have hinted something concerning it, he was given distinctly to understand that such hints were not agreeable to the dean and his lady. They did, however, ask him to call again, if he could, just before leaving England for home.

He found it in his way to comply with the request, and was rewarded for so doing by being intrusted with a large, strong trunk, which he was asked to deliver to his wife with cordial remembrance from her aunt Catharine.

It was nearing the winter holidays of 1873, when Alvin reached his blessed Utah home, and was received with overwhelming tokens of love and joy by his wife and children. The trunk, which came the day following his own arrival, was opened with great decorum before the whole household on Christmas.

There was no little surprise expressed when it was found to contain the splendid golden trousseau which had been prepared for Emily so many years ago. Not a thing had ever been removed from the complete outfit; it was just as perfect as when Emily had looked it over so coldly twenty-six years before.

"Em can wear it to be married in, can't she, ma?" cried Mary, the second daughter. "Em don't want to wear it, thanks!" said that young lady decisively, blushing profusely at mention of an occasion for which a certain theological teacher in Sunday school was anxious that she should name a date.

"It would suit O. Pratt's girl the best," said Loche, a younger son of the family; Pratt, wouldn't Rose look glorious in those things?"

"No," answered Pratt, "they are too fine for this country; but mother, you could sell them to that California theatrical troup, and get every one of your girls a suitable wedding outfit for a quarter of what they would pay you for this one."

"Dey waint too dood for my dirl, mamma; teep 'em for me when I det mawied!" said baby Alvin brightly; for he greatly admired the splendor of what he saw displayed, and felt that such riches should be kept in the family. But although his early thoughtfulness for the future was the source of considerable merriment in the household, the time for which his request was made was decidedly too far in the future to receive countenance. The theatrical troupe got the trousseau, and the Wilber family received many blessings from the sale of what they always termed the Golden Bridal Robe.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE.

Lane, Hunt Co., Texas,
January 12, 1898.

The work is favorably progressing in the North Texas conference, over which I was appointed to preside, and although we were not at first received by the people with open arms, we have succeeded in getting the Gospel before them. The worldly expression of certain Jews (Acts 28 and 22) viz.: "We desire to hear of thee, what thou thinkest, for as concerning this sect, we know that it is evrywhere spoken against," is often made to us; especially was this the case as Joseph W. Hess and the writer stood upon the great courthouse steps of Fort Worth addressing about 300 intelligent citizens of that place.

A remarkable feature of our visits among the people was that upon entering, they would smilingly approach us with: "Gentlemen, what can we do for you today?" But upon learning the object of our visit, they would suddenly remember that they were busy and would often as suddenly vanish. The people as a rule kindly accepted our tracts, expressing an intention of investigating our doctrine, and treated us with courtesy.

We visited about thirty different churches, but were refused the privilege of preaching in any of them; but nevertheless, we held a great many meetings. Leaving Elder Hess and companion to finish tracting the city, Elder Horace I. Grow and I came out to visit the Elders and Saints of this conference, who had not had a visit from any of the Elders until recently, for several months. I find the Elders enjoying good health and strength, and enjoying their labors and a spirit of their holy calling.

Seven persons have been newly added to the fold, making a total of 43 members in this conference. I find the Saints all well. We are at present visiting the Saints at Lane. We arrived here in time to spend the New Year holiday. We celebrated New Year's eve by holding three meetings in succession. All the Saints were present, numbering 25, besides other friends, and we enjoyed a great spiritual feast. There were also four Elders present, viz. Elders Wm. Heaton and Orson L. Nelson, Elder Grow and myself. We held a meeting New Year's night. Sunday morning at 10 o'clock we all met in Sunday school, and this being the first Sunday in the first month in the New Year, we continued our meeting all day in fasting and prayer. There were a large crowd present, and we certainly enjoyed the day. Our hearts swelled with joy and gratitude as we listened to the strong testimonies borne by those who have abided in the doctrines of Christ.

The Utonian ideas have long since vanished from my mind as to the ridiculous reports of the Texan people; for I have been kindly entertained every night during my mission.

JOSEPH COULAM.
Conference President.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

A new method of etching on glass or porcelain has been patented by Herr Retzlaff, of Berlin. The usual German process consists in cementing a sheet of tinfoil to the surface, which is then uncovered for etching by a skillful cutting out of the pattern in the foil, and washing away of the cement. The improved plan is to perform this operation more simply and perfectly by chemical means. The pattern is printed or stencilled in grease colors on the tinfoil, which is then fastened to the glass by asphalt, and the prepared plate is placed in an acid bath that dissolves out the exposed parts of the foil. The asphalt is then washed off, when the glass is ready for etching in the usual way.

By means of the microtome, slices of vegetable and animal tissues down to a thinness of about 1-10,000 of an inch are obtained for microscopic study. Prof. Elmer Gates, of Washington, has now gone further, and even slices up blood cells and microbes by cementing them in a single layer between two glass slides and cutting the slides apart with a very thin blade of copper sharpened to the highest possible degree. The fine grain of the copper causes it to take an edge that no razor can approach. The cells are again cut by repeating the operation, and it is claimed that slices have been made only 1-100 as thick as the thinnest produced by the microtome.

Selenium, hitherto chiefly an interesting curiosity of the chemist's laboratory, has been recently used for coloring glass. When added directly to the glass in the melting pot, it gives a fine rose tint varying somewhat with the purity of the selenium and the hardness of the glass; and when the selenium is mixed with cadmium sulphide, a beautiful orange red is yielded.

Sodium carbide, as described to the Paris academy, is an inexplosive white powder, which, on slight heating, burns in air, leaving sodium carbonate. Its chemical activity is much greater than that of calcium carbide.

Civilization's advance is responsible for a remarkable change of habits in more than one wild animal. A familiar instance is that of the kea, the great New Zealand parrot, which was formerly esteemed as a friend to the farmer, but which has become a dreaded scourge on account of its acquired taste for the kidney fat of sheep. Dr. Schonland mentions the chacma baboon as a Cape Colony animal that has become similarly transformed. It has taken to killing lambs for the milk with which they have filled their stomachs, and it is increasing to an alarming extent on account of its wariness and the protection and natural food afforded by the fast-spreading prickly pear. Another South African example is the so-called "wet-gat spreeuw" (spreo bicolor). This animal is now very destructive to fruit, which a few years ago it was never known to touch, its food consisting chiefly of insects. The Maanhaar jackal seems to have partially acquired a new liking. While its ordinary food is insects, and Dr. Schonland has been unable to find anything else in its stomach, farmers in certain districts—possibly where man has reduced its food—insist that it is very destructive to small stock.

The new rust-preventing paint of Dr. B. Kossman, of Charlottenburg, Germany, is composed of the peroxides of earths of the cerium group. These are incorporated with linseed oil varnish, with the addition of a drier of linseed oil boiled with a mixture of boric acid and the peroxides. Graphite, lamphlack, heavy spar, etc., may be used for coloring. The paint is claimed to fulfill all requirements, having sufficient oxygen to insure hardening of the linseed varnish, with freedom from any metallic base capable of causing rust by setting up an electrical action with iron.

Rumination or cud-chewing in man, according to M. Nattan-Larrier, is not known to be, as has been stated, chiefly found in males. It may be hereditary, and when involuntary is especially prevalent among nervous dyspeptics. It is not associated with special chemical change of saliva or malformation, or lesion of stomach or esophagus. When voluntary, it usually occurs in the weak-minded, but in children it may be imitative. Some idiots bring their food up at will for re-chewing after retaining it for hours.

From experiments by M. Ravel, it appears that 6.35 cubic feet of acetylene gas generate in the gas engine one horse-power per hour, which is a reduction in fuel of two-thirds as compared with petroleum. The mixture of air with acetylene begins to be explosive when the proportion reaches 1.35 parts of gas to 1 of air, while the explosive of force reaches its maximum with 12 volumes of air to 1 of gas, and disappears at 20 to 1. The flashing point is about 900 degrees F., most other gases used for power requiring a temperature of 1,100 degrees to ignite them. The temperature of combustion is much higher than that of other gases. Great rapidity of the transmission of flame, low ignition temperature, high combustion temperature and extraordinary energy of explosion are therefore the special characteristics of this gas.