LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND.

A Description of Wellington.—The Arrival of the New Colonial Governor.—Interesting Conferences, etc.

(Correspondence of the Deseret News)

The first European settlement founded in New Zealand was Wellington, which is now the seat of government, and the capital of the colony. The city is located on the harbor of Port Nicholson; and was settled in 1840, by a company of colonists from Australia. It is now one of the most important shipping points in the South Seas, and has a population of about twenty-five thousand people. Vessels reach it from Cook's Strait, named after the great navigator, which separates the North Island from the Middle or South Island. A narrow passage affords a safe waterway into the harbor of Port Nicholson, which is one of the most commodious in New Zealand, and affords secure anchorage. Vessels from all parts of the world may be seen at anchor, with the flag of various nations floating from the masthead.

The city was formerly located on a narrow strip of land at the foot of the hills, but, during the past few years, a vast area of land has been reclaimed by filling in the harbor, and large numbers thereon have been erected where to merely vessels were moored. Amongst these, the most imposing structures are the Harbor Board Building, and the general post-office. The last named is a credit to the colony, containing postal, telegraph, money order and savings banks departments, all of which are conducted by the colonial government. The most notable structure in the city is the Government building, which is said to be the largest building in the world. The ministerial and colonial offices are located in it, but it is a popular working idea of civil services. Parliament is held here also, during session, the city is crowded with visitors. The suburban railways are to be seen on the hillsides, behind the central part of the city, and a series of terraces are dotted with gardens and villas. From the harbor these towering terraces appear as though they were piled upon each other, waiting for an earthquake shock to roll them into the ocean.

The business streets are lined with magnificent houses and shops, where goods are displayed for sale to the $ gold fashion. Saturday is another day, and the business men observe that all the customs and business methods are "Gentile as you know." Many of the residents are from the "Gold country," and drop in occasionally. They were recently observed on the arrival of the new Governor of the Colony, Lord Glasgow. This nobleman, who inherited Queen Victoria's area, arrived in royal style at Wellington on the 7th June, having been appointed to guide the ministry of the Colony in this country at a salary of $25,000. A special steamer had been fitted up, and splendidly furnished, to escort his lordship from Australia, and great preparations were made prior to his arrival. Wellington put on its holiday attire. All business was suspended and the streets festooned and decorated with flags. The steamers in the harbor also hoisted their flags, and bunting was displayed from every house. All the banks were out, filling the air with strains of music, and one of the finest was a Maori brass band, and the native people enthusiastically (but they possessed musical ability of no mean order. The militia, soldiers and marines were in uniform and the municipal and naval officers occupied a space reserved for the reception ceremonies on the Queen's wharf. The uniforms of the naval officers were almost covered with gold lace, and it was quite interesting to watch them strutting around and commanding the seamen to be smart when in fact, the sailors knew more the decks of vessels and the whatves and his lordship approached from the vessel amid the cheering of the multitude and the booming of cannon. Lord Glasgow, accompanied by the Countess and family, was conducted in a state form, and listened patiently to elaborate addresses of welcome presented by the municipal authorities, friendly societies, societies of various religious bodies, and temperance societies. Pre-arranged acknowledgements were handed to the governor by his private secretary, which he read to the various delegations.

Ministerial dinners, assembly balls, government house receptions, the tour the order of the day, and all entertainments and operas are announced under the patronage of "His Excellency Lord Glasgow."

The colonials are passionately fond of sports, the most favorite being regatta, boating, cricket, foot ball and hunting. The last named is a way of "shot" hunting without foxes. A horseman goes out telling a sheepskin for the scent, alongside of the hounds. Hourly afterwards the hounds are started and the hunters follow, the fellow riding with the gentlemen in leading horses and following the hunt is dressed where the impression "his" idiotic. A special train is run in connection for all who wish to watch the sport, and it is usually well filled. National holidays are of frequent occurrence, and the people evidently agree with Poole that holidays are the greatest invention of modern science."

Complying with the request of President Swart, the Elders of the Maori mission district recently visited the Waitarapa Valley, in order to attend the district conference.

A government railroad has been commenced from Wellington and it passes around the harbor at the foot of the hills, and through the beautiful suburban towns of Petone, Lower Hutt, etc.

At last we commence to ascend the Rimutaka range of mountains, and the road winding along roadways and through tunnels locally reminds the writer of Marshall's pass, on the R. G. W. The steep grade necessitates a centre rail, fixing about eighteen inches above the level of the other two rails, and the wheels of the engine are constructed so that they grip the centre rail, thus affording an effective brake.

The scenery on the Rimutaka is marked with picturesque beauty and grand grandeur. The train moves along up deep side cuttings and sharp bends, twisting and winding around considerable curves. The tunnels for several miles range towards Masterton, and a steam engine for below in the bottom of the gulch. We descend into the Waitarapa valley through scenery almost equal to that of our own dear mountain home.

The valley is quite extensive and is very similar to Utah County, with its clear, fresh water lake between the mountains.

Waitarapa lake is very shallow and affords good facilities for hunting, as wild ducks and black swans abound in that vicinity.

Apostles President Swart and Elders G. C. Dunford, J. G. Kelsch, W. Douglas, F. F. Thomas, D. Goddard and W. Gibson had arrived and travelled together to Kohanui, a distance of thirty miles, to assist established by our Maori brethren. We received the usual hearty greeting and were well provided for.

Conference was held two days, and reports of branches were given by the apostles.

The meetings were well attended, and instructions were given by the Elders. On the Sabbath three candidates offered themselves for baptism.

The Maoris sustained their reputation for hospitality and the Elders were cordially at home. After spending nearly a week with the Waitarapa Saints the Elders continued their journey on horseback over the mountains. The ride of fifty-seven miles occupied them in each Friday late in the evening, tired and jaded. The Saints of Petuna branch are exceedingly hospitable and have always had the reputation of being earnest, faithful workers.

The settlement is about fourteen miles from Wellington, and is located on the Paremata bayou, which abounds with shell-fish.

Some trouble existed in the branch through the preaching and home racing propensities of the members, but this has all been adjusted and a good spirit now prevails.

The Saints are diligent in performing their duties, and many are earnestly praying for the time when they can gather to Zion.

A neat little meeting house has been built and furnished in modern style, which, including the land, cost about "Karakia," or prayer, are held. It is customary with our Maori members to assemble at the meeting house, morning and evening, for prayers. In this branch we are cheered by the best singing at half-past six in the morning, and as this is winter season it is enough to make a man shake to hear the "Saints" sing "Come, Ye Saints, Come Home" at half-past six in the morning, and of course, when the second bell rings, the Saints may then be seen wending their way to the meeting house, mothers carrying their babies off their backs in true Maori style. The prayers are usually long and well on hand. A hymn is sung and a chapter read from the Bible or Book of Mormon, after which the members choose or select what they term the "Kongi Pai" or Gospel.

This consists of passages of scripture on the various principles of the Gospel and most of the speakers have commenced all the scriptural references to the first principles of the Gospel, the scattering and gathering of Israel, restoration of the Gospel, tithing, etc. All present take part in the exercises, from the youngest to the oldest, and they do not only lay in words. Some of the little ones, yet unable to read, will repeat one or more of the scriptural passages, or a verse of the Lord's Prayer, or, in the case of a little girl, yesterday, will repeat one of the scriptural passages, or a verse of the Lord's Prayer, or, in the case of a little girl, yesterday, in the morning, at half-past six in the morning, and of course, when the second bell rings, the Saints may then be seen wending their way to the meeting house, mothers carrying their babies off their backs in true Maori style. The prayers are usually long and well on hand. A hymn is sung and a chapter read from the Bible or Book of Mormon, after which the members choose or select what they term the "Kongi Pai" or Gospel.

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