INDIAN TERRITORY.

Visit to the Principal Coal Region of the Choctaw Nation.

A TRIP ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

How the Elders and Saints in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations Spent the Holidays.

Early in November Elders Orson Collett and H. G. Williams were released from their mission in the Indian Territory on account of sickness and were accompanied home by their companions, Elders J. C. Lyon and Attie A. Hosley. The two last named having returned to their field of labor, after spending a very pleasant Thanksgiving at home, the Deseret readers may be interested in the way the Elders and Saints spent their holidays in the Indian Territory. We (Elder Lyon and myself) left our headquarters, Massey Settlement, Choctaw nation, the station of our house of worship recently erected by the Elders and Saints, for a short trip across the nation December 19 h, thinking we could spend Christmas with pleasantry and profitably with the Saints and Elders in the Chickasaw nation.

The second day out we visited the town of Kiowa, the principal coal producing town of the territory, where nearly one thousand men are employed in the coal industry. The town is built similar to Park City, Utah, and the water supply fully as dear. Owing to the extreme amount of wind to be had for the shipping, the price of coal can been reduced to the actual cost (2 $1 per ton. Most of the coal is procured from pits running in strips for miles and a few feet wide at the surface. After the coal is scraped off the coal is found out in immense quantities. It is shipped generally to the state of Texas, though the terribly cold seasons a good cotton.

Leaving Kiowa we passed through the town of McAlister, which has a population of 1,500, being unable to hold a meeting there on account of the prejudice existing against us. We followed in the footsteps of Elders Woodbury and Allen, who about three years before had traveled the same road. We found a few of their old friends and succeeded in planting good seed in the hearts of many new ones. Owing to the sparsely settled country we were unable to hold meetings and had many long conversations on the first principles of the Gospel, amounting to nearly the same thing.

We arrived at the Chickasaw headquarters Saturday, Dec. 22nd, where we met our friends, Elders Henry Kirkham and A. H. Davis, at the home of Brother and Sister Hyram Cross.

It is not a rare thing to see deer in this nation, for immediately after our arrival the boys found four within a stone's throw of the house. The following day, Sunday, we held two meetings, both being well attended. All enjoyed the Spirit of the Lord and many were the questions regarding our faith immediately after.

Our Christmas meals consisted of everything our hearts could desire in the shape of eatables, excepting our usual Christmas pudding, and the details unlikely surmounted in making it pleasant for the Elders and friends who had assembled.

We left Dec. 26th on our return, passing view of the farm belonging to J. J. McAlister, covering an area of six miles square. He employs some forty-five tenants, some of whom live in tents and in the log cabin, as all houses, and all the tenants are white, but one, who is a Chickasaw half breed in order being a white man. We experienced some very cold weather on the return, most of the trip being in public land or, as we say "Bedlam," where there is a little timber. Arriving at headquarters Dec. 29th, we were met by Elders P. G. Margetts and A. P. Dyson.

Immediately after we got to Brother Kirkham's we met Isaac Jensen, formerly of the "Good New Year" with Brother Brigham. They had not heard of us (I was mistaken in the Choctaw, as we had addressed to Elder Hosley) and thought we had come to visit them. Brother Margetts joined himself a committee of three as well as a capable musician.

Sunday night, Dec. 30th, all gathered around the fireplace, which we prefer to a heavy coal (stove) and Adam Ivan Ivan's the top-sawed to four various kinds of music, not to mention spirits. Tuesday, 1st, Elder Hosley and myself left for Ada, Pontotoc county, Chickasaw nation, to be present at the marriage of Brother Hosley's sister, Mary Ann, which was to take place the following New Year's day. We found a large number of men and women assembled, having already a good supply of wood and their strength increased. Immediately on our arrival Mr. ——, he not so time in getting to the bars and saying: "You's better at it." Wanted for a meeting, covering him in bad language, saying he wasn't sick. Relatives, he wasn't sick. Relatives. We feel to forgive him, as he doesn't realize the position he has taken and we are far hopeful of convincing him of the error of his way.

Since our return we have succeeded in starting a day school, the facilities for educating the young in the work of the Lord's vineyard being very limited. Brother Lyon has taken charge and the prospects for a good school season are flattering. I expect to leave at once to accompany with Elders Woodbury and Morgan, who are now at Ada, through the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, carrying the Gospel message to all who wants we come in contact. The work of the Lord is progressing in the home of the backsliding, and the Elders are meeting the good will to the faithful and their duties. Ever praying for the faith and prayers of the Saints at home, I remain your humble servant in the Gospel of peace.

ALVIN BENNETT.

SOUTH CANADIAN, I. T., Jan. 16, 1895.

BANK BOOKKEEPING

A Perfect System Seen Here and May Serve the Intelligent.

The system of a prominent up-town bank supplied such a thing as a perfect system of bookkeeping for never been derived and probably never will be. "Where you think of it," herald, "Bank keeping is simply a question of mental capacity. Years ago bank and drafts in the way of indigestible number brain was usually used, speaking in a general way. The daily papers in considering the bank business of the moderate salaries paid to bookkeepers overlook a very important fact. The banks pay the market rates to expert bookkeepers, which are anywhere from $1,500 to $5,000 a year. An almost unlimited number of men can be obtained at these figures, and partner more money would not make the house a bit safer, for the employees that men of strong mental power [illegible] supply and be working fidelity for $50 or a year, account to be mechanical bookkeepers in large institutions. Talent, of course, goes to dispense bookkeepers in any way.

"The point is that the men who make good bookkeepers are intelligent, reliable, and steady going persons, who are not induced by great temptations and who do not aspire to high places. It is not required of a bookkeeper that he must have very high mental qualities, or be of business ability. Men of a clerical cast are preferable to others. Men of business ability are not suited to be bookkeepers in the ordinary sense of the word. They are restless, and they are not satisfied with the position of a bookkeeper. Men of business ability in the most complete sense are required in other and higher positions. Men of business ability are [illegible] in the world. The Bank of England has been [illegible] by men who are not bankers, and in all this time it has never had a failure. Its business is so well organized that institution can be run by men of business ability in the most complete manner for many years before it was discovered. The most important business [illegible]