16th, says that on his way to the Old Country, while visiting Palmyra, Wayne county, N. Y., he found people who had personally known the Prophet Joseph, and the Smith family, and that these declared the Smiths were "earnest, virtuous, upright and hard-working people." They were willing to so testify before the whole world. Continuing, Elder Madsen writes:

"On my return to Palmyra I visited the old homestead, where Joseph lived when the Angel Moroni first appeared unto him. The gentleman that owns the place kindly invited me in and showed me the room where Joseph kept the records or plates, when he first received them from the angel and also the room where Joseph slept that memorable night, when the heavenly messenger three times appeared unto him, and infused into his youthful mind the spirit of light, that he had descended with from the mansions of glory. The many joyful impressions that came to my mind upon this visit I shall ever remember."

IN AND AROUND BOSTON.

Elders Laboring Diligently to Spread the Gospel.

Elder A. Thurman writes from West Everett, Mass., Feb. 25:

The little band of Elders laboring in and around the "Hub" are laboring zealously for the spread of the Gospel. There are at present three Elders laboring in Boston and suburbs, under the direction of Elder Daniel Rasmussen, with headquarters at No. 6 James street, Boston. There are a number of life, energetic Saints here who seem to be enthralled with the spirit of the Gospel.

We have been holding regular meetings at No. 7 Park Square, Boston, for some time, and only two weeks ago a Sunday school was organized with a membership of 30.

Partaking in the old adage that "all work and no play makes Jack a bad boy," we decided to give an entertainment, wherein a few pleasant hours could be spent in social converse. So a hall was secured, and Wednesday, Feb. 27, we set out on the date. All went to work with a will and from the very first a good time was assured. The program consisted of songs, readings, short addresses and recitations.

The following is the program as it was given: A song, as the people began to come, you could hear on all sides words of praise and approval. The Elders felt they had had a holiday.

The "News" is a factor for good wherever it is read, and one man said after subscribing for it "that it was the best paper he had ever read." Quite a statement considering the great number of papers in Boston.

STAKE CONFERENCES.

Star Valley Stake.

Afton, Utah County, Wyo., Feb. 25.

The quarterly conference of the Star Valley Stake of Zion convened at Afton, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 16th and 17th.

On the stand were Elders A. V. Call of the Stake presidency; Patriarch C. D. Cadzior; Bishops of the various wards and other leading brethren.

Elder A. V. Call presided. After the opening exercises Elder A. V. Call welcomed the Saints.

The following Bishops then reported their respective wards: James Jensen of Grover; Osborne Low of Afton; Frank Tolman of Fairview; Frank Bracken of Freedom; Nels J. Hemert of Glencoe; Wm. H. Parsons of Bellview.

The reports were all of an excellent nature, and all the wards are in good condition, and that all associations are thoroughly organized.

At the afternoon session Stake Superintending Elder J. H. Martin, Elder Edmund McLatchie gave an excellent report of the Sunday schools in the Stake. There are ten Sunday schools, with an enrollment of over 1,400. The growth of the Sunday schools has been marvelous considering the short time the Stake has been settled.

Stake Superintendent of Religion Classes Elder B. H. Allred next reported his labors.

Patriarch C. D. Cadzior exhorted the brethren of the Stake not to let the Sabbath, as the Spirit of God could not dwell in such places.

Elder Arthur F. Burton explained man's mission here upon earth.

Elder A. B. Clark exhorted the Saints

to be diligent in their duties.

The Stake, in general, the wards; the quorums of the Priesthood, and the different organizations are on the improve and the spiritual growth of the Latter-day Saints is manifest.

N. J. CHRISTOPHERSON.

RETURNED MISSIONARIES

Elder Nils P. Andersen, of Logan, Cache county, returned on the 2nd of this month from the Scandinavian mission. He was set apart on the 14th day of October, 1898. He has been laboring in the Scandinavian conference, Norway, where he says the work is very prosperous. At times the Elders meet some opposition, but the work is progressing well as a general rule.

Elder John W. Larson, of Colliston, Boxelder county, returned on the 27th day of February last, from a mission to Scandinavia. He was set apart on the 17th day of September, 1898. He has been laboring in the Gothenburg conference. He has had an enjoyable mission. The conference, he says, is prosperous, although at times there have been more baptisms than there are at present.

Elder W. N. Eldredge, of Granger, Salt Lake county, returned on March 4th from the Southern States mission, to which he was assigned May 17th, 1899. He labored in Florida and South Alabama conferences. He had good health till about four months ago, and returns home on account of ill health. Otherwise he enjoyed his mission.

Elder H. M. Godfrey, of Clarkston, Cache county, was set apart on the 15th day of May, 1899, for a missionary work in the Southern States. He labored four months in East Kentucky and was then transferred to the Northern States mission. There he labored in the Southern Illinois conference. He says the mission is progressing, and he is in a fair condition. He returned home on the 5th of this month, after an enjoyable mission.

Elder D. H. Sedgwick, of Bountiful, Davis county, was set apart in July, 1898, for a mission to the Southern States. He labored in the Southern States and North Kentucky conferences. He says that the mission has proved a source of joy to him. He returned to this city on the 10th of this month.

Elder James D. Taylor, of Mapleton, Idaho, was set apart for a mission to the Southern States. He labored in the Southern States and North Kentucky conferences. He says that the mission has proved a source of joy to him. He returned to this city on the 10th of this month.

Elder John H. Dally, of Clarkston, Cache county, was set apart on the 15th day of December, 1898, for the Southern States mission. He labored in the North Kentucky conference. He says the mission is progressing, and he is in a fair condition. He returned home on the 5th of this month. He states that he enjoyed his work. He was called home sooner than expected, owing to sickness at his home.

Elder Heber E. Harrison, of Pinto, Washington Co., returned home on the 6th of this month from the Southwestern States mission. He was set apart on the 9th day of Nov., 1898. He labored in Kansas, Oklahoma and Indian Territory, where he says he met with success. At the time of his release he presided over the Oklahoma conference.

Elder Joseph W. Webb, of St. George, Washington Co., returned to this city on the 9th of this month, from the Southwestern States mission. He was set apart on the 9th day of Nov., 1898, and has been laboring in the State of Arkansas the entire time. He reports that he enjoyed fair health and had a good time generally while away from home.

Elder Lorenzo C. Leavitt, of Santa Clara, Washington Co., returned on the 6th of this month from the Southwestern States mission, where he has been engaged in missionary labor. He was set apart on the 9th day of Nov., 1898, and has been the West Arkansas conference, and he reports that he met a great many people who were inclined to give the Elders a hearing. His health has been good.

Elder Samuel Hadley, of West Weber, Weber county, reported his return from a mission to Great Britain, on the 27th of February last. He was set apart on the 14th day of October, 1898, and labored in the Nottingham conference. He returned home on the 14th of last October.

Elder John H. Chase of Vernon, Tootle county, returned on the 1st of this month from the Southern States mission, for which he was set apart on the 21st day of September, 1898. His field of labor was the South Alabama conference, which, he says, is in a very good condition. The people have been kind to him, and he has enjoyed his labor.

Elder Herman F. F. Therup, of this city, returned home on the 27th of Feb. last from a mission to Denmark. He was set apart on the 23rd day of Sept., 1899. While on his mission he presided over the Aarhus conference. He was released on account of sickness.

Elder Joseph Weston, of Ogden City, was set apart on the 10th day of June, 1899, for a mission to Holland. He returned home on the 14th of February last. While on his mission he labored first in Amsterdam, and then in the Amheim conference. On his return home he spent six weeks in England, principally for the purpose of gathering genealogies. He states that he is thankful for the