

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.  
IN OLD VIRGINIA.

GOLANEVILLE, Va.,  
Nov. 18, 1895.

I thought a few lines from this part of the Lord's vineyard would be interesting and also instructive to the many intelligent readers of your valuable paper. This brief article comes from Old Virginia, and from that particular part known as Caroline county, which lieth along the borders of Spottsylvania, nigh unto where was fought the great battle of the Wilderness, during the Rebellion. It was in this county, too, where I was first marshalled in the cause of truth and sent out as an ambassador for Christ, with Elder D. M. Gillies. My active labors began in this county on the 14th of January, 1894. We made a good many friends, as we canvassed the county from house to house, and finally closed the county without reaping any of the fruits of our labors. But the seed had been sown, some on good ground and must take root and bring forth fruit.

After conference in August of 1895, Elder N. W. Kimball Jr. and I were appointed to labor in this county with a view to holding meetings and revisiting some of our friends. Early in September we crossed the North Anna river, from Hanover county, and set foot once more on the well known soil of Caroline. We began a vigorous revival, called on some of our old friends, and revived that latent spark of the Gospel which had been sown in their hearts. We made appointments to preach at different places, most of which were at private houses. One man who is worthy of special mention, for his kindness to the servants of God for giving them food and shelter and for opening his doors that we might hold meetings, is Mr. Thomas Jones. Another such is now Brother Lewis and still another I must mention is Mr. John Carpenter, whose wife and daughter have just been baptized into the Church.

Dear readers, it would be impossible to mention in this brief article all of the manifestations of the power of God in our behalf, which convinces us that God does acknowledge us as His servants, and we do know that He does accept of our labor from day to day. We do testify that God has answered our prayers immediately and has guided us to those places where we could hold meetings. He has brought us off conquerors in every instance and we have spoken with such power that the people have listened in breathless silence. They have marveled and have acknowledged that we spoke with authority and not as the scribes.

We have had, too, our share of persecution and opposition, all of which has helped in keeping us spurred up to a score of our duties and has added to the honor and glory of God. Wherever there is an honest soul there is where his majesty strikes the hardest blow and is persistent in stirring up opposition against us and against those who seeking after truth.

During the month of September and

part of October we held twelve meetings in one small neighborhood. By this time we had a number of earnest investigators and we were rejoicing over our labors and the bright hopes of the future, when we received an unexpected call to go to Hanover. We obeyed the summons, leaving all things to heed the call of our president. Elder Kimball and I were separated for a short time, I having been called to go to Gloucester county with Elder Thomas to see Elder Hollingsworth, who at that time was very sick. While we were in Gloucester county attending to the sick, Elders Kimball and Day returned to Caroline to continue the good work until our return. It was then that the first fruits of our labors in this county were enjoyed. Elder Kimball baptized Brother and Sister Lewis and blessed their three youngest children. The Elders held a few more meetings and returned to Hanover, according to previous arrangement.

In the meantime Elder Hollingsworth had recovered and, with Elder Thomas, went to Hanover via West Point and Richmond, while Elder H. M. B. Huey and myself made our way on foot, visiting some of our dearest friends and the Saints as we proceeded, holding meetings and exhorting wherever an opportunity was afforded. On November 11th we reached Golaneville, Caroline county, and put up with one of our friends, Mr. John Carpenter, when, on the 13th inst., I had the privilege of baptizing Sister Carpenter and her eldest daughter, Leonora.

What a joy it is to be enlisted in the cause of truth! What a comfort to see the rejoicing of honest souls who have been in darkness and led therein into Gospel light and truth! What a great testimony it is to see the power of God made manifest in behalf of honest seekers after truth and to see the evil one give way and flee before the servants of God!

I must mention in connection with our labors with this family, a prediction made by Sister Carpenter about two weeks before she was baptized. She and her daughter were anxious to be baptized when Brother and Sister Lewis were, but her husband was opposed to it, and he, thinking that the Elders were going to leave this section and wanting to console his wife and daughter, made the following statement: "I think when you are baptized Elder Fife ought to do it." They remarked that nothing would suit them better and they prayed that Elder Fife might soon return. He had heard that the Elders were going to leave this neighborhood, so he felt quite safe in making them the following promise, not thinking that it would be fulfilled in any year, if ever. The promise was this, "If you will wait until Elder Fife comes back, I will make a dam to the creek that flows through the pasture back of the house and you can be baptized and come to the house and change your clothes by a nice warm fire." They were satisfied with the promise and began to rejoice, knowing that God would open up the way. Sister Car-

penter then turned to her husband and said, "John you won't have to make a dam, God will send rain so that it will be deep enough in the creek and He will also send Elder Fife back, in the proper time." Hardly two weeks had passed when there came a heavy rain, all one night and the following day, Sunday. On Monday, some time in the forenoon, Sister Carpenter, while on her way to one of her neighbors, crossed the creek, and remembering her prediction and the greatest desire of her heart (to be baptized) took particular pains to measure the water, and as she expected, in a hole where before the water was not knee deep, she now found it to be waist deep. Rejoicing that God had answered her prayers thus far, she went to the house with a full assurance that the other part of her prediction would come to pass. Only a few hours later, Elders Fife and Bobney stood at the door. You cannot imagine how delighted they were to see us. Sister Carpenter's eyes sparkled with delight and her countenance wore an inspired look. It was only a short time after our arrival that she related to me this prediction and we all witnessed the fulfillment of the same. Her husband again tried to put them off by saying, "It is too cold," and by making many other excuses, but they kept him to his promise, and by the power of God made manifest through His servants and by the persistent pleadings of his faithful wife and daughter, he was converted and the ceremony was performed as before stated.

On the 14th we departed leaving our peace and blessings with them; went to brother A. Lewis's and from there to Mr. Thomas Jones' where we had the privilege of holding another meeting to the honor and glory of God and to the edification of those who were present. At the close of the service we made another appointment at the house of Mr. Edward Carnahan, the next night. At the appointed hour we were there and spoke to an attentive audience of about forty souls. The Spirit of God was with us and we addressed them for two hours.

The work of the Lord is progressing as it never did before. The Elders are gaining access to all classes, the rich and the poor alike and many of both classes are being brought to a knowledge of the truth, by the untiring efforts of the Elders of Israel.

Next day we went back to Sister Carpenter's, where at 3 o'clock p.m. we led three more subjects down into the waters of baptism. On the water's edge we held a short meeting, had the spirit of God with us and we spoke in power. We all went to the house and after the subjects had changed their clothing we assembled and attended to the ordinance of laying on of hands. This ordinance is a mystery to the people, having never heard of such doctrine. They are like the people Paul found at Ephesus, who had never heard of the Holy Ghost.

Sunday morning we administered to two of Sister Carpenter's children who are afflicted. We all kept the fast and we enjoyed the spirit of God to such an extent that we could hardly contain ourselves. Elder Bobney had to give vent to his feelings and he arose and bore a testimony to the mem-