

a failure, however, for we remained as long as our program would permit, and were not troubled. But the very morning we left, a cavalcade of about twenty-five horsemen came riding through the settlement inquiring for the Mormons and making big talk. They knew we were gone, but did it to excite our friends, which they succeeded in doing to some extent. One lady drew a gun on the justice of the peace (a prominent member of the gang) and told him not to open his mouth or she would blow his head off.

As a result of this little stir, some who were before undecided have now declared themselves on our side, and we feel fully confident that in the near future we will have the pleasure of recording some more names on our records.

Elders William E. Jenkins and Joseph Turnbow report a very pleasing experience. They gave out an appointment in a neighborhood where lived a certain noted doctor. He belonged to no church and was a terror to all the preachers. The people asked him to go to meeting, expecting to hear him "down" the speakers. People came from far and near to hear what would happen. At the close of services the famous physician remarked that that was the first sermon he had heard in thirty years, whereupon he handed them the price of a Book of Mormon. He and the Elders were purposely invited to the same house, and the people all followed to hear the big debate; but to their disappointment they heard no opposition, and one after another withdrew saying that the "doctor's doctrine" was the "Mormons' doctrine." The Elders are quite interested in him, and he in them, for he is now reading our literature and they anticipate a happy result.

We believe that the Elders are all interested in their work and are enjoying their labors. We are striving in our weakness to do all the good we can, and the Lord is blessing us. Many avenues are being opened to give place for the Gospel, and we anxiously await the time when superstition and error will be banished from the earth, and truth will prevail in all nations.

J. S. GEDDES,
President South Alabama conference
J. F. WAKEFIELD, clerk.

SCENES IN MAORIDOM.

AUCKLAND, New Zealand,
April 16th, 1896.

For the first three months "Hui Tau," annual conference, has been the bye word in Maoridom. The agitation has been almost universal, for the invitation was extended to all. The following announcement is self explanatory:

"Tahoraite Repuere, 17th, 1896—Ki ngaiwi ki nga hapu, ki nga reo ki nga huihinga ta'gata. E hoa mia tena kouton. He powhiri atu tenei i a kouton, i nga tane i nga wahine i nga tamariki kia tae tinana mai kouton ki Tahoraite nei. Ka tu te hui o te Hahi o Ihu Karaiti o nga ra o muri mei ki tana wahi a te toru o nga ra o Aperira, o te tau 1896
NA TE AIAPUNI PAEWAI."

The free translation of the above is: "To all nations, kindreds, tongues and peoples greeting. This is an invitation to all men, women and children to come personally to the annual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to convene at Tahoraite, on the

3rd day of April 1896," Te Awapuni Paewai.

To the natives that meant much; because it came from one who could speak with authority. Te Awapuni is one of the most influential chiefs in the North Island, and a thorough Latter-day Saint. On the morning of April 3rd, the force of his call was clearly demonstrated by the presence of more than 700 Maoris hailing from both islands who had come to participate with the Saints in their annual conference. The flag of the "hul" floated on the breeze, and flung out a welcome to all. The air was filled with merriment, and joy beamed on every countenance. As train after train came in, the "war dancers" dressed in their gaudy uniforms, with faces grotesquely painted, went out to greet them, and bid them welcome. With bowed head and solemn tread the visitors walked silently to the Kaniga. A sudden halt and the heartfelt "tangi" burst forth in loud though loving tones. When the foundation of tears was exhausted the "whaikopea" commenced, and continued until both parties had exchanged their love greetings. No sooner was our "tangi" over than another began, for crowds of people kept coming all day.

Every convenience had been arranged for the accommodation of Elders and visiting Saints and friends. An elegant new house 40x20 had been erected especially for the brethren from Zion, and to be used also as a council room. Lovely Maori mats were spread all along either side, upon which to sit during the day and to sleep upon during the night. Thirty-seven new blankets and shawls had been purchased by the Saints of the Tanaki and Te Awapuni branches, to make beds for the Elders and for the European brethren and sisters. A large dining hall was erected last year. Through the entire length of the house on both sides were tables elegantly decorated with fine linen cloths, and an abundance of artificial and natural flowers. The twenty-five waiters were all dressed in beautiful uniforms, and though they were all natives, none could have performed their duties better than they. The domestic organization was most complete throughout. Everybody knew their place and notwithstanding the stormy weather there was naught but the ever cheerful performance of duty.

Mirenie Duncan was the chief cook, and under his supervision were all the sub-cooks, waiters, dishwashers, firemen, etc. Two hundred and seventy-five persons could be accommodated at once, and often they were compelled to set three tables. The Elders from Zion and European Saints occupied a table by themselves, and had special waiters, though at times they would mix up with the Maoris.

It was indeed interesting to watch the natives bring the food. The war dancers always took a prominent part, and before each meal would perform the "Haki." The fantastic motions, the hideous yells and the contortions of the body, though to the more fastidious perhaps were vulgar, yet they presented an imposing scene. The onlooker could not but be struck by the exact time that was kept in all the movements. It must have required weeks and weeks of drill. These performances were given principally by the members of the Church of England, though a number of the Saints took part. Much credit and praise is

due our outside friends for the valuable and friendly assistance they rendered; both by way of labor, and furnishing food and other means. The members of the two churches met in counsel, and completed all arrangements, the Church of England members offering to assist, yet giving all control to the Saints. The very best of feelings existed throughout.

Though three meetings were held each day, both young and old enjoyed themselves in various outdoor amusements. The Elders played two exciting games of base ball, which resulted in almost disabling them, insomuch that some could scarcely walk to meeting. With some, however, we think it was put on, because when the dinner-bell rang, each muscle seemed to receive sudden strength, and every nerve additional power so that every man walked up-rightly and rapidly to his post at the table. After dinner it was the same old "limp."

Tuesday afternoon was set apart especially for sports. A number of nice prizes were purchased to be given the winners in the various events. Young, middle aged and old took part, and all was high excitement.

Two literary and musical entertainments were given by the Elders to which all were invited. This is a new feature of conferences in Maoriland, and we think a most pleasant as well as instructive one. Of course we did not forget our good natured theological discussions, and our old time mock-trials. In fact all was enjoyment, peace, and loving kindness, with a desire to advance in such principles as tend to ennoble mankind.

We must not forget to mention the pleasant and spirited meetings held in the new house, with our European brethren and sisters, who could not understand Maori.

Three such meetings were held during the conference. Besides these a series of most successful meetings was held at Danevicke, a European settlement of about 1,000 inhabitants and situated three miles from Tamaki.

On Tuesday evening all the native brethren met to consider the arrangements for the annual conference in 1897.

Various leading chiefs were anxious to call it to their districts. After considerable discussion it was finally decided that the "Aui Tau" next year should be held in the Wairapa conference, the expenses to be borne by the Waipu, Mahia, Poverty Bay, Manawatu, Wairau and Hawkes Bay districts. A committee with a chairman was appointed and sustained to take lead in making all necessary arrangements. The exact place for meeting has not yet been definitely decided, but it will be either at Papawai or Te Oreore, at both of which places are large and convenient buildings and good accommodations.

Elders F. W. Ellis, George W. Lewis, E. O. Best, Robert H. Bodily, Lyander C. and Sister Louie K. Pond, all having filled faithful missions, were honorably released to return home, and with a large company of emigrating Saints will sail from Sidney for Zion per S. S. Warrimoo on May 1st.

On Wednesday morning the Saints and Elders began to disperse. It was with reluctance they separated. The "Hongi" and hearty handshaking were freely indulged in, and the warm tears rolled down the cheeks as they clasped the parting hand. The conference was now ended. Every heart was full of