



# FROM FAR AND NEAR

## PROSPECTS IN BOISE.

### Judging From Celebration They Are All That Could Be Desired.

Elder E. J. Merrill, president of the Boise branch, writes as follows to Elder Joseph W. McMurtin concerning the celebration of Pioneer day in that city:

I really do not know how to begin to tell you about the celebration held here on the 24th day of July. We had with us Bishop O. F. Whitney and President Nephthali Pratt. The weather was very favorable and the attendance was very large. Bishop Whitney was feeling somewhat tired and worn out from the long journey, but surpassed anything the people here expected in the line of an oration from a "Mormon" standpoint. He gave us a beautiful address. The part of the program furnished by the Elders and the Saints and their friends was even better than we had expected it would be. The day was spent very pleasantly in every respect. Every part of our program and every part of the amusements that we had were all successful. There has been nothing but favorable comments come to our ears in the whole city; several people telling your humble servant that nothing of the kind had ever been given in Boise previously. Brother Christensen, manager of the park, made the statement that it was really the most enjoyable day of the season's run thus far.

Many people have come to me since our celebration with regrets at not being privileged to attend and enjoy a good "Mormon" time. Of course, it seemed strange to the religious people of this city that a religious celebration should give the children the privilege of dancing, and also the adults the same privilege in the evening; but the majority of the religious people who attended the celebration were much impressed with the manner in which our dance and our amusements were carried on. The Park dramatic association favored us with a laughable farce and also one or two other numbers. The dance in the evening for the adults we believe to have been a thorough success. Mr. Christensen informed me that there was less rowdiness in the park on that day than on any previous day this season, Sunday not excepted. He congratulates us on the manner in which we conducted our celebration. Some of our bitterest enemies were present and we took special pains to see that they enjoyed themselves, and to see that they had plenty to eat and had all that would make the day enjoyable to them. We had a few of the boys of the town with us and they seemed to thoroughly enjoy the occasion. Last, but not least, the park was filled to overflowing with the young and rising generation—Utah's, or rather Idaho's "crop." There was much comment concerning the number of children present in the park that day. Of course, there was a number of children present whose parents were not "Mormons," but they all got a "Mormon" name, being at a "Mormon" celebration.

We feel that much good has been accomplished by our efforts. Financially it was a success as we have our debts paid and something like \$42 balance. If we were to get up a celebration next week I believe we would have three times the amount of money on hand. We do not feel to take the credit of our success upon ourselves, but we feel that it was a righteous undertaking and that the Lord blessed us in our efforts.

Brother Whitney made many friends while he was in Boise. He seemed to thoroughly enjoy himself. On Sunday night our hall was crowded to its capacity and Brother Whitney was feeling much more like talking than on any previous occasion, and as a result we had a very excellent meeting. We feel that much good has been accomplished by his visit to this branch.

Now we are looking in the near future to give some of the other brethren an invitation to be with us on Sunday. We do not want more than we can get, but we do want to try to get all we can, believing that more good can be accomplished in these special meetings than could be accomplished in many meetings otherwise held. We have not lost faith in ourselves nor in the power of the Lord to bless us as His humble servants; but still when we can advertise a speaker from Salt Lake City it conduces to our prospects with the higher class of people in Boise. We have not, by any means, lost faith in the city nor its inhabitants.

**ENCOURAGED IN THEIR WORK.**

**Brief Report of the Labor of Elders in West Virginia.**

Writing from Kate Wood, Fayette Co., West Va., July 27, Elder A. M. Marchant says:

Last May we held our regular spring conference at Trace Run, Braxton Co., West Va. There were present Elder Ben E. Rich, 14 Elders and eight members, besides a host of friends. We had a time of rejoicing. There were held three public meetings, and a "pastorhood" meeting to which all were accorded the privilege of attending. We had a spiritual feast, the Spirit of God was in our midst.

After our conference one more soul had the courage to receive baptism. Elder James C. Wood and myself were assigned to labor in Braxton county. This county, generally speaking, is a very hard place for a "Mormon" Elder, but we find enough honest-hearted souls to give us entertainment. Many are also willing to give us a hearing.

Since May 10 we have organized a Sunday school at Trace Run, Braxton county, and are meeting with very good success. We have a prosperous Sunday school with an enrollment of 33, 11 out of that number being "Mormons." We have a complete organization: superintendent, two assistants, secretary, assistant and librarian, three deacons, two teachers, theological, intermediate and primary; three teachers for each class. We are following the outline of the Sunday School Treatise. We convene in a private residence of Brother Sims. Albert each Sabbath at 2 p. m. We appreciate his kindness. We observe fast day, and administer the Sacrament the first Sunday in each month to Saints and children. All express themselves as being united in our labors and the Lord is blessing us. This is the first Latter-day Saint Sunday school that has ever been organized in this county.

The Era and "News" are very welcome, and much appreciated, and prove to be great factors in allaying prejudice. Should there be any who have friends or relatives in this part whom they desire us to call on we would be grateful to receive their names and addresses. Our conference address is 70 Swan St., Parkersburg, West Virginia.

**FROM ANOTHER PART OF THE STATE.**

Elder Daniel Scott writes from Chapel, Braxton Co., West Va., July 23:

Elder Chase C. Hest and I arrived here Saturday, July 18, so we appointed a meeting at 4 p. m. Sunday under a large chestnut tree. At the appointed time we had the privilege of delivering our addresses to about 50 people, after which some of them expressed a desire to hear us again. We therefore saw the school trustees and got permission to preach in the schoolhouse. We appointed a meeting there for the night of the 23rd. At the appointed time, we went to the schoolhouse, but we found the door locked and by investigation we found that the minds of the people had been prejudiced against us and that the trustees had decided not to open the doors for us, but we still had "Uncle Sam" to fall back on, so we preached to about 25 listeners. We enjoyed the Spirit of God with the Gospel.

Sunday, the 26th, our meeting convened at the appointed time with about 75 in attendance, we enjoyed the Spirit of God and bore our testimony. We are making much progress among the vestigates. Brother Wm. Hamilton, who lived in Utah nine years, is representing our people as elders. He has worked hard to help us get meetings. He is going back to Zion as soon as he can get the means. Among those who are very much interested is a Baptist preacher, who during a conversation acknowledged he had no authority to preach, and said he would be glad to get a testimony of the Gospel. He is now reading the Book of Mormon.

We were called on Sunday, the 26th, to administer to Brother Hamilton's baby. It had summer complaint, and seemed to be getting worse. We administered to it and in an hour and a half it was playing on the floor, and today it seems as well as ever.

We feel well in the Gospel and much encouraged in our labors in this county.

**FROM BALTIMORE, MD.**

**Notes From That Part of Lord's Vineyard.**

Elder C. A. Stephens, in a letter dated Baltimore, Md., July 27, says:

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know how the work is progressing in this part of the vineyard. The Elders here are all well and are doing a good work, making many friends and spreading the truths of the Gospel freely. The Elks' carnival, which brought many to the city, we took advantage of as much as possible, and had several meetings which were fairly well attended. We have had some little opposition from one of the ministers of a small parish in the city, but it has all turned for the good.

We have also had the privilege of enjoying a nice outing prepared by our friends of this city. The Elders and Saints, sixteen in all, took the morning boat for Towchester, 30 miles from the city on the Chesapeake bay, arriving there at 10 a. m., and soon the ladies had the table spread with the bounties of life.

After refreshments we all took a ride on Pike's Peak and afterwards had a picnic on a very beautiful shore. Such outings are always appreciated by the Elders, and they all feel to ask that the Lord will ever bless those who befriend them in any way.

The "News" and the Era are welcomed by the Elders, Saints and friends.

**PIONEER DAY.**

**Notes About the Branch in Seattle, Washington.**

Elder E. H. Telford writes as follows, from Seattle, Wash., July 26:

On the 24th the Elders, Saints and friends met in the Woodland Park, where a very enjoyable time was had. After dinner a pleasing program was rendered and after meeting, foot racing was indulged in.

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I am happy to say the branch of the Church in Seattle is growing, and the Saints are united. The Elders are doing excellent work, and they are becoming very efficient. Elder Pickett has accomplished a good work, and those who know him best, love him most.

The Deseret News is very much appreciated by all the Elders.

**ATTRACTED BY THE GOSPEL.**

**The Views of a "Kentucky Gentile" About "Mormonism."**

The "Manifesto" which you were so kind as to procure for my especial personal is received. I am sure I did not mean to cause you the extra trouble, hence I thank you all the more. The "Manifesto" is not just what I had thought it was. From what I learned through the papers, I thought it some wild and "silly" document, written up by the only one possessed of sufficient sense to write a lot of wayward "heady" Mormonism. I find instead a mildly written piece of advice from recognized authority to a harassed and troubled constituency as I understand it. I shall keep the document and the letter written by your own hand. I prize both very much. In fact I am partial to everything "Mormon" which of course tends to make me unpopular and forces me to keep many good thoughts all to myself.

I began to read "Mormon" literature as by accident, if it were not there are no accidents with the Lord, about nine years ago.

I was innocent of his doctrine, or ignorant if that is the best term, and read the first tract ever given me with out arising from where I was sitting when it was handed me. I remember the two young men who gave me the tract. I have their names, but I did not get them then. After reading the leaflet I remember saying to myself that it was not bad doctrine so far. After a while I met other Elders and it

occurred to me to do as Paul says in regard to entertaining strangers, so I treated them nicely and being in public business I had many opportunities to do so. This I am persuaded, would have been about the end of it had not the devil begun to get in his work. A great furor was raised about the "Mormons" until I honestly and secretly wondered what my friends were saying about.

I had always believed the "Mormons" a deluded people and I felt sorry for them. After a bit it occurred to me this is the very way in which the Lord Himself and His followers were treated by the world. It was a wonder to me the great similarity of treatment accorded, and I spoke my sentiments in pure honesty. So time went on, and all along I can but observe there is no other people under the sun who are subjected to the same indignities and accusations that the early Christians were, except the "Mormons."

I long to cast my lot with the Saints of God and to suffer with them in suffering, but I feel that I would not shrink my duty.

I feel to say with Saint Paul that who is me if I obey not the truth. My heart is filled with love for the people who have borne so much because of the divinity of a work which cannot form a compromise with sectarianism and I long to go through the waters of baptism. I have so expressed myself to the one I have chosen to perform its sacred ordinance is there, and I am here.

I hope to meet with many of you yet. I have met quite a number of "Mormons" already, among them Mr. George Pyper, of Salt Lake City. This was at the Nashville exposition and I could easily make him remember me by referring to the Utah register where I put the word "Mormon" opposite to my name, much more in earnest even than that in fun or to tease my companions. But I will not trespass longer upon your valuable time. I hope all "Mormons" who see this will remember me and in offering up the petitions to a loving Father will not fail to pray for a devoted and earnest

**KENTUCKY GENTILE.**

**A PLEASANT REUNION.**

**Saints and Elders in the Lone Star Conference Have a Good Time.**

Elder W. C. Leak writes from Tyler, Texas, Aug. 2:

The Elders and Saints of our conference have just met in a reunion. We appointed the 24th of July for the gathering and the celebration of the day that our forefathers entered into Salt Lake valley.

The place of our celebration was Puyner, Henderson Co., Texas. We built a large arbor near a beautiful grove.

There is a nice little colony of Saints in this part, and they are enjoying the spirit of the Gospel. At 10 a. m. a large crowd gathered. The program which consisted of songs, recitations and speeches, was listened to with interest. Elder W. A. Martindale, who delivered a beautiful sermon on why we celebrate the 24th of July.

At 1 p. m. a luncheon was spread, and we all partook of it freely. In the afternoon the time was spent in conversation on the Gospel, etc. Brother George Zimmerman, one of the Saints of Texas, interested us with his phonograph. Preaching was the last feature on the program. We spent the 25th and 26th holding meetings with the Saints. On Monday the Elders left for their fields of labor. Elders James Brinkerhoff, J. A. Wilding, J. L. Atkinson and myself were assigned to labor in the city of Tyler.

**They Have a Testimony.**

Miss Lilly Harris, writing from Hamburg, La., July 24, asks fully as in the "News" to say that she is thankful for the testimony she has that the Gospel is true. She says she is happy, since she joined the Church.

Sister Martin K. Aaron, in a letter dated Kelsey, Upshur Co., Texas, July 25, also says she has a testimony, and then continues:

The Saints began to gather here at Kelsey, Upshur Co., Texas, about two years ago, there being two families here at that time, and at the present time we have an interesting Sunday school, with an enrollment of 120. We have five grades, also a choir. The brethren here have built an addition to our meeting house, which makes it more convenient for Sunday school work. It will seat 500 people. The people that surround us seem to be afraid of the "Mormons" at first, but the "Mormons" moved along and minded their own business. Now people have a better opinion of us, and we have many friends here, and allayed much prejudice. The Lord has blessed us in many ways, and all feel to acknowledge the hand of the Lord in all this.

**MEETING WITH SUCCESS.**

**Explaining the Principles of the Gospel at the Water's Edge.**

Elder F. M. Petersen writes from Nine Mile, La., July 23:

We have been laboring in Avoynes, La., and rejoice to say that our meeting with fair success, and enjoying our labors very much. We had been holding a series of meetings at Hamburg, La., and on July 19, 1903, had the privilege of leading six persons into the waters of baptism and of expounding the principles of the plan of salvation to about 200 people who had gathered in the shade of the spreading branches of the oaks on the bank of the Mississippi River.

We were blessed with the Spirit of God. One brother, John Harris, who was baptized, seemed to be literally filled with the Holy Ghost as he came out of the waters, rejoicing and praising God. He is very happy and like Cornelius received the gift of the Holy Ghost before the ordinance of laying on of hands. A. J. B. F. F. His family also was baptized, and they seemed to bear their testimonies to the world that this is the true and everlasting Gospel.

The Elders of this conference are enjoying very fair health, and feel in spirit. They always enjoy reading the "News" and Era.

**RELIEF SOCIETY MEETING.**

**A Recent Conference Held at Farmington, Davis Stake.**

Farmington, Utah, July 23.—Davis stake Relief society conference was held in Farmington. There were on the stand Sister Bathsheba W. Smith and Counselor Annie T. Hyde, Sister Susan Grant, and counselors of the Davis stake; Elder John W. Hess and counselors. All the Relief societies in the stake were represented excepting two, one on account of sickness, Sister Bathsheba W. Smith bore strong testimony of the divinity of the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith. She spoke of the Relief societies, she being the only living member of the original Relief society organized in Nauvoo by the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Counselor Annie T. Hyde spoke about the temples.

Elder John W. Hess bore testimony

to what the sisters had said. Sister Jane T. Telford, counselor to Sister Susan Grant, in behalf of the Davis Stake Relief societies, presented Sister Grant with a handsome fur, it being her seventy-first birthday. At the close of the morning session Sister Helen Miller of Farmington Relief society announced that dinner would be served in the vestry to all present, and 174 sat down to a sumptuous repast. JOHN WALSH.

**CALLED HOME.**

**The Departure of a Faithful Latter-day Saint.**

Elder Edmond Whitaker, writing from Mobile, Ala., July 27, says:

Fifteen miles west of this city in a dense forest, stands a little home where reside a humble "Mormon" family, consisting of mother and one child. The father was called to depart this life a few days ago.

On Saturday morning, July 11, Brother Robert Rufus Green left his home to come to this city. Before the day was passed he was attacked with a chill. On arriving home, he was well cared for two days, but gradually he grew worse. A doctor was called in, who said it was a bad case of typhoid fever. He grew worse and worse until at about 9:30 p. m., July 16, he was relieved of his pain by death. Four Elders are here: F. D. Taylor, B. J. Porter, L. M. Hess and myself. Some of us were with him during his sickness and death. He was buried Saturday, July 18.

Brother and Sister Green are faithful Latter-day Saints. Sister Green was baptized Sept. 14, 1895. Brother Green was baptized the following year, Jan. 27, 1896, and died a faithful Saint. Sister Green wished to be remembered to all Elders who have ever stopped at her home and would be pleased to hear from them all. Her address is Mrs. Mary M. Green, Chilton, Mobile Co., Ala.

**In the European Mission.**

(Millennial Star, July 23.)

Release.—Owing to sickness at home, Elder Joseph Eckersley has been honorably released from his labors in the Liverpool office, where he has labored with unflinching zeal for over two years. He was called home by a cable message on account of the serious illness of his wife. His homecoming comes at an especially inopportune time, owing to the absence of President Lyman on the continent. He carried with him the love, confidence, sympathy and blessing of President Lyman and all with whom he has been associated. We sincerely pray that Elder Eckersley may find his wife out of danger, and on his homecoming may find recovery. We are sure that all the Saints and Elders of the entire European mission will join us in this prayer.

Elder Leo Pickett of the Newcastle conference is honorably released to return home by the S. S. New England, which sails July 23, 1903.

Transfers.—Elder Alma Hochstrasser is transferred from the Swiss mission to the London conference, and Elder Robert L. Anderson from the London conference to the Liverpool office.

**STAKE CONFERENCES.**

**EMERY STAKE.**

**Report of Quarterly Conference, at Ferron.**

Price, Utah, July 25.—The quarterly conference of the Emery stake of Zion was held at Ferron, Utah, Sunday and Monday, July 26 and 27, 1903. There were present of the Council of Apostles, Elder Robert G. Miller presiding. After the opening exercises of the Sabbath school, Elder Alonzo E. Wall reported the condition of the stake as being in a prosperous condition.

Elder Daniel A. Lowery gave a very interesting report of the Ferron ward Sunday school.

Elder Rudger Clawson then addressed the conference. He instructed parents how to care for their children and bring them up in the fear of the Lord. The congregation sang the hymn, "Weary Not." Benediction by Elder Peter B. Peterson, and conference adjourned until 2 p. m.

At the afternoon session Elder Reuben G. Miller was the first speaker. He said he had nothing but good to say about the Saints of the Emery stake of Zion, he was pleased with the presiding officers of the stake and wards, they were all in a prosperous condition and trying to do the will of the Lord.

Elder Peter B. Peterson reported the Ninety-first quorum of Seventy in a very good condition.

Bishop John V. Jensen reported the Castle Dale ward.

Bishop Eugene E. Branch reported the W. Walling ward.

Elder William Taylor reported the High Priest quorum in an excellent condition.

Bishop Lars P. Overson reported the Cleveland ward.

Elder Joseph Hanson, music director of Ferron ward, spoke upon the subject of music and referred to his labors as a choir leader.

Bishop Hans P. Rasmussen reported the Molen ward.

Elder Rudger Clawson spoke upon the subject of repentance. He said all men need to repent, no one was perfect. He referred to people disregarding the Sabbath day, and said if the children of men ever do receive the kingdom of heaven they would have to keep the commandments of the Lord.

At 7:30 Sunday evening the Young Men's and Young Ladies' association held a conjoint session. Elder Peter B. Peterson presiding. An excellent discourse was delivered by Elder Rudger Clawson.

The Monday morning session of the conference began with the choir singing "Softly Beams the Sacred Dawn."

The general and stake authorities of the Church were present and unanimously sustained.

Elder Henry G. Mathis was the first speaker. He referred to the Saints moving from one ward to another without taking recommendations from their Bishops; he advised all such people to obtain recommendations.

Elder John H. Pace was the next speaker. He spoke upon the "Word of Wisdom" and exhorted all to keep that law.

Elder Alma G. Jewkes spoke of the good accomplished at the stake academy the past school year.

Elder Albert Bryner reported the Price ward.

Bishop James N. Miller reported the Spring Glen ward.

Bishop Jasper Robertson was the next speaker. He reported the Orangeville ward as being in a good condition. Elder Rudger Clawson addressed the conference, saying the counsel given by the brethren this morning was the word of the Lord to the people of this stake of Zion, and said it must be very pleasing to the Lord to see so many of the Saints prospering at the Monday session of the conference. He was very pleased with the labor of the janitor. He spoke of the academy as being one of the grandest institutions in this stake, and said the Lord will preserve it from winds and storms, a cyclone will never hurt that building. He hoped the Saints would give the academy their hearty

support, for it will be the salvation of their children. The closing session of the conference began by the choir singing, "Lord We Come Before Thee Now." Elder Rudger Clawson, who was the first speaker, reported the Emery ward as being in a favorable condition. Bishop James N. Miller, reported the Huntington ward.

Elder Reuben G. Miller addressed the conference. He was pleased with the Saints of Ferron for their kindness in entertaining the visitors during the conference. He appreciated the kindness of the First Presidency of the Church in sending an Apostle to speak to us at this conference. He closed his remarks by asking the blessings of the Lord to rest upon the Saints of this stake.

Elder Rudger Clawson spoke at length upon the character and attributes of God. He closed his remarks by exhorting the Saints to be honest with God and man. The choir and congregation sang, "We Thank Thee, O God, a Prophet." Benediction by Elder Henry E. Greenland and conference adjourned for three months to meet at Huntington, Utah.

**ARTHUR W. HORSELEY.**

Stake Clerk. Sec. character ex. Econ. HWA

**RETURNED MISSIONARIES**

Elder James P. Herrick, of Ogden, Weber county, Utah, returned July 25, from the Eastern States mission, to which he was assigned July 9, 1901. He labored principally in and around Albany, Troy, Cohoes and western New York, and later in Warren county, opening up a mission field there, where he was called home by a cable message. The last two months he spent in Delaware county, where the Elders were received with indifference, except by a few families. A thriving Sunday school has been established in Albany, where the cause is flourishing.

Elder James A. Grazier, of Johnson, Kane Co., Utah, returned July 21 from the New Zealand mission, to which he was set apart April 27, 1901. That mission, he says, is in a flourishing condition; many are investigating the principles of the Gospel and the prospects are promising.

Elder Leo Pickett, of St. George, Washington Co., returned Aug. 6, from a mission to England, which he was called to fill April 3, 1902. He labored in the Newcastle conference during his absence, and reports the work in that field in a flourishing condition. The Elders are doing good work, making many friends and converts.

**Violent Attack of Diarrhoea Cured by Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and Peppermint Cure.**

"A short time ago I was taken with a violent attack of diarrhoea and before I would have died if I had not gotten relief," says John J. Patton, a leading citizen of Patton, Ala. "A friend recommended Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, and I bought a bottle and after taking three doses of it was entirely cured. I consider it the best remedy in the world for bowel complaints. For sale by all druggists."

**YELLOWSTONE PARK**

Excursion.

Aug. 12th, via Oregon Short Line, through Monida, the most picturesque route. A seven-day tour of the Park, including rail and stage transportation and hotel expenses in the Park, only \$45.00. Summer limited. Call at ticket office for