

been having some agricultural work done, and the workmen noticed a falling in of the soil. Excavating deeper to ascertain the cause, they unearthed the entrance of what proved to be a remarkably extensive and well preserved subterranean house. This underground dwelling is remarkable in many ways. It is situated under the south rampart of an old earth fort about three hundred feet in diameter and about twenty feet high, being on the highest elevation in the neighborhood, and affording a splendid view of the surrounding country. There is a deep foss on the east side, being an almost perpendicular descent of eighty feet to the Rush river, which winds around its base.

The subterranean edifice is entered by a flight of five well formed but narrow steps, which lead from the original level of the interior of the fort to the floor of the vestibule of the cave dwelling. From this the first chamber extends due south under the rampart for six feet by one foot six inches wide and four feet high. At the end of this first chamber is a door one foot four inches wide and about two feet high, behind which the opening at once takes a right angle turn to the east, running thirteen feet with fairly even dimensions to another and smaller door, which leads to a chamber twenty-nine feet long and one foot eight inches wide, and averaging four feet nine inches high. Three feet from the door of this chamber, and on the north side of it, is another and smaller door leading to a fine chamber at right angles to it, extending forty feet northward by two feet six inches wide and four feet ten inches high. At the end of the great east chamber is a small tunnel or passage two feet high and eighteen inches wide leading to the outside of the fort's rampart. This seemed to have been for the double purpose, of an escape for the occupants if hard pressed from the main and also for draining the underground dwelling which has a gradual fall to this point. The walls are built of rough boulder stones, and the roof is composed of flat stones spanning from wall to wall, which appeared to have been laid up in a very uncouth manner. In two places there appeared to have been vents carried up from the ceiling. The floor is earth throughout. The only things found in the chambers when opened were two bones supposed to have belonged to a cow, two pieces of iron ore, also fragments of pottery and a piece of a quern for grinding corn.

The exact date of the building of these mounds cannot be learned, but suffice to say it has been many centuries ago. This object was for a defence against any enemy, as they are always built on the highest elevation, near rivers, affording a splendid view of the country surrounding them. The supposition is that they were built by Danes, by carrying the loose earth up in their aprons, thus building these passages and sacking the earth around them.

There are a great many of these mounds or forts in the north of Ireland, but not all have subterranean passages in, or if they have, these have not been opened yet.

After spending an hour or so there

and getting what information I could, I returned to our field of labor, a little town of 3,000 inhabitants, which we have traveled, and find the people very reticent in regard to religious matters, and adhering very closely to their own. As this is a new field of labor we have no special news at this writing.

DANIEL WHIPPLE.

ZION'S MAORI ASSOCIATION.

Zion's Maori association held its regular semi-annual reunion on Tuesday evening last in the Fourteenth ward assembly rooms.

There were present of returned Elders 38, three of these having presided over the mission; Saints from New Zealand, Australia and Tasmania, 28; representatives of Elders now in the field, 26; and friends of the mission, 64, making a total of 156. Among the guests were President Joseph F. Smith and Elder John T. Caine of the Sandwich Islands mission, Frank Cutler of the Society Islands, and Andrew Kimball, late of the Indian Territory mission.

After singing of the Maori hymn Koutou Katoa ra, prayer was offered by Elder Moroni S. Marriott. Singing, We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet.

President Wm. Paxman expressed himself as pleased and honored in being present and interested in so important a mission as that of New Zealand and Australia. In these meetings and reunions of missionary friends come many thoughts and reflections regarding our great Father's mercy, and blessings bestowed upon us in a distant land. He rejoiced in meeting with the Elders and in talking over experiences in the field. The blessings of heaven and the manifestation of God's power has been shown in opening the way before His servants, raising up friends for them, and permitting them to see the fruits of their labors. Elder Paxman was happy in meeting with his brethren and seeing that an interest remains in the hearts of the Elders, and that they feel desirous of continued blessings upon the mission; that they are willing to aid in the work after returning home. He felt that in the labors as an organization, good is being done in caring for our Maori friends who are here, providing literature for the mission, etc. Referred to a number of circumstances of God's goodness in preserving himself and companions from dangers, and particularly the manner in which the way was opened for securing means with which to publish the Book of Mormon. Said he loved the Elders for their faithful labors, and rejoiced in the work performed.

Elder B. Goddard reported the association work of the past six months. The Maori Saints are being cared for, and weekly meetings are held with them at their home where two Elders are appointed for each meeting and address them. They are feeling well and happy and accomplishing a great deal in their Temple work, where a large number of baptisms and higher ordinances have been accomplished for their dear relatives and friends. They are in constant communication with friends in their native lands, who assist them

in gathering genealogical data. The speaker referred to the publishing of Anderson's "Latter-day Saints" in the Maori language as progressing, part of it being already printed, and to the means required for the completion of the work. Said that whenever a company of Saints arrived in the city they are met and cared for by the Elders living here. English literature is being collected for distribution among the Europeans of the mission. The financial report was read by the treasurer.

Miss Mabel Cooper favored the company with a song, after which Brother David G. Calder interested them with a variety of selections from his graphophone.

Elder Amasa Pitter related his experiences as a missionary to Australia in 1856. He was the oldest missionary present, and his sketches were full of interest to those who have labored there later. With others of the Elders he succeeded in organizing branches in Sydney and vicinity.

Elder Daniel H. Livingstone, lately returned from Queensland, reported that portion of the field as being in a flourishing condition. Had established one Sabbath school with 120 members, besides Mutual Improvement associations, etc. Among those who were not willing to receive the Gospel message, had succeeded in removing much prejudice.

Elder Jedediah Goff, lately returned from New South Wales, said that much prejudice exists among the people in that part of the mission, but through careful work and the blessings of God it is being overcome. He did much visiting from house to house; said he found people in Camden who were children when Elder was there in the 'fifties. They heard the Gospel preached at that time and now have accepted it.

Elder George Bowles returned from New Zealand some three months ago. He labored in Waitarapa and Waikato districts; reported the work progressing and membership increasing among the Maories. They seem to be investigating more thoughtfully.

After the singing of a Maori hymn President Joseph F. Smith addressed the meeting. He said that while he did not feel quite so much at home as some who had spoken, still he felt that there is a relationship existing between the missions in the Pacific Islands, his labors in connection with Elder John T. Caine, who was present, and others having been in the Sandwich Islands. He gave an interesting account of his travels to and from the missionary field. In 1854, when but 15 years of age, he started upon his mission. The means of travel were very slow and money scarce. He went by team to San Bernardino, and from there to San Francisco, where some time was spent at work earning means to continue the journey, and he took deck passage on a sailing vessel for the islands. While at San Bernardino met a company of Saints from Australia en route for Zion. Met also another company from Australia while in Honolulu, from among whom two young men were chosen to remain upon the islands as missionaries. Returning from the islands he, with his companions, was able only to obtain passage between decks and eat with