

the Saints to new endeavors, and they now feel they are really a part of the great brotherhood. Before, they felt that they had been somewhat neglected. Brother Larsen and I, too, rejoice that we have been so much assisted by the labors of the brethren, and we feel a renewed desire to forge ahead in carrying the banner of truth.

It appears from reports that the missions everywhere are progressing rapidly. Such news is gladdening to us. Your labors, of course, increase, but I am sure the extra burden is willingly borne.—Millennial Star.

#### Alone, but Faithful.

Honey Grove, Fannin Co., Texas,  
July 1, 1893.

I was baptized and confirmed Dec. 25, 1895, by Elders M. D. Miner and Jos. E. D. Tomblinson. I have ever felt to thank my heavenly Father for guiding their footsteps (according to their testimonies) to our very door, and can sing praises to His great name when I think of the lost condition we were in when those two humble Elders came to our rescue. Soon after I obeyed the Gospel the adversary began to rage with great fury. The Elders were driven from our midst, and it has ever since been contrary to the counsel of those appointed to preside over them, for any of them to visit Fannin county. In a few months I had to part with all the Saints who lived here, and was left alone as it were, in the midst of mobocracy, and although I have tried with all my might to live my religion, that my life might be a good example for others to follow, striving to allay the prejudice existing here against the truth, I have not succeeded to any great extent, and yet I feel that I have been able to accomplish a good work. I can see that the Lord had a great purpose in desiring me to remain here, and I feel as though deliverance is nigh. Through my earnest prayers and those of the Saints at Lane, Hunt county, I had the privilege of attending the conference at Fate, Rockwall county, the last of April and the 1st of May, and of seeing my two oldest children baptized. It was a distance of about 90 miles. I know for myself that the Gospel is true, and I feel to press on in the work.

MARY J. BRYANT.

#### Iowa Conference.

The conference of the Elders laboring in Iowa was held in Painter's hall, in the city of Des Moines, May 7th to 9th, 1898, commencing at 7:30 p. m. on the 7th. There were present Elder Louis A. Kelsch, president of the Northern States mission; Elder Joseph F. Thomas, president of the Iowa conference; fifteen traveling Elders besides Saints and friends residing her.

Elder W. H. Garner spoke on faith in the true and living God. He was followed by Elder T. D. Wallace, who spoke on the Gospel.

Sunday morning at 10 a. m. Elder C. J. Smith spoke on revelation, followed by Elder Henry Blais on the same subject. Elder E. G. Taylor spoke on the necessity of work in connection with faith, clearly showing that good works are essential. Elder J. F. Thomas closed with a few remarks of a general character.

In the afternoon Elder Enos Ormond spoke, dwelling on the subject of authority from God. Elder David Rish-ton spoke on the restoration of the Gospel. Elder J. G. Watts spoke on baptism. Elder S. E. McClellan gave an interesting talk on the Book of Mormon.

At the evening meeting of the conference the time was occupied by Elder J. F. Thomas and Elder Kelsch, the

former speaking on the subject of salvation for the dead, showing beyond a doubt that the Gospel was preached to the dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, and that it would be necessary for them to live according to the laws of God in the spirit world after they had left the state of men dwelling in the flesh.

Elder Kelsch followed on the same subject and other things in the nature of testimonies relative to the power of God manifested through His servants, and bore his testimony to the truth of the Gospel taught by the Latter-day Saints, revealed to the world through Joseph the Prophet.

Monday morning at 9 a. m. the Elders assembled in Priesthood meeting, at the same place, where an enjoyable time was had. The Elders all spoke, expressing their joy in their labors and reporting the various fields where they have labored the past six months.

Elders James D. Coon and Isaac Coon of Pleasant Green, Salt Lake county, Utah, were honorably released to return home. Elder H. Garner, whose eyes have given him considerable pain for some time was, on that account, released to return home. (Upon further reflection Elder Garner has decided to stay and fill his mission notwithstanding his affliction, and we all rejoice with him and pray the Lord to bless him.)

Elder Kelsch gave much good counsel and instruction to all the Elders relative to their labors. The general authorities of the Church were then sustained by unanimous vote, as also Elder Louis A. Kelsch, president of the Northern States mission, and Elder Joseph F. Thomas, president of the Iowa conference and Elder Thomas D. Wallace as clerk.

The Elders then received their appointments as follows:

Elders David Rish-ton and Joseph E. Anderson, Vinton, Benton county, Iowa. E. G. Taylor and John G. Watt, Waterloo, Black Hawk county, Iowa.

Thos. D. Wallace and D. E. Black, Clarksville, Butler county, Iowa.

Samuel E. McClellan and Enos Ormond, Marshalltown, Marshall county, Iowa.

C. J. Smith and J. W. Wheadon, Storm Lake, Buena Vista county, Iowa.

Elder W. H. Garner will labor in Humboldt, Iowa, with an Elder soon to arrive.

The work of the Lord is rolling onward and the seed sown will bear its fruit in time, and that which falls into honest hearts will serve to extend the Gospel message, for he that is warned should warn his neighbor. The way is being opened and the Gospel will reach the honest in heart, though "the heathen rage and the people imagine vain things."

Any Saints having relatives or friends in this state should furnish the names and addresses to the Elders, which can be done by communication with Elder J. F. Thomas, 1413 E. Court Ave. Des Moines, Iowa, who will furnish them to the Elders laboring in their vicinity, and they will be glad to call upon them. Much good has thus been done already.

J. F. THOMAS,  
President of Conference.  
T. D. WALLACE,  
Clerk.

#### Opposition and Victory.

Bradleyton, Ala., June 29, 1898.

Missionary work began here in Crenshaw county, about eight years ago. Our first Elders were James C. Orr of Tooele county, Utah, and Peter Flam of Kamtuck, Bingham county, Idaho. Our county has a population of 16,500 people, and I doubt very much that there was an individual in it who ever heard the sound of a Latter-day

Saint Elder's voice prior to the time that Elders Orr and Flam entered our county. So you will understand the curiosity manifested at the strange, yet simple, message which these Elders brought.

As is always the case, there were here, those whose hearts were touched by the inspiration of heaven and their doors were opened to the Elders. Investigation began and today, as a result of this small beginning, several have been baptized into the Church of Christ. Sunday schools have been organized and are in good condition; six of the brethren have been ordained to the Priesthood, two to the higher Priesthood as (local Elders) and four as Priests in the Aaronic Priesthood.

Quite a commodious building has been commenced as a meeting house which will be completed in the near future. Two of the brethren, Elder P. D. Motes and myself have been called to take a short mission here, and will doubtless soon be paired off with two of the western boys. We will be thankful for the privilege of going out and lifting up our voices to our neighbors, bearing testimony of the great Latter-day work.

When the Elders came to us, all was as calm as a "Summer's morning." It is true we had the different sects among us and they fought each other until "their contentions were like the bars of a castle." But they could all unite in opposing the message which has behind it a "thus saith the Lord." Mobbing has taken place in which door-neighbors would participate against their Mormon friends. Association as friends and neighbors have sometimes been withdrawn. Our meeting house was once fired by our enemies, and came near burning down. Our children have been derided in the schools by other children. But while this has been the case, I would not have your readers left under the impression that the best people of the South indulge in such actions as these. Far from it. I presume that every country has its good and its bad, and so it is with us. There are thousands of good honest souls in the South who will yet receive baptism at the hands of the Elders of Israel, if they continue their labors among them in the future as they have done in the past, clothed in humility and "putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation." (I Thess., 5:8.)

Many testimonies have come to us in this part of the Master's vineyard in confirmation of the truthfulness of the Gospel message. The sick have been healed; bones have been set; prophecies have been fulfilled, and many things have transpired to make us know of a surety that this is indeed the work of the Lord.

The "News" reaches us regularly for which we are very thankful. Ever praying for the cause of truth, I am, your brother in the Gospel.

E. B. DORMAN.

#### From New Zealand.

From a private letter from Elder Ezra T. Stevenson, the News has been permitted to publish the subjoined extracts:

Waipari, East Coast, N. Z.,  
May 24, 1898.

As I said in the commencement of this letter, we were held at Tokomaru by the rain, but I came to the conclusion that it was all right, for I think that our visit stirred up the reckless members to quite a considerable extent. The branch has for some time been in a remarkably bad condition, the leading men having fallen and the sheep are scattered.

On our arrival last Wednesday evening, a good lot of people came to see Hirihi, and we gave them a good preaching to. On Sunday we, four of