

laid. I tell you I am going home, if I go on foot. I will not lie in Wyoming soil; for Brigham promised me I should return safely home. I have done nothing to forfeit the promise, and I am going home." The brethren then laid their hands upon me, and though their voices trembled, I received the promised blessing, and with the kind nursing of Brother Timothy Metz and the German brethren, assisted by the Dutch and German sisters, I grew stronger each day. I pray God to bless the sisters who were so untiring in their exertions in my behalf.

Tuesday, 9th—Captain William Hyde took me to the office in his carriage. In the afternoon the company moved from the camp at Wyoming with sixty wagons, one and a half miles, and were organized with Wm. Hyde as captain, John L. Smith chaplain, and S. Neslen assistant chaplain, A. Ross commissary. Several were sick with diarrhoea. Captain Hyde spoke to the company and I followed a short time.

We kept on traveling, making only a few miles per day in order that some wagons from Wyoming might overtake us, who wished to travel in company.

Sunday, 14th—An express reached us from the office at Wyoming, not to pass a certain station until Captain Snow's company overtook us, as we were to travel in company, owing to Indian raids reported. We held meeting in camp; four persons were buried today. We are waiting as patiently as possible.

Wednesday, 17th—Brother Snow's company arrived in the evening.

On the 24th we traveled eight miles over bad roads, and lay by for some repairing. I baptized the remainder of the Holland company and confirmed them, seventeen persons that we had no opportunity of baptizing before leaving Rotterdam, but were ready.

As the routine of camp travel is so much alike I can only mention a few prominent points.

Wednesday, 31st—On account of Indian depredations on the route, we traveled in double file, fifteen miles today, and camped near the Platte river.

Saturday, September 10th—Brother Joseph A. Young, with a few others, started ahead to have teams and provisions; started from Salt Lake City to meet the companies that were late. We are now three hundred and sixty eight miles from Wyoming.

On the 12th we crossed the Platte river.

On the 30th we drove sixteen miles and camped on North Platte.

Saturday, October 1st—Crossed North Platte. On Sunday, the 2nd, there were three inches of snow.

On Tuesday, the 14th, we met two wagons and sixteen yoke of oxen from Salt Lake City, to assist the Church trains; four yoke remained with us, the rest continued with Brother Snow's company.

Friday, 7th—At Bitter Creek the overland stage passed us this morning going to Salt Lake City. Apostle George Q. Cannon and J. W. Young were passengers.

Saturday, 8th—Met two wagons and thirty-three head of oxen to help up the trains.

Tuesday, 11th—Two mule teams arrived, loaded with provisions for the trains. This comes timely, as we have issued our last rations.

Wednesday, October 12th—By request

of Captain Hyde I put my things into a return valley team and started for Salt Lake City, to make some arrangements for the disposal of our company, on arrival.

Saturday, 15th—Camped three hours at Bridger.

Monday, 27th—Drove to Coalville.

Tuesday, 18th—Drove to Wm. H. Kimball's ranch; here I came across the overland mail agent, Mr. Bromly, who offered me a passage to Salt Lake City in his buggy.

Wednesday, 19th—Mr. Bromley drove to Bishop Hardy's and took breakfast, and then drove to the Historian Office, where I met my brother George A., at the gate. He accompanied me to President Young's office, who welcomed me warmly and said: "Now you return home all right; go and see your family, they are all right." Brother George A. went with me.

So I returned to my home in Salt Lake City, warmly welcomed by all, after an absence of four years and twenty-four days.

Saturday, 22nd—I visited the President's office and talked over affairs as to the best disposition to be made with the emigrants, that they might be housed and obtain labor.

On Sunday, the 23rd, I attended meeting at the Tabernacle, and was called to the stand, and spoke for half an hour. Spent the most of the balance of the month in assisting our company in obtaining rooms and labor and getting them as comfortably located as possible.

Very respectfully,

JOHN L. SMITH.

THE NEW ZEALAND MISSION.

AUCKLAND, New Zealand,
February 20th, 1895.

The many readers of your valuable paper may be interested to hear a few lines from this far-off land.

More than six months ago Elders were called to re-open a Gospel field in the city of Auckland. For seven or eight years but incidental meetings had been held there and they were never of a public character. There was once a branch of the Church there consisting of sixty or seventy members, presided over by a local Elder, under the direct presidency of an Elder from Zion. Most of these Saints have since emigrated to Utah, so that now there are but about twenty left who once belonged to the branch and they are widely scattered.

The first labor of the Elders was to find these if possible. In this they succeeded fairly well and now regular meetings are held with the Saints and every Sunday evening with the public. Though at first there was a strong spirit of prejudice against the unpopular sect, through the blessings of Jehovah much of this has been allayed and the brethren have many good friends in the city. With their limited means they have rented cheap halls, and seeking to be guided by divine inspiration they have taught those who would come to listen, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. Visiting with the people and distributing tracts have occupied much of their time. Their labors have not been exclusively in Auckland, but small towns in the country have also been visited and the plan of redemption taught to

the people. It has been a sowing season. Some of the seed, we trust, has fallen in productive soil, the harvest of which ere long we shall reap.

On the night of February 2, 1895, after all nature was hushed in the silence of night, four humble Elders, accompanied by one whose earnest researches had resulted in a thorough conviction of the truthfulness of Mormonism, wended their way to the lonely ocean. There they knelt upon the sand and implored the approval of Jehovah on the sacred ordinance they were about to perform. The writer then led the candidate into the briny deep and in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost immersed him for the remission of his sins. What feelings of joy filled their bosoms as the baptized exclaimed, "Thank God, 'tis done!" Immediately after the baptism, they all gathered round their brother and President Gardner was mouth in confirming him a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and placing upon him the gift of the Holy Ghost. Thus one of the noble sons of God was added to the fold of Christ, and they feel to thank God for this manifestation of His approval of their labors. If they may be allowed to judge by the spirit manifested by some, they have much cause to believe that others will soon follow.

The health of the brethren has generally been good, and they have been in the perfect enjoyment of their labors. God blesses those who are diligent in his work and crowns their efforts with success.

For the past few months they have been looking forward with pleasurable anticipations to the arrival of the time when the annual conference of the northern part of the mission would be held at Kawa Kawa, Bay of Islands. A Hui (conference) in "Maoridom" means much to the Elders. Connected with it are friendly meetings and cheerful greetings. Often as strangers they meet, but the spirit of brotherly love so prevalent amongst our brethren soon banishes every strange feeling and a seeming long acquaintance is soon formed. What heartfelt handshakes! How the countenance beams with joy when they clasp the hand of true friendship!

On the evening of Feb. 4, a company of six, including President Gardner, boarded the steamship Wellington, and at 10:30 sailed for Whangarei. The rain was pouring down in torrents, the sea was rolling high and matters generally put on a rather gloomy aspect. None of the boys were expert sailors and one after another could be heard anxiously calling for his "tin." This call was soon followed by piteous groans and sinking sighs. All sleep had fled and throughout the long night could be heard the familiar sea song "heaving Jonah." A sympathizing friend occasionally came and asked the sick how they were feeling. How hollow and utterly devoid of consolation was such a question when they could plainly hear that every strain would seem to be the last! About 9 o'clock a.m., they landed at the Whangarei wharf where, after waiting half an hour they boarded the train for Hikurangi. Here they were met with two buggies by a Brother Finlayson who conveyed them to his home, a dis-