

ing for the past year in the Southern States mission.

**Releases and Appointments**—Elder J. D. Holther has been released as a traveling Elder in the Leeds conference and appointed to assist in the business department of the Liverpool office, taking the place of Elder Geo. E. Carpenter, who has been released to return home.

Elder S. J. Callon has been released as a traveling Elder in the Newcastle conference and appointed to labor as a traveling Elder in the Welsh conference.

David M. Muir has been appointed to labor as a traveling Elder in the Scottish conference.

Isaac S. Smith has been appointed to labor as a traveling Elder in the London conference.

#### RETURNED MISSIONARIES.

Elder W. H. Summerhays of Forest Dale, who departed for a mission to the Southern States in February, 1896, is home again, and in the pink of health and high spirits. Although those whose friendship he had made while in the mission field, Elder Summerhays labored in Florida for two years and Georgia for seven months. He and his companion baptized between forty and fifty persons, and other Elders have also done good work, constant accessions to Church membership being made. Elder Summerhays had but three days' of illness during his entire mission.

Elder W. H. Redd, of Bluff, San Juan county, who left home on April 3, 1896, for a mission to the South Alabama conference, has just returned home. He is in excellent health and spirits, and says he has been greatly benefited by the experience gained as a missionary in the Southern States. The first two years of his mission were spent in the South Alabama conference, after which he went to Georgia and South Carolina, presiding over the conference for the last three months prior to his release and return. He declares that the good feeling of the people of the South towards the Latter-day Saints is constantly increasing, and that the prospects for the future are much brighter than for some considerable time past. In returning home, he came via Mexico and was joined by his wife at Springville.

Elder John T. Gabbot of Farmers ward, who has been laboring in the Indiana conference for the past two years or more, has also just returned from the mission field. His time was spent in the North Indiana conference, where considerable good is being accomplished by the Mormon missionaries, much prejudice being allayed and good feeling taking the place of ill will.

Elder Joseph Richardson of Smithfield has likewise returned home from a mission to the South Western States, after having been absent some thirty-one months. His labors were confined to Indian Territory and Kansas. The prospects, he declares, are quite flattering. Elder Richardson enjoyed the best of health while absent, and is pleased to be home again.

Elder W. E. Robinson and wife of American Fork made a pleasant call on the "News" Friday, the former reporting his return from the Southern States mission field. Elder Robinson left home June 18, 1896, and returned September 12, 1898. He labored while absent in the East Tennessee conference, presiding over the conference the last eight months of his mission. In the main his health was good, and he left the confer-

ence in a flourishing condition, with signs of a gradual improvement and good treatment at the hands of the people.

Elder Alfred Kearl of Laketown, Rich county, Utah, returned Tuesday from a mission to the Southern States, whither he went Jan. 14, 1896. Elder Kearl labored in the South Alabama conference, embracing a portion of the states of North Carolina and Georgia. He reports the work progressing in that section, prejudice abating and the Gospel reaching the larger cities. As an evidence of the good treatment received, Elder Kearl calls attention to the fact that for seven months he and his companion labored in the counties of Berkeley and Charleston, South Carolina, and were refused hospitality but once, and had to ask for it but three times, their entertainment on all other occasions being by invitation. The Elders, he says, are doing a good work and reaching many of the honest in heart. Recently two Sunday schools and two branches have been organized, one church built, and another building made fit for meeting purposes.

Elder M. N. Mathison, of Georgetown, Ida., returned Thursday morning, the 6th inst., from the Northern States mission field. Elder Mathison left Salt Lake City Dec. 3, 1896, and labored in the state of Missouri, where, says he, a good work is being done in the dissemination of the Gospel. He had good health and enjoyed his labors, and before returning attended the Nebraska conference held at Omaha last Saturday and Sunday, where a good time was had.

#### THE ELISTEDDOD.

The Tabernacle was not decorated for the Eisteddod, owing to the fact that during each day after today the sessions of the Latter-day Saints' semi-annual conference will be held in the building. Decorations were not a part of the program of the Eisteddod, however, and were not at all necessary to the success of the first session. There was some delay, as there always will be in such large enterprises, before the assembly was called to order. The audience did not fill the big auditorium, but the attendance was first-class for an afternoon, and the opening session. According to the sale of seats the Tabernacle will be crowded this evening.

A round of applause greeted the K. of P. band when it made its appearance on the platform preparatory to the rendition of "America" by the combined bands, choir and audience. Prof. Stephens waved his baton and the vast audience arose to its feet and sang the national anthem with a spirit born of good citizenship.

After prayer by F. A. Hammond of San Juan, ex-Governor Arthur L. Thomas delivered the opening address, in which he recounted the short history of the national Eisteddods, of which the first was held in this city in 1895, and explained the objects of the Cambrian association in promoting these enterprises. Gov. Thomas, in behalf of the association, thanked all who have assisted in the bringing about of the Eisteddod, especially the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the use of the Tabernacle. He also introduced Judge Henry F. Edwards as the "conductor" of the Eisteddod. Judge Edwards' remarks were confined to the Welsh customs with reference to Eisteddods as held in the country of their birth and cradling, and incidentally he called attention to the fact that the opening of this Eisteddod by prayer reminded him of the ancient druidical ceremony which

preceded the musical festivals in Wales centuries ago. He referred to the antiquity of the Welsh tongue, saying that on this Welsh day he was going to claim everything possible for the Welsh people and language and at the same time avowing devotion to the Stars and Stripes and Uncle Sam.

Judge Edwards here announced that the first competition was for military bands of the first class, in which the pieces were "Lorley" paraphrase and "The Awakening of the Lion." There had been two entries, but the K. of P. military band of Salt Lake was the only organization found ready to compete. It was announced that this band would be required to win the prize on points of excellence, and well was the task performed. The contest was the more difficult because of the fact that the band was not playing against another organization, but simply as to its excellence in the judgment of so eminent a critic as Dr. Parry.

The last note of the second piece was greeted with deafening applause and immediately Dr. Parry stepped forward to announce his adjudication, which he prefaced with a short address in which he said he hoped he would merit the confidence of the people when his duties as adjudicator of the Eisteddod shall have been ended. Dr. Parry's criticism of the band was beyond the pen of the reporter. He said: "I am sorry that there is no competition, but if there were I am in great doubt if I would have heard a band equal to this. I have heard bands in Germany and other parts of continental Europe, but none superior to this, which is a credit to the talented leader and the city of Salt Lake."

The session of last night opened at 8:15 with the singing by the audience, led by Dr. Parry, the Welsh national anthem, "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau."

Judge Edwards introduced Governor Wells as "your handsome governor," and the State's chief magistrate made a short and very pleasant address, congratulating the Cambrian association and the Welsh people of Utah generally upon the high degree of musical excellence attained in the State, a great deal of which was attributable to these Eisteddods.

The master of ceremonies here introduced Mr. J. Gordon Jones of Denver, who sang the splendid baritone solo, "The Spirit of the Deep." The rendition was very artistic and soulful, denoting exceptional voice control and culture.

The male chorus contest, in which there were two entries, came next. Only the Salt Lake chorus put in an appearance and under Prof. Evan Stephens' conducting it sang the two contest pieces, "The Crusaders" and "All Through the Night." Dr. Parry declared the rendition to be of the highest order and well worthy the prize were it of double the value.

While Dr. Parry was preparing his adjudication on the foregoing Mr. Thomas Ashworth sang the tenor solo "The Pioneer," composed by Prof. Evan Stephens. Mr. Ashworth's voice was not in its usual good condition, because of the fact that he sang in the male chœurs just before and was therefore much exhausted.

Mrs. Dr. Hamilton also played a solo on the grand organ, the piece having been composed by Francis Edward Bach of Birmingham, England, in 1833, the author having died at the early age of 25 years.

Mrs. Emily E. Woodward of Boston sang the "Swiss Echo Song" most beautifully, and thunders of applause brought the distinguished singer back before the audience with "Comin' Thro' the Rye."

There were three singers in the bass