

friends, both Europeans and Maories, and a few converts, principally among the natives, as I have a Maori mission. I have traveled thousands of miles since leaving home. Last year alone (1895) I traveled 4,077 miles. 800 of which was by steamer, the rest on horse back and on foot. I have attended five "Hui Tau" or annual conferences, three for the part of this island, and two for the northern. I have attended nine semi-annual conferences, and have seen many people, good, bad and indifferent, among both black and white. I will not take up space to describe country, climate, animals and Maori people, as you have all heard, but I will say that the Maoris are a very hospitable people and a person will not starve among them; the only thing that would deprive one from eating, would be the kind of food and the manner in which it is cooked. I have received fairly good treatment during the whole of my stay.

In order that I may not be too lengthy in my letter to you this time, I will just mention a few of the events from March 4th of the present year, as it was the date of our beloved presidents' arrival in Gisborne from Auckland on his way to Tamaki to attend the "Hui Tau." From the 4th of March, President Wm. Gardner and I visited the greater part of the Turanga district which is composed of four branches. We were kept on the go holding meetings, discussions, visiting and giving general instructions in which, we were very successful. The Lord would send just enough opposition in our gatherings to bring up subjects and scripture that otherwise would not have been presented, thereby portraying more clearly the beauties of truth, Mormonism. President Gardner never failed to leave his good, fatherly advice, and to plant within the hearts of all who met him, a welcome return or reunion. All, like myself, are sorry to have to part with him so soon, but I guess others are yearning his good presence on that side of the briny deep, and I think he is willing to go, so we cannot detain him here much longer. All feel to say "God bless Brother Gardner" or "Wirimu," as the natives call him.

Elder John Johnson our mission clerk arrived here from Auckland March 11th and was met by Elder Teeples; they remain in Gisborne and vicinity till the 13th. When the Elders from the Waiapu district R. E. Scott and J. A. M. Jacobsen join us and we all go on to Te Muriwai where the Turanga conference convened March 14th at 10 a. m. Present from Zion: President William Gardner, Secretary, John Johnson, R. E. Scott, Joseph Jacobsen, Charles H. Embley and Jacob E. Teeples.

Although the congregation was small, seventy five natives, the Spirit of God was poured out in rich abundance, and we had a good time; plenty of "kai" food, and accommodation. The conference lasted two days, during which, seven meetings were held; one baptism and one child blessed. The above named Elders, and the following natives were the speakers. Te Keepa Matanohi, Te Wirihana Tupeka, Hemi Korohine, Waitanwha Matenga, Wi Pai Tarewa, Rawiri Turi, Tipene Rakene, Ioaph Te Hau, Hemi Parova, and Eruera Taituba, besides fifteen testimonies in a meeting for that purpose. The instructions were varied and good;

to abstain from evils, such as witchcraft, witchery, gambling and the works of the flesh such as are recorded in Galatians v, 19-21; to be firm and faithful to the end; exhorted to cleanliness and to take care of the bodies that God had blessed us with; urged as many as possible to attend the annual conference (and a goodly number did attend). Thus the Turanga conference closed with a general good feeling and a looking forward to the one to be held at Te Mahia the following week.

I could not let Brother Johnson go without visiting some of my, our best friends among whom is the Warner family at Te Karaka thirty miles distance, so we went and it is needless to say that we had a good time, for we cannot go there without it. Although the Warner family does not belong to the Church, they are Christians, and friends to the Elders, and we need not go past there hungry. Many an enjoyable evening we have spent there, some times eleven of us at a time. They are just such people as will make good Latter day Saints if they come into the Church, and I hope they will.

When we got back to Te Muriwai, President Gardner and Elder Teeples had gone. Elders Scott and Jacobsen were awaiting our return, so on the 19th we four crossed over the mountain to Mahanga, thirty-three miles, and Friday, the 20th, we arrived at Waiwhara, the place for the Mahia conference, and the place where the annual conference was held in 1894, from which, the Maori Saints went to Zion.

Saturday, March 21st over 200 natives were on the ground ready for the first meeting, which convened at 10 a. m. They were coming in from all directions which gave it much the appearance of an annual conference, in fact it was as large as the one held there two years ago, other than at that were twenty-four Elders from Zion, while at this, we have but eight. Notwithstanding, we were one-third the number, I enjoyed myself equally as well, and everybody felt to rejoice, both Saints and outsiders, the latter did the more to make it a success. They really deserve great praise for their enthusiasm in contributing to our happiness and comfort. Many of them were relatives of Hiram Whaanga, the Maori chief who went to Utah two years previous, and they insisted on having the annual conference held there next year in commemoration of the departure of their father and chief, saying that they would bear the burden of the cost and labor. They even sent a delegation to Tamaki to induce the Saints to hold the next "Hui Tau" there, but it failed. I hope the Lord will bless them for their effort, and that they may be brought into the Church of Christ, securing for themselves eternal salvation.

To cut the report short, we had a time of rejoicing, not to be forgotten; good instructions; every one spoke with a vim, being prompted by the right spirit. Nothing was left unsaid which should have been said. We had all the "kai" of the best quality that we could eat and plenty left for another such gathering. We were blessed abundantly throughout the whole conference of six meetings. One baby was blessed. The following are the names of the speakers: President William Gardner, Secretary John Johnson, James C. Allen and James N. Lambert, Te Mahia, El-

ders: R. E. Scott and J. A. M. Jacobsen from Waiapu; Charles H. Embley and Jacob E. Teeples from Turanga; natives: Te Rangitere Wi Pri Taiewa, Te Kihī, Watene Huka, Karaitiana Te Ahiwera, Whaka Ngaro, Ngawaea Poi-poi, Hoani Wharaki. Whare Taua, Tare Mete, Wi Te Rewarewa and Te Naera O Tutu, and Nepia Te Rahere from Turanga, besides forty-one spoke in the testimony meeting of the first day. President Gardner incited them to attend the "Hui Tau." Thus ended another of the very good conferences so prevalent among us Maoris in New Zealand. President Gardner went back to Gisborne in company with Brother John Johnson and some natives, and on the 27th went on steamship Floa to Tamaki, were six Elders and five natives proceeded on horse back to the same place where we arrived in due time, and enjoyed ourselves together in general conference, which has been reported by the clerk of the mission, John Johnson. Let this suffice for this time. Yours, ever praying for the welfare of Zion. HARE HEMERE.

#### NOTES FROM KENTUCKY.

FLEMINGSBURG, Kentucky,  
July 9th, 1896.

Thinking you would like to hear from us, and believing our friends would be pleased to hear how the work of the Lord is progressing in this part of His vineyard, we decided to write you.

Kentucky is world-famous for its hospitality, and it would be but repeating what has been so often said of her to say that we have been treated right royally. The Lord has surely softened the hearts of the people towards us. Where several years ago an Elder of the Mormon faith would have been almost mobbed, our Elders are being most eagerly sought for. The people are awakening to the fact that their fathers have inherited lies and can see that that which they have so firmly believed in and so closely clung to is naught but a delusion and a snare. They have grown tired of having their ears tickled for money. In olden times it was the custom of the doctor to bleed his patient; nowadays it is the custom of many ministers of the world to bleed their patient's pocket. We are getting at the people as they have never been got at before. The Gospel is being preached unto all nations as a witness, "and then will the end come."

The old prejudice against our people is being torn down. One old gentleman said to one of our Elders, in speaking of our people, "I reckon you ain't so powerful bad, seein' you got into the Union so pesky peart."

They are beginning to realize that all is not gold that glitters, and that there is something good in even those despised Mormons.

There are some in every community who try to tear down the work of the Lord, and we have them even here. The devil is becoming alarmed at the rapid spread of truth and is sending out his agents right and left. With the Lord on our side, we fear them not.

It is strange the many different opinions there are prevailing today in the religious world concerning salvation. Our people should indeed be thankful that they have not been brought up in the world and been partakers of her traditions. Out here we can appreciate