

Hot potato poultices were placed on their chests as soon as they came out of them. Constable Moore also learned that a girl named Lizzie Kaki and her sister Iva Kaki, aged 17 and 18 respectively, died about two weeks ago; also a little brother in March last who had undergone the same treatment, thus making eight persons who had died in the Ngunguru district alone. The *tohunga* has visited nearly all the native settlements between Kaikobe and Whangarei, and is now living at Kaikobe, some 20 miles from Kawakawa. Graham is now living near Kaikobe with some of his relatives.

The matter, we understand, has been reported to the government, who will probably take steps to have the matter thoroughly sifted, and the whole of the facts clearly ascertained.

A gentleman, who lately visited the North, writes on this subject:

It was with great interest I read your article on Maori superstition. While staying at Ngunguru (one of the places you mention), I had ample opportunity of seeing the *tohunga* at work, and his mode of treatment, as he came while I was there. The local natives were all on the *qui vive* for some weeks previous to the *tohunga's* coming, as he had notified his intention of spending a few days at Tommy Wellington's *pa* at the mouth of the Ngunguru river. For days the Maoris had been cooking and preparing food for the *tohunga* and his people. About the 10th day of March he arrived with upwards of 100 followers, and great feasting and speeches of welcome were the order of the day for the first day. The next morning after his arrival the *tohunga* commenced his cures. His mode of treatment was very much the same as you describe in your paper. He first pointed out a native, and said that he or she was *makutu*, or was possessed of a bad spirit. His assistants, of which the *tohunga* had two, would then seize the supposed patient, drag him to a *whare*, strip him of every vestige of clothing, and put him in scalding hot water. If, in the opinion of the *tohunga* this did not suffice to drive the *makutu*, or evil spirit from the person being treated; he would order the patient to be doused in the river. These two extremes were considered absolute, but in many cases (when the poor things were suffering so much they could not help yelling and shrieking from pain) hot roasted potatoes were placed near their skin. Under this treatment it is no wonder so many deaths have occurred. In the case of the girl Harriet Graham, she was a daughter of one of the natives residing in the district, and it was with her that I went down from the hotel to see the *tohunga* at his work. Although a native girl, Harriet had never seen a *tohunga* before, and during the time we were watching him and his assistants she was absolutely terrified that he would order her to be treated. Her father seems to have had perfect confidence in this man's power, as he eventually placed his family under the *tohunga's* treatment; and I see by your report that four of the family have died, including the girl Harriet. Most of the patients I saw treated were females, ranging from 11 years to 25 years.

Their cries were heartrending, and they would piteously appeal to those around for help, as they were thus being slowly murdered. But the more the patients yelled the more "treatment" they got, as the *tohunga* would say their shrieking was only due to the spirit, or *makutu*, coming out of them.

What I have here written is an outline of what I really saw myself. A more hideous or disgusting spectacle I never wish to see again, and it all occurred within 100 miles of Auckland. The matter, I hope, will be thoroughly sifted by the government, as it most decidedly should, and the whole of the facts ascertained.

WRAPPED IN FLAMES.

Captain Harder of the ship *Lucipara*, which arrived at San Francisco on December 12th, reports a most startling phenomenon encountered by the vessel in the Indian ocean while bound from London to Sydney. The crew observed a peculiar condition of the atmosphere and the sea when in latitude 42 deg. south and longitude 61 deg. east. The sea seemed to be kept down by a compression of the air, and all at once the vessel shivered as if from some submarine convulsion and a sheet of flame enveloped her. It circled about the masts and yards and the crew expected momentarily that the ship would take fire, but the flame snuffed out in a few moments as suddenly as it had appeared and no damage was done. A hurricane followed, but the vessel outtraced it. The captain has no explanation to offer for this most remarkable phenomenon, but it is supposed that it was caused by some electrical or submarine explosion. The *Lucipara* is a four-master of 2,850 tons.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Dec. 29.—This morning while laborers were exhuming the bodies of deceased state convicts, to remove them to the new prison cemetery, they found the coffin of Jim Burrows, the train robber, buried two years ago, empty. The discovery caused a sensation, and led to rumors that the bandit may have escaped.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—This is Gladstone's 84th birthday. He passed the forenoon working hard in his study and during the afternoon went to the house of commons, receiving many telegrams of congratulation from distinguished people in all parts of the country.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—Attorney Trude in the Prendergast case, resumed his closing argument for the prosecution this morning. In the course of his remarks he had occasion to refer to Henry George, the great single tax advocate, whom he characterized as a "migratory and pestilential parasite."

Judge Bretano began his charge to the jury at 1 o'clock p. m.

The verdict of the jury in the Prendergast case was guilty, with sentence of death.

OBITUARY NOTES

BENJAMIN P. EVANS.

Benjamin P. Evans, a respected citizen and late resident of Center, Tooele county, died at that place on Wednesday morning last, after a short illness, leaving a family of seven children to mourn

his death. Mr. Evans emigrated from Swansea, South Wales, in 1862. For a number of years before emigrating to this country he presided over the Welsh mission and conducted a monthly publication in the interest of the Church in the Welsh language. The funeral took place today at St. Johns, Rush Valley.

ERMA LAVINA ATWOOD.

On Friday, December 22, 1893, Erma Lavina Atwood, daughter of Frank and Amanda Lavina Harman Atwood, died at Mill Creek, Salt Lake county, aged 16 months and 17 days.

AMANDA LAVINA HARMAN ATWOOD.

At Mill Creek, Salt Lake county, on Monday, December 25, 1893, at 4:15 p. m., Amanda Lavina Harman Atwood passed from mortality. She was the beloved wife of Frank Atwood, and eldest daughter of Robert and Amanda Harman. Sister Atwood was born May 12, 1869, and was therefore 24 years, 7 months and 13 days old at the time of her death. She leaves an infant boy two months old.

Sister Atwood's death calls from this sphere of action a beloved and devoted wife, mother and daughter, and a faithful sister, and the families that are called upon to directly bear the loss have the sincere sympathy and condolence of a host of friends in Mill Creek and South Cottonwood wards and elsewhere. The illness and death of her beloved daughter weighed heavily upon Sister Atwood's mind, and her physical nature weakened by the conditions which existed was unable to bear the strain thus placed upon it.

WILLIAM L. ALLRED JR.

Private advices from St. Charles from William M. Allred, a friend of the News and a citizen well known both in Idaho and Utah, brings news of the death on Dec. 22nd of his grand-son, William Lansing Allred Jr.; a most excellent and promising young man aged 22 years. The funeral was held on the 24th, the birthday—a very sad one—of the stricken grandfather.

The deceased was born in St. Charles, Idaho, Oct. 28, 1871. He had been attending the Agricultural college at Logan for some time, but nine days before his death he returned home suffering from heart trouble. His parents, William L. and Sarah Wilkes Allred are well nigh prostrated with grief, and a wide circle of relatives and friends mourn his untimely death.

THE DEAD.

Peaceful be their Rest.

DURPHEE.—At Cainesville, Wayne county, Utah, December 13, 1893, of diphtheria, Rosa Durphee, aged 10 years.

NORTON.—At Cainesville, Wayne county, Utah, December 13, 1893, Delos, son of Benjamin and Ettie Norton, aged 3 years.

BILLS.—At Riverton, Salt Lake county, Edward A. Bills; born June 15, 1893; died December 17, 1893, of convulsions.

MYERS.—At her residence 410 east Fourth South street, at 8 o'clock a. m., Tuesday, December 26, 1893, Mrs. Ann Meyers; the deceased was aged 84 years and 15 days.

NOYES.—At Cainesville, Wayne county, Utah, December 3, 1893, of typhoid pneumonia, after an illness of over three weeks, Gustavus, son of Fred and Maria Williams Noyes, aged 23 years.

BEACHAM.—At St. George, Utah, Dec. 20, 1893, Jacob Beacham. He was born in August, 1829, six miles from Bath, Somersetshire, England, and joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day saints in Monmouthshire, Wales, emigrated to the United States in 1856. He remained in Pennsylvania until 1861 and then came on to Utah. When the southern mission was called, he was a volunteer to come and settle at St. George. He acceptably filled his mission to the very last.—[Con.]