

February 8th, two large meetings of the Y. M. and Y. L. Improvement Associations were held in Thatcher.

On Saturday, 9th, our annual Sunday School conference was held at Peoria, four miles from Thatcher. There a crowded audience greeted us at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., at which reports from Stake and local Sunday School superintendents, a few exercises by the children, and instructions on Sunday school matters were given by the visitors.

Sunday, 10th, two more meetings were held at 10 o'clock and at 2 p.m. These were mostly devoted to general instructions and remarks by leading authorities. Besides these, we had an interview with superintendents, teachers, Bishops and Stake presidency, and set apart William Edward McBride as second assistant to Stake Superintendent John Sims. This position had been previously filled by Brother Curtis, whose labors were now needed in another direction.

At 4:30 we left Pima for Layton to fill an appointment at 7:30. Although this settlement is considerably scattered, the house was crowded nevertheless, and the Spirit of the Lord was richly enjoyed.

Monday, the 11th, after a good night's rest at Elder W. J. Packer's, we held our final meeting in St. Josephs Stake at 10 o'clock a. m., at which Brother Karl G. Maeser arrested their attention by a very interesting discourse followed by a few remarks by myself and Elder Christopher Layton. It has been a time of releasing from the presence of the Lord. We left Layton at 3 p. m. by rail for Bowie, and remained there until the next morning, Feb. 12. At 9 o'clock we resumed our journey for Deming 110 miles, arriving there at 1:25 p. m. Here we found Elder Isaac W. Pierce, from Colonia Diaz, Mexico, with a stake coach.

Next morning, Feb. 13, at 6:30, we left Deming. In a short time we were overtaken by a rain storm, high wind and snow. Such a storm had not been realized in that country for many years, with correspondingly cold temperature. After traveling nearly forty miles we camped at Columbus, where a populous city was expected to be built after the completion of the great international railway, which has not been materialized thus far, however. Consequently, a few wooden shanties unoccupied are all there is of Columbus. In one of these, in company with some others, we found it was too cold to get much sleep. February 14th we resumed our journey, and traveled till near midnight in a snow storm. This was a hard experience on our faithful teamster, who while sitting on the box was exposed to the entire rigor of the storm, and on reaching camp he, with fingers almost stiff with cold, unharnessed the horses, bobbing them, hunting in the dark for wood and trying to make a fire. I had the worst part of the experience. So much for that midnight camp.

February 15th.—The balance of our hundred miles' journey to Diaz we finished between 4 and 5 o'clock p.m., feeling grateful to our heavenly Father for the preservation of our lives and health. Our old friend, W. D. Johnson, Sr., and family received

us warmly, and administered to our needed condition; after which we had the privilege of holding a general meeting at 7 o'clock which was a very enjoyable, and we trust, with the blessing of God, a profitable one.

Quite a number of old familiar faces were met here, amidst handshakings and expressions of joy and gladness at our safe arrival. Feb. 16th Bro. Mortensen, of Dublin, between fifty and sixty miles further south, took us with a good team to that place, which we reached about 5 o'clock p. m., and stayed at the house of Bro. Williams. An evening meeting was held at which we were greeted by our old friend Stowell, formerly of Ogden. He had brought his carriage to take us to Juarez, the headquarters of the Mexican mission, and about seventeen miles from this place.

February 17.—Leaving Diaz about 6:30 a. m. we arrived at Juarez by 9:30, where we were made welcome at the home of President George Teasdale. Our annual Sunday school conference meetings were held at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; we also attended a Spanish class conducted by Elder Eyering.

Monday, Feb. 18. Two more meetings were held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. At the latter the General and Stake Sunday school authorities were presented, after which a teachers' meeting was held. In the evening a large gathering of the Saints of all ages and authorities met to participate in a kind of impromptu exercises, to which President Teasdale had pressingly invited them, in honor of their northern visitors. Short speeches, songs, recitations, music, etc., were freely responded to, and although my esteemed co-laborer, Karl G. Maeser, was not in a mood to contribute a song, he gave an exhibition of a college student's emotional style of preaching which fairly convulsed the entire audience.

This closes our three annual Sunday school conferences which we left home to hold, viz: in Maricopa, St. Joseph and Mexican stakes. Attention has also been given to the interest of the Mutual Improvement Associations, Church schools, academies, board meetings, etc. Reports from Stake and local superintendents, children's exercises, remarks by presidents of Stakes, Bishops, etc., have contributed towards the general interest of our meetings. No subject seems so dear to the hearts of the parents as that which pertains to the improvement of the rising generation.

The general tenor of the superintendent's reports was very satisfactory, showing that the instructions given in the Guide and Karl G. Maeser's lectures, etc., were being carried out to the best of their ability and circumstances. Those students who had received a twenty weeks' course of tuition in the B. Y. Academy in Provo were freely imparting the same under the Stake superintendents and president's instructions, with very good results.

While we saw and heard much to commend, we perceived nothing to find fault with, consequently it afforded us much pleasure to administer words of encouragement, to superintendents, teachers and children, especially the fact that the great majority of the Saints in those three

Stakes are observing the Word of Wisdom and nearly all the children.

In Juarez we met many old friends, and the interest awakened among all classes by our visit, filled our hearts with humility and gratitude towards God our Heavenly Father the most affectionate greetings and adieu were seemingly universal, and were a pleasing foretaste of those heavenly joys that await the Saints in our next probation.

On Wednesday, February 20, at 9 o'clock p.m., we left Juarez on our homeward trip. I rode with friend Stowell in company with Brother Call, and Sister Heleman Pratt and Karl G. Maeser rode with Brother Dennis Harus. Arriving at Dublin between 11 and 11 o'clock we had dinner at Brother Call's and held a meeting at 2 o'clock p. m., after which we were invited to be present at the wedding ceremony of Gaskell Romney and Anna Amelia Pratt, performed by Elder George Teasdale, at the house of the bride's father, Heleman Pratt. At 7:30 we had the pleasure of meeting with the Saints in a social gathering, where the talent of many, both in song and sentiment, was fully manifested.

Thursday, February 21, at 6:30 a. m., we bade adieu to Dublin, in friend Stowell's carriage, in company with Elder Teasdale, and arrived at Diaz at 6 o'clock p. m. making our headquarters again at W. D. Johnson's. At 7 p. m. we attended a conjoint meeting of the M. I. A., finishing with "Hard times come again no more."

Friday, Feb. 22.—Brother Carl G. Maeser visited the academy this morning and met with the board of education and in the afternoon gave valuable instructions on educational matters. In the evening another grand gathering of all the Saints as a sociable; some of the exercises were first read in Spanish and then interpreted in English. A great many of the children are rapidly learning Spanish, and in the near future we will have a host of youth in the Mexican mission, well versed in the Spanish tongue. On this our return trip, to Diaz, we had the pleasure of a good visit and kind attention of Bishop W. D. Johnson Jr., who had just returned from a visit through the mission Stakes settling nothing.

Saturday, Feb. 23rd. Here we finally parted with our warm hearted friends, President Teasdale, Brother Stowell, W. D. Johnson and others and left at 6:25 on our final hundred mile travel by team, our teamster being the son of the late Isaac Turley. Nothing of importance during this trip happened except that Brother Karl G. Maeser and myself were each minus a hat, which had escaped unobserved by the snaking of the conveyance, and left on the plains of Mexico.

Monday, Feb. 25. We reached Deming this morning at 9 o'clock, leaving by train at 12:50. We were detained at Colorado Springs from 3 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday till 11 o'clock on Wednesday, teaching home on Thursday, Feb. 28th. This completed our thirty days' trip in the Sunday school and other educational interests of the youth of Zion, praying for the Lord to bless the humble labors of His servants, and receive our thanks.