

manner that showed careful and extended study, and was not only very instructive but reflected highly upon the instructor's ability as a teacher.

President Joseph F. Smith and Apostle John Henry Smith each made instructive remarks, referring to the Improvement Era, the success that it was meeting with, and the work that it was hoped it would accomplish in supplying the young people with such reading matter as would assist them in the study of the Gospel, and learning of the truths of the same. They urged Salt Lake officers to do their part towards swelling the subscription list and placing the magazine in the hands of the people.

The following appointments of lecturers were read:

#### TUESDAY, DEC. 14, 1897.

First ward, Mrs. Annie K. Hardy, on Women of the Book of Mormon.

Second ward, Prof. Joseph T. Kingsbury, Thoughts on Life and Man.

Third ward, Elder Andrew Jensen, Palestine and Its People.

Fourth ward, Dr. Mattie H. Cannon, The Cliff Dwellers.

Fifth ward, Elder Charles W. Penrose, The Problem Solved by Mormonism.

Sixth ward, Prof. Geo. M. Marshall, The Settlement of Virginia and Colonial Life in the South.

Seventh ward, Mrs. Nellie T. Little, An Evening With the Poets.

Eighth ward, Prof. Wm. M. Stewart, Life and Its Preparation.

Ninth ward, Elder Geo. Reynolds, The Language of the Book of Mormon.

Tenth ward, Mrs. Minnie J. Snow, Bible Heroines.

Eleventh ward, President Angus M. Cannon, Early Training and Consistent Practice.

Twelfth ward, President Joseph F. Smith, Heaven's First Law.

Thirteenth ward, Mrs. Lillie T. Freeze, Obligations of Young Men and Young Women to Each Other.

Fourteenth ward, Elder James A. Langston, Christ as a Miracle Worker; Christ as a Preacher.

#### TUESDAY, DEC. 21st.

Fifteenth ward, Elder John Nicholson, The Plan of Salvation.

Sixteenth ward, Mrs. Lucy W. Smith, Missionary Experiences.

Seventeenth ward, Bishop O. F. Whitney, The Dispersion and Gathering of Israel.

Eighteenth ward, Elder B. H. Roberts, The Morning of Our Civilization.

Nineteenth ward, Mrs. Lizzie S. Wilcox.

Twentieth ward, Prof. Whiting, Fruits.

Twenty-first ward, Elder Joseph E. Taylor, The Law of Tithing.

Twenty-second ward, Mrs. Susa Y. Gates.

Twenty-third ward, Elder Nephi L. Morris, Doubt.

Brighton, Elder Richard A. Shipp, Theory and Practice.

Cannon, Dr. Maggie C. Roberts.

Forest Dale, Apostle John Henry Smith, Loyalty.

Farmers, Mrs. Amanda Done.

It was announced that the lecturers for the county wards would be read at the meeting to be held at Murray on Friday night. Prest. R. H. Bradford of Center ward was appointed to conduct the exercises at next meeting upon lesson seven (7) from the manual, and after singing. We Thank Thee O God, for a Prophet, the benediction was pronounced by Elder M. D. Wells.

J. B. HIGGS, Secretary.

#### A VISIT TO CUMORAH.

Cohocton, Steuben Co., N. Y.

Nov. 24, 1897.

It was our pleasure to have a visit from Elder A. P. Kesler, president of

the mission, from Nov. 8th to the 15th, and on the 13th and 14th we held our conference, meeting with the Elders and Saints of the Cohocton conference. Elder Kesler was desirous of making a visit to the Hill Cumorah while so near to this historic spot, and on the morning of the 10th we started from Cohocton to that sacred place.

After a drive of 12 miles we came to Naples with her rich vineyards and neatly finished churches along on the side hills, and we were almost tempted to discontinue our journey and seek for a Mar's hill, on which to declare the "unknown" God to the people of that village.

We stopped for lunch on the shore of the Canandaigua lake and after eating some of the product of the lake and seeing what nature had prepared for the use of man in this vicinity, we could realize why the aborigines were so persistent in maintaining their possession. Nuts, berries and fruits of almost every description grow abundantly along the shores of this beautiful lake, furnishing man with the needful food. We journeyed the entire length of the lake and stopped at the Canandaigua village for the night.

This left us with but a six miles' drive to the sacred hill.

After surveying the hill and locating as best we could the spot from which the plates were taken, we obtained some souvenirs—canes and pebbles—as mementos of the place where once the great Nephite Prophet deposited the sacred records of his once enlightened race.

The next place of interest to us was the house where the Prophet Joseph lived at the time he received the instruction from the Angel Moroni in regard to these records. The old house still stands not far from the hill, on the best farm of that neighborhood. The house is a memorial of the industry of the Smith family. We were kindly shown through the house by the owner, Mrs. Chapman, and we were particular to go into every room that we might say that we were in the room where the Angel Moroni tarried and taught the boy Prophet. We also obtained a piece of flooring which was removed when putting a heating apparatus into the house. These folks also have a chair that once belonged to Brigham, which we were permitted to occupy for a short time. The people who own this farm are very kind and generous to all of our people who visit them and are always glad to show them through the house.

We did not have time to drive to Palmyra to view the first printed copy of the Book of Mormon, now owned by Mr. Saxton of the First National bank of Palmyra, but drove back as far as Cheshire on the Canandaigua lake and camped for the night.

The people of this village informed us that Brigham Young once lived and held meetings in this place, and we were permitted to view some of his workmanship while a carpenter. An old flaxbrake, well preserved, was shown to us as some of President Young's work and was held as a great relic by its owner.

We returned to Cohocton on the evening of the 12th and prepared to hold conference meetings. Our first appointment was in the Cohocton Opera house on the evening of the 13th, at which we had a good attendance.

Although much prejudice existed in the minds of the people, yet after this meeting all seemed to be satisfied with the explanations of the Mormon doctrine.

On Sunday, the 14th, our testimony meeting was held at Brother Earl Owens's, and public meetings at the South church at Loon lake in the afternoon and evening, with a fair attendance at each.

At the afternoon service the traveling

Elders of this conference occupied the time and explained our doctrine to all present. The most of the time at the evening service was occupied by Elder A. P. Kesler.

Priesthood meeting was held between meetings, and reports from the several districts were given by the Elders, which showed marked progress in the work of the Lord in this part of the vineyard, and all the Elders were well pleased with the good instructions given.

Our branch here is in a flourishing condition and has a membership of over 35 souls, and our regularly weekly meeting and well organized Sabbath school provide good instructions for both old and young.

The Saints are rejoicing over their financial affairs, as they are in a great potato producing locality and the advanced price and good crop make them feel that the Lord has not forsaken them in this respect. He has also blessed them abundantly with His Spirit and in some instances the sick have been restored to perfect health while the power of the destroyer seemed to grasp them, as it were, unto death.

The Elders all went to their several appointed counties with a renewed determination to do all in their power to advance the cause of truth.

If any of the Saints at home have relatives and friends in any of the following counties, they would be visited, gladly, by the Elders who are laboring there.

T. T. Burton and Eli Bennett, Box 423 Cohocton, Steuben county N. Y.

W. R. Derr and J. M. Calderwood, Box 245 Corning, Steuben county, N. Y.

J. H. Bess and H. R. Hamson, Whitney's Crossing, Allegheny county, N. Y.

E. T. Burton and Henry Wight, Melcottville, Cattaraugus county, N. Y.

W. D. Shaw and R. J. Watson, Hamira, Chemung county, N. Y.

THEODORE T. BURTON,  
President of Cohocton Conference.

#### FLORIDA NEWS.

Elder Lafayette Dana of Mesa City, Arizona, writes from Thomasville, Georgia, as follows, under date of November 13th, 1897: On November 15, 1897, we left the beautiful little city of Thomasville, and at the depot we met Elders Faux and Brown. They said they would see us out in the woods. We waited for them about a mile from the city, and when they came we went to Mr. Lish Andrew's and gave out an appointment for a meeting. There was a nice little congregation and we held a meeting. The people seemed quite interested in the sermons. After meeting a few questions were asked us and answered.

After meeting Elder Brown and myself and Jimmie Benton got a torch and put out through the dark pine woods for Mr. Joe Benton's. We felt our way through the woods and the trail that we were following soon carried us into the big wood. Just as we got into the big wood I stumbled into a horse and buggy. One of the men in the buggy said something and Elder Brown asked him if he were talking to him. He got no reply and we went on. Then they told us to stop. We went right on. The buggy then passed us and one of the men got out and halted us. Another rode up behind us and they surrounded us. They demanded to see us. We asked them to go with us to the house, but they replied their business was such that needed no papers and no house. So they kept us right there. They began their talk as drunken men will, and their language was not of the best.