

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## A LETTER FROM WEST VIRGINIA.

Lawson, Raleigh Co.,  
W. Va., Nov. 4, 1897.

On March 21, 1896, I bade farewell to the beautiful valleys of the mountains, and after a very pleasant journey through country new to me, I arrived at Chattanooga, Tenn., March 26. While at Chattanooga I had the privilege of visiting the famous Lookout mountain, where, in the War of the Rebellion, so many noble sons met their doom. While here our colored guide (for such we had) led us to a part of the mountain where the tops of the trees were all gone. He informed us that they had been cut off by cannon balls in the time of the war. In many places could be seen large cannon balls lodged in the trunks of the sturdy oak. From Lookout mountain I take the electric car for the cemetery, where those who met their fate in the great civil war were laid to rest. And the name I should give that place would be the beautiful city of the dead. For it is indeed so. After copying in my diary some of the beautiful inscriptions found on the marble head stones I return to the city when I receive my appointment together with some valuable instructions from Elder Elias S. Kimball, president of the mission. I was assigned to labor in the West Virginia conference which includes the eastern part of Kentucky. I traveled in company with Elder Blackburn of Brigham city to Lewis county, Kentucky, where we met Elders Burrows and Wilcox. After two weeks in Lewis county I was called to accompany Elder B. D. Wilcox of Preston, Ida., in opening up Letcher county, Ky., situated in the eastern part of Kentucky along the Black mountains. On arriving in this county we went direct to the county seat, Whitesburg, obtained the court house to preach in and stayed at the best hotel in the place. The people of Letcher county are as a rule poor, but a more hospitable people one could not wish to meet.

After three months of successful labor there we returned to Lewis county to attend conference where we had a spiritual as well as a temporal feast. Conference over I am assigned to labor with Elder Curtis B. Smith of Manassa, Colo., and our field of labor is Mercer county, West Virginia.

We arrived in Mercer, Sept. 13th and went to the home of Samuel R. Crotty, the only family of Saints in Mercer county. Great credit is due Brother Crotty and family for their untiring efforts in making a comfortable home for the Elders. On beginning our labors in Mercer county we found the people very indifferent and a great deal of prejudice existing among some. But by the help of the Lord, we succeeded in eradicating from the minds of the people, some of the prejudice that have so long existed. Churches and school houses were thrown open to us, and now a Mormon Elder will be welcomed in almost any part of Mercer county.

From Mercer county I was called to go into Raleigh county, West Va., in company with Elder Harry H. Cluff of Provo. At the latter place the writer finds himself comfortably situated at the present time. Since coming into Raleigh county we have baptized eight souls. There are now sixteen Saints in this county. We have just organized a Sunday school which is a credit to the place, and a great benefit to all interested. We have at present forty-three names enrolled. People of different denominations attend our Sunday school and all seem very well pleased

with the way it is conducted. Our superintendent, Brother C. A. Thompson, is an exemplary young man, and is interested in the work. The Saints in Raleigh county have shown themselves worthy the blessings of God. Brother Lawson Jarrell and family have never tired of making a pleasant home for the Elders. Uncle Jake Pettry, although not a member of the Church, has done much for the spread of truth in the county. He is a wheel-to-do planter and an influential man. His has ever been a home for the Mormon Elders.

Our late conference was held in this county last month and, using a common expression among the people here, it was "a sight in the world." On entering the hall where our conference was held the first thing to draw attention were the beautiful decorations, consisting of pine, fur, hemlock, the laurel and the holly branch. The people, Mormon and non-Mormon, united as brothers and sisters and the result was our conference was a success. It is a custom among the people here at all public gatherings to have dinner on the ground, and not wishing to be out of the fashion, we did likewise. And it was a pleasing sight to behold. The yard was covered with people. They came from far and near. I was informed that some had come over fifty miles. Elder A. P. Kesler of Brooklyn met with us and we had a time of rejoicing. The blessings of God have attended me in my entire mission. I have had health and strength and kind friends to provide for my wants. We travel, as did the Apostles of old, absolutely without purse or scrip, and we have proven beyond a doubt that by so doing we are greatly blessed in our labors.

The Gospel is spreading as never before. We have more invitations to come and preach than we can find time to accept. The harvest truly is great but the laborers are few.

The "News,"—well, we could not do without it. It is read and re-read and then handed to Saints and friends who are anxious to peruse its columns.

ORSON HYDE,  
Lawson, West Virginia.

## UINTAH STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Uintah Stake quarterly conference was held in the Stake house (Vernal) Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, 1897. There were present on the stand Elder Abraham O. Woodruff, of the Apostles' quorum, Elder Seymour B. Young, of the first seven presidents of Seventy, the Stake presidency and other brethren connected with the various quorums of Priesthood in the Stake.

After opening exercises Elder Bennion addressed the conference. Among subjects touched upon were the evils that exist in our midst, such as saloons and similar places.

Elder Collett reported the Stake as in very fair condition. Much emigration is coming into our midst. He wished the several Bishops to look after the new comers. The Stake academy is doing a good work as also the district schools. Education is growing rapidly.

Elder Young was the next speaker. He spoke of the wonderful blessings bestowed upon us by the Lord. The products of this land, he said, are wonderful. The Lord has blessed the people and their labors.

It is not necessary to break the Word of Wisdom to sustain life. How long would intoxicants keep us from

starving? How long would precious metals alone ensure our existence? The people should turn their attention to cultivating the soil and produce what they need and consume. Speaking of the education of children, Elder Young said, set them proper examples. Examples are catching. We ought to be very careful in making promises to children, unless they are fulfilled. Always use kindness which will win in all instances. Never allow yourselves to strike a child in a fit of anger but use love and persuade him or her to do your bidding. This is the government of God on earth. All children are subject to influences, one as much as another, hence be careful in placing safeguards around them in time. Those who are blessed with power to control should assist their neighbors who may not be so fortunate.

2 p. m. Elder Hacking was the first speaker. He referred to the remarks made during the morning session on the subjects of proper training of children and education. He suggested many valuable points wherein improvement could be made among us as a community and urged all to full performance of their duties.

Elder Woodruff spoke at some length on the subject of revelation, calling attention to how the Gospel was restored in this dispensation and how we may know of these things. He referred to the temporal affairs of the people and counseled them to take care of that which God had given them. He advised them to hold on to their lands and increase their possessions when practicable. He said those who have become involved financially could free themselves, viz: by paying their tithes and offerings and keeping the commandments of God. He showed the evil of brethren going to law, and said it was a shame that brethren should sue one another. In closing he referred to the remarks of Elder Young on child training. In speaking of tithing he said, those who had been the most energetic in this direction were the most prosperous.

Closing remarks were made by Elder Bennion.

Singing and benediction.

At the Monday morning session the Bishops gave reports of their respective wards, showing a very fair condition although some negligence in Church duties was reported both by officers and members. Some wards were in much better condition than others.

Elder Woodruff commented upon the reports and gave encouraging advice to the officers as to how to proceed. He rebuked the negligent and indifferent, saying he would prefer a person who would fight against the truth to one who would stand neutral. We have a striking example of this class recorded in the Bible.

Elder Young followed, calling attention to the imposters that have and may come in our midst, giving a key by which all may know them. In closing he spoke on home industries and advised the people to enter into this kind of investment while the country was young and competition comparatively small.

2 p. m.—After the opening exercises the general and local authorities were presented and unanimously sustained by the conference.

Elder Woodruff was the first speaker. He said the Latter-day Saints are a peculiar people. We are the only people who believe in building temples and administering ordinances therein both for the living and the dead. He said the people of Noah's time were destroyed because of their wickedness. But Christ opened the door of the prison that they might again hear the Gospel, and if they so choose, could embrace it that they might be judged.