

MISCELLANEOUS.

EAST KENTUCKY CONFERENCE.

Fielding, Elliott, Co., Ky.,

October 5, 1897.

The long-expected 25th of September, when we should meet in conference, came, and every Elder in the conference was present, forty in number. The weather being delightful, our meetings were held in a grove on White's Branch of Little Fork, Elliot county, Kentucky. Nearly everybody in this locality is friendly to the Elders. We were royally entertained by the good citizens, only one of whom is a member of the Church, and the place chosen was the only one in four which opened up for us.

Faith, Repentance, Baptism and the Holy Ghost were presented in plainness, and the listeners said, "It is Bible doctrine, and the best preaching we ever heard." About thirty of the Saints from this and surrounding counties were here. During the past year the Elders have improved greatly in preaching and singing, and many friends have been made by singing the songs of Zion to them; some ears which cannot successfully be operated on by the sword of truth can be softened and made to vibrate by the voice of melody.

Monday, Sept. 27, the entire day was spent in Priesthood meeting. Our conference president, Elder E. S. Woodruff, reported the work done in east Kentucky during the last year. His report showed that the Elders have held more meetings, sold more books, and baptized more people than in any year previous. There are some pushing Elders here who realize that "faith without works is dead." The weakest are learning by the help of the Lord how to preach, and truly the weak are confounding the mighty. Elder Matheson spoke upon the duties of the Elders, showing that they must be humble if they would advance. He gave some valuable hints on preaching, showing how to take up a subject and develop it. The object is not to preach to please but to convert; when people become friendly is the time to get the truth before them; explain the Gospel, then ask what doth hinder you from being baptized? Labor not to outdo some one, but let a love for the work be the propelling power. Activity and boldness are necessary. Don't think God will put into your hands everything you need without effort on your part. Devise ways and means and your path will be made clear. Put your trust in God and let Him help you. Be business-like in all your conduct; your calling is dignified and you must be so in your deportment.

Each Elder then bore his testimony to the truth of the message he is proclaiming in the world. The Sacrament was administered and the meeting dismissed. Then followed the solemn good-bye and expression of good wishes for each other's future. J. T.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

A large and appreciative gathering of Sunday school officers and teachers convened in the Fourteenth ward assembly rooms, last evening, Oct. 13, 1897. All the city ward schools, except the Second and Twenty-third wards, were well represented, as also were the following county schools: Big Cottonwood (both branches), Bingham, Cannon, East Mill Creek, Farmers, Forest Dale, Hunter, South Jordan, Sugar, Wilford, Sandy and Brighton. Stake Supt. T. C. Griggs presided. The excellent singing exercises rendered during the evening were given

by the Twenty-second ward Sunday school, under the direction of Elder Eugene Morris.

The opening prayer was offered by Elder H. A. Reiser, of the Sixth ward.

Superintendent Griggs expressed pleasure in noting the large attendance of interested workers, and was particularly gratified by the large number of schools which were represented. He directed attention to the subject of "Nickel Sunday," which occurs on Oct. 31, and expressed the hope that all the officers and teachers would endeavor to make the occasion a complete success.

The meeting then divided into the usual four departments, the work of which was as follows:

The theological department was presided over by Elder Richard R. Lyman. The lesson was given by Elder James M. Campbell, who presented a text on Church history, relating to the visitation of the Angel Moroni. He presented the lesson in a short lecture and then followed with catechisation on the same, after the presentation of the lesson, endeavoring to follow the rules as given in the S. S. treatise.

Instructor Lyman directed attention to the points of the recitation, criticising the work of both teacher and pupil. In presenting the lesson, the teacher should frequently put a question to the class to impress any part of it with special emphasis, also to bring back to the lesson any pupil who is inattentive or whispering to his neighbor. In giving answers the pupils should confine themselves within the scope of the lesson, and bring in no matter not given by the teacher or drawn out by him; and he should answer briefly, concisely and loud enough for all the class to hear. In catechisation, the question should be stated first and the student afterwards asked to answer, frequently calling upon the inattentive ones and those who do not hold up their hands, thus the attention of the whole class is kept to the lesson.

After completing the work on the lesson the instructor presented to the department, and had them repeat till committed to memory, the first seven rules of catechisation as given in the Sunday School Treatise, as follows:

1. See that every question and every answer is a complete sentence.
2. Aim to have every question bear directly on the subject in hand.
3. Be clear, concise and logical.
4. Aim to never use more than three questions explanatory of the same point.
5. Repeat no pupil's answer habitually.
6. Have no habitual expletives, as, for instance, "Just so," "Right," etc.
7. Avoid direct questions, that is, such as can be answered by "Yes" or "No."

Each of the rules was discussed and explained as presented. The seven remaining "Rules" will be considered at the next meeting, all being asked to commit them to memory by that time.

In the second intermediate department the time was occupied in considering the subject, "How to Conduct a Recitation." The instructor, Elder Horace Cummings, introduced the subject by explaining some of the essential principles that should guide teachers in giving instructions. The teacher should be thoroughly prepared, then introduce the lesson by a brief review of the preceeding one to clearly connect the train of instruction. The next step is to present the day's lesson which should be done in such a way as to be adapted to the ca-

capacity of the class. Care should be taken that the children follow the thought of the teacher. Several suggestions as to how to keep the interest of the class and keep their attention, was discussed. When the principle of the lesson had been developed the teacher should, when possible, make practical applications of it in such a way as to impress upon the children the necessity of applying it in their lives.

Many questions were asked by the members of the class, and discussed in the meeting. Methods of presenting subjects were given and altogether the meeting was an interesting and profitable one in this department.

In the absence of Elder William Bradford, the regular instructor, the first intermediate department was presided over by Elder Orson Rumel, who spoke upon the utility of Biblical geography in studying the life of the Savior, illustrating his remarks with a large map of the Holy Land. This part of Bible study will sometimes elicit interest in the pupils when nothing else will. By connecting events of Bible history with geographical localities, the memory was assisted in retaining the more important points of the lesson.

The Primary department was in charge of instructor B. W. Ashton, who is taking the class through a series of model lessons from the life of the Savior. Sister Ella Jeremy presented the tenth lesson of the series on the "Value of Prayer and Fasting." Text, Matt., 17th chapter. Supplementary lesson, which is to be given orally to the primary class, is the story of the sickness in Zion's Camp; the city of Nineveh saved by prayer; state the object of Fast Day.

Sister Davis of the Twenty-second ward, in a well prepared essay, showed her manner of presenting lesson 12, on "The Sacrament," outlined as follows: Tell about the selling of the Savior by Judas. The conversation, at the Lords Supper, between Jesus and His Apostles. Tell about Christmas. Why we use water instead of wine. Tell pupils the words of the Lord's Prayer. Teach them to repeat in their minds when the Elders are blessing the Sacrament.

The practical instructions given in the various departments, judging by the excellent attendance and the interest taken by all who attend, are much appreciated, and tend to make the Union meetings more popular than they have ever been. No one who is really interested in the Sunday school work can now afford to miss these meetings if they wish to do efficient work in their classes.

On reassembling for the closing exercises the choir sang and the benediction was pronounced by Elder George H. Taylor, Bishop of the Fourteenth ward.

The First ward was requested to furnish the music at the November meeting of the Union.

J. H. PARRY, Secretary.

LABORS IN SWEDEN.

Jonkoping, Sweden, Oct. 1, 1897.

The trees are ablaze with their golden foliage, for now the fall air is stirring in this part of the Lord's vineyard. Mother Nature's florists are busy with their pencils and Father Time is marching fast, so we keep pace as well as we can, trying to remember the many recollections of the summer months. The memories of another of our bi-annual series of conferences are still uppermost in our thoughts and there is a desire to go back somewhat and taste some of the pleasures that have attended the days of conference in Gothenburg.