

Indian Territory Mission, at St. John, Kansas, we commenced a series of valuable priesthood meetings, where the Elders were instructed regarding their responsible labors. Elder William H. Green presides over the Kansas conference, and Elders Samuel Kirkman, D. W. Stone, Charles F. Solomon, Samuel B. Hazen, Albert Gibby, William T. Harper, traveling Elders; secretary of conference, Phares W. Dunyon, and secretary John M. Knight of the mission, besides local Elders, Teachers and Deacons, among whom was the president of this branch, Elder George Baker, were present.

Aside from our regular conference meeting, our Mutual Improvement association met on Friday evening, our Sunday School and fast meeting, on Sunday; we also had regular Sunday evening meeting. Two local Teachers were ordained Elders and set apart as traveling missionaries. General church authorities, local and mission officers were sustained by a unanimous vote.

The Mutual Improvement association, organized in October, is one of the most successful, entertaining, instructive, and social organizations in this city. It is presided over by Brother Knight; the majority of the officers are Latter-day Saints; over sixty per cent of the members are non-Mormon, while the attendance of such far exceeds that number, last Friday night about one hundred and fifty were present, experienced a great amount of pleasure, and received intellectual food from listening to the exercises. The choir is led by Elder Samuel Kirkman; the organist and a large majority of the choir are not Latter-day Saints.

It must be remembered that our Elders are wide awake and always in the lead, as far as the solid religious exercises are concerned. The Mutual Improvement association manuals used; four subjects are being carried through this season; the Gospel, New Testament, Church History, and Civil government. While Secretary Knight is the only Elder located here permanently, Elder Kirkman our choir leader and our organist, Phares Dunyon are in alternately; but of course during the conference all the Elders are here, and you may depend, Elder Knight made good use of them. Restoration of the Aaronic and Melchisedek Priesthood were handled ably by Elder Knight, and Elder Green spoke on Faith in the Old Testament. "The Golden Sunset," a monthly periodical was published, and was read by the Editor, Mr. P. D. Lamereux. It contained some able articles, both of a solid and humorous nature.

Not only do the people of St. John come out to the entertaining meetings, but our Sunday school, fast and evening meetings are none the less appreciated. Among those in regular attendance in our evening meetings are such people as the banker, mayor, editor, attorney, and a majority of the very best people.

Classes in Sunday school, made up of course, of a large percentage of non-Mormons are presided over by our Elders and Saints. If any one doubts that good is being done by our institutions in St. John they little understand the efficacy of the labors of the servants of the Lord, directed by His spirit. Church works are being used almost entirely. It is of no little interest to hear our friends recite from gospel subjects

and sing the beautiful songs of Zion. We anticipate a rich harvest in the near future.

The cold storm, attended of course with usual prairie winds, made the weather so disagreeable that some of our conference meetings were not well attended, but notwithstanding all that, the little chaps and young people climbed over the snow drifts and took their places in Sunday school. The seats were well filled at the night meetings.

To conclude with, on Monday night, some of the exercises of our Christmas concert were repeated, with other interesting selections from some of the citizens, for the benefit of a windmill fund. Many of our more prominent friends have said they wanted to see a beautiful lawn dotted here and there with beautiful flower beds of various designs, on our meeting house grounds, and are willing to aid in procuring a windmill and pump with which to draw water from our well.

All our Elders are traveling without purse or scrip, and report that they are kindly received by the people, are holding a great many good meetings, and have many friends who seem deeply interested and who are investigating the principles of the Gospel. We have plenty of country in this conference for twice as many Elders, as are laboring here at present, to bring before the minds of the people the truths of the everlasting Gospel.

The Saints here and our friends have entertained the Elders very well during our conference, and we fully appreciate their kindness.

We have had a general good time, enjoyed ourselves thoroughly at our meetings, listening to the instructions and precious information given.

The tolling of the new year bells announced the birth of another child into this mission, in the form of the great Lone Star State, thus giving an additional conference to our mission. The new arrangements have been made through mutual agreement of the Presidents of the missions, the Southern states and this, and the leading authorities of the Church. It will not be long before many more servants of God are working in that part of His vineyard.

Secretary Knight, the general superintendent of our St. John Sunday schools, and our choir leader, Elder Kirkman, will accompany our president, Elder Andrew Kimball on his trip through the mission, holding meetings at the different conferences. It is expected that they will visit St. Louis and Chicago en-route. That they will have a good and profitable time, no one doubts, unless they get hung up in a snow drift between here and the woods of the eastern country, for at this writing one is reminded of some of those blizzards which, en-route from the northwest to the east, have looked in, and have given our mountain people a breath. Intensified however by the usual winds of Kansas, they are made still worse.

Elder Lorin C. Woolley of Centerville, who should have accompanied Elder Kimball here, arrived yesterday evening, after being blockaded on the railroad for some time. He attended the concert, and was greatly surprised to see the success that is being made here, and the way non-Mormons took hold to aid in the entertainment. Mr. Moseley made a few very appropriate remarks

and announced that when Elders Knight and Kirkman returned from their journey, a series of entertainments would be given for raising more money for the windmill fund—he said one peculiar feature about the Mormon boys was that they never asked a contribution except they were willing to give money's worth in return.

PHARES DUNYON.

Secretary of Kansas Conference.

CALIFORNIA MISSION REPORT.

612 Van Ness Avenue,
San Francisco, Cal.,
January 1, 1897.

President Wilford Woodruff, Salt Lake City, Utah:

Dear Brother—I arrived in San Francisco November 15th and was cordially received by President Tanner, who started for home November 24th. Until then I took no active part but proceeded to make myself as well acquainted with the situation as the circumstances would admit of in that length of time. I found that the Elders were grouped together in places about as follows: Seven in San Francisco; five in San Diego; five in Los Angeles; four in San Jose; four at Sacramento; two at Latrobe and two at Riverdale. They were hiring their own rooms in each place, buying their own food and in some instances cooking it. The actual time spent among the people distributing cards and tracts was from three to four hours each day. It did not seem to me that this was the most profitable way to work; accordingly I got the Elders together who were laboring here and discussed the situation, laying before them the necessity of traveling in the Lord's appointed way, without purse or scrip.

After this I went to San Jose and aroused the Elders there on the same question; I then went to Sacramento and took up a labor there with the Elders. On my return I issued a circular letter to all the Elders, of which I herewith enclose you a copy that you may see by what means I have reached the present conditions. The result was that several of the Elders announced themselves ready to take the field. We met together, and after prayer and supplication before the Lord, two were appointed from San Francisco to Salinas, Monterey county; two from San Jose to Hollister, San Benito county; and two from Sacramento to Napa City, Napa county.

This was all new ground upon which the Elders had not trod. In the lower part of the state a like course was pursued. The groups had been scattered by two, the headquarters have been broken up, and now six pairs of Elders are traveling absoutely without purse or scrip. All the others are moving steadily in that direction. The reports that have reached me from those Elders that have arisen to the true standard of missionary life and labor are of the most encouraging nature; they are often entertained at the best hotels; opera houses, churches, halls and school houses have been provided gratuitously; newspapers have advertised their meetings free; friends have been raised up to administer to their wants and on their departure bid them wel-