

impede progress, yet they hope and pray that the faith may grow so strong that they will be able to surmount every obstacle. All may come to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. My earnest prayer is that the time will soon come when people will quit persecuting to a considerable extent at least and investigate the principles of the Gospel, and that they may be able to see and realize the beauties, the grandeur and the blessings that await all those who obey the true and everlasting Gospel.

May Heaven's choicest blessing attend the Elders who have visited us, for bringing us the true and everlasting Gospel and taking so much interest in us.  
W. J. ROGERS.

### KANSAS CONFERENCE.

RAYMOND, Rice County,

April 29th, 1897.

Our new president, Elder William T. Jack, together with eight other Elders, took their departure from Salt Lake City on April 13th, for St. John Kansas, the headquarters of the Indian Territory mission. We arrived at headquarters about 11 a. m., on April 15th, where we were greeted with the pleasant smiles of the Elders and Saints who reside there.

After surveying some of the most interesting features of the city, one of the most beautiful being the Latter-day Saints' church building and its grounds; the Elders assembled in Priesthood meeting, where we had a spiritual feast, receiving valuable instructions from Elders Jack, John M. Knight and others. We also convened in Priesthood meeting the day following, where each Elder had the privilege of expressing his feelings, and some bore strong testimonies.

Then we were assigned to our various fields of labor. Three of our number were sent to Texas, the other five remaining in Kansas, although we are widely separated. Elder H. M. Godfrey and myself were sent to Rice county, where we joined Elders William T. Harper, of Albion, Idaho, and Samuel B. Hazen, of Salt Lake City, who have been laboring here for several months. We found them enjoying a rich abundance of the Spirit of the Lord, and the very best of health; also the happy association of many Saints and friends, which, by their congenial spirit and humility before the Lord, have been raised up before them on every hand. Their labors certainly have been crowned with success, for they have been the instruments in the hands of God in leading fourteen honest souls into the Church of Christ. Many others are eagerly investigating the Gospel, and we hope their eyes will be opened to the truth by that still, small voice which bears testimony to every honest-hearted soul.

The number which has entered the fold of Christ in this part of the vineyard being sufficient to warrant the organization of a branch, it was effected April 25th. This necessitated a visit of Elder Jack, who was accompanied by Elder John M. Knight, secretary, and Elder Samuel Kirkman, chorister. We all partook of the hospitality of the Saints here, who always have received the Elders with open hearts.

Sunday, at 9 a. m., the ordinance of baptism was attended to. At 10 a. m., Sabbath school convened for organiza-

tion. Elder William T. Harper was set apart as superintendent. Members of the Sabbath school and Elders were instructed in their duties. An inspiring spirit prevailed and the people felt like going forward with great zeal in the Sunday school cause.

At 2 p. m. we convened in the school-house for our Sunday services. Elder Samuel B. Hazen presided. After singing and prayer, Secretary John M. Knight spoke on the organization of the Church. Elder Jack then spoke, giving general instructions.

At 8 p. m., Elder Jack spoke first on the origin of man. Elder Knight bore a strong testimony to the divinity of the Prophet Joseph Smith's mission. Elder Kirkman sang "O, my Father," and meeting adjourned.

The people came from far and near, listened with great interest, and seemed to drink in the Spirit which actuated the speakers.

Next morning, before the departure of our visiting Elders, we held a council meeting.

We are now ready to continue our labors. Elders Harper and Godfrey will labor in Rice county; Elder Hazen and myself will open a new field in McPherson county.

The Elders are laboring energetically in this conference, with Elder W. H. Green at their head.

The weather has been very bad for some time, and the wind blowing almost incessantly for several days.

I feel my inability more at present than in any other avocation of life. It is necessary to be humble before the Lord; and it is also necessary to fill our minds with knowledge. I would admonish our young men in Zion to take advantage of every opportunity afforded them.

JAMES W. ANDERSON.

### TRAVELING IN KENTUCKY.

MONTICELLO, Kentucky,

April, 28th, 1897.

Myself and companion, Elder F. T. Ballam came into this county on March 13th, making our way toward the county seat, as is the custom of the Elders, on coming into town, we were entertained for the night by Mr. Robert Chesney, a large planter. The next morning we hunted up the principal men and made their acquaintance and ask to get a large Church, but failed as some people entertained strange ideas about Mormons; but by persistent effort we succeed in getting the large court house, where we held four meetings, we were kindly cared for by the leading men of the town, having staid with the county clerk and at three of the large hotels.

Many are anxious to hear what the Elders have to say, there having been so much said against them in time past. There is an interest manifest among many to find out what the Mormons believe, and it is fast spreading; for if an Elder comes into a neighborhood it seems that all know it at once, and the Elders are supplanting error with the truths of the everlasting Gospel, it is a great privilege for a young man to go into the world to declare those principles. He soon finds himself alone in a far off land and no one to ask but Him who is above, and it causes him to be humble so he soon begins to exercise faith.

Many of our people at home do not appreciate their surroundings. If they could glance around and see how many

people elsewhere have to struggle to get along they would try to make the best of their own surroundings.

There is one accomplishment which helps an Elder very much, on a mission, and that is to be able to sing. The people love to hear the songs of Zion and never get tired of hearing them. My companion made many friends in Monticello by singing hymns. They seem to sink deep into their hearts. Many come out to hear the singing, yet do not care about the preaching.

We will soon be looking forward to conference when we can greet each other as fellow missionaries in this field.

NEPHI MARTINEAU.

F. T. BALLAM.

### PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF.

Wilford Woodruff heard the Gospel in his early manhood and received a testimony of its truth, and after baptism and confirmation he was ordained a Priest and sent out to preach the glad tidings of great joy.

Among the prophecies of Joseph Smith, the Prophet, was one with date and date in regard to the commencement of the work on the Lord's House at Far West. And the mob element of that section said, that if all the rest of the prophecies of Joseph were fulfilled, this one should not be fulfilled.

Some of the doubting authorities of the Church expressed the belief, that God would not require them to do this labor, as the spirit of hatred and mobocracy was so violent in that section of country. "But," says Brigham Young, "I consulted with the members of the Twelve, who were with me, and found that we were of one heart and mind on this subject, that we ought to make this prediction of the Prophet's true, and they all expressed a desire to fulfill the revelation."

Accordingly the brethren started for Far West, which was reached in safety.

Early on the morning of April 26th, 1839, the appointed day, they met at the Temple lot, and Elder Culler, the Master workman, commenced the foundation of the Lord's House, by laying the corner stone of the southeast corner of the building.

Then, sitting on that memorable stone, George A. Smith and Wilford Woodruff were ordained two of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb.

President Woodruff at this time, 3rd of March, 1840, an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, was pursuing his missionary labors in the kingdom of Great Britain.

"According to the direction of the Spirit," said he, "I went to Herefordshire and called upon John Benbow, at Castlebroom. I found a people prepared for the Gospel. I preached twice at his house. On the 6th I baptized six persons, including John Benbow and wife. (A few weeks after, Brother Benbow came to Apostle Woodruff and brought him a bag of gold, saying, 'Here is £4000, or about \$20,000. I lay it at your feet'—he had read in the fourth chapter of Acts, how they, in the former Church of Christ, brought their means and laid it at the Apostles' feet. Brother Benbow said: 'Here, take this money, thou Apostle of Jesus Christ, and use it as seemeth thee good.' But Brother Woodruff refused the money, and said to him: 'I have come here to save the souls of men and not after their