

Correspondence.

SALT LAKE CITY,
March 3rd, 1899.

Editor Deseret News:—SIR:—After a long delay I have at length found time to give you a short sketch of my late travels. I left Salt Lake City, May the 20th, 1897, on a mission to the Southern States, to carry the gospel to my relatives and friends, who are scattered through several of them. Our company made a safe journey over the Plains, arriving at Omaha in due time, altho' the Indians were committing many depredations, burning stations before and behind us.

At St. Louis I bade adieu to my brother missionaries and pursued my way alone to Kentucky, where I remained about ten days, and then passed on into Tennessee, where I spent several weeks in the neighborhood of my birth-place. While in Tennessee I visited Murfreesboro, and saw the immense burial grounds of both the Northern and Southern armies. The sight was truly appalling. I next visited Georgia and then Alabama. In Wetumpka, Ala., I met many old acquaintances, and so numerous were the questions asked me that I found it impossible to answer each one separately, so by invitation I entered a large Hall and publicly answered many questions relative to my country, customs and religion. My answers seemed to give general satisfaction, allying in a great measure their prejudices. While in the city of Montgomery, Ala., I had the pleasure of meeting and making the acquaintance of Hon. M. B. Eaton, Governor of Alabama. He politely invited me to accompany him to see the capitol building. It is a splendid edifice well suited to the purpose for which it was erected. The Governor was very affable; he asked many questions about Pres. B. Young and Utah.

I passed through Alabama and went as far south as Florida. This warm climate did not agree with me, I was soon stricken down with bilious fever; this put an end to my labors for several weeks. As soon as my health would permit I baptized the lady at whose house I stayed while sick. Leaving her and two other families busily engaged preparing to gather with the Saints, I began to retrace my steps, and visited most of the neighborhoods in which I had labored. I found one family nearly ready to begin the journey. I baptized four of its members. Christmas found me at my sister's in Ky. I baptized her and her two daughters, and was busily engaged helping her to get ready for the journey until March 15th, at which time we left for Omaha, where I hoped to meet other families that were trying to emigrate to the valleys. We were detained at this place.

President Brown placed me in charge of a small company of Saints, who had gathered at Omaha. On the 17th of July we took the cars, for Laramie City. Here we awaited the foreign emigration; then joining Capt. Murdoch's train we arrived safely at Salt Lake City, August 20th, 1898.

There is not that prejudice existing that I expected to find against us as a people in the Southern States; yet the people are much demoralized, and it truly appears that their best men have fallen in battle. The country has a desolate appearance, bearing many of the marks of the late civil war. Great dissatisfaction prevails. Almost every one is anxious to move, but want of means prevents, as land, almost the only property left them, will not sell. In all my travels I meet with no newspaper paragraphs, warning the people to beware of the "Mormon" emissary who was trying to swell the domains of Brigham Young.

As a general thing the minds of the people are so engorged with the political state of the country that they give but little heed to religion. Traveling over so much country it was impossible to remain long in a place, but I sowed good seed, which I hope will yet bring forth much fruit. In every place and on every available occasion, I bore a faithful testimony to the truth of the great latter-day work. Going from house to house teaching the first principles of the gospel. Testifying that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and reasoning with the people, on the truths of eternal life. Many seemed interested, listening attentively. Some acknowledged they believed it to be true, yet obeyed not its commands; a few gladly received the good tidings and were baptized. An idea prevailed through the country that the Church would emigrate all who joined it, and such is the dissatisfaction in the South, that had I favored this idea, I could have baptized many, (of a certain class) for the sake of being emigrated, who cared little or nothing for the truth. I thank my Heavenly Father for his watchful care during all my wanderings, and I acknowledge His hand in all things. It is truly refreshing to be again permitted to mingle with my brethren in the Kingdom of God, located in the valleys of the mountains.

Your brother,
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