

After the business was concluded, President Spencer addressed the audience, who crowded the most capacious hall in these regions to excess, and many had to go away for want of room to come in.

In the successive meetings we received much interesting and valuable instructions from President Spencer, which gladdened the hearts of the Saints who understood them, and will doubtless leave a salutary influence for the time to come. Several of the Elders delivered interesting discourses on many topics, and it was evident that the spirit of the work rested abundantly on all.

On Monday the receipts of the moneys towards the £100 "Keepsake" for the Saints in the wilderness were read, which showed that £22 were deficient to make it up. Upon this announcement, the sovereigns came in, being pitched over people's heads from all directions, which, together with the half crowns, shillings, and pence, and by Brother Jenkins putting on the cap-sheaf with a £10 note, more than the £100 were made up in about ten minutes. Well worthy the examples of the sons of noble sires to free their nation from debt.

In regard to the Press department in Wales, alone I have continued the *Welsh Star* monthly, and increased its circulation to about 1200. I have published in the past year ten other pamphlets besides, containing in all about 850,000 pages 12mo., many of which win their way into every circle of society, and make Mormons from every grade—the priests, protestant and catholic, not excepted. In a word, never were the affairs of the kingdom of God more prosperous, nor the prospects more flattering than they are at present. May heaven vouchsafe its influence to still progress this great work among my kin is the constant prayer of your fellow-labourer

DAN JONES.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*Sheffield, March 28, 1848.*

Dear Brother Spencer,—Having a few moments of time, I pen these few lines to let you know how we are getting along in this conference. I have been here about 9 months, and am happy to say that the Lord has blessed my labours, for which I feel truly thankful to my Heavenly Father for all his blessings bestowed upon us in our labours. When I came here, the conference numbered 610 members; we now number about 930; an increase of 311 baptized since I came here. Our conference was held on the 26th ult. 145 had been baptized during the last three months; the prospects are cheering for the coming season; the branches were represented in good standing. Life and animation characterises the elders and officers throughout; but greatly disappointed in not having your company on Sunday last. We got the town placarded announcing our meetings, and likewise the expectation of Elder Orson Spencer; the result was our hall was filled with attentive hearers to the reports from various parts. Elder Bradshaw, from Bradford Conference, was present and addressed the congregation in the evening. The Spirit of the Lord was with us through the day, and not a dissenting voice, and all united to do their best to help forward the great cause of truth for the salvation of the sons of men, and may this great work roll forth in majesty and power in all parts of the vineyard, that the honest in heart may be gathered in one, and be prepared for the day of our Master's coming, is our united prayer. Amen.

I remain your brother and fellow-labourer in the gospel of peace,

CRANDELL DUNN.

*Merthyr, March 30, 1848.*

Dear President Spencer,—This is the first time for me to be able to write this much since my last to you, with the exception of translating the welcome Epistle for my *Welsh Star*, which was done by the bedside, and is in the press now. I have been much afflicted with some disease like the pleurisy, but, through the kindness of our Father and the prayers of the Saints, I am now able to walk out a little. Since you were here, I have written and published three pamphlets of 52 pages each, and some smaller ones, besides my publication, to which cause I attribute principally my illness, and which hints to me that I have published about enough for the present.

The gospel never progressed so rapidly here as it has of late: every week in this branch, for some time, averages about 10 baptisms, nearly 100 here alone have been baptized since

the time you were here, which makes this *mother branch of Britain* about 700 members; and over 300 in Wales, to my knowledge, since then have been baptized, with a brighter prospect continuing every where. The harvest is ripe, but the labourers are few indeed. I know that such news will cheer your soul, because I know you love to save souls—so do I.

The *Epistle* cheered my worn-out spirit, and I long to return to live once more among a happy, a devoted, although persecuted people,—a place wherein dwelleth righteousness and peace. The deplorable state of all trades here darkens the prospects of the Welsh Saints to move Zionward soon; thousands are out of employment in different places here, and have been for months, and many of them Saints. In Dowlais about 30,000 dread a flat stoppage daily, which becomes more apparent with the times. I could tell you much of persecutions withal, such as mobbings, being turned out of their work because of their religion; turned out of not only *synagogues*, but out of their houses! Yes, scores of Welsh Saints of late. But I forbear; the day of deliverance has dawned upon us, and God speed the “Sun of Righteousness” on the meridian is my unceasing prayer.

Among all our conferences, branches, and even to a family, all is peace and union among the Saints withal; I love to tell you this,—I love to boast of this, and to keep it so.

Your excellent “Letters to Crowell” are nearly all in circulation, and doing an unspeakable good among our nobility, and those who read English. Please to send me, per next parcel of STARS, 12 volumes of “Letters,” cheapest binding; 12 Doctrine and Covenants, &c.

Your obedient servant and brother,

DAN JONES.

Edinburgh, March 23, 1848.

Dear Brother Spencer,—I send you enclosed the minutes of our Conference, held last Sabbath, and I know it will rejoice your heart to see by them that the great work of God is still rolling on here. We have had some obstacles to surmount this quarter: we had one in the inclemency of the weather, the ice being so thick sometimes that we had hard work to get a hole broke large enough for baptism. Another obstacle is the petty tyrants who surround us, and who lord it over the poor, so much so, in some places, that whenever a man is baptized he is dismissed from his work, and, in the present state of trade, it is next to sentence of death by starvation. I sometimes feel as if I should like to let such *reptiles* know how much I loved them, and in the meantime I can at least *pray* for them (as old David did.) But notwithstanding these and other things, our increase this quarter has been 126, added by baptism; and in the last year, upwards of 400 have been added by baptism in this conference.

Union and love are the general characteristics of the Saints in this conference, with an anxious desire to gather with the people of God, and I expect a goodly number will go in the fall. In these things I feel to rejoice, and although I have an anxious desire to gather with the Saints, yet when I behold the nations doomed to sword and famine, blood and fire, it makes me pause and say to him, whoever he is that God hath set over me, not my will but Thine be done.

I remain your brother,

WILLIAM GIBSON.

P.S.—My love to Sister Spencer, and accept the same yourself. Sister Gibson joins me in this, and in praying for the best blessings of heaven to rest on your head, and on all that are dear to you, either here or in the land of Zion.

W. & J. G.

Painton, Falkingham, March 31, 1848.

My dear President,—The work here still continues to roll; over 30 baptized since I came down into these parts, which is six weeks. The harvest truly is great but the labourers are but few; I pray that the Lord of the harvest would send forth labourers into his vineyard, for I long to see the wheat gathered. I am called on every hand, and, wherever I go, it is hard work to get away. I have got one young man at Holbeach-bank, which will be useful; he was intended for the Methodist pulpit, and the day he was to ascend the pulpit I ordained him to preach the gospel. His uncle has given him notice to leave his house, and likewise his employment, and if he has to leave, I intend to take him with me and break him in. The religious people are rejoicing here and helping on the work, for the people are no longer to be kept in darkness, they will hear for themselves; they have been priest-ridden long enough. Troubles are coming—banks are failing. One bank in Grantham has broken, and it has caught every one that had money almost in this neighbourhood; while the priests of Baal are crying out “Peace and safety,” the judgments are overtaking the world as a thief in the night; the gospel is doing its work as it goes along, condemning or justifying; all men shall know the Lord from the least to the greatest, but some to their condemnation and some to justification of life, those who do not receive it are tormented; it begins to gnaw them as a worm that never dies: their torment

has begun. Oh! that the Saints may be wise, that we may be counted worthy of a deliverance. A great deal depends on us; then let us be united, and pray, as our Lord taught his disciples, Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven; and this will shake old Babylon, and she must give way for the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom must be given to the Saints of the Most High God for an everlasting possession; the meek shall inherit the earth, and dwell thereon for ever, that is the Saints' heaven. For the scripture, foreseeing God would justify the heathen through faith, preached first the gospel unto Abraham, that we through the gospel become heirs with Abraham of the same promises. Oh! that men would be wise, and look, and see what they are rejecting, in their salvation; it is time we are delivered, for the world knows us not, because it knew Him not, and they will not know it until they will be calling for the rocks and the hills to cover them, and to hide them from the presence of God and of the Lamb. And it has already commenced, for I may say they wish they had never heard it, for it condemns them. My prayer is that God, my Heavenly Father, may bless you and your companion, and all that pertains to you, and remain your brother-in the bond of peace,

W. E. MITCHELL.

*Norwich, April 3rd, 1848.*

Dear Brother Spencer,—I once more write a few lines to let you know in a small measure how we are getting on in this part of the Lord's vineyard. We baptized six last week, eleven the week before, and I think about sixteen in the three weeks before that; so you see, dear brother, notwithstanding the calumny and reproach that is heaped upon us, the Lord is blessing our feeble efforts. Our meetings are very much crowded, and we are very much crippled for want of room, as our room is small, and we cannot get another sufficiently large; but the Lord seems to be opening a way even in this respect, for I met with a gentleman farmer, about two miles in the country, who happened to have some money he wanted to make use of, by way of building. I solicited him to erect us a place of worship, and we would hire it, and pay him interest for his money. He listened to my advice, and I believe, the voice of the spirit, and purchased a piece of land in a good part of the city, and on last Friday I had the pleasure of laying the first stone for a chapel. There is every prospect of a great work in this region. I think I sent you word that Brother Lickerish had taken a room in Winandon, and I am happy to say that the work is going on well in that town. Six Baptized there. Brother Richard Smith is labouring very zealously in the country villages, and has commenced baptizing them; and truly the harvest is great and the labourers are few,—the Lord blesses us very much, especially in the gift of healing. There is a great spirit of slander in the town, but none come to interrupt us in our meetings. So this, dear brother, is a brief hint of the way we are getting on in this place; and may heaven's blessing attend you and yours, is the prayer of your brother and fellow-labourer in the gospel covenant.

THOS. SMITH.

*Bradford, April 5, 1848.*

Dear Brother Spencer,—I write to you at this time because I have been counselled by Brother Miller to go out in the ministry; and, according to his counsel, I offered my services to the conference when you were there, to go out in a fortnight; accordingly, as I said, I gave up my work last Saturday, with a determination to labour this summer for the Lord. But when Brother Marsden came to inquire into things, he, instead of sending me out, said he would have to call some in. As this is the case I feel much disappointed. Brother Marsden counselled me to try to get my work back again, or write to you to see if you could find me some labour. As my whole heart and mind is engaged in the work, I have a desire to promote the cause of God, and had rather labour in the kingdom of God. I am at your service, if you deem it wise to send me to assist in any conference, or where the spirit may deem it wise to say go, I go.

I remain your obedient servant,

THOMAS CHILDS.

P.S.—I desire to hear from you soon, if you please, as I have no work.

Dear Brother Spencer,—The above, which has reference to Brother Child's case, is quite correct. Instead of finding two travelling elders, besides Brother Miller, I have learned that there are ten or more who are depending on the Conference for their support. I will write you soon and report particulars.

Yours, &c.

JAMES MARSDEN.

REPLY BY ORSON SPENCER.

*Liverpool, April 5, 1848.*

Dear Brother Childs,—I hasten to answer your letter that has just come to hand. Whatever changes are made in the previous arrangements of Brother Charles Miller, should be wisely made with reference to all existing circumstances. I presume that Brother Miller laid out a large field of labour for many labourers, on the basis of strong and liberal faith on his own part, and on the part of the Elders that should go out to preach in the Conference. The Elders that go out should aim to make their living not so much out of the Saints as out of those whom they convert, and to whom they preach the gospel. Those Elders who have not got faith to live of the gospel, or to sustain themselves measurably wherever they go and roll on the work, would not be much profited if they had stipulated salaries to any amount. There are scores of elders that apply to me to be sent out to preach, and there are multitudes ready to perish for lack of preaching, but they will not pay a man for salvation until they have heard him, and fallen in love with his preaching. There is the *rub*; he must have faith to go out without purse or scrip, and all will be well. But if he cannot go and preach till a Church or Conference is able to sustain him, wherein is he better than a hireling, in this particular? It is *only* the men of strong faith that can be of much use in these times of want, fear, and distress. The elders that have not faith, are too much like the man that hid his talent in a napkin, for fear of losing it. The earth is the Lord's, and he will sustain such as he calls into the vineyard. No presiding elder, we presume, will be led by the spirit to set men to preaching, solely because they have no other employment! The Holy Ghost selects men that are full of faith and the love of souls. Even Paul had to work with his own hands during his ministry. And *work* need not always be relinquished for faith, unless you have a *living* secured from the "Bishop."

Yours respectfully,

ORSON SPENCER.

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 TO JOHN WOOD, LUGWARDINE, HEREFORDSHIRE.
*Pueblo De Los Angeles, Upper California, July 16, 1847.*

Dear Father and Mother,—With pleasure I take up my pen to write to you, hoping it may find you all in the enjoyment of good health, as such I am in at present. It is nearly five years since I left England. I wrote one letter to you, but received no answer to it. The reason why you have neglected me, I know not; you may be assured that, although we are some thousands of miles apart, I have not forgotten my parents who gave me birth, nor ever shall.

No doubt you are anxious to know where I am, and what I am doing. In the first place I would say, I am now in the town of Angelos, Upper California, about 25 miles from the shores of the great Pacific Sea. You may ask, What brings you there? The answer is, our Church was settled in Nauvoo, and the mobocrats were continually rising in opposition to us; burning our houses, destroying our grain, and committing other acts disgraceful to civilization, so the whole body concluded to leave, and go to some place remote from these men, where they could worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. With this view we left, and were journeying with our teams, when the United States government sent an invitation for so many men to enlist in the service for one year, to march against the Spaniards in New Mexico. Accordingly 500 men enlisted, and left their families to be taken care of by the church. This was on the 16th July, 1846; so now we have served our time, got our discharge, and had but very little fighting to do. First we marched to Santa Fe, the capital of New Mexico. Passing several small towns, from thence we marched to Sonora, to the town of Tosone; we left there for Sandiego, a seaport town on the coast of California; from there we marched to San Luis Roy, where we stayed about two months, when we left and came to Pueblo De Los Angeles, the capital of Upper California, where I am now; we were among the Spaniards nearly eight months. I expect to leave this place in a few days, for the purpose of going to meet the church, they will settle about 500 miles from here, near the Great Salt Lake.

I have travelled over a great desert of country. I have crossed the continent of America, from the shores of the Atlantic to the shores of the Pacific; yet my mind is not changed at all, as it regards the religion I profess to believe. I know that it is true, and that all men will know so, sooner or later, either to their salvation or to their destruction. Various have been the changes that has taken place since I left England, and all plainly indicate the fact, that the great day of the Lord is nigh. It behoves you, then, to prepare for these things, for I know and do testify that all men must repent and obey the