

MISSIONARY MESSAGES.

Healed by Faith—Labors in Minnesota—Affairs in Arizona.

Again we are pleased to lay before our readers a few abstracts from private letters written by Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from their respective fields of ministry. We first have a letter from

ELDER FRANCIS GIBBONS

who, at present, is laboring on a mission in England. He writes to his wife in Ogden, from New Brompton, near Chatham, Kent, under date of Jan. 12th. He is glad to state not only that he himself is in the enjoyment of good health, but also that through his administering in the ordinance of the Lord and by His blessings one of the sisters who had been suffering much from an affliction in her limbs has been restored to health and happiness. This cure through faith proved to the patient the power of the Gospel to which Elder Gibbons testified and prepared her to receive the sacred ordinance of baptism to enter the divinely appointed road to salvation.

From Kent, Elder Gibbons was next bound to Essex.

ELDER G. R. BELNAP

reports from Lake Harold, Meeker county, Minnesota, under date of Feb. 8, 1882. He was in the enjoyment of good health, and in the best of spirits feeling to press on in the good fight of subduing error and establishing truth and righteousness up in those northern regions. At the time of his writing that part of the country was experiencing the full rigors of a northern winter. From the first of December to that date the thermometer had stood from thirty-four to 39 degrees below zero, the snow in unsheltered parts covering the ground to a depth of twelve to fourteen feet.

In his labors among the people Elder Belnap finds that they care little for religion of any kind and he realizes great difficulty in trying to overcome the current of infidelity and skepticism. Even the topographical arrangements of the country add to the arduousness of his labors. The State is laid off in townships six miles square, only from one to three schoolhouses in the township, and it is often the case that the Elder has to pass by three or four before he gets permission to hold a meeting in one. Thus it takes all day to travel and a good deal of the night to talk to the people—how much time can there be spared for study in the Bible and other inspired works?

Hence Elder Belnap wishes to enjoin upon all his young friends at home the necessity of closely and attentively studying the Scriptures and all the doctrines of the Gospel, the history of the Church, etc., at home, lest when they are called on missions they may be found like the five foolish virgins—without oil in their lamps. This good work of learning the things of God and everything pertaining to the plan of salvation can best be done by and in the Mutual Improvement Associations, whose industrious and faithful attendance is of great importance to the young men of Israel.

ELDER W. N. FIFE

sends word from his present location in Oak Grove, Cochise County, A. T., under date of Feb. 6, 1883. He writes that the winter down there, so far, has been fine, with considerable snow in the mountains, which promises well for the agriculturist, who depends so much on irrigation. The grass is already coming up green and thick. Elder Fife has also planted grape roots, 75 of which he received in good condition from Ohio. He will set out peach, pear and apple trees, gooseberries and currants. Lettuce and radishes are up and looking fine. The writer thinks Oliver chilled plows the best adapted to the soil in that region.

Elder Fife's family, some time ago, had a pleasant visit from Bros. Erastus Snow, Thatcher, Layton, Martineau, Kimball, Hill, and others, who spoke favorably of the location and improvements. They were also visited by the Bunker families from San Pedro, who were all taken up with the looks and surroundings of Oak Grove, and decided to locate in the neighborhood where they will find good water and about 500 acres of fine farming land and plenty of oak timber, etc.

"There is a fine country here," says the writer, "awaiting only development. In a few years it will be all settled, and now is the time to make the move to take up land. What few people have located here are very kind-hearted. Our folks like the place the better the longer we live here. One thing we enjoy in full measure: fine health, and we will soon have the society of our friends which will add much to our comfort, and with the blessings of the Almighty upon the land and the faithfulness of the people, we will be able to raise an abundance for man and for beast."

As to the Indians, whose troublesome presence has heretofore been the only cause of preventing or retarding the settlement of the country the writer says they are at present quiet. General Crook is endeavoring to induce them to cultivate the soil and make themselves self-sustaining. He has a great influence over the Apaches and it is to be hoped he will succeed in his efforts.