

MISCELLANEOUS.

IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 20, 1897.

Today Salt Lake begins her great Jubilee, and we are with you, for today we begin the canvass of Alabama's capital city, Montgomery. The governor, Joseph Johnson, the mayor, John H. Clisby, and the chief of police, were visited a few days previous by Elders Daniel H. Thomas and W. E. Rydallch, who received a written permit to preach in and on the streets and distribute our literature. On our way to this city we held a series of twelve meetings near a small railroad town called Bradleyton, in Crenshaw county. The fruits of our labors was made manifest, for the Lord gave the increase of six baptisms.

Last night we preached on the street at Five Points, the principal business part of town. We had a good crowd, who gathered around to listen to us sing and preach. After service we registered at the Metropolitan hotel, kept by a Mr. Stewart, and were provided a good bed and breakfast gratis.

Montgomery claims a population of about forty thousand inhabitants, and contains a great deal of wealth. Its site is on a bluff on the Alabama river, and today we stood on the very spot where Jefferson Davis was inaugurated in 1861, on the front steps of the state capitol building.

GEORGE A. REID.
WAYNE H. REDD.

IN INDIAN TERRITORY.

VIAN, I. T., July 24, 1897.

Our conference met here at my house on the 19th and 20th of May last, at which time, Elder W. T. Jack, president of the mission was with us, and gave us some very valuable instruction. Nine other Elders, including Elders Miner and Dalley, from Texas, were here. We had a good time, the Holy Ghost being poured out upon us.

I have been preaching at all the houses in the county, and also at Vian, a railroad station. I will relate a little circumstance that happened at that place while I was there. I left an appointment on Sunday night at schoolhouse, and went to fill my appointment. On arriving, I found a Baptist minister there, who had taken the stand. I gave him my hand, and asked him if that was his hour for preaching. He said it was, there being considerable of a congregation gathered. I had been invited to speak at a private house near by, so I invited all who were interested in hearing the Gospel to follow me, and the crowd all followed me but six persons. So the minister, in place of disturbing our meeting, lost his own congregation.

I was baptized on the 17th of May, 1876, and ordained to the Melchisedek Priesthood, having had some experience in the ministry, first as a Methodist preacher, then as an evangelist or traveling preacher. There are some peculiar things in regard to how I became a Mormon, of which I will speak in another letter.

We were sorry that the Elders were all taken from the Indian Territory conference. It seems odd and lonely, to think we are the only ones in the mission so far as we know, and we hope

they will soon return. There is an opening for a big harvest if we had some more help.

JOHN DAVIS.

AMID TEXAS WATERMELONS.

LEXINGTON, Lee County, Texas,

July 21, 1897.

In looking over the NEWS we find reports from nearly every state in the Union, except the largest. We write this to let you know that the people in the Lone Star state are still hearing the Gospel, even if the torrid sun does drive us into the shade during the middle of the day. We usually try to spend the hours between 10 and 4, in Gospel talks, and eating watermelons. This is the great melon season of Texas. They never know when to stop growing it seems; but the people pick them before they get too large to handle. They sometimes get to weigh 100 pounds, but that is too large to handle conveniently.

Early in April, when Elder William T. Jack took charge of the Indian Territory mission, there were eighteen Elders in Texas. Since that time six of the number have gone home, leaving us an even dozen. Those who left us are: Francis M. Stewart from Milburn, Sanpete county; Charles F. Solomon, Salt Lake City; S. R. Wilcock, Parawan, Iron county; George H. Crosby, Panguitch; Fred Smith, Rexburg, Idaho, and David Chidester, Richfield, Utah. Although we have decreased in numbers we have not in zeal.

To the young men in Zion, we have a word to say: Attend your Sunday schools and get a good course in the first principles of the Gospel; and while you are doing that, lay by an occasional dollar, so that when you are called out this fall or next spring, you will be ready to go. Texas has 265 counties which contain two and a half millions of people. Now, these people are waiting to hear the good news that you are preparing to give them. One thing above all, cultivate faith in God, for Satan will try you on that point. We find that Satan can try us just as hard and a little harder out here in these Texas woods as he can in the mountains of the West. Round up your shoulders and get ready to put on the Gospel harness, for there is a great work to perform before every creature hears the truth. Come forth trusting implicitly in the power of the Lord, and He will be ready to aid you. The Lord will always look after His servants. If you could but realize the condition of the people of the world today, you would not put off getting ready to come out and help to prune the vineyard of the Lord for the last time.

The Texas conference is presided over by Elder Hyrum Andrus, of Oxford, Idaho. We are expecting to hold conference in August, when we will, if all is well, be permitted to meet for the first time in Texas with President Jack, from whom we expect words of comfort and encouragement. If any have relatives or acquaintances in these parts, they could be visited by any of the Elders laboring here.

Your paper comes regularly, and we like to look over it, and see the progress of the good work in all parts of the

world. It is a source of great encouragement for us to read of the success of our co-laborers.

The following is a list of the names and addresses of the Elders laboring in Texas: Hyrum Andrus, and John W. White, Wimberly, Hayo county.

Joseph Coulam and Francis Lee, Gonzales, Gonzales county.

Jens Hansen and Levi J. Taylor, Jeddo, Bastrop county.

Albert Harris and William H. Anderson, Austin, Travis county.

William H. Jardine and Arthur V. Lee, Burnett, Burnett county.

Orson P. Nelson and J. L. Workman, Lexington, Lee county.

Last Monday we were favored with a visit of our president, Elder Andrus, and his companion, Elder White. They spend their time visiting around among the Elders of the different counties, giving encouraging words and keeping things in order. Our president and companion are with us at present, and will take their departure for headquarters tonight to arrange for conference.

It is getting cooler now, so we must begin to stir.

HYRUM ANDRUS,
JOHN W. WHITE,
ORSON P. NELSON,
J. L. WORKMAN.

LETTER FROM GERMANY.

CHAUX-DE-FOUDS, July 20, 1897.

This part of the missionary field lies on the boundary of France and Switzerland, and in about the prettiest district in the world.

I was assigned to labor in the Jura conference, November 2nd, 1896, and found, upon arrival there, the next day, such Elders as Gottlieb Schmitz, Fred Haueter, N. Baugarter and Ed. A. De Roche for my co-laborers, and was immediately put to labor with the latter in the district of Delemont. On December 1st, I was placed with Brother Baugarter to go through the district of Neuchatel, and after a short period, was left in Biel alone, to re-organize a Sunday school, and labor among the Saints and sinners in that city, which I accomplished until about January 15th, when Brother Schmitz was released and I was assigned to labor singly in the district of Neuchatel, with my headquarters at Chaux-de-Fouds.

This was rather a trial for me, as I was compelled to expound the Gospel in German, French and "Bern Dutch," and, once in a while, would find some one that spoke English; but I put myself in the Lord's hands, and, through fasting and prayer, He aided me wonderfully, and I was enabled to make some few converts to the Gospel of Christ.

Since April 1st, Elder Nathan Porter, from Logan, was assigned to labor with me in this district. He doing the French part and I am trying to do the other; and, as we are endeavoring to obey the commandments God has given us, He has raised up unto us many friends.

We find some few honest souls who grasp at the Gospel gladly, some who seem to be indifferent, and others (I am sorry to say), want nothing to do with the "Mormon preachers," as this name in this land seems to mean everything wicked. Still, I must say the prejudice is diminishing somewhat since we arrived here. Our greatest enemy is the