

word that the Australasian mission had been divided and that he had been appointed to preside over that portion to be known as the New Zealand mission. Elder Smith remained until released. He reports things generally in good condition and says the way is being opened up for the spread of the Gospel, and that prejudice is fast being allayed. The Elders, says he, are in the enjoyment of good health, despite the sultry climate, and on the whole the mission is prospering.

Elder Frank H. Cutler of Glendale, Kane county, has returned to Utah from a mission which he commenced June 1st, 1895, to Florida, Alabama and Georgia. The work of the Elders has been attended with very satisfactory success there of late. Elder Cutler presided over the Florida conference during the last eighteen months.

Elder John Clayson of Payson, Utah, returned home on the 23rd inst. from a mission to Australia, upon which he entered July 7, 1895. The work of Mormon missionaries in the section where he labored is meeting with marked success.

Elder Horace W. Barton of the Twenty-first ward, this city, returned from the mission field Thursday, June 23rd. Elder Barton left home July 11, 1895, and first labored in the Manawatu district fifteen months, then was assigned to Victoria, Australia, doing service in Melbourne for a period of thirteen months. He was afterwards called to Ballarat where he labored until released. He reports the work progressing slowly in that country, the way being gradually opened up for the accomplishment of much good. He had fairly good health while away and enjoyed his labors in the ministry.

IN THE EUROPEAN MISSION.

[Millennial Star, June 9, 1898.]

Releases and Appointments.—Elder Charles E. Rose has been honorably released from laboring in the Millennial Star office to return home June 18, 1898. In connection with his missionary labors Elder Rose has been laboring in the printing department of this office for the past six months. During this time, besides printing the weekly issue of the Star and a number of tracts, he has printed an edition of the Doctrine and Covenants.

Elder J. C. McFarlane has been released from laboring in the Norwich conference and appointed to labor in the Millennial Star office.

John Lloyd has been honorably released from laboring as a traveling Elder in the Welsh conference to return home June 23, 1898.

F. J. A. Jaques has been honorably released from laboring as a traveling Elder in the Irish conference to return home after visiting relatives in England.

Orson Allen has been honorably released from laboring as a traveling Elder in the Sheffield conference to return home July 2, 1898.

Jesse T. Badger has been honorably released from laboring as a traveling Elder in the London conference to return home July 2, 1898.

Malcolm McKinnon has been honorably released from presiding over the Scottish conference to return home July 2, 1898.

David O. McKay has been appointed to preside over the Scottish conference.

William Mawson has been released from the Irish conference and appointed to labor as a traveling Elder in the Leeds conference.

Elders John H. Bailey Jr. and Don B. Colton, who have been previously released, return on June 23, 1898.

HONOR THE SABBATH.

The following official declaration from the Ministers' association which was handed to the 'News' for publication Monday afternoon will be read with marked interest.

The Ministerial association of Salt Lake City hereby expresses its hearty commendation of the recent utterances in the Tabernacle by President Joseph F. Smith concerning the prevalent Sabbath desecration, and joins with him in solemn protest against the maintenance of so-called pleasure resorts whose demoralizing influences are multiplied on Sundays with such disastrous effects upon the young people who are attracted thither, that the question of their suppression presses itself seriously on the attention of all friends of public morality.

The association embraces this opportunity to appeal to the managers of mining companies, railroad corporations, and other employers of labor to abate the wrongs that are so generally perpetrated by them on working men by depriving them of the weekly day of rest guaranteed them by the law. The operation of mines on Sunday, and the running of excursion trains on that day cannot possibly be brought within the necessary labor permitted by our statutes; and we therefore earnestly urge said corporations to obey the laws of the State whose aid they are ready to invoke when their own rights are invaded by wrong-doers. Those who demand the protection of law should themselves refrain from its violation.

Among the reasons which forcibly suggest a union of all good citizens in efforts to secure a better observance of Sabbath laws are the following:

1. It is a law of God written not only in His Word, but also in human nature. Silence approves the statement that "the Sabbath was made for man;" careful investigation showing that the weekly day of rest in addition to nightly cessation from toil is necessary to the perfect maintenance of health and life.

2. The observance of the day is demanded by a proper regard for the law of the State. When the public sentiment has become crystallized in legislation, good citizenship requires ready and general obedience. Anything less than this tends towards the overthrow of the foundation principles of a republican form of government. Disobedience to one law paves the way for disregard of all law, and leads inevitably towards anarchy and destruction of all that holds society together. Safety is assured only when all laws are equally and fully obeyed.

3. Compulsory labor on Sunday is a violation of the rights of conscience guaranteed by the Constitution. Men who of necessity are compelled to labor for others, and who yet have conscientious convictions against working on the Lord's day, are placed at a disadvantage in the labor market, and are thus made to suffer for conscience sake which is an infraction upon their rights as American citizens, and a condition of things which ought not to be allowed to exist. We insist that employers commit a wrong when they compel men to suffer for obedience to their religious convictions, and a proper regard for the laws of the State.

In view of the growing evil of Sabbath desecration, we congratulate ourselves, and the friends of Christianity generally, that the authorities of the most prominent Church are awakening to the need of abating this evil, and we pledge ourselves to earnestly support any well-directed effort to lessen the amount of this great sin against God, and crime against the State.

W. H. BAGLEY, Chairman.
RICHARD WAKE, Secretary.

STAKE CONFERENCE REPORTS.

Snowflake take.

We have enjoyed a very interesting time, for a few days, away out here in the Snowflake Stake of Zion.

At 2 p. m. May 27, 1898, our High Council met in the town of Snowflake, and transacted such business as was demanded by the existing conditions.

At 10 a. m. on the 28th the Stake primary organization held its half-yearly conference.

At 2 p. m. the same day the Stake Relief society held its half-yearly conference, and, at 10:30 a. m. May 29th, the regular quarterly conference for the Snowflake Stake commenced in the pleasant and neatly finished Stake house in the village of Snowflake.

The Presidency of the Stake were all in attendance as also were the majority of the High Council, Bishops of the wards and a good sized congregation. Some of the Saints from the St. Johns Stake were present.

Five meetings were held including the Priesthood meeting, held in the evening of the 29th. The Sacrament was administered and the general and local authorities were sustained by the unanimous vote of the conference. Many and varied were the instructions given, urging the Saints to live, as well as to profess, their religion. At the close of the second day, conference was adjourned for three months.

L. M. SAVAGE, Clerk.

St. Joseph Stake.

Thatcher, Ariz., June 15, 1898.

The St. Joseph Stake quarterly conference convened at Thatcher Sunday morning, June 12th, 10 a. m. There were present the Stake presidency, six patriarchs, members of the high council, Bishops from all the wards except two, and a good representation of Saints. All the various organizations were well represented. On the stand was a dish of peaches and plums, picked from the orchard of Bishop James Cluff of Central ward. An excellent spirit prevailed during the entire conference, and the reports of the Bishops showed that the lethargy hanging over the people previous to the organization recently effected, had been almost entirely shaken off and a remarkable reformation had taken place. They had awakened to a sense of their duty as Latter-day Saints and were in a prosperous condition, both temporally and spiritually. Instructions were given by those who spoke during the conference were of a nature to instill into the hearts of the Saints a renewed desire to live in harmony with the teachings of the Gospel. One very interesting feature of the conference was, that the sisters of the Relief Society and Young Ladies' Improvement Association passed a resolution to uncover their heads in all religious meetings.

Agreeable to arrangements that had been made for some time, Brother Christopher Layton, our former president, took train at 5 p. m. today for his former home in Davis county, Utah. His health has improved so remarkably of late that it was deemed wise to have him return to Utah. There has been a number of meetings of late, of the citizens of this county, respecting the construction of a new canal. It has been under headway for many years, but it seems that the former company could not unite on a business policy of construction sufficient to make a success of it. They awaited the return of Elder Kimball from Utah, and since his arrival have made a very liberal proposition. Four of their former board resigned. They elected Elder Kimball president with full power to select three members of the board, which places the canal under the direction of the Church authorities here. A united effort is now being made by the president of the