# FROM MISSIONARY FIELDS.

### A Letter from Turkey.

Constantinople, August 12, 1898.

To the Editor:

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 great lay of the country, the apparent natural resources and its scenery.

Mountain ranges run from east to west and in places they rise quite high, probably hundred feet above sea. The most conspicuous range is the Taurus, which rises quite rapidly from the Mediterranean shore and leaves off and set slightly to the north nearly to Mt. Ararat. Not having a map at hand I cannot give the names of the various mountains given by the Turks, but overlooking the backbone of the country it is nearly in the middle, a little to the north of the center of Asia Minor.

To the southeast the Alaes drains the country and empties into the Mediterranean, to the northwest the Sakaria receives the waters from its numerous tributaries and the Black sea drains the water from the north slope of the main range, of which the Kizil rises not after and the Yashil (green) river.

This condition of these different rivers heading in high Armenia, the birthplace of Noah, is one for an argument that the garden of Eden somewhere in Armenia. Genesis tells us that four rivers arose in Eden. The Euphrates we may be found, Hiddekel and Gihon. And the land of Havila is also near by. If the Antediluvians 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 proselytes of so precious a land, I think it no wonder that Noah answers the description of 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 Japhet. They laugh at our simplicity in claiming Armenia 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 it is not to be expected the posterity of Noah named the lands and rivers of the new country which God gave them after the names of the lands and rivers they came from. Does not Genesis say 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 undistributed 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 four mile are both and these control the water to a degree, but millions of acres of this fine land as ever need to cultivate is doing but little for man because the natural resources are being wasted year after year. The country has been and is yet to an extent a volcanic land, in many places volcanic matter is found profusely scattered over the country. Earthquakes are frequent every year. This year in a city near Zeta where some of our Saints reside not a house were destroyed. Two years ago a village, now called Adal (Church destroyed) was nearly ruined, and more than two thirds of the people perished. That the quaking must have been powerful is evidenced by the fact that the houses are few and ordinarily will walls of rock and heavily loaded with a dirt roof so that they ought to stand a good shock. Here in Stambul the grand bazars were nearly ruined by earthquake a few years ago. They are now repairing them from the effects of the shock.

The whole country seems to be resting on a perfect volcanic which gives them a shake more or less every now and then.

The formation is mostly limestone though in places we find sandstone and also clay formation may be found. The mountains to the west are of hard rocky matter. Not far from Lizus an English society has obtained permission to run for the mining done there is very limited. The Turks have no knowledge of mineralogy. The native Christian also, so far as we know, have none, though some of them would have if permitted to hunt the precious ores. Not to find a specimen of fine ore here is a great sin. Inche native Christian. If found out he is sent to the prison and put out of the way. They throw out their eyes to the precious metal though it may lay on top of the ground as it is reputed to be in some. The Turks tell me that some professor high whom they traveled in the Lizus state stopped and gathered his satchel full of the precious metal while passing a prominent ledge.

The climate is, of course, overdrawn in some places, but surely is that country of the most precious land and in paying quantities are found many there, but this government will not allow of its being hunted and developed to any great extent. They fear the way of the adventurer all possible mischief, and as they are a strong people (not at all sick so far as being great control according to their numbers), they succeed in keeping it to suit to their pleasure. They are sharp enough to know that if they allow foreigners to come in and develop the resources of the country, they will do it and be done for. They know the name of the native Christians who they keep in poverty and serfdom, otherwise they—the Turks—would be the serfs themselves.

So far as my observation and knowledge of mining distinct go, there is a great field of for enterprise and capital in Turkey, and which will furnish room to a million and capital to some hundred dollars. Especially is this so between the Aleps of Asiatic Minor and Syria. These mountains rise to high and long and the states from the different mineral bearing ledges are everywhere to be seen. The ancients have not been here as a rule, and they easily reveal their formation and makeup.

To the east and west so far as we could discover from some high promontories, the country was the same. And we had a very good chance. For while traveling as a prisoner for three days over the rocky and forbidden looking country, our guards took us over one of the roughest roads that I ever remembered, especially when crossed a small north and south range of high mountain passes high up among the mountain peaks, in some places we had to dismount, party to ease the animal, party to avoid danger, which looked most frightful. I said before, the tendency of the mountains are from west to east. This is strictly so here. Sometimes a decent valley has to be found to follow. And as we were going south, we had to cross over three ranges abreast. In these mountain recesses we found many villages, and every available place planted with edible vegetables or tobacco.

High up in the mountains we found lakes and streams (the song in the southern gospel, and have the country was said to abound with wild bears. The streams rise so rapidly, we found quite a number of ash that in an my time I have never seen such a stable. Nobody bearing the name except birds, storks and such. The people are superstitious; they dare not touch them and the Kurds are so simple to see the value it would bring them in food, so they are left to swim and mount up to as nature has provided. Being unmolested they are, of course, very tame. Hunting Hiles, the country abounds in delicious game. While in Stambul we saw game, while there being on the surface. It is, however, very little. The author flying from the Armenians, which is called dead rats, is to be found in these stone found here if of the best in the world. It is turned with but little skill in one day, and when prepared is good food. Among the Christians it is reported to be being highly esteemed for getting to confession.

Sunday morning the Elders received their appointments and were soon on the way to their respective fields of labor, full of the Spirit, and hopeful that the purposes of the Lord would attend their best efforts to proclaiming the great latter-day message.

The conference was one of the best ever held in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

The work in general is progressing and prospering. Excepting a few cases comfortably, the health of the Elders is excellent. Respectfully,

LEWIS SWENSEN, President.
ALBERT E. BUSSE, Clerk.

### Laboring in Illinois.

Monticello, Piatt Co., Ill., Sept. 1, 1898.

To the Editor:

We have just completed the canvass and the distribution of tracts among the inhabitants of this county. We, L. W. Cutler and Chas. A. Hoagle were the first Elders in this county, arriving on March 27, 1898, and commenced to once to visit from door to door and found until June, when left for a short time, but not having concluded the canvass it was deemed wise to return back and finish the work in this county, but Elder Hoagle was called to go and assist in opening the mission in North Dakota. I was assigned to labor with Elder Cutler in this county. Arriving here on July 26th we immediately set out upon our labor, making Monticello our central point. Traveling through the country and in towns distributing tracts and holding meetings in school houses in the country and in churches when we could get them in towns or on the street, where we have met with success, being generally treated very kindly by the people. On entering a small town (White Heath) in the northern part of the county we called upon Rev. Geo. Carter, pastor of the U. B. church of that village, to ask his permission to hold meeting in his church. We were given to understand that no Mormon could preach from his pulpit, but that it was open to any Christian minister, but not Mormon. We conversed upon different subjects but finally all centered upon the great cry against us. He then warned us that we had better not advocate our principles and doctrines in the town for fear that we should be mobbed. We obtained the Universalist church for meeting and the 4th and 5th nights did we have to advertise our meeting than we did. We had a full house and good attention quietness prevailed. In another town (Atwood) in the extreme southern part we obtained the permission of the mayor (probatingly) to hold meeting on the street one evening only. We had a crowd of restless and inattentive listeners. All went well until meeting closed, when we were distributing tracts. We heard a smash upon the walk between us and upon turning around found we need from the side that an egg of ancient origin had been secreted.

The next evening we held forth on the street at a small town (Furness) where the sentiments of the people were as much of the opposite feeling as one could imagine. This missionary was the first Mormon ever permitted to receive on with them and others, while others reject the counsel of God against themselves. We have been fairly well treated while laboring in Piatt county and we feel we have done our duty and ask the blessings of God to be with the people and that the seed we have sown may fall upon good ground and bring forth fruit.

We leave here for conference to be held at Springfield, Ills., on Sept. 16th and 17th. Elder Lewis McCarty has secured the state capitol building for the purpose.

The "News" is always a welcome visitor.

Your brethren in the cause of truth,

L. W. CUTLER,
J. W. ROSS,

### Into Lone Star Conference.

Athens, Tex., Sept. 5, 1898.

To the Editor:

The mail has just passed, leaving a bundle of "Mormon papers," and it gives us a degree of satisfaction to read of the progress being made in different parts of the Lord's vineyard. For there is a feeling that prevails among the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that surpasses any feeling that exists among the representatives of any other denomination upon the front of the earth. And that is the spirit of unity and love.

During the late war many questions have been asked concerning the attitude of the Saints living as that they could ask the Lord for information they needed and get an answer. Said it happened that I was called to be one of the Elders to go to Washington to plead for the rights of the people.