

Shortly after the turn of the century, A young man who had just reached the Mission field arrived in Cambridge - in England- with his senior companion.

The Senior companion the next morning, Friday Morning - left for France as he was about ready to return home and he had received permission to take a trip on the continent.

The young elder was left alone but instructed by his senior companion to go tracting that day. He was told which streets to tract and the like - as there had been much persecution in the Cambridge area.

He spent Friday morning and afternoon tracting a certain street and then on Saturday he visited the University and other points of interest to get acquainted with the city.

Saturday evening as he sat in his room, a knock came at the door and the Landlady answered it.

He heard a man's voice inquiring- Does Elder so and so live here?

He was sure this was the enemy at the door.

But the Landlady brought the man to the missionary's room and the man asked the elder if he was the person that delivered the tract to his door.

He was, and the man proceeded to tell him that a group had left ~~their~~ their church last Sunday in a misunderstanding with their minister.

He had talked with this group, and they felt that the delivery of the tract was an answer to their prayers - that the Lord had sent him to be their minister.

Would he be their minister Sunday - that next day.

Of course he would. - Actually the young elder was relieved when he found that he was not being warned to leave the city.

But then he got to thinking over his situation, and decided that perhaps it would have been better had he been warned to leave the city.

He had not been in the mission field a week - he had never attended a meeting in the mission field - he had never presided in a meeting before going into the mission field - and he had never preached a sermon.

He was now confronted with the prospect of holding a meeting without anyone to help him - without a companion - without preparation.

He fasted that evening and the next morning. - He talked it over with the Lord - He didnt just say - "Now I lay me down to sleep".

He told the Lord what his problem was and he pleaded with the Lord to come to his assistance.

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Had been cowboy - felt awkward in the missionary clothes. - "Oh my Father" Prayed - Every man, woman and child there ~~xxxxxxx~~ in the months ahead came into the church, and most of them came to America.



The ~~first extended mission~~ of the church ~~was~~ followed a church conference held in September following the organization of the Church.

Oliver Cowdery and Peter Whitmer were called to go and preach the good news to the Iamanites.

They left in October and Parley P. Pratt and Ziba Peterson were called to accompany them.

On this mission they traveled on foot for over 1500 miles - much of it in snow and freezing weather.

We remember they first visited the Catteraugus Indians near Buffalo, and then went on to Kirtland, Ohio.

Parley P. Pratt had previously lived in that vicinity and had received a commission from the Campbellites there as a minister.

He now sought out his former pastor Sidney Rigdon - a preacher in the Church of the Disciples or Campbellites.

He was well received, and they preached to the congregation of Disciples and was promised by Sidney Rigdon that he would read and study the Book of Mormon.

~~The mission was~~



First missionary - Samuel Harrison Smith - 3 yrs younger than the Prophet  
June 30, ~~182~~ 1830.

First Extended Mission - As per above.

The missions to England - 1837 - Heber C. Kimball - Wilford Woodruff

Richard Ballentyne - Left 1852 - Arrived in Calcutta India 7/24/53  
(Had organized Sunday School December 1849)

The difficulties of the 70s and 80s. (Coleman's 1887) Baptised 1879.

Missionary Work in the 90s.

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We remember the tremendous power of conversion in England that was demonstrated in the account from the Journal of Wilford Woodruff.

He had called a meeting at the home of a Brother Benbow who had previously been baptised.

He said when he arose to speak a man entered the door and informed him that he was a constable, and had been sent by the rector of the parish with a warrant to arrest him.

He asked the constable - He said "For what crime."

The constable said for preaching to the people.

He told the constable he had a license for preaching the Gospel the same as the rector, and that if he would take a chair he would see him after the meeting. - And the man took Brother Woodruff's chair beside him.

He said that for an hour and a quarter he preached the first principles of the everlasting gospel.

At the close of the meeting he opened the door for baptism, he said, and seven came forward - among whom were four preachers and the constable.

The Constable went back to the rector and told him that if he wanted Mr Woodruff taken, he must go himself and serve the writ for he had preached the only true sermon he had ever listened to in his life.

The rector didnt know what to make of it so he sent two clerks of the Church of England as spies, to attend the meetings and find out what it was all about.

They too received the word and were baptised and confirmed members of the church.

The rector didnt venture to send anyone else.

There was an attempt made ~~is~~ on the part of ministers and rectors in the south of england to get a bill through Parlaament to prohibit Mormons from preaching in the British dominions. - It failed.

Their petition stated that one Mormon missionary had baptised over fifteen hundred persons - mostly members of the English Church, in a period of Seven months.

This doubtless referred to Wilford Woodruff and is hardly exaggerated.

But other missionaries too met with great success

It is said that in 1851 there were more church members in England ~~than~~ than there were in America.