

his claims in the grove, under the great elm tree just east of the temple, amid the congregated Saints, Brigham Young was the one upon whom was the mantle of the greatest prophet that ever graced the world. The voice, the very prophet was there; the lion roared, all hands went up, Sidney vanished, went up with his theories as if in smoke. So have or will all the fathers, while Zion shall rise, temples be built, the dead be cared for, the gathering go on—a continuation of the prophets work where he left it, until he shall again come in the flesh, and fulfill all that was placed upon him.

Dear Brother Richards, fully realizing these facts, and the responsibility and care resting upon the First Presidency, and the Twelve Apostles, who, looking over the missionary field, cast the watchful eye over the Northern Pacific States, where no missionary's voice was heard, and many lost sheep were comparatively without a shepherd. Your aged servant of God, was chosen with a much younger companion, Elder M. F. Cowley, favored of the Lord. And proudly can we say, we felt to heartily respond to the voice of the Lord, and the 16th of June found us in Lima, Montana. After attending the conferences of Bannock stake and Bingham stake, and taking the parting hand and blessings of yourself and our loved ones with whom we parted at the glorious conference at Bingham stake.

Once in our field of labor we lacked no friends to take us in and provide amply for our wants, and on the first evening we called a meeting and fifteen met in the house of Elder William F. Hopkins. On the following evening we held a public meeting in a two story brick district school house, the best the town affords. About fifty attended. The town of Lima is mostly a railroad town with a population of about 300. We have continued our meetings in public and private, with good success, and now much prejudice which at first we had to contend with, has given way. We visited the only minister in the place, a Methodist, spending two hours with him and his wife; the latter has attended two of our public meetings.

President Ricks of Bannock stake organized a branch of the Church at this place last fall. But the presiding Elder Daniel Clark had left Lima, so we reorganized the branch with Elder William F. Hopkins presiding Elder and with John Burt and Austin W. Child as assistants. Both of the latter are seventies. We opened a baptismal font at the ranch of Brother Child's three miles out, and offered the opportunity for baptism and for the renewal of covenants of some who have been away from the Church over sixteen years.

The spirit of the Lord has attended our labors, and many of the lost sheep have been made to rejoice, as evinced by eight souls claiming baptism on the 20th of June and on the 27th of June the date of the martyrdom of our loved prophet, we baptized fourteen more; on the following Tuesday, 30th we baptized four more, twenty-six in all, and thirteen of those baptized, are first baptisms.

There is one peculiar circumstance which I think worthy of note. Sister Godfrey and family of six children, live ten miles north of Lima. Sister Godfrey had been very sick, we learned of her condition and Elder Austin W. Child

took us in a carriage to their residence, and we spent four hours with the family. A young girl of fourteen had been blessed by our Elders when a babe. The spirit followed her and the result was that she was prepared for baptism. Sister Godfrey brought her children up ten miles to one of our meetings and we blessed them and subsequently baptized the mother and four of her children; and last Wednesday the 1st of July, we held a meeting at Sister Godfrey's and administered the sacrament to the family; there were ten of us and the unbelieving husband bowed the knee with us. We hold public meeting next Sunday, and soon after shall take our departure.

Last evening five more gave in their names for baptism. Some other Elders from Bannock stake will visit this branch soon. Trusting in the Lord, feeling grateful for His goodness, and fully realizing that He moved upon His servants to open up this mission, we humbly subscribe ourselves your brethren and fellow laborers in Christ Jesus.

EDWARD STEVENSON.
M. F. COWLEY.

A MISSISSIPPI EXPERIENCE.

RALEIGH, Smith County, Miss.,
July 6th, 1896.

The DESERET NEWS is appreciated very much by the Elders. And with your permission I will drop a few lines, thinking some of your readers may be interested in the labors of two happy Mormon boys traveling in Smith county, Mississippi.

The 27th of April, 1896, I arrived at Ellisville, Jones county, Mississippi, surprised at not finding my companion there to welcome me to my piney woods home. But in a few moments after arriving, Brother John Overland introduced himself to me and informed me that Elder Shelley was at his home, awaiting my arrival, and being somewhat sick, was unable to meet me, Elder Shelley soon improved in health, and on the 4th day of May, we started for Smith county, where we were assigned to labor.

Since that time we have enjoyed our labors very much, and met with many friends, and will say the southern people are deservedly noted for their kind hospitality to strangers. Among those who have treated us with kindness and told us to make ourselves at home, are Mr. Henry O'Neil, deacon of the Sylvan Grove Baptist church, Frank Thornton, Peter Thornton, Carrie Brothers, Mr. Tims and many others too numerous to mention here. Mr. O'Neil is a fair minded man, and gave us permission to hold a meeting in the Sylvan Grove church, and following this we received three invitations to hold meeting in private houses.

At times we met with opposition, principally from ministers of different denominations. But being accompanied by the Spirit of the Lord, we are allaying prejudice which before hand existed among the people to a great extent.

I will just note one little incident that took place Sunday, June 28th. During the week we canvassed the Good Water neighborhood and many seemed anxious for us to hold a meeting. We succeeded in getting permission to use the Spinola school house, and gave out notice that we would hold two meetings on Sunday, June 28th, one at 11 o'clock,

and one at 4 in the evening. On Sunday morning while in conversation with two or three gentlemen at the home of Mr. Clay Currie, a messenger rode up to the gate, and informed us that a mob consisting of eight men had concluded to meet us on our way to the school house, give us a whipping, and invite us to leave the country. We told the young man to inform our opposers that we would be at the appointed place at 11 o'clock to hold our meeting. "Well," he said "I felt it my duty to come and tell you, because I wouldn't like to see you gentlemen abused." At 10 o'clock with our grips and umbrellas we started on our journey to the school house. On arriving there it looked like a fourth of July celebration. People had gathered from all parts of the neighborhood, but our enemies failed to make their appearance, and we had the pleasure of laying before those assembled some of the first principles of the Gospel for their consideration. At the close of our meeting Mr. Tims invited us home, and sat us down to a fine dinner, which was greatly appreciated, after which a crowd gathered around us and asked a great many questions pertaining to the Gospel. We talked to them until meeting time, and then all proceeded to the meeting house. Upon arriving there we found more people than could obtain seats, and we again portrayed to them more of the principles of the Gospel, and received many invitations to call, even more than we can fill in a week. Some are investigating the doctrine we advocate, and we hope in the near future to add more to the fold of Christ.

Brother Grissam and wife, who joined the Church some time ago, lived within three miles of Raleigh, and do all they can for our comfort, and we appreciate their kindness for the same. We are enjoying the best of health and feel proud of the work we are engaged in. Young men can gain experiences in the missionary field that could be gained in no other way. We advise all of them to improve their time and become interested in the Gospel, for it is a great study, and we are all invited to give a helping hand to the accomplishment of the great work before us, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

On July 2nd we received an invitation from Elders R. W. Brown and C. J. Block, traveling in Jasper county, to come over to Brother Tucker's, a distance of about thirty miles, and spend the fourth of July with them. We accepted the invitation and have enjoyed the company of our co-laborers very much. Brother Tucker and family have done all in their power to make things comfortable for us, and we pray that God will bless them for their kindness to the Elders.

WILLIAM R. HOLMES,
GEORGE T. SHELLEY.

TAKEN FOR REVENUE INSPECTORS.

HAMILTON, Marion County Ala.,
July 7th, 1896.

Perhaps a few lines from Alabama would be interesting to your many readers, as there have been many others from the West down on this part of the globe. I left Salt Lake City on the 24th of August last, on a mission to the Southern States. Arrived in Chattanooga on the night of the 27th, in