

MISSIONARY MESSAGES.

Weber County Elder Sends Word from the Southern Mission Field.

EDITOR HERALD:—As opportunity affords itself, I thought probably you and my old friends in Weber County would be pleased to hear from the North Carolina Conference:—

Our Conference convened on the 14th and 15th of this month in Stakes Co., N. C., in a Church house granted us by the Methodist society. Myself and companion arrived at the above-named place, on the 12th inst., found all the Saints and friends feeling well and in the enjoyment of good health, anxiously awaiting the day of Conference. Here I had the pleasure of meeting Elders C. F. Christiansen and William F. Garner, who were the first persons, of my former acquaintance, that I have seen since leaving home, some two years ago.

Same time since, Prest. B. H. Roberts informed the President of the Conference, C. M. Nokes, that he desired to meet the Elders of the N. C. Conference, on the 13th of September, in a council meeting. This appointment was filled at Sister King's residence, in the forepart of the day. The Elders from Utah who had here assembled, were as follows: C. M. Nokes, Amos Cook, E. G. Farmer, Alexander Bills, William F. Garner, A. W. Hobson, C. P. Ostler, B. F. McKinney, C. F. Christiansen, John S. Willie, John A. Rouche, and myself. To our great disappointment President Roberts had not yet arrived as we anticipated. However, we had a very pleasant time, and the Spirit of God was with us.

Sunday, the 14th, at 10 a.m., our Conference was called to order by President Nokes. Elder Amos Cook delivered a very interesting discourse on the first principles of the Gospel. He was followed by several others reporting their various fields of labor, after which Conference was adjourned until afternoon. We again convened at two o'clock p.m. C. F. Christiansen was the first speaker. He read as a text the second Chapter of Eph., 19-22 verses. He then showed in a very clear manner the organization of Christ's Church as it existed in the days of the Apostles; and asked modern Christianity to give a reason why it ought not to be organized the same, to day. He concluded by showing the necessity and importance that all ministers of the Gospel be called as was Aaron. The first intimation that Aaron had, that God desired him to perform a work on earth Moses spoke to him. Exodus 5, 27. The question would next arise, how was Aaron called? In the first place we hear the writer Luke testifying that the Lord spoke to Paul as he did Aaron, saying, "Go to the City of Damascus and there it will be told thee what thou must do." From this we learn that the calling of Aaron and Paul were synonymous. Hence we see that all priests and ministers ought to be called and ordained by Prophets of God, in order to teach and administer in the Church of Christ.

On Monday, our Conference convened as usual. President Nokes occupied the greater part of the time, explaining the principle of baptism for the dead. He concluded by illustrating future rewards and punishments and bearing his testimony to this great Latter-day work. The afternoon was spent principally by the Elders reporting their fields of labor.

Tuesday, President Nokes called a special meeting of the Elders, in which a letter from President Roberts was read, setting forth the reasons he was not able to meet with us, also honorably releasing C. M. Nokes, Alexander Bills, and B. F. McKinney, to return to their mountain homes. Elder Amos Cook was then sustained President of the Conference. We were then assigned our fields of labor. I was appointed to labor alone in the eastern part of Carroll County, Va., until joined by an Elder from Utah.

Last spring, Elder Cook and myself were requested to endeavor to open a new field of labor. We started to comply with this request in the forepart of last April. We selected for our first place to visit the northern and western parts of Carroll Co., Va. There we traveled from house to house, but met with little or no success until about the 20th of July. I trust that it will do no harm should I relate how we were led to a more fruitful field. One lovely summer's morning, when the heavens were illuminated with brilliant stars, a tall, slender gentleman, whose hair was of a silvery gray, came to my bedside before we had arisen from our slumbers. He said to me, "The next time you pass through Lambsburg stop at least 15 minutes at every house, and deliver your message manfully."

Lambsburg is a little village lying close under the Blue Ridge Mountains, in the southwestern part of Carroll Co. We had passed through this place twice, but had not informed its inhabitants who we were. On the first day of August last, Elder Nokes and myself went to comply with the request of my messenger. We visited every house, bore our testimony to the truth of the Gospel, and that God had again established His Church in its primitive purity, and that He used the despised man, Joseph Smith as His instrument, to bring about this noble work that we, Latter-day Saints, are engaged in. Our testimonies were listened to, by all, with

great interest, and to comply with their earnest request, we held four meetings, on Saturday and Sunday, the 16th and 17th of August. Not only were we accepted with warm hearts in this neighborhood, but three others extended a cordial invitation to come and visit them; and well might we say that the future bids fair for a good field to be opened in that part of the country.

We have baptized six persons and blessed eight children during the summer months, and live in hopes that the near future will bring many others into the fold of Christ.

It is readily perceived that our enemies are a little bolder since the murder of Elders Gibbs and Berry, and it is thought by some, if the officers of Tennessee do not punish these dastardly outlaws, others in the South may have to suffer the same fate.

May God bless Israel in all her Stakes; and remember the Elders wherever they may be traveling on the earth.

JOSEPH BELNAP.

LAUREL FORK, Carroll Co., Va.,
Sept. 21, 1884.