

MISCELLANEOUS.

Written for this Paper.

JENSON'S TRAVELS.

LETTER NO. XXXVIII.

Sunday, November 3rd. Elders Wm. Gardner and Thomas S. Browning remained at Auckland to hold a Maori meeting with some visiting natives, while Elder John Johnson and I walked out into the country to fill appointments. While I stopped to hold a cottage meeting in the house of Mr. Thomas Surman, in New Lynne, a little town about seven miles from Auckland, Elder Johnson walked four miles further to Tiirangi, and held a meeting in a school house. In both meetings we had attentive listeners. On our return to Auckland in the evening, we felt impressed that the Gospel seed sown on that day would bear fruit some time.

Monday, November 4th. I resumed my historical labors in our rather uncomfortable quarters, being obliged to write by a little table in our small room with the bedstead for a seat. The Australasian mission is certainly in great need of better headquarters.

Tuesday November 5th. After spending the forenoon doing historical work, Elder William Gardner and myself boarded the steamer Tasmania and sailed from Auckland at 2:30 p. m., to make an extended tour to all the districts of the New Zealand mission lying southward. The Huddard, Parker and Company's agents were kind enough to give us both free transportation from Auckland via Gisborne, Wellington and Lytleton to Dunedin and back again; and I here feel in duty bound to state that our Elders have always been well treated by the agents of said company, who also on general principles are endeavoring to make all passengers traveling on steamships as comfortable. From Auckland the course of the Tasmania was southeasterly until Cape Colville was passed at 7 p. m., thence we steamed off across the Bay of Plenty heading for East Cape. The evening was windy, and the sea somewhat rough; seasickness consequently prevailed.

Wednesday, November 6th. About 8 o'clock a. m. we rounded East Cape and changed our course from a southeasterly to a southwesterly direction. We kept pretty close to the shore after this, which afforded us a fine view of the mountainous country and in places rock-bound coast. At 3 p. m. we cast anchor in Poverty Bay, off Gisborne, almost on the same spot where the great navigator Captain James Cook anchored October 8th 1769, having only discovered New Zealand a few days previously. But instead of being met by savage warriors in canoes ready for fight like Captain Cook, we were soon approached by a steam launch, tugging a lighter (after it for the purpose of landing passengers and freight. But as the winds and waves blowed and rolled toward land the little craft labored hard to reach the steamer. Getting there at last, it was no easy task to transfer the passengers. The little launch was tossed up against the side of the steamer repeatedly, only to be lowered quite a number of feet the next moment; but by careful manipulation of ladder and hoisting apparatus, the passengers, who were to land in

Gisborne, Elder Gardner and myself included, at last found ourselves clinging hard to the tackling and railing of the launch, which finally landed us safely in at the Gisborne wharf at the mouth of the Turanganui river. On landing we met Elders Charles H. Embley and Jacob E. Teeples, who are laboring as missionaries in the Poverty Bay district. They conducted us to the house of Wirihana Tupeka, who presides over the Waikanae branch and with whom the Elders make their headquarters in the Poverty Bay district. He and his wife and niece received us kindly, and we spent a pleasant evening with the family and the Elders. I also commenced my historical labors, the various branch and district records having been gathered here for the purpose of being perused. The evening was cold and stormy. Just before night Elder Joseph C. Jorgensen, of Logan, Utah, rode in with horses for Brother Gardner and myself to ride up to his field of labor—the Waiapu district—where we expected to hold conference the following Saturday and Sunday.

Thursday, November 7th. In the morning I was introduced to Hami Te Hau, a sick brother who lived in a tent on the premises of Werihana Tupeka, and who was the first Maori I ever met who was tattooed all over his face. We also ate new potatoes for breakfast. They were raised in the sand along the beach where they ripen earlier than in ordinary soil. After spending the forenoon culling from the records, Elders Gardner, Jorgensen and myself left Gisborne on horse back about 1 o'clock p. m., for the Waiapu district. A few miles ride brought us to the coast, and thence we followed the beautiful sandy beach for several miles until we reached the mouth of the Papare river, which travelers generally cross on a ferry. But as Elder Jorgensen knew of a place some distance up the stream where the river could be forded in safety, we concluded that we would not patronize the ferryman as he no doubt had more shillings already than we had. So instead of paying the ferrying fee of one shilling for each man and horse we forded and then rode about three miles inland to the little Maori village Tepune (twenty miles from Gisborne) where Tamati Waka, a non member, received us very kindly, and gave us boiled potatoes, corn and cabbage for supper, and made us as comfortable as he could over night. We had quite an interesting time with the family at evening prayer, and during the conversation which ensued Tamati Waka related some of his experience in the land courts, and denounced the actions of the Church of England missionaries, who, he said, had taught the Maori to pray to God; but while the confiding Maori was engaged in his devotion, the missionaries and the other pakehas (Europeans) stole his land from under him.

Friday, November 8th. We arose early from our beds on the mats in the smoky and dismal quarters where we had spent the night, partook of bread and warm water (with sugar in) for breakfast, saddled up, mounted our horses, and rode away. First we passed up through a picturesque valley, thence we crossed the mountain to the sea beach, which

we followed for several miles, thence turned inland again, crossing another mountain to Tolago Bay, where the town of Uawa is pleasantly situated at the mouth of a river of that name. This place is about thirty-five miles from Gisborne. We now turned inland once more, following the general course of the Uawa river about four miles to Mangabeia, a native village situated on a stream of that name—a tributary of the Uawa. At this place there is a branch of the Church, and here we were to hold our meetings or conference for the Waiapu district. Here we also met Elders Rouzelle E. Scott and Joseph A. M. Jacobsen, who are laboring as missionaries in the Waiapu district, in connection with Elder Jorgenson. The native Saints who were at home, also greeted us with their usual warmth of heart. I commenced my historical labors at once, assisted by Elder Joseph C. Jorgenson. In the evening, after prayer, speeches of welcome were made by the natives, to which Elder Gardner and I responded. We also administered to a sick sister, who lay at death's door and was raving under the influence of a peculiar spirit, which we rebuked by the power of the Priesthood, after which she became quiet, and rested well during the night. Instead of calling for the administration of the ordinance for the sick in the first place, the young woman had sought the advice of the Maori priests, but this had only made her worse, and was, in our judgment, the cause of the evil spirit taking possession of her. Brother Tehira Paea, the president of the Mangabeia branch, placed a room in his house at our disposal during our stay in the place, where we spent a comfortable night.

The Waiapu district embraces that peninsular part of the North island of New Zealand which terminates in East Cape, and extends to the Pakarae river on the southeast coast and Opotiki on the north on the Bay of Plenty coast. The membership of the district is 204, or 295 souls including children. Three Elders, who make their headquarters near Uawa, or Tolago Bay (thirty-five miles northeast of Gisborne,) are the representatives from Zion at the present time in the Waiapu district which consists of five branches, namely, Uawa, (also called Mangabeia,) Te Pekahua; Tokomoru, Taumata O Tapuhi and Te Rahui.

The Uawa branch comprises the Saints residing in the town of Uawa situated on the Tolago Bay, at the mouth of the Uawa river, and in the village of Mangabeia, situated inland about four miles northwest of Uawa. There is a small meeting house at Mangabeia. This branch was organized December 31st, 1884, by Elder John W. Ash and Ezra F. Richards.

Te Pekahua branch is a continuation of the Mangatuna branch, which was organized December 9th 1884. It embraces the Saints residing in the villages of Wharakaka, Kopua, Tarakihī and Mangatuna. Wharakaka, where the meetings are generally held, is situated on the left or north bank of the Uawa river, about three miles up from its mouth or the town of Uawa.

The Tokomaru branch comprises the Saints residing on the Tokomaru bay, on the east coast, about thirty five miles south southwest of Te Rahui, and thirty miles north northeast of Uawa or Tolago Bay. The branch was first organized