

600,000,000 to 884,786,000,000,000 plants in a cubic inch) is capable of the most astonishing reproductiveness. It increases so rapidly that it actually flows. The whole bay of the Red Sea in 1823 was turned into the color of blood by its presence, and the Elbe seemed to run blood from the same cause at the beginning of this century. Imagine, then, this slime, stimulated by Divine power to an abnormal excess, increasing so as not only to color the water but to possess it, to thicken it indeed into the consistency of blood with frightful productiveness, and then you have the plague.

An illustration of such a fact is quoted by Geikie in his "Hours with the Bible," from Silliman's Journal. He says that there is an account of a fountain in a cave in South America which flowed like blood, whose fluid seemed to grow solid, and when it was placed in bottles it worked in them and burst them, and dogs could eat it and die so greedily. The miracle of Moses only needed to intensify the flowing increase of these slime to something like this degree, and then we reach the condition of the recorded plague. For it is certain that the Nile has been known not only to have the same look, but also to have been blood-like, and to have remained fetid for months. Thus, which is a great gain, it is not necessary to interpret the word "blood" literally, an interpretation which almost renders the plague incredible, because the stench and effluvia from the awful amount of corrupting blood of such a climate would have poisoned all Egypt. This interpretation is indeed implicitly set aside by the terms in which Jehovah announces the effect of the miracle, saying that the Egyptians should weary themselves in their effort to find water to drink, and be obliged to "dig around about the river" to obtain it. What makes it certain that the change in the river was not to actual blood is the fact that the Egyptians did in this way obtain sufficient supplies, else they must have died of thirst; yet if the water had been changed into actual blood, no amount of filtration through the sands could have rendered it fit for drinking. But such a fatal objection does not touch the plague of slime in the waters of the Nile. Here, then, is the first plague, with its geographical substratum—a substratum which, while it affords a sufficient explanation of the plague and its punishment, serves also to answer objections to it which arise out of the ordinary literal theory.—Firehouse.

RETURNED ELDERS.

Wednesday Elders Orson S. Taylor of Harrieville, Weber county, and Mahonri Spencer of Taylorsville, Salt Lake county, returned home from a mission to the Southern States, and made a brief call on the News.

Elder Taylor left on his mission April 14, 1894, and was assigned to the Virginia conference, where he remained until May last. He enjoyed excellent health and spirits during his mission. He says the Elders never were so well treated in Virginia as now. They travel without purse or scrip, and are even able to warn the cities in this

way. The people are very kind, and thousands are anxious to hear what the missionaries have to say. The feeling is greatly changed from the former hostile sentiment. Of course there is opposition now, and plenty of it, but there are also the kindness and hospitality which are so encouraging to an Elder, and by which means he is able to get the Gospel before the people. The last missionary work of Elder Taylor in Virginia was in the city of Lynchburg, where the Elders received very kind treatment from a very large number of people. They were unable to secure houses to meet in, so they preached on the streets, being listened to by large audiences. From Virginia Elder Taylor went to Kentucky, having relatives in Warren county. There he was also very successful.

Elder Spencer left home July 19, 1894, and labored in the Kentucky conference. His missionary experience was chiefly among the wealthier class of people, and his report of kind treatment is similar to that made by Elder Taylor. He was quite successful in his labors. His health was good most of the time.

Both Elders stopped over in St. Louis, and had a view at the relics of the tornado visit as they now appear. There are yet many evidences of the awful havoc wrought, and it will take some time to move all traces of the awful visitation.

Elder J. R. Shepherd, whose home is in Paris, Idaho, returned Thursday from the California mission field, where he has been for upwards of eighteen months preaching the Gospel. He left home on New Year's day of 1895, and during his absence has labored in San Francisco, Sacramento, Stockton, San Jose and other cities of the Golden State, meeting with much success and converting many of the divinity of the work which he represented.

Elder Shepherd states that the work in California is progressing rapidly and is on a better footing now than ever before. The people seemed to be possessed with a spirit of inquiry and many are investigating the principles of the Gospel with a view of becoming members of the Church. The work of Elder Tanner, president of the California mission, is highly praised by Elder Shepherd, as are also the labors of all the Elders engaged in that field, who are very energetic in the discharge of their duties and are bringing conviction to the hearts of many.

Elder Peter Sundwall of Fairview, Sanpete county, Utah, reached this city at 3:30 a. m. Sunday on his return from a mission to Scandinavia. He left Utah in March, 1894, and went direct to the Copenhagen office, where he assumed the duties of president of the Scandinavian mission. The work of the Gospel in that part of the world has spread and increased steadily during the last two years, and at present it is in a very flourishing and satisfactory condition. During the last six months the number of baptisms has been 40 per cent greater than for the same period last year, or the year before. Openings for preaching are especially numerous and favorable in Norway and Sweden, and the prospects in Christiania and Stockholm conferences are especially favor-

able. Elder Sundwall returns in excellent health.

Elder Heber C. Christensen of Richfield, Sevier county, accompanied Elder Sundwall on the journey to Scandinavia, and also on the return journey home. He labored in Tromsø, in the extreme northern part of Norway, the first eighteen months of his mission, and in Aalborg, Denmark, during the remainder. Tromsø is within the arctic circle where they have sixty-three days without the sun, and sixty-three days of sunshine, each year. The Aalborg conference has yielded many thousands of converts to the truth in this dispensation and the work is in a very encouraging condition there now. Tromsø is a new field but the Elders laboring there are well received generally. There is a branch of nine members there. These two Elders will leave this city for home today or tomorrow.

There also arrived with these Elders the following returning missionaries: Elders John C. Wiborg, Anthon Peterson, who have been laboring in Scandinavia, and the following, who have been laboring in Great Britain: Alfred L. Booth of Provo, H. A. Tuckett of this city, Walter L. Webb of Lehi, and James W. Saville of Mill Creek.

There were also thirty-nine emigrating Saints with the company.

NEWS OF THE STATE.

Lorenzo Hacking of Cedar Fort, Utah county, was found dead in his bed Tuesday morning.

J. M. Hanson, county attorney at Fillmore, Millard county, had his house robbed on Monday, the thief getting away with \$1.65.

Monday the funeral of J. M. Secrist, son of J. M. Secrist of Farmington, occurred. The deceased died suddenly at Garden Creek, Idaho, and the remains were brought to Farmington. It is believed death was caused by drinking a large draught of cold water when he was overheated with working in the sun.

An inquest into the death of Charlie Clawson, which occurred at Mercur on July 2nd, was held next day. It was shown to be purely accidental. It will be remembered that it was caused by the overturning of a hack. Mirjam Aldrich, another boy who was hurt at the same time, is recovering.

Davis County Clippet: Charles Cottrell Sr. met with a rather painful accident in Farmington on Monday last. Somewhere near the dummy track his horse became frightened and started to run away and when he got it stopped he found that one of his little fingers was nearly severed from his hand at the first joint.

Morgan Mirror: Last Monday Mr. and Mrs. John Wood of Richville had the misfortune to lose their youngest child, a bright-eyed girl of 18 months, by drowning. The little one when found was about 200 yards from where she fell in and still going down stream. All the restorative methods possible were applied but the little one's spirit had fled to a brighter shore and could not be recalled, and to make matters worse Mr. Wood is in Texas performing a mission.