IN OKLAHOMA.

An Elder's Report—Tolling Days Gone—The Work Progressing.

HENNESSEY, Okla., March 11, 1895.

Editor Deseret News:

Thinking a few words from the Oklahoma colonies might be of interest to the Saints in Zion, I take pleasure in mailing them to you. Write our Deseret News, with its valuable reading comes once in so, as a messenger of light, we must express our gratitude for it. Not alone do we look for the news, which are always interesting to the traveling Elder as he sits beside the stack of some huge oak, with dog latent feeling the fagginess at home, but the sermons from God's inspired servants are of great worth to the "newly arrived Elder," who has to ever and over again the words of counsel and encouragement to gather from their long experience in the "faith once delivered to the saints."

When we ponder the dangers of conflict on realizing materials, the weight of their lingering errors and sinister faith figure in the book, for we know them to be "doers of the word and not hearers only," and are not deceived in their knowledge of Gospel truths. I am free and prepared to live who seek the will of our eternal Father, for he is "happy so" tomorrow is hereby, where men and men dwell and worship, and thereby look through and see."

To give you an idea of what is being done in Oklahoma by the latter-day Saints, I submit the following which is an extract of Elder Jacob Porter, dated January, 1895, Elder E. M. McMillan, of St. George, Elder, and myself covered 134 miles, visited 12 families, following 12 tracts, held 10 meetings, preached to 300 people, and had 13 longer conversations, in February Elder A. N. Warner and I traveled 135 miles, visited 8 families, distributed 12 tracts, held 14 meetings, and in attendance 450 persons, and had longer conversations with 12 families.

Thus we work with every energy. Truly the Prophet foresaw that the Lord would "proceed to do a marvelous work and a wonder" in the last days. One in reading an observant eye around him, must acknowledge that the "marvelous work" is progressing and the heart of man in this country seems to be nearer to God. But I am sorry to say many of the attractions in time to "listening to Heavenly or temporal wisdom," while the spiritual progression is now in a secondary consideration. Though this is true of many, there are some who seem to have the Gospel at heart, and we are greatly encouraged with future prospects. Very often we meet men here who have been in Utah, and invariably show their love (from external, this is our mountain home) anything about the Latter-day Saints, give us the name of being "a free people." Occasionally we hear slanders about the Prophet Joseph, and our truth he brought forth by divine revelation from above. Yet none could desire a greater field of labor than Oklahoma.

Several days ago Elder Wallace and I visited "our friends," some distance south of Hennessey. We met one Mr. J. A. Chadwick who left Utah in 1886. His father died in Springville, Utah, about two years ago. The gentleman is rather feeble, yet he gave us a very hearty "grip" and seemed to be happy at meeting some "thoroughbred Mormon boys." We were equally glad to meet Mr. C—as he relates the following to us, in a plain and sincere manner: "I was one of the boys who stood on the east stairway of the Nauvoo Temple, passing buckets of water up, while that beautiful structure, raised to the name of Jehovah, was burning. With all the strength of prayer and faith, we labored assiduously; finally saluting the flames which threatened the destruction of that house reared for God's own mighty work for the living and the dead." This gentleman also saw Brother Decker take water from his father's well, to wash our beloved Joseph's clothes, after he had fallen a martyr to the cruel and relentless mob. "I heard the Prophet say on one occasion," says Mr. C., "remember, would you die for me?" "Yes," came the reply in words of emphasis. Joseph then said: 'I shall die for you.'"

For several evenings we held meetings in the Brighton meeting house, and spent our time with "Father" Joseph H. Nelson. Our elders have a friend therein, when any of them come this way. In this aged gentleman, Bro. N. Writes for President Brigham Young to the "life at Chase's mill, he is a "leader" by profession. No one could speak more highly of our worthy leader than does Father Nelson. Many "old times" in Utah are known to him, among them being President Smoot, of whom he speaks in flattering terms. Sister Lydia A. Nelson was born in Red Bluff, N. J., in the year 1826. This good lady has passed from this world, her mother having departed Dec. 25, 1884. Sister Nelson—cute here I am the Knee and assistant that "Mormonism" is evil, is true. Yet she, as Brother Nelson, joined "Mormon" church for example to their children, but look have ever known God Jesus, was the Prophet, nor will Hereafter of this dispensation. The dear old sister admonished mother (for she was mother to the Elders here) has been a heavy blow to the family. There are seventeen, fourteen children, most of them living in southern Father Nelson has five at home. Fifteen children were born in this happy couple. It would be one in many ways of "counting heads" to be born. One reason is, we have nearly prayer night and morning, and "blessings" at meal hours. Sister Clawson, of Provo, to Father Nelson's sister.

The Saints at home should rejoice at having heavy snow, which is never good stage coach, although the country is nearly "varying out." Wheat is nearly all killed.

Several days ago we visited home with one of the Dutch boys. He proved to be a fine young man, and sometimes I feel there is much more good exist in the name of a person, while really he is not doing as much harm as people imagine. The Dutch are coming to Jesse James, who was killed a few years ago.

We are going to hold conference April 6th, if all be well. Spring is nearly come, and the farmers are busy. We have much working to do, yet we of hospitality, of spirit, of "Sunday school" has closed. The "Sunday and Sacrament" last sacrament. We a well. Our Oklahoma people deserve credit for their hospitality, though they are very poor generally. Elder latching for the cause of truth.

I am, respectfully yours,
W. O. DUNHAM.

St. George Stake Conference.

The quarterly conference of the St. George Stake of Zion was held in the tithing and Hill of March, 1895. On Saturday, the 9th, preliminary to the regular conference, the quarterly conference of the High Priests and the Stake Priesthood meeting were held and transacted their usual business.

On Sunday morning the 10th, public conference proceedings commenced. President David H. McAllister presided. The Tabernacle was crowded large and so continued to the closing meeting in Sunday evening. We were not invited to the general of 12 Apostles, President Lorenzo Snow, President Joseph F. Smith, President Anthon H. Lund, President Moses Thatcher, President John Henry Smith, President Heber J. Grant, President Francis M. Lyman, President Abraham H. Cannon, President Brigham Young, President John W. Taylor, President Marriner W. Merrill, President Angus M. Cannon, President Abraham O. Woodruff, President Wilford Woodruff, President Joseph F. Smith, President Lorenzo Snow