

In our conference seven baptisms have been performed since its organization on June 1st, 1898. The power of God has been manifest in the healing of the sick, especially in this and Lawrence cities.

Our labors in Topeka will be at an end for the time being, as tomorrow we leave for new fields of labor. At our last meeting, held on the 22nd inst., a large crowd was at first, during the singing, in attendance, but only to leave when the Gospel was taught, and rush in confusion to excitement, created on the next corner by the singing of some colored people.

God is blessing the efforts of the humble Elders in this part. At present the following named are laboring to spread the Gospel in this conference:

Elders C. W. Goodliffe and E. C. Winn at Lawrence.

Prest Jos. J. Richardson and Spencer Moffitt at Holton.

George E. Brim and Benjamin W. Merrill at Ottawa.

Joseph A. Wright Jr. and Thos. H. Gleason at Winchester.

Byron H. Allred Jr. and Wm. Jackson at Topeka.

Our prayers are that the work of God may be cut short in righteousness and the pure in heart saved.

Your brother in the Gospel,

BYRON H. ALLRED JR.,  
Clerk of Conference.

#### In Wisconsin.

Oshkosh, Wis., Aug. 23, 1898.

My first appointed field of labor was in Appleton, where I labored for six months with John J. Simmons as a companion. We succeeded in making many warm friends, and planted the Gospel seed in that city, which we hope will take root in the near future. From there I was called to labor in Fond Du Lac, where I remained for but a short time, when it was considered best that I resume the labors in Jackson county, Wis., where I, in company with Elder John E. Bolce, after holding a series of meetings, we went from there to Eleva, Trempleau county, where I visited with relatives and many friends. Judging from the past and present, there will be a great work done. Many honored souls have been caused to reflect upon their condition before God, and consequently are investigating the principles taught by the Latter-day Saints.

Our conference will be held on the third, fourth and fifth prox. We anticipate having a successful and enjoyable time with the Saints and many friends of this part. The work is progressing very rapidly in this conference. When first I came here there were twelve traveling Elders. At present there are sixteen, all faithful workers. E. W. Croft presides.

I have enjoyed my labors thus far, and have gained an experience that could never have been gained in any other way. I am well and have enjoyed good health.

Your brother in Christ,

EDWIN R. LINDSAY.

#### Long Island Conference.

Freeport, N. Y., Aug. 25, 1898.

Long Island has yielded rich harvest to the workers in the vineyard of the Lord. Many years ago Brigham Young, Parley Pratt, Orson Pratt, Orson Hyde, Wilford Woodruff and others who became leaders of our people, traveled and spoke here. The older residents here well remember the names mentioned. Gray-haired grandparents tell us of the pleasure they used to take in listening to these men of God. Last Wednesday we met a gentleman over seventy years of age, whose mother was a Latter-day Saint. When a boy he used to accompany her to meetings and well does he re-

member hearing the Elder, who was addressing the people, speak in tongues. Others testify that all the Elders they have met have been true and earnest gentlemen and that those who have joined the Church here have been from the best class of citizens.

Those whom we meet often rail against our people and doctrines and in forcible language tell us we ought to be ashamed to teach such doctrines. After we have explained the stand we take, and brought proof that the Latter-day Saints are a moral and law-abiding people, and show them that our ideals are higher than those of any other Christians, they are astonished and ask our pardon for insulting us and frankly tell us they have regarded Mormonism as a synonym of everything low and degrading. People here are becoming more friendly. Many tell us they are informing their friends in other cities about us and sending our tracts to them.

We labored seven months in Jamaica, a city of pretty homes, ten miles east of Brooklyn. The people at first were very much opposed to us, but by faith and prayers their doors were opened to us and many hundreds of them heard the first principles of the Gospel of Christ, and listened to the testimonies of the Elders. We held several street meetings and one meeting in Fraternity Hall.

The newspaper men have been very liberal with us having made several announcements for us, printed our Articles of Faith, and given a very good report of our hall meeting. They have since volunteered to come and report our meetings.

There are a number of Saints at Oceanside where meetings are held each Sabbath. They manifest their love for the Gospel by their good works and kind treatment of the Elders. Among those faithful souls that have stood firm to the truth under all circumstances and ministered to the servants of God, cheerfully for any years we mention our dear Sister Norchay Soper. She has been called a mother to the Saints here and truly she merits the name. Another kind hearted sister whose many deeds of Christian charity make her memory dear is Amanda Pettit.

The Elders laboring here are Marcus Farr, F. F. Moses, J. R. Thomas, and E. D. Whiting. Freeport has been tracted once. The people have treated us well. We have loaned and sold twenty books, had over twenty visits with the families and more than a hundred Gospel conversations.

Elder Moses left us in May and spent two months in Connecticut. He was invited to speak to the people who furnished a room, organist and good choir for him. He held five well attended meetings.

We pray that the young people at home may awaken to the performance of their duties. Again we appeal to you to learn to sing and read music. We need singers in the field. The cry is heard from nearly every conference, "Send someone to us who can sing." Each day's labor causes us to love the Gospel more as we see its beauty shining above the doctrines of men. Its rays are beaming upon more and more souls who are seeking truth as it rises toward the noon-day of its glory.

MARCUS FARR,

President.

E. D. WHITING,

Secretary.

#### A Letter from Turkey.

Constantinople, August 12, 1898.

The writer having in view other objects besides preaching the Gospel while traveling through Turkey, he gave the conditions of the country and its people considerable attention. One of the most interesting observations was the general lay of the country, the apparent

natural resources are going to waste natural resources and its scenery.

The mountain ranges run from east to west, and in places they rise quite high, probably 100,000 feet above sea. The most conspicuous range is the Taurus, which rises quite rapidly from the Mediterranean slope and bases off east and slightly to the north nearly to Mt. Ararat. Not having a map at hand I cannot give the names of the various modern names given by the Turks, but nevertheless the backbone of the country is nearly in the middle, a little to the south of the center of Asia Minor.

To the southwest the Aksu drains the country and empties into the Mediterranean to the southeast the Euphrates receives the waters from its numerous tributaries and the Black sea drains the water from the north slope to the main rivers, of which are the Kizil (red) river and the Yeshil (green) river.

This condition of these different rivers heading in high Arment, has given the Armenians a base for an argument that the Garden of Eden somewhere in Armenia. Genesis tells us that four rivers arose in Eden. The names of two may be found, Euphrates and Hiddekel. And the land of Assyria is also near by. So the Armenians are fully persuaded that the Garden of Eden was somewhere in their native country, and that God has given them a glorious calling to be custodians of so precious a land. They tell us that no other country answers the description of the Bible; that they have the country where Noah's ark landed—Mt. Ararat—and that they can trace their genealogy back to one of the grandsons of Noah, whose name was Huk. They laugh at our stupidity in claiming America to be the possessor of the Garden of Eden country. Why, say they, America was not known then. How could Eden be there? We tell them that in all probability the posterity of Noah named the lands and rivers of the new country which God gave them after the names of the old ones whence they came, thus perpetuating their memory precisely as we do now in America, where nearly all countries and all prominent cities may be found, renamed to satisfy the feelings of those who left the land of their nativity.

Now whatever the conditions of the water flow may be, or however much the people may relate traditionally as evidence of the Garden of Eden being there, the description is far from answering the description of the Garden of Eden itself. It does not seem to be a place where the creations of God could enjoy that state of happiness which they did. It is mountainous and rough in the extreme. It has very few fine valleys, through the middle I only found one, that being pretty well to the south in which Kharpan and Malatia are located. Its basin is drained by the Gok su and is finally thrown into the Murad and then into the Euphrates. This valley is about twenty miles wide by thirty or forty long. The valleys are found of smaller dimensions. Of course there are many long, narrow valleys in all directions. For instance the valleys of the Kizil nur and that of Yeshil nur are both quite nice, in places they open up and widen out to from three to five miles, but a great deal of the way they are impassable narrow, forcing farming and travel to the mountain sides and tops. In some places where the water is most handy a little irrigation is performed, but most of the water flows undisturbed and unused to the sea all for the want of a little energy on the part of the people and their government.

In some places flour mills are built and these control the water rights to a degree, but millions of acres of this fine land as any need to cultivate is doing but little for man because the