

room and the green room beyond. One of the great monarchs of India made a throne of gold, the back of which was set with jewels to represent the feathers and colors of the peacock's tail. The throne cost \$30,000,000, and it is described as having been wonderfully beautiful. It was, however, not much larger than a chair. I visited the room where it stood during my stay in Delhi some years ago. The throne room was, I venture, not as large as this White House vestibule, and here, instead of a chair of jewels, there is a whole wall made of bits of glass and costly stone put together in the form of a magnificent mosaic. It has not cost as many thousands and dollars as the peacock throne cost millions, but when the electric lights shine behind it it is, I venture, far more beautiful. It is in this vestibule that the Marine Band, dressed in their gorgeous red uniforms, with their brazen instruments shining like so much gold, play at the president's receptions, and over this mosaic floor step the diplomats of all the nations of the world, clad in their gold lace, the gay uniformed officers of our army and navy and the powdered and bejeweled throng which makes up what is known as Washington society.

You will go to the left through this vestibule to reach the second floor of the White House, where the offices are, if you have business with President McKinley, but if you wish to see Mrs. McKinley and are so fortunate as to be a friend of the family, you will be taken right across the vestibule, and a door in that wonderful wall will open for you and admit you to the parlors of the White House. At the president's evening receptions the rooms to the left of the White House will be fitted up with shelves, where the hats and coats of the men can be put away, while the wraps of the ladies will be stored for the time in the state dining room.

It will be in the blue room that President McKinley will receive at such times. This has been the custom from time immemorial, and it will not be changed. I doubt, however, whether Mrs. McKinley will be able to be with him. She is not at all strong, and she could not stand the wear and tear of an evening reception. It took all of Mrs. Cleveland's vitality to enable her to carry out her part during her first years in the White House. I know of receptions at which she shook hands with at least 5,000 people, and at which it seemed to me she gave a smile to each one and not two alike. Mrs. Harrison tried to save herself by not shaking hands, and at some of the receptions she carried a bouquet in order to show the people that she could not do this. Some think that it was the care, overwork and worry of the White House which killed her, and the same is said to have caused the death of the first Mrs. Tyler and also of Mrs. Fillmore, although she survived, I believe, until a few weeks after she left the White House. It was in the blue room that Mrs. Cleveland was married, and here she bade good-bye to her guests and took the carriage with the President to the special car on the Baltimore and Ohio road, which was secretly waiting almost half a mile from the station, to take the White House bride and groom to their honeymoon cottage at Deer Park.

Frank G. Carpenter

THE CALIFORNIA MISSION.

POCATELLO, Idaho, January 4th, 1897.

I wish to present to the readers of the News, with your kind indulgence—a few facts concerning the opening of the California Mission. In your issue of December 25th, 1896, I saw a letter from Elder G. F. Harding, wherein the idea is conveyed that the mission has been opened only three years. In a previous letter from one of the Elders he states that there are four branches organized in the state.

In the spring of 1891, I received a letter from Box B, calling me on a mission to open up and take charge of the California and Western States mission, but owing to circumstances, I did not start on my mission till August 1892. I arrived in San Francisco at 10 o'clock Monday morning August 22nd, 1892. I had the names and addresses of a few Saints. Tuesday August 23 I crossed the bay to Oakland; I readily found the house of Brother J. P. Jorgensen, at Fruitvale; Brother Jorgensen accompanied me and we visited Sister S. P. King, in Alameda, and Brother N. B. Phillips in Oakland. Brother Jorgensen, kindly consented for us to hold meetings in his house, which we accepted with thanks.

Sunday August 28th, I held meeting with a congregation of five all told viz: myself, Brother Jorgensen, wife and daughter, (aged nine years) Elder N. B. Phillips and Sister McDonald; I administered the Sacrament and spoke to them, and then called on the Saints to express their feelings, which they did; the spirit of God was with us and we had a good time. I held meetings in Brother Jorgensen's house three Sundays, when the Saints decided we would rent a hall, which I did, Fraternal hall, on Washington street, between 13 and 14th streets, Oakland, for \$10 per month, Sunday afternoons for one month; a few strangers attended our meetings. I also heard of and found quite a number of people, who claimed a standing in the Church.

In October 1892, I baptized one in Oakland and two in San Francisco. Ordained Joseph Mattress an Elder, and organized a branch, with Joseph Mattress president, and with Elder John Peter Phillip Van Den Berg, as first counselor Elder John Peter Jorgensen as second counselor and Elder N. B. Phillips as clerk. Also in October I baptized five persons in Sacramento. November 27th, 1892, I organized a branch in Sacramento. Elder Aaron Garlic President, E. Garlic, clerk. The same day I organized a Sunday School, James T. Garlic, superintendent; A. Garlic first and Edward Garlic second assistants. So you see that in a little over three months from the time of our arrival I had baptized eight persons, ordained one Elder and organized two branches and one Sunday school.

Through the kindness and good will of Elder (Doctor) J. P. P. VanDenBerg, in giving us the use of a hall free of rent on Sixth street, San Francisco, we were able to hold meetings in the metropolis; so on January 15th, 1893, we commenced holding meetings on Sunday evenings in San Francisco, but still continued holding them in the day time, Sunday, in Castle Hall, East Oakland. In April, 1896, Elder VanDenBerg gave us the use of furnished rooms to live in. Up till this time, April 1893, I had labored

alone, when in this month Elder Niels Johnson, of Ovid, Bear Lake county, came. In May the same year Elders Alva S. Keller and Henry B. Williams, of Mill Creek Ward, Salt Lake County and George H. Maycock of Fairview, Weber County, arrived. June 12th, 1893; Elders Williams and Maycock left by steamer for Los Angeles, to labor in the Southern part of the state, and on the 14th, Elders A. S. Keller and N. B. Phillips went to Sacramento.

In the early spring Elder Mattress, our branch president returned to Utah, and on July 2nd, 1893, Elder Frank Greenwell was set apart as President of the Oakland branch, with M. F. Mortensen, as assistant. Owing to the serious illness of the wife of Elder Niels Johnson, I released him and he returned home July 10th, 1893. On August 2nd, 1893, Elder J. D. Cummings of Mill Creek Ward, Salt Lake County, arrived. I appointed him to labor with Elder A. S. Keller, in Sacramento. On November 13th, Elder Ezekel L. Blodgett, of North Ogden, Weber County, arrived. In December 1893, we concluded that we had a branch—about twenty-five members—sufficiently strong, so that we could rent us a hall, and not impose on the good will of Brother VanDenBerg, any longer, so on December 23rd, 1893, we rented a hall at 927 Mission street for \$10 per month for Sunday, all day, and evening. We had the following brethren visit us: November 30th, 1892, Elder Karl G. Maesser; March 1893, Elder B. H. Roberts; June, Elders John Morgan and Lorin Farr, the latter of Ogden, and his brother, Bishop Winslow Farr, of Old Mexico. August 6th, I organized a Sunday School in San Francisco, with Elder George E. Hyde as Superintendent and W. B. Lewis, secretary.

During our labors we enjoyed the rich outpourings of the spirit of God, and His power was made manifest in our midst. July 29th, 1896, I received a note from Sister Elizabeth Rawlinson (aunt of Professor J. E. Talmage)—saying that her son, a young man, was dangerously ill and wished us to come and administer to him and young Rawlinson was not a member of the Church. Elder A. S. Keller and myself went to her house No. 1217 Lombard Street, San Francisco. The doctor attending the young man had left word that no one was to go into the room but his mother. She was acting as nurse. But Sister Rawlinson wanted the Elders. I asked the young man a few questions respecting his faith in God, etc. Brother Keller and I consecrated some oil, had a few words of prayer. Brother Keller anointed him, and I was mouth in sealing the anointing. As we had just got out of the room the doctor came. The latter was surprised to see the change for the better in his patient. Of course he did not know that Mormon Elders had been there. The next morning the doctor came and he was astonished. Said he, "Every particle of disease has left your body, you don't need my services any longer and I shall come no more." The young man was entirely healed. Brother Mortensen's daughter Nora, was very sick and was also healed by the power of God, and also a number of others.

January, 22nd, 1894, I received my release from the First Presidency. Elder Karl G. Maesser was appointed to succeed me, and February 23rd, 1894, I left for home via Portland Oregon.