

This state has been for the last seven years without the voice of a true servant of God to be heard within its borders on account of the intense prejudice which existed against the Latter-day Saints and their belief. The state being recently added to the Indian Territory mission, two Elders were sent here by the president of that mission last fall. Their first visit was to the state building at Little Rock, where they interviewed Governor Clark and informed him of their belief and their mission into this state. They were courteously received by the governor and were assured of protection as long as he was in that official position. From Little Rock they wended their way to the northeastern part of the state, where a delightful headquarters was obtained with Squire C. C. Cates, one of the most prominent citizens of this vicinity.

There are at present four Elders laboring in Arkansas, Elders J. M. Knight and J. L. Nielson, who are in the center of the state and are meeting with unexpected success. They have been in that vicinity but a month, have done some baptizing, and there are others whom they expect to baptize as soon as the weather will permit. Many in that vicinity are earnestly investigating the Gospel.

Elder J. E. Sorenson and myself are laboring in the northern part of the state, and are meeting with splendid success. We have a host of kind hearted friends, and are fast gaining the good will of others, where before intense prejudices had existed among them. We cannot think otherwise than that a great many queer ideas should exist among the people here, as they have been void of the truth, and had heard nothing but the stories of the opposing element, who have sent publications broadcast throughout this portion of the country, containing most unreasonable and ridiculous ideas concerning the so-called Mormons. The people in one of the neighboring villages threatened to run us out of the country, because they thought at first that we taught a doctrine inferior to that which their minister had taught them. The most difficult obstacle we have to contend is a certain class of sectarian divines who are continually endeavoring to overthrow the truth. They gather their little flocks together and endeavor to preach the farewell sermons of the Latter-day Saint Elders, but have found it all in vain, as it has made us and our doctrine better known, and has aroused a greater interest among the majority of their listeners, causing them to think there must be something in the doctrine advocated by the young Mormon Elders. In hearing of the persecutions which the Saints have endured in the latter days, and the progress that they have made in transforming a desert into a fruitful garden, it causes the people to think that there must be some other power than that of man assisting in the great work.

We have been very successful in the past in obtaining edifies in which to hold our meetings, and always have good audiences, who usually keep the best of order. We are at present making arrangements for a three days' conference to be held here about the

1st of May, which will no doubt be the first conference held in this state under the auspices of the Latter-day Saints. Notwithstanding the newness of the field and the intense prejudice which has formerly existed here, the prospects of a flourishing branch to be established look very encouraging.

The majority of the people are engaged in farming, the principal products consisting of corn and cotton, much of which is shipped to the eastern states. A vast difference can be seen between the mode of farming here and the modern ways and tools which are used by our Utah farmers. The people here are far behind the times with the improved implements for farming, on account of the stringency upon the money market and the excessive low prices which are obtained for their products.

The prospects for an abundant harvest look very encouraging for the coming season, as spring has opened up in very deed. The hills and meadows begin to look quite green, and many of the trees are in bloom, while the vast forests of hardwood timbers are putting forth their leaves, which reminds a person very much of the green mountain scenery of Utah.

CHAS. F. SOLOMON.

### SOUTHERN UTAH VETERANS.

THATCHER, Arizona,

April 8, 1896.

Thinking that it might be interesting to the readers of the NEWS to know that we too have some of the old Utah veterans in Arizona, I called on a few of them and find the most of them feel as if they had drifted away down here and had become almost forgotten by their friends in Utah.

The first I will mention is our worthy State President C. Layton, who was born in Bedfordshire, England, March 8, 1821. Brother Layton is one of the number who passed through this country with the Mormon Battalion; the history of their march is well known to all. Then we find him here in his old age, where he has done more than any other man to redeem this beautiful valley.

P. C. Merrill, also of Battalion fame, and our worthy Patriarch, was born in the state of New York, November 12, 1820; joined the Church in 1839; was ordained a Patriarch by John Henry Smith October 15, 1891.

H. G. Boyle, born in 1824, in Tagwell county, Va. Bro. Boyle was also in the battalion, and it is quite interesting to hear him relate the many hardships they passed through while on that arduous journey; he has also filed several foreign missions and has baptized many into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

R. W. Allred also one of the hardy Pioneers was born Nov. 27, 1827, in Bedford county, Tenn.; joined the Church in an early day and can tell what it cost the early settlers to redeem Utah.

Enoch Burns the oldest person we have living in this state, was born Nov. 2, 1807, in Lower Canada, now known as Quebec. He joined the Church at Nauvoo in 1839; emigrated to Utah in 1850, and has been on the frontiers most of the time since. His many friends in Utah or elsewhere will be pained to know that he is quite

feeble. Still Bro. Burns has a desire to live. He feels that there will be some great change take place with this people and he has a desire to witness the change.

Elizabeth Jane Burns, his noble wife, was born Feb. 12th, 1824, in Linden Co., Va.; was baptized into the Church April 7th, 1841, came to Utah in 1851, and always has been counted one of the noblest mothers in Israel.

Ira B. Elmer was born Aug. 2, 1823, in the state of Vermont; joined the Church in an early day; came to Utah in 1850; was one of the first to settle in St. George, being present and helped to survey the city of St. George.

Sister Wilmerth East, wife of the late E. W. East, was born in the state of Georgia in 1824; joined the Church in Texas, in 1854, came to Utah in 1855, and has been an active laborer in the Relief society for more than twenty-five years. Sister East was quite feeble and had a great desire to see some of the Church presidency or the Apostles and still had hope that she would recover from the affliction that has come upon her, but she died subsequent to my visit.

We have many more of the old veterans in this valley such as Samuel Claridge, born Dec. 28, 1828, emigrated to Utah 1853; Benj. Cluff, son of David Cluff, born March 20, 1830, in Stafford county, N. H., baptized 1838, came to Utah 1850; Sister Mary E. Cluff, his wife, was born in Cincinnati in 1837, came to Utah in 1852. Sister Cluff joined the Church in an early day and always has been a faithful worker in the cause of truth; N. W. Birdno, born Feb. 2, 1824, baptized Sept., 1843, emigrated to Utah 1859; Elizabeth Ann Allen, the wife of the late O. M. Allen and daughter of the late George Burkett, born at Winchester, Randolph county, Indiana, Nov. 1, 1825, baptized in the spring of 1836, emigrated to Utah 1852. Her father, George Burkett, and her husband, were both closely connected with Joseph the Prophet in the persecutions in Nauvoo, and are well known throughout the Church; William F. Butter was born Feb. 12th, 1824, in the state of Indiana, baptized in 1836, emigrated to Utah in 1852. He was one of the first settlers in Spanish Fork, Utah county, also one of the first settlers in St. George, and always has been on the frontier.

We have many others among whom are R. A. Allred of Battalion fame, Merlin Plumb, born in Ohio in 1831, Moses Curtis, Lavina Dodge and many others which space will not allow me to mention.

The health of the people is splendid. Prospects for crops never were better. There will be an unusually large crop of fruit, and if we could have a visit from the Church Presidency now, as we have a railroad running through our settlements, we would think the Lord was surely blessing us.

G. W. WILLIAMS.

### IN THE CHEROKEE NATION.

MANARD, I. T., March 31, 1896.

Again I approach you, with an earnest solicitation for a hearing from the land of the Cherokee. The people in this part of the Territory are generally healthy, and the absorbing question is the allotment of lands among the citi-