

## “WELCOME HOME!”

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Elder Joseph Belnap, of Hooper,  
Returns from his Mission.

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We had a pleasant call, to-day, from Elder Joseph Belnap, a son of Bishop G. Belnap, of Hooper City. Elder Belnap returned, on the 18th inst., from a mission to the Southern States, for which field of labor he had left his peaceful home and loving family, on Dec. 19th, 1882. He was assigned to the North Carolina Conference, but extended his missionary efforts, part of the time, to the southern and western regions of Virginia. As have been the experiences of most of the Elders of the unpopular Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in “Dixie,” the treatment he received from the people was of a “mixed” character, although he is happy to state that he had more pleasant days than disagreeable ones.

His travels, all on foot except eight miles on horseback, covered 4,200 miles through an uneven and rough kind of country—the Blue Ridge region. He held about one meeting a week all the time he was engaged in preaching the Gospel to those who would listen to it. As a whole, the people manifested considerable indifference as to the principles of the Gospel, some evincing decided hostility, causing him some trouble, although the persecution by mobs never degenerated into serious bodily harm. Though at one time he was surrounded in the house of friends, at another was threatened with whipping by a gang of thirteen men, and a third time was followed by three ruffians who threw stones at him, he escaped in each instance unscathed, for which he feels duly thankful to his Heavenly Father for His kindly protection.

Elder Belnap, as before intimated, made a good many friends and succeeded in converting several, baptizing six. During his whole ministry his health was invariably good and this, with the buoyant influence of the spirit of God, caused him to enjoy himself better than he had ever done in his life, so he counts the two years past as the happiest of his earthly career, thus far. In the consciousness of having performed his duty in the service of the Lord to the best of his strength and ability, he returns to his relatives and friends who are pleased to see him so well and extend to him a hearty “Welcome home!”

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