

Elders we did not want to pass by without calling upon you." "Drive up to the house," Mr. Flack said kindly; "make yourselves comfortable. The boys will take care of your horse, I will be back soon."

Between two rugged bluffs, where two low mountains come near together, to the north among the timber, the south opening out on a beautiful prairie, is a model southern home. On an elevation surrounded by a neat lumber fence, is a double frame house, a porch the full length of the building; and overlooking the prairie, also follows an opening between the two main structures leading back to the wing on the north. The well and smoke-house, to the rear. The old-fashioned ashes leach and a partition fence are between the house and a seven-acre orchard, while to the east is the garden patch. A little to the west of the house across a narrow street or lane, is a model barn, its cotton bin, corn cribs, haylofts and cotton seed and grain departments. No halters for the horses and mules, the condition of which shows kind treatment and good care; each has an individual stall, separated by sliding lattice doors, where the stock have their freedom. Wagons stand under sheds; boxes are bolted with ropes and pulley; the well and water-troughs, feed racks, fence and stock yards, all express plainer than word, that people who have been well trained live here. Agreeable to the custom of the sunny south, the sitting room, parlor and bedroom are all in one. Two rooms of this kind constitute the family room and visitors' apartments. At the end of the porch is a washing bench, and on a hook suspended from the porch ceiling by ropes is a cedar bucket with fresh water, and on a rock a clean towel. A huge oak fire is made on the hearth and the visitors are made comfortable in their cosy room. On a pole near the well, with a rope attached, is an engine bell. Supper time arrives—the bell rings—we are ushered into the dining room just back of the family apartment.

Mrs. Flack, part Creek Indian, having served her time, became an accomplished cook for a southern planter's home. Being provided with all the necessities, we were seated to a sumptuous repast. Before the war our colored friend, Mr. Flack, now about fifty years old, was the property of a distinguished Choctaw family. Thirty years ago he commenced for himself with 50 cents. Today he is worth \$50,000. On his 950 acres of cultivated land they make homes for thirty-six white renters and families.

Offering his services and dining room, a meeting was arranged for our return.

A twenty-five miles' ride over a continuation of just such country as in the fifteen Choctaw miles just described, except more mountainous, as the Choctaw country is rough and broken, we descend the hillside and follow Mathilda creek down a way, and pass between two mountains, reaching the Massey settlement. Beyond the creek which flows towards the Canadian, the mountains in the southeast rise to considerable height for this country. North and extending south to Gaines creek is a high bald hill. To the foot and

extending westward is the prairie. Following eastward where the open country is lost in the woods, at the top of the hill is a little frame cottage, like other homes of the Elders in this country. Grandma Griffiths' house showed marks of refinement—separate apartments, papered walls, painted wood-work and ceiling, everything inside and out neat and clean. Surrounding this commodious cottage and in keeping with its neatness is the barn, the garden patch, orchard and farm, leach, mill and smoke house. Before the war Elder Higginson, who recently died in Santaquin, Utah, and Elder Cook, in their journeyings southwest from their Cherokee home on Grand river, were kindly entertained by two Methodist friends. Mr. Massey of this family had his ankle crushed. The Elders took the case in hand and in a short time, through administration, their friend was as sound as ever. Mr. and Mrs. Massey being very much interested in the Gospel, would have joined the Church, but the Choctaws became alarmed lest their people should be injured by Mormon teachings, and invited the Elders to leave. About five years ago while Elders Haslam and Barber were meandering their way eastward in the Choctaw nation, they met a Mrs. Hendrickson. This lady informed the Elders that her mother was a believer in Mormonism, and, she directing them, they traveled sixty miles and found Mrs. Massey. (Mr. Massey died a short time after the Elders were driven from their home, a sincere believer in the Gospel.) Some months later the two women, Mrs. Hendrickson and her again widowed mother, our Choctaw Grandma Griffiths, met at Cache, the daughter's house, and were baptized.

Yours in the Gospel,
ANDREW KIMBALL.

CHOCTAW CONFERENCE.

Conference commenced with fast meeting on Thursday, January 4th, at the house of Grandma Griffiths, Massey settlement, Choctaw nation. Children and all participated in the fast, and the Spirit of the Lord was enjoyed. Testimonies were numerous. Brother Nolley, a sufferer for many years with a wind (a swelling in the throat), had been healed by the power of God. His wife also had been miraculously healed of a long standing ailment in her head. Sister Wilkerson had been troubled with the chills all her life, was now well and strong. Grandma Griffiths, seventy years of age, and after a life with the Indian customs of coffee and tobacco and excessive eating of hog meat, lives the Word of Wisdom strictly, following the example of her "Brother Mormons," as she calls the Elders. She is pure and innocent as a child and is greatly blessed with the gift of prophecy. Their Choctaw sister, Grandma, as every one calls her, is loved by all. She must surely have nothing but righteous desires, for she realizes the fulfillment of almost every request. Her son, opposed to our people, sold his mother some property joining hers, and on this she managed to get a family of Saints, only just settled before our arrival.

Thursday evening Priests James

Nolley and his son were ordained Elders, the former placed in charge of the branch and the latter the Sunday School. After our organization was completed, Grandma related having told a nephew about a year before that she saw a church established on her place. At that time she was a lone Saint in the surrounding country.

Friday opened up like a beautiful spring morning. After our morning service, in which several spoke, there were general instructions given by Elder Harper and myself. At 12 o'clock we returned to a beautiful spot of ground between the two houses where Grandma, according to her previous impressions, this morning designated the spot for the building of a meeting house. I laid the cornerstone of our prospective meeting house, and kneeling on it, and encircled by the Saints, the spot was dedicated to the Lord. Songs of praise and expressions of gratitude were mingled with prophetic declarations concerning the growth and development of the mission.

Previous to our evening meeting Mrs. Hendrickson, daughter of our esteemed veteran, arrived, having traveled over sixty miles to get to her mother while her "Brother Mormons" were there, fulfilling another expressed wish of Grandma.

Through the comforting influence of the Holy Spirit the Choctaw conference was a spiritual success, and will no doubt result in a great amount of good to the Indian Territory mission. Our next October conference will be held here, when we hope to dedicate to the Lord another meeting house.

Respectfully,
ANDREW KIMBALL.

Written for this Paper.

A GREAT COAL FIELD.

RED CANYON, Wyo. Jan. 15, 1894.—The coalfield of Almy, if considered from a commercial point of view, when in full working order is one of the leading industries of the Bear River valley and finds employment for some six hundred workmen, in addition to a large number of persons outside the mining camps, who are more or less dependent on this business center for a livelihood.

The mineral lies on the east side of the valley and runs north and south from No. 5, a distance of eight miles and eastward about five miles, which gives an area of about 25,600 acres of what is generally considered our best coal. From the experiments made in different parts of the measure it is questionable whether the coal on the north side of the limit above named can be classified as good marketable coal; although it can be used for common if not for general purposes.

The overlying measures are about 7-20 feet thick and they are of a loose fragmentary nature, and contain no solid formation suitable for building purposes, but the underlying measures, in close proximity to the coal, contain a fine thin measure of clay of superior quality and it is to this clay the agent must look as the principal cause of the gradual upheaval of the floor of the entries and rooms of the mines.

The mines are opened from the surface on the side of the hills by means of open drifts, levels or slopes, and the