WITH THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Trip to the Maricopa, St. Joseph and Mexican Stakes.

Elders George Goddard and Carl S. Mower Make an Interesting Journey in a Good Canoe.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, March 6, 1895.

Editor Deseret News:

Leaving Maricopa Stake on the 6th of February, at 3 o'clock p. m., Brother Mower and myself left for Bowie, 250 miles, thence per the Gila Valley Globe & Northern railway to Thatcher, St. Joseph Stake, fifty miles from Bowie. This line of railway has been built since our last visit.

February 7th we were the favored guests of our old friend President Christopher Layton. The Stake seventy was first visited, after which a meeting with the board of education was held.

By previous arrangement, Friday February 8th, two large meetings of the Y. M. and Y. L. Improvement Associations were held in Thatcher.

On Saturday, 9th, our annual Sunday School conference was held at Pima, four miles from Thatcher. There a crowded audience gathered in at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., at which results from Stake and local country Sunday superintendents, a few exercises by the children, and instructions on Sunday school matters were given by the visitors.

Sunday, 10th, two more meetings were held at 10 o'clock and at 2 p.m. These were mostly devoted to general instructions and remarks by leading authorities. Before these, we had an interview with superintendents, teachers, Bishops and Stake presidency, and on April William Edward McBride as second assistant to Stake Superintendent John Sims. This position had been previously filled by Brother Curtis, who labors were now needed in another direction.

At 4:30 we left Pima for Layton to fill an appointment at 7:30. Although this settlement is comparatively scattered, the house was crowded nevertheless, and the Spirit of the Lord was richly enjoyed.

Monday, the 11th, after a good night's rest at Elder W. J. Parker's, we held our final meeting in St. Joseph Stake at 10 o'clock a. m., at which Brother Karl G. Maeser arrived (their absentee) by a very interesting discourse followed by a few remarks by myself and Elder Christopher Layton. It has been a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. We left Layton at 2 p. m. by rail for Bowie, and remained there until the next morning, Feb. 12. At 9 o'clock we resumed our journey for Dublan 110 miles, arriving there at 1:30 p. m. Here we found Elder Isaac W. Pierce, from Colonia Diaz, Mexico, with a stake coach.

Next morning, Feb. 13, at 6:30, we left Dublan. In a short time we were overtaken by a rain storm, high wind and snow. Such a storm had not been realized in that country for many years, with correspondingly cold temperature. After traveling nearly forty miles we stopped at Columbus, where a population city was expected to be built after the completion of the great international railway, which has not been materialized thus far, however. Consequently, a few wooden shanties announced we all there is of Columbus. In one of these, in company with some others, we found it was too cold to get much sleep. February 14th we resumed our journey, and traveled till near midnight in a snow storm. This was a hard experience on our faithful teamster, who while sitting on the box was exposed to the entire rigor of the storm, and on reaching camp he, with fingers almost stiff with cold, unharnessed the horses, hobbling them, hunting in the dark for wood and trying to make a fire. I had the worst part of the experience. He much for that midnight camp.

February 15th.—The balance of our hundred miles' journey to Deming we finished between 1 and 5 o'clock p.m., feeling grateful to our heavenly Father for the preservation of our lives and health. Our old friend, W. D. Johnson, Sr., and family received us warmly, and administered to our needed condition, after which we had the privilege of holding a general meeting at 7 o'clock, which was a very enjoyable, and we trust, with the blessing of God, a profitable one.

Quite a number of old familiar faces were here, amidst handclasps and expressions of joy and gladness at our safe arrival. Feb. 16th Bro. Mortensen, of Dublan, between fifty and sixty miles further south, took us with a good team to that place, which we reached about 5 o'clock p. m., and stayed at the house of Bro. Williams. An evening meeting was held at which two were greeted by our old friend Stowell, formerly of Ogden. He had brought his carriage to take us to Juarez, the headquarters of the Mormon colonies, and about seventeen miles from this place.

February 17.—Leaving Dublan about 8:30 a. m. we arrived at Juarez by 3:30, where we were made welcome at the home of President George Teasdale. Our annual Sunday school conference meetings were held at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p. m.; we also attended a Spanish class conducted by Elder Eyring.

Monday, Feb. 18. Two more meetings were held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. At the latter the Juarez and Wilford Sunday school committee were presented, after which a teachers' meeting was held. In the evening a large gathering of the Saints of all ages and authorities met to participate in a kind of impromptu exercise, to which President Teasdale had previously invited them, in honor of their mothers' birthdays. Short speeches, songs, recitations, music, etc., were freely bestowed in, and although my responsibilities, Karl G. Mower, was not in a position to contribute a song, he gave an exhibition of a college student's awkwardness, which of practicing which fairly convulsed the entire audience.

This closes our three annual Sunday school conferences which we had made to hold, viz. in Maricopa, St. Joseph and Mormon states. At each we also gave great to the interest of the Mutual Improvement Associations, Church schools, Stakes, Ward meetings, etc. Reports from Stake and local superintendents, children's exercises, remarks by presidents of Stakes, Bishops, etc., have contributed towards the general interest of our meetings. No subject seems so dear to the hearts of the people as that which pertains to the improvement of the rising generation.

The general tone of the superintendent's reports was very satisfactory, showing that the instructions given in the Guide and Keys to Success conferences, etc., were being carried out to the end of their ability and circumstances. Those students who had received a twenty weeks course of training in the B. Y. Academy in Provo were freely imparting the same under the Stake superintendents and presidents instructions, with very good results.

While we saw and heard much to commend, we perceived nothing to find fault with, consequently we offered no much pleasure in administer words of encouragement, to superintendents, teachers and others, especially the testimony the great majority of the Saints in those three Stakes are supporting the Word of Wisdom and hearty all the attributes.

In Juarez we met many old friends, and the interest awakened among all classes by our visit, filled our hearts with humility and gratitude because God our Heavenly Father has manifestedmade greetings and alms were received in abundance, and were a source of rejoicing because of those heavenly ones that sent us the Saints on our next journey.

On Wednesday, February 20, at 8 o'clock p.m., we met Juarez on our homeward trip. I rode with Brother Stowell in company with Brother Teasdale and Sister Hermann Pratt and Karl G. Mower rode with Brother Dennis Harris. Arriving at Dublan between 11 and 12 o'clock we had dinner at Brother Cash's and held a meeting at 2 o'clock p. m., after which we were invited to be present at the wedding of Brother Gabriel Hussey and Anna Amelia Pack, performed by Elder Henry Tenney, at the home of the bride's father, Hyrum Pack. At 7:30 we had the pleasure of meeting with the Saints in a social gathering, where the talent of many, both in song and wit and mirth, was fully manifested.

Thursday, February 21, at 6:30 a. m., we made adieu to Dublan, in company with Brothers Cash, Hussey and Pack, and arrived at Juarez at 4 o'clock p. m., meeting our teamsters again at W. D. Johnson's. At 7 p. m. we attended a conjoint meeting of the M. I. A., finishing with "Hard times come again no more."

Friday, Feb. 22.—Brother Carl G. Mower visited the academy this morning and met with the board of education and in the afternoon gave valuable instructions on educational matters. In the evening another grand gathering of all the Saints as a society, some of the exercises were given in Spanish and then interpreted in English. A great many of the citizens are rapidly learning Spanish, and in the near future we will have a band of youth in the Mormon mission, well versed in the Spanish tongue. On this our return trip to Pima, we had the pleasure of a good visit and kind reception of Bishop W. D. Johnson Jr., who had just returned from a visit through the mission Stakes selling timing.

Saturday, Feb. 23rd. Here we finally parted with our warm hearted friends, President Teasdale, Brother Stowell, W. D. Johnson and others and left at 6:30 on our final hundred mile travel by team, our teamster having the son of the late Isaac Turley. Nothing of importance during this trip happened except that Brother Karl G. Mower and myself were each minus a hat, which had escaped unobserved by the making of the conveyance, and left on the plains of Mexico.

Monday, Feb. 25. We reached Deming this morning at 9 o'clock, leaving by rail at 12:30. We were detained at Colorado Springs from 8 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday till 11 o'clock on Wednesday, reaching home on Thursday, Feb. 28th. Thus completed our thirty days' trip in the Sunday school and other responsibilities of the youth of Zion, praying for the Lord to bless the humble labors of His servants, and receive our thanksgiving and gratitude for preserving our bodies from injury, and permitting us to return home with our health unimpaired.

GEORGE GODDARD.

Last month was the coldest February Wyoming has seen in twenty-five years, except one. The mean temperature for the month has been 24 degrees above, and last month was only 22 degrees above.

Mrs. A. C. Bullock
Gilman, Ind.

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