

The Plains—Death of Elder J. F. Secrist.—A letter by a "Traveller," dated Atchison, July 8, in the *Mormon* of July 28, states that Elder Jacob F. Secrist, late President of the German mission, had died, between Atchison and Kearney, from fatigue in hunting cattle.

Switzerland.—Elder William Budge, in a letter to us, dated July 6th, says, "I received several letters from the Saints in Switzerland a few days ago, with good news, especially from Zurich and around. The Saints continue to rejoice in the Gospel, and the Elders are busy in spreading the truth as much as circumstances will allow. At the same time they feel very desirous of leaving their country, which denies them the privilege of enjoying their religion. Their hearts are set on Zion, and they pray continually for deliverance. One of the letters I received was written by one of the Travelling Elders. He writes in good spirits, and says that he was going next morning to baptize six or seven persons. When I wrote I encouraged them as much as possible, and told them of your interest concerning them, for which they feel very thankful, and send much love to beloved President Richards, and say the time will seem long until they have another letter."

Piedmont.—Elder Samuel Francis writes to Elder G. D. Keaton, from the valleys of Piedmont—"You are well acquainted with the Waldensian valleys, but you do not know our present position, and it would be out of my power to describe it to you. Since the departure of the emigrants, we have not found a house like that of brother Malan. Brothers Gardiol and Chaterlain have been our principal supporters. Elder Rochan has not had any employ for the last three or four months, and nearly all the other Saints in the valleys have been in the same condition. We have been under the necessity of cutting off seven, who in their poverty have been bought with bread and polent by the Protestant ministers. All the others are well, and I hope they will continue to be more and more faithful to the work of God. We baptized a young man last Sunday, and expect to baptize a few more soon."

THE "LUMINARY."—Persons wishing to subscribe for the Second Volume of the *Luminary* are requested to forward to us, at the earliest convenience, their subscription for six or twelve months, as the case may be, that we may transmit the same to St. Louis, before the commencement of the Volume, which takes place at the beginning of the coming year. Subscriptions, for not less than six months, are received at any stage of a Volume, but the back Numbers cannot be insured. Terms—13s. per annum, in advance; subscribers paying English postage—one penny per copy, on receipt of the papers.

Home Correspondence.

WALES.

"Udgorn Seion" Office, Swansea,
July, 1855.

President Richards.

Dear Brother—In submitting you, by request, a brief report of the condition and circumstances of the Church of God in Wales, it affords me great pleasure to represent that, although the calumnies of the press and pulpit, and the stubborn

prejudices of a severely priest-ridden populace have prevented the augmentation of our numbers as I could wish, yet I have unmistakable evidences, in the unity, diligence, and humility of the Saints, of the increase of the spirit of the Gospel in them.

'Tis due to my worthy Counsellor Elder Daniels, and the presiding Elders (with very few dishonourable exceptions, which have resulted in expulsion), to sa

that, through the blessing of Him who owns the work, upon their energetic measures and vigilant watch-care, love and harmony, undisturbed peace and prosperity reign amongst the Priesthood and Saints, to the exclusion of every principle or practice incompatible with their profession, from all the fourteen Conferences over which I have the honourable watch-care; a disposition to honour their religion before the world, by *living its precepts*, and to disseminate it by tracting and testifying from house to house, never has appeared more prominent than at the present time, nor have I ever been more flattered with the prospects of the Church than I am with its present condition.

A laudable exertion is being made by the Conferences severally, especially during the summer season, to extend their confines, to overspread the country by outdoor preaching, and by sending out a promising number of spirited young officers to testify to and warn the people in new and evacuated places, of which we have a few yet remaining. An increase of confidence in the Holy Priesthood, so characteristic of the pure in heart, and so essential to salvation, is manifested in the promptness of their response to every counsel, and in the renewed interest they evince in seeing it not only preached but *practised* also. In brief, the manifest improvement I perceive in the condition of the Church in general, is a continual source of indescribable joy to me, forming new themes of praise to Him who alone is able to accomplish it, and presenting additional incentives to ever prayerfully contribute my mite in behalf of all its interests.

In reference to the *circumstances* of this part of our Great Father's vineyard, although it is as devoid of "gold diggings" as any other barren corner thereof, yet the elaborate dissertations on this, of late, all-absorbing essential that have echoed and re-echoed in the ears of all, the out-pourings of heaven's and earth's blessings upon the liberal-minded, and covering the serf who loves his gold more than the kingdom of our God with a mildew and poverty, all has served to make the poor Saints feel rich and liberal, and to delight in paying all dues to their God. One instance at issue, which occurred yesterday in Conference, proves the point—in response to a call to liquidate the debts of this Conference, upwards of sixty

pounds was either cashed down in meeting, or subscribed to be paid in a few weeks by volunteers. A similar feeling is being awakened more generally of late than hitherto, and the consequent rewards for liberality keep pace with their strides.

A more lively interest is evinced in behalf of the P. E. Fund, and this praiseworthy auxiliary to the gathering of the poor Saints homeward will entertain more of the confidence, and hence of the liberality, of the Welsh Saints than hitherto.

. . . . I feel that a better day has dawned in this respect.

You will be pleased to learn that I have the pledges of the Presiding Elders generally, that the sums allotted them to pay towards building the Temple of the Lord in Zion will be forthcoming in due time—pledges their sense of honour will not allow to be dishonoured, I trust.

In the book department appertaining to both Offices, quite a reformation has been going on progressively for a few months past, but none too soon; causing *every Sub-agent*, or the Branch for him, to clear up all dues, except the stock on hand, every quarter; to collect every individual debt, and make collection for the amount, if any in default. I also require every General Agent to furnish me with a Balance Sheet in full, quarterly, a form for which I have published for each agent. This not only apprises me what their stock consists of, and whether auditors do their duty, but also the names of the Branches who become involved or otherwise, and will, I trust, induce all to adhere more closely to your "Instructions" given to this important department, and *prevent defalcations*. A general awakening is taking place on this subject—days' works, lectures, "soirees," &c., are on foot in order to liquidate old debts, rusty for years past, and almost forgotten.

In reference to the present prospects for the future success of the Gospel among the worldly part of the community, the alarm of priests and editors, as well as the hue-and-cry of the numerous emissaries of our great enemy; the increasing audiences the Elders obtain generally, and the lively interest which the public manifest in the all-absorbing topic of "Mormonism," more than intimate that it is neither dead nor dying; rumours of wars, plagues, famines, earthquakes, murders, rapes, starvings, and the haggish train of modern "Christianity," variegated by the

beautiful delineations of "Mormon monstrosities," "cruelties," "horribles," "Mormonism exploded," "Mormon polygamy," "Divorced wives' exposures," and a thousand-and-one other sweet-scented nosegays, may divert their attention a while, but, like "Jonah's gourd," they fade and perish, and, when the Spirit of truth, like a breeze from Paradise, blows away their stench, "Mormonism"—the same impregnable and ever-living theme, still haunts them closer than before; every contrast presented subserves to approximate the belligerents, so that hundreds, if not thousands, now stand aghast on the brink, with nothing apparently withholding but shame that they have been so long scared by the baseless bug-bears of their clerical hob-goblin-story-tellers. The fact that all these things are in literal fulfilment of ancient and modern prophecies is rapidly gaining publicity among the reflecting public, and the existing feeling flatters us to expect that a host is coming—at the door.

May the Great God who owns this marvellous work, and with whom alone rests the power to propel it onward, grant us the prosperity to save the souls of our fellow-beings into His kingdom, which our hearts desire, give us wisdom to govern, influence to save, and power to "overcome" Babylon and everything Babylonish, to build up Zion, if needs be, on the ruins of even a world, and to crown Him whose right it is to reign King of kings over all His dominion speedily, is the heart's desire of your humble servant and fellow-labourer in the Gospel,

D. JONES.

SCOTLAND.

Kilmarnock, 10th July, 1855.

President F. D. Richards.

Dear Brother—This morning I sit down to give you a plain and correct account of our labours throughout Scotland, and I do it with great cheerfulness, knowing that you ought to hear of the success of those that labour under your watch-care.

We held our quarterly Conference in Dundee, the 17th June, and I am happy to say, that there was a first-rate spirit with the Saints, and all who assembled with us. The Reports from the various Branches were good, with few exceptions.

The most of the Priesthood are doing their utmost to extend the work, and gather in the honest in heart, and I can happily say, that their worthy President, Elder Daniel McArthur, is a whole-souled "Mormon," and that the most of his flock partake of his spirit, which makes them also whole-souled in the work of the Lord.

They are comparatively free of debt, and have but one travelling Elder—brother Mark Barnes, who has been in the field a long time. He is a faithful and trust-worthy man, and I feel pleasure in recommending him.

The Conference numbers 241. They have paid this quarter, to Temple Fund, £6 15s. 2d; to P. E. Fund, £8 6s. 11½d.; to Foreign Missions, £1 13s. 11d.; besides other expenses of the Conference; the total for all purposes being £28 13s. 7d.

Edinburgh Conference came off on the 24th, when we were favoured with the society of Elder James Ferguson and J. D. T. McAllister, from Ireland, and Elder Walter Grainger, President of the Glasgow Conference, who contributed much to our happiness on that occasion, for our heavenly Father gave us much of His good Spirit, which is life, light, and salvation to those who enjoy it. The Reports from the Branches of this Conference were also very favourable. The Saints there feel well, and realize more the necessity of keeping the commandments of God, than ever they did in their lives. They also have a good man to preside over them, whose heart is devoted to the cause of truth, and the Saints love and respect him very much.

We have now in that Conference three Travelling Elders, two of them were called out at our last Conference meeting, the other has laboured some time in the ministry, and he is a faithful, worthy man, and would do great good in any sphere.

The total number of members is 672. They have paid to Temple Fund this quarter, £20 17s. 11d; to P. E. Fund, £25 9s. 9d.; to Foreign Missions, £3 10s.; to clothing for Elders, travelling expenses, and the support of families, £46 15s. 9½d.; total for the quarter, £96 13s. 5½d.

I will say, to the praise of some of our faithful brethren in that Conference, that they voluntarily live up to the law of tithing, and testify to the rest of the Saints

that they are better off now than they were before they paid their tithing. I know this rule to be a correct one, that those who love the Lord will love all of His laws, and keep them, and upon such He will pour out His blessings till their hearts are satisfied. I have proved the law of tithing to be a law of God, and a source of blessing to me from the day on which I entered into the waters of baptism. As for the present, I feel as though I am all tithing, and may it ever be so.

Now, as for the Glasgow Conference, I will begin with the President, Elder Grainger, first. I love to testify of the virtues of good men, and as it may be somewhat in his favour, I will say, he is a true-hearted Saint. This is the first Conference, as you well know, that he has had the honour to preside over, but for my part, I cannot see but that he is fully up to any of the old hands at the business.

The Conference was held on the 1st of July, and the Reports brought in by the Branch Presidents were cheering, and we can feel that there is quite an increase of faith and union with the Saints and the Priesthood. We had a grand day on the Sunday, and also a fine soiree on the Monday following, and I can say that the Conference is in a prosperous condition.

They have paid for the past quarter, to Temple Fund, £42 5s. 1d.; P. E. Fund, £41 5s. 2½d.; Foreign Missions, £4 2s. 1d.; and Conference expenses besides; which make up the total to £120 4s. 11d.

A number of our best paying members have emigrated this year.

The Conference numbers actually, that we can find, 1161; the remainder are scattered and lost, which make up our total in the Half-yearly Report to 1455.

We find, in searching the records of the Glasgow Branch, that there are 220 members whom we can learn nothing of, although there have often been Councils called, and their names read out, and enquiries made after them severally. However, we intend to continue our search for the lost sheep of our Father's flock, that none may be lost through our negligence. May the Lord help us to do our duty all the time.

I have removed Elder James McGhie from the Kilmarnock Conference to Glasgow. He is a faithful young man, and

bids fair to be very useful. He has been in the ministry only one year.

Kilmarnock Conference was held on Sunday last. We are still favoured with the society of our brethren from Ireland.

The good spirit of our Heavenly Father has been abundantly poured out upon us in our assemblies in this Conference. The Saints feel well and are much united. The Reports from the Branches were good, though the Saints have been somewhat oppressed for want of work, which has been rather against the financial Report. But I am happy to say, that it is better now, and, judging from the good spirit manifested by the Saints, I think they will bring up all arrears this quarter.

The Saints here are few, but I must say, they have done nobly, taking into consideration that they have helped off to the Valley brothers Booth and Glasgow lately. They are a noble people, and determined to be behind none, and that is the spirit of their worthy President, Elder J. D. Ross, an old and steady hand at the Gospel plough, but his worth need not be extolled by me, as he is well known. He is in first-rate spirits, and we labour in union in all things.

I can say that this Conference is not behind the others in Scotland; if they have not done for one purpose, they have done for another.

They have the past quarter been employed in getting clothes for Travelling Elders, paying old Conference debts, &c. They are now comparatively free, save of that which they owe the Office, which is duly considered by us. And we do not intend to cease our endeavours, while we are permitted to remain here, till it is all paid.

As I have not before me the Financial Report, I shall omit it.

We have but one Travelling Elder in this Conference that we have lately called out.

You will see, by the above details of the various Conferences throughout this Pastorate, that we are in a prosperous condition. Though we have not baptized so many as other Conferences, our prospects are good, and I can truly say, I never saw men labour more faithfully to convince the people of the truth than my brethren do in this land. Well! the seed is sown, the Lord hasten the day when we shall see the increase.

I must say, that I never laboured in the

ministry with more satisfaction, than I have done since I came to Scotland, though I found a kind and noble hearted people in England wheresoever my lot was cast. But I suppose that my experience serves to make my labours more agreeable.

There is a perfect union existing between the Presidents of the Conferences and myself, and also, as a general thing, amongst all the Saints. And I could not ask anything more at the hands of the brethren, than what they wish to be done. Therefore I feel to pour out my soul continually to the Lord for them, and the continuation of our union, and may it increase for ever.

Having already much extended my representation, I shall close now by saying, we shall be happy to see brother Franklin as soon as his business will permit.

Your brother in the Gospel Covenant,
EDWARD BUNKER.

BRADFORD, SHEFFIELD, AND LINCOLNSHIRE CONFERENCES.

71 Washington Road, Sheffield,
July 17, 1855.

President F. D. Richards.

Dear Brother—I am happy at the present time in having an opportunity of presenting you a condensed statement of our doings and prospects in the Sheffield, Bradford, and Lincolnshire Conferences.

I am delighted to say the most perfect union characterises all the efforts and movements of the Priesthood. Every exertion is being made to bring our principles fairly before the people. Out-door preaching is being extensively practised, with good effect. Opposition is rife, yet, notwithstanding, those who have a becoming regard for the truth of the Gospel, listen with attention, and seem desirous to learn more of our principles. Baptisms are becoming quite frequent, and I am pleased to say, all things taken into account, the prospects are cheering.

Measures have been adopted for the efficient carrying out of your counsel in reference to the Temple Offering. All seem sanguine in the belief that the allotments for the Sheffield and Bradford Conferences will be made up by the end of the current quarter.

At a Council Meeting of the Sheffield

Branch, convened on Wednesday evening 4th instant, the subject of the Temple Offering was brought forward, and the brethren composing the Council were called upon to express their sentiments in reference to the Temple Offering, when a unanimous feeling was expressed in favour of raising the entire allotment by the close of the present quarter, upon which a subscription was set on foot, and the respectable sum of £21 was raised by the Council on that occasion, the subscriptions ranging from 5s. to £1.

I was particularly pleased with this Council, because of the peculiar spirit which seemed to actuate the Priesthood—they appeared to consider it a privilege of the first order to have an opportunity to aid in building the house of the Lord in the tops of the mountains, as predicted by ancient servants of God; and when we consider the great delight those ancient worthies seem to have experienced in anticipation of this glorious event, it is no marvel to see those who are immediately connected with it, and have the privilege of participating in the great work, count it a pleasure to exert all their faculties to forward the work so much admired by the Prophets of God in all ages.

I am delighted in being able to say to you, our financial affairs, as a general thing, present a healthy appearance, and every department appears to be in good working order.

The Lincolnshire Conference are not so forward with their financial affairs, owing to their scattered and unwieldy condition. Elder Oakley is exerting himself to the utmost to bring every department into proper condition. The Conference, which convened in Grantham on the 8th instant, voted to appropriate the avails of one day's work for each member, for the benefit of the Temple Offering, for the present quarter, which will help out with the allotment so far, that I am persuaded we shall be able to forward the entire amount by the end of the year. The Bradford Conference was convened in the Odd Fellows' Hall, Bradford, on the 24th ultimo. The meetings were well attended. All matters of business passed off in good order, and the most perfect union characterised the assembled Saints, and much of that lovely cementing influence which Jesus declared must characterise his people, was exhibited. Brother Joseph A. Young was in

high spirits, and seemed to possess the power and spirit of his calling and Priesthood in a most visible manner. I feel great pleasure in saying that his course and indefatigable perseverance in the performance of his high and important duties are praiseworthy indeed.

The Sheffield Conference was held on the 1st instant. All matters of business passed off in the most satisfactory manner. The most harmonious feeling pervaded the assemblies of the Saints. The Conference was well attended, and great joy and satisfaction were realized by the Saints. Several persons presented themselves as candidates for baptism during the day. The Spirit of truth rested upon the Priesthood in a marked manner, and the word of truth was spoken with power and good effect.

Elder Edward Frost is full of zeal for the cause of truth, and is always ready to carry out the instructions of those who are called to counsel him, and direct the affairs of the Church. The result is union and good will throughout the entire Conference.

I have twelve Travelling Elders in my Pastorate—five in Bradford Conference, four in Sheffield, and three in Lincoln-

shire, all of whom are doing all in their power to forward the cause of truth.

The Gospel is being preached in many villages adjacent to Sheffield, Bradford, and Leeds, with good effect, and I am happy to say the prospects for additions in many parts are cheering.

I am resolved that no exertion shall be wanting for the forwarding of the work while I am permitted to labour in this district, and I am sanguine in the belief that we shall be able to accomplish a good work in this vicinity during the remainder of the present year. That this may be the case, I shall exert all my energies and faith, constantly relying on the Lord, who has called us to prune His vineyard, preparatory to His return to dwell with His people.

I will here state that the sale of books and *Stars*, and the interests of the publishing department, are not overlooked, but shall, as hitherto, receive due attention.

Earnestly praying that the blessings of wisdom, strength, and knowledge may abide with you in rich abundance, to make you equal to your onerous and important duties, I am yours, as ever, undeviating in the cause of truth,

C. G. WEBB.

Varieties.

INTEGRITY, however rough, is better than smooth dissimulation.

MANY persons pass their lives in regretting the past, complaining of the present, and indulging false hopes of the future.

I CONSIDER no conquest I ever made worth one year's interest of the money it cost.—*Frederick the Great.*

LET not any one say he cannot govern his passions, nor hinder them from breaking out and carrying him into action; for what he can do before a prince or a great man, he can do alone, or in the presence of God, if he will.—*Locke.*

IMAGINARY WANTS.—If we create imaginary wants, why do we not create imaginary satisfactions? It is the happier frenzy of the two to be like the mad Athenian, who thought all the ships that came into the harbour to be his own, than be still tormenting ourselves with insatiable desires.—*Bulstrode.*

CHEERFULNESS.—“Laugh and grow fat,” is an old adage. Sterne tells us that every time a man laughs he adds something to his life. Dr. Sydenham said the arrival of a merry-andrew in a town was more beneficial to the health of the inhabitants than twenty asses loaded with medicine. Mr. Pott used to say that he never saw the “Tailor riding to Brentford” without feeling better for a week afterwards.

A HIGHLANDER PUZZLED.—A drover, fresh from the land of heather, whose knowledge of the sea, and of its ebb and flow, was confined to one grand idea of its magnitude, arrived the other day at the Craig Pier with a flock of sheep, intending to go over into Fife. It being low water, and the boat already well laden, the captain told him that he must wait the next hour, as he was afraid he would not have water enough to float from the pier. “Water enough!” quoth John Highlandman, with the utmost amazement, “Och, man! if ye dinna hae water enuff in the muckle sea, far wud ye get it, than?”