

vanced principles, but, in most cases, a solid foundation of first principles must be laid; so we have found it to our advantage to preach from five to ten sermons on each subject whenever we have the opportunity to speak to the people. Up to the present time we have had no difficulty in securing places in which to preach, or people to attend our meetings.

Although we have held some seventy five meetings in this small county, we have not been over one-half of the county yet. At no time have we been disturbed at any of our meetings, or have been treated in anyway but with the greatest respect. We have kind friends on every hand who are ready and willing to minister to our wants. Too much praise cannot be given to the people of this state for their kindness and hospitality. Some people who at first were prejudiced against us and hesitated to receive us, are now our best friends. Here let me state, that the singing of our hymns has attracted the attention of many people who otherwise would not listen to us. The people are great lovers of singing, and will go miles to attend our meetings, some of them drawn by the hymns we sing. We have copied many of our best hymns for people who wished to learn them. In some localities where we hold meetings, we have good assistance with our singing. It appears that the Elder who can prepare himself at home to be able to read music and sing the same properly, has a double advantage in making friends and thus being able to spread the Gospel. Our advice to all our young men at home who have not yet fulfilled missions, and are connected with no ward choir, is to learn to sing at the earliest possible moment, and when they get out into the missionary field they will be able to appreciate this advice. If it is not possible to learn the music, then do the next best—learn the tunes to as many good hymns as possible.

Among the Elders it is a well-known fact, that the Elder who can sing well, has more success in making friends than one who cannot sing, or one who has the voice but has not improved the opportunities that are amply provided for all our young men at home. But, to our young men we would say, do not be discouraged if you think you cannot sing; because, when you get in the missionary field, if there is any sing in you, it will soon be developed.

We have enjoyed the very best of health while laboring in this county. One great blessing we have and enjoy here, is the splendid spring water that flows from the mountains in abundance. To observe the Word of Wisdom and travel without purse or scrip, are the rules in the conference, and to these facts may be ascribed some of the great success that is attending the labors of the Elders.

On Sunday the 28th of March we had the privilege of leading down into the waters of baptism Sister Laura Detee Reed the first person to embrace the Gospel in this country. This is the first baptism that has ever taken place in the county as far as we have been able to learn. Another application for baptism has been made but the person has been prevented by sickness. There are also many others who are earnestly investigating the Gospel, and so we are looking for a great harvest to be gathered here in the near future. Again let us en-

courage the young men who are being called to fulfill missions not to falter or dread the task, especially if the call is to the Northern States Mission, for if we do our duty no matter where we are God can open up the way before us and kind friends will be raised up to take us in and provide for our wants. These things we can testify to when we entered this state we did so with fear and trembling, having heard so many times of the hardness of the hearts of the people and their selfishness and lack of hospitality. So in entering our field of labor with fasting and prayer we called upon the Lord to open up the way before us to prepare the hearts of the people to receive the Gospel, to raise up friends to us that our temporal wants may be supplied, and in every way advance the work we are engaged in, and O how wonderful and complete has He answered our humble prayers! Instead of finding the people selfish, inhospitable, and hard hearted, we found them well educated, kind, considerate hospitable and charitable. In our travels we find many of the people who are from the old Pennsylvania Dutch stock, and they are almost always kind hearted people.

The winter just past has been a very mild one for this country. The snowfall would be about the same as at Salt Lake City in any ordinary winter. The thermometer, however has registered as low as eighteen degrees below zero, which is considered mild weather for this country. The last two weeks in March was typical Utah Spring weather. The grass is growing the trees are beginning to bud and all indications point to an early spring.

It is quite a sight here now to see the maple trees running sap to make maple sugar. The people generally call the trees sugar trees.

At the present time we have but ten Elders in this conference, but could use fifty very easily and still have plenty to do. The ministers in this part of the country do considerable talking against us, but in a very quiet behind our back way. Whenever we meet any of them they will shake hands and appear very sociable, but they generally advise their people to keep away from our meetings, and not to entertain us. But all this so far has made us more and better friends. In some localities we find many of the people who are in open rebellion to such interference by the clergy with their personal liberties and who declare they will attend any meeting they choose, and entertain whoever they like.

So the good work goes on, and through it all our faith is strengthened, and our testimonies proved.

The News comes to our address regularly. It is a welcome visitor and is read with much interest; after reading it we send the paper to Saints or friends who are very anxious to read it.

JOSHUA SELLEY,  
Secretary Pennsylvania Conference.  
JOHN R. CRAWFORD.

### IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

PINCKNEYVILLE, Ill., March 29th, 1897.

Herewith find a synopsis of our conference, which was held in this city, commencing on Saturday, March 20th, at 10 a. m., and lasting for two days. Through the courtesy of the German Methodists, our services were held in

their meeting house. There were fifteen Elders present, besides our worthy president, Elder L. A. Kelsch, as follows: E. S. Sheets, D. A. Lowry, W. E. Abbott, S. L. Bunnell, V. E. Candland, D. M. Guest, M. J. Ballard, Ezra Christensen, Joseph Empey, Peter Anderson, George A. Hill, J. W. Francom, G. Buchanan, John A. Coon and C. E. Dinwoodey.

Our services were presided over by the president of the conference, Elder V. A. Candland. The first meeting opened by singing; prayer was offered by Elder Empey.

Elder Candland, with a few well-chosen remarks, welcomed the public to our meetings and introduced Elder Christensen, who spoke upon the subject of faith.

Elder Ballard then sang the hymn "Prayer," after which Elder Bunnell took up the subject of repentance. The choir sang and benediction was offered by Elder C. E. Dinwoodey.

2 p. m. Singing; prayer by Elder Kelsch; singing.

Elder D. A. Lowry was then introduced, and dwelt upon the subject of baptism.

Elder Empey followed upon the same subject.

Elder Ballard then favored us with the hymn "Guide me to Thee." He (Elder Ballard) then spoke upon the Holy Ghost. Choir sang, and Elder Christensen offered the closing prayer.

7:30 p. m. Singing; prayer by Elder Sheets; singing.

The subject of the personality of God was taken up in this meeting by Elder L. A. Kelsch. He also bore a strong testimony. Choir sang; benediction by Elder Guest.

March 21st, 10 a. m. Singing; prayer by Elder Buchanan.

Elder V. E. Candland then took up the subject of Church organization.

Elder Ballard followed with a song, after which Elder Christensen spoke upon divine authority. Choir sang; benediction by Elder Abbott.

2 p. m. Singing; prayer by Elder Francom.

Elder C. E. Dinwoodey was then introduced and spoke upon the apostasy, text, Amos viii: 11.

After the choir sang the hymn, "The Spirit of God like a fire is burning," Elder Ballard took up the restoration of the Gospel.

The choir sang and benediction was offered by Elder Hill.

7:30 p. m. Singing; prayer by Elder Lowry; singing.

The time was occupied by Elder Kelsch upon Gospel principles. The choir sang. Benediction by Elder Coon.

This closed our meeting at Pinckneyville, but our spiritual feast did not close at this. On Monday morning five wagons loaded with Mormon preachers, and Saints wended their way up to Round Prairie, about twelve miles north. Here we partook of the hospitality of Brothers Schundgall, Blatter, Krupp and Pabst. While there we held our Priesthood meeting, also three other meetings in our Mormon meeting house, this place has the distinction of having the only Latter-day Saints' meeting house in Illinois.

At our Priesthood meeting the Sacrament was administered by Elders Christensen and Empey. Elder Candland addressed us for a few minutes, giving some very good advice, after which