

vited to join them and partake of their fare, which we willingly did. It would be incredulous to some, but I will state the facts. Their bread was mixed and baked in blocks of leech wood set before a fire. The chief dish used was a trough of fallen tree cut out and made smooth, a piece of clean home-made linen spread over the top. A cow was led across the log and placed over the dish, the cloth acting as a strainer. The milking done the cow was carefully moved to one side. Bread was crumbed in, and armed with wooden spoons, we enjoyed an excellent meal.

The first mill or grain pulverizer I ever saw was a huge beech stump cut off on top and burnt in the center until it was of sufficient depth to form a mortar. Then it was smoothed out and a wooden pestle was used as a pulverizer. This done, a broad hoop with a buckskin rawhide was placed on it, and small holes burnt in it to let the meal through and strain the hulls.

In 1826 there were several of us exploring our place in the dense forest. There was a big elm tree that measured 29 feet in circumference. That was the largest one in the country. It was a wonder, tall and straight and its branches spread out to a wonderful extent. Close by this tree was a hollow or depression in the earth, probably twelve feet deep and over twenty in diameter. Curiosity led me to go down into it. When near the bottom I was banging to a small bush, and as I released my hold I heard a sharp ring. I began to tug at the bush and again heard the same ringing sound. I commenced digging away the loose leaves and dirt, and at a distance of two feet I found a bell of a peculiar make, as it made by a master workman. It was eight inches long, oval in shape, no weld or seam visible, had been brazed on the outside with a metal, copper and brass, one-eighth of an inch thick; but the lapse of time had wasted it in some places. The bell was of steel that was not corroded.

When I got hold of the bell I commenced to ring it. My father and those with him came to the place where I found it. He took it and inspected it closely.

It was the best bell he had ever seen—superior to those of the present time. The people that made it must have lived here long before the Indians inhabited this country. That bell was a marvel to all who saw it or heard its tone. It was kept in the family for over thirty years, and I do not know what became of it. After learning of the early inhabitants of our native America through the divinely inspired record, the Book of Mormon, I have often wished for an opportunity to visit the place I have described and thoroughly explore it. Father sold his place and moved to Erie in 1830. These incidents are all fresh in my mind, and since then I have gathered many important items concerning the early inhabitants of this country, all going to prove or give external evidence of the correctness and inspiration of that record called the Book of Mormon.

J. H. VAN NATTA.

GOOD WORD FROM CALIFORNIA.

SANTA ANA, California,
December 23rd, 1896.

Writing from the hotel Richelieu, the best in the city, we can say that this is one of the finest and best laid off cities in the state. It lies in the heart of the orange country; is the seat of Orange county, and has a climate to be envied by any city in the state. Though it is near Christmas time it is as pleasant as a summer day in June.

It seems rather strange to see them preparing for Christmas when everything is so green and the orange trees yellow with fruit; and to hear them talking of evergreens for Christmas trees, why, Utah boys and girls would be looking for something they would think more appropriate, such as firecrackers and fireworks.

Having been appointed in connection with Elder Christensen to leave our labors in Los Angeles and come to Orange county, we did so, and landed here on December 16th. After dedicating the county, and the city in particular, to the Lord we proceeded to the mayor, who, by the way, is only chairman of a board of trustees, although the city has over five thousand people. From the city officials we went to the newspaper men, two of whom gave us good space in their papers as long as we are in the city.

There being thirteen different churches in the city, we had some walking to do to visit the ministers. After that was over we found ourselves where we started as far as a house to speak in, was concerned. Next we visited the opera house and hall men, but they all said money—something we had not—though a new thing for the missionaries in California, so we thought there was nothing left but to visit the people at their homes, talk to them privately, and if possible hold meetings in their houses. This continued for two days with many conversations but only one meeting. Thinking this slow work, we put on all the lace we had and went upon one of the principal corners in town and began singing. There was a large crowd gathered and after meeting we distributed tracts to all who wished them, and two men came and invited us home with him. We have been on the street two other evenings this week with about the same results, yet we are still working for a house to speak in, for, as some of the ladies express it, "It is not socially nice to listen to the Mormons and especially to stand upon the street to do so. While we have been in this city we have had money given us and have not wanted for anything.

One of Utah's old pioneers, J. M. Moessar, took us home the first night and told us to make his home our home whenever we desired. Others have said the same thing; so in California the work of the Lord is beginning to be appreciated. We are now stopping with Mr. Avas at the Richelieu hotel. Though Mr. Moessar has been away from Utah some twenty-eight years, he is quite familiar with the early struggles there and takes delight in telling his experience with the Indians, for he was a member of the party who withstood the redskins in one of the hardest fought battles of that time. He came to Utah in Parley P. Pratt's company in 1847, being one of the number of the second company that entered the valleys of the mountains.

He lived in Salt Lake City nine years, in Springville two years, and then came to California in search of wealth. He married Miss Lucy B. Clyde of Springville who moved to California with him. Mr. Moessar is very desirous of coming to Utah and taking part with the pioneer association and meeting with the old Indian warriors. He would be greatly pleased to hear from any of these who took part in the troubles of early days, as he intends visiting Utah the coming season. He has never forgotten his old friends and invites them to write to him, and he will gladly respond after knowing their addresses.

Mr. Moessar and the people in this city have been very kind to us; so also have the Saints of Los Angeles and other cities of the state where we have been.

GERMAN E. ELLSWORTH.
JAMES CHRISTENSEN.

IN INDIANA AND ILLINOIS.

PAYNE, Indiana, December 24th, 1896.

That welcome visitor, the NEWS, finds its way here regularly, and I can assure you it is perused with interest. I left Salt Lake City on the 18th of January, twenty six in company with Elder J. R. Clark and others, to fill a mission in the Northern States my destination was Marion, Williamson County Illinois. At Kansas City we stopped over and visited Independence, then continued on our journey. I arriving at Marion on the 22nd and was assigned to labor in Johnson County Illinois. I remained there till conference, which met in the latter part of March. I have nothing but praises for the people of Southern Illinois.

At conference I was appointed to labor at Gentry, Monroe County Indiana, and found a kind, hospitable people. I had the happy privilege of baptizing a good number which I am pleased to say are all as faithful as can be found out here. After laboring six months I went to Conference, which met in Crawford County Indiana, and after our Conference I was directed to return and organize a branch of the Church in Monroe County, which I did, and it is a very good one. Much interest is being taken, and in the near future the branch will be increased in number.

After the organization we were called to Rush County to labor and open up a new field. We arrived without purse or scrip and found a place to put away our big grips. The old Court House having been torn down, and the new one not being completed and all available room being taken up by the city officers, we went into the country to try and hold meetings, but everything was closed up against us. We were treated well, but a great deal of prejudice exists. It is customary to feed the preacher on the fat of the land and we are no exception to the rule. This is one of the wealthy countries of the states. We have some friends, are making more and the evil one is howling through some who think their craft is in danger. The little opposition we get only tends to strengthen us and make us more determined to sow more seed and reap a better harvest.

FOSTER W. JONES.

Glenwood Springs, Colo., Avalanche: J. B. Anderson, bridge contractor of Salt Lake City, is in this city figuring on the New Castle bridge.

Omaha Stockman, Jan. 6: Giffard Spear of Salt Lake, Utah, had sixteen cars of range cattle on sale.