

CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.

LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND.

"Pigs are killed, large supplies of provisions purchased, meeting house decorated, and Maoris and 'Pakehas' assembled in great numbers. Come, if you have to take the 'iron horse.'"

Such was the urgent message received by the president and clerk of the Australasian mission, from Elder E. O. Best, on their return from the South Island, July 23rd.

In order to comply with such a forcible request, the brethren immediately commenced bustling around, packing valises, etc., and, at 2:30 p. m. boarded train at Porirua for Palmerston North, 89 miles distant. Many enquiries were made as to the cause of the sudden departure, and the only answer given was "Ko te ra nui apopo o te Hunga Tapu ki 'Iona,'" i. e.: It's the great day of the Saints to-morrow in Zion.

After a ride of five hours the train pulled up at the Maori pah, Te Awapuni, and the passengers had no sooner alighted than they were greeted with "Nau mai, nau mai," and the usual demonstrative Maori welcome. On entering the large Maori "whare," or meeting house the visitors received a royal reception. The Maoris all arose, both Saints and sinners, standing in rows down each side of the room. The Elders passed slowly along, giving and receiving the precious "hongi." The nose-pressing continued till all had been favored, old men and women, young men and maidens, and even babies were not overlooked.

Elders Best, Nielsen and Jex gave an encouraging report of the preparations made for celebrating Pioneer Day in Maoridom. 'Twas a happy crowd that had gathered together, and many opportunities were presented for explaining the object of such a holiday, and the Maori members took great delight in referring to the fulfilment of prophecy in the arrival of the Latter-day Saints in the valleys of the mountains.

Pioneer day, July 24th, dawned with a bright, clear sky, although the wind was cold and chilly. 'Twas a pleasant mid-winter day, however, and very favorable for the celebration. Early in the morning the Stars and Stripes were hoisted, and many enquiring glances were observed as Columbia's banner floated proudly in the breeze. It attracted much attention and probably many passers-by wondered what the strange flag meant. It was a cheering sight to the Elders, some of whom had not seen the dear old flag since they left their mountain home. No wonder they joined in singing, with great fervor,

"The Star spangled banner, oh! how may it wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

During the forenoon, a number of European members and friends came from the adjoining towns, and a substantial dinner was prepared for all comers.

Shortly afterwards the company went to an adjacent field to witness an interesting game of football between two Maori teams. Most of the players were dressed in uniforms, and they evidently

enjoyed the invigorating sport. The game was well played, as each side raced, kicked, rolled and scrambled to reach their respective goal.

Spectators, however, were compelled to turn up their coat collars, and envelop themselves in rugs and over-coats, to protect themselves against the chilly wintry winds.

Various other sports were indulged in, after which the call for supper was obeyed with alacrity. The tables literally groaned beneath the load of viands, which were tastefully arranged. Fruits and various delicacies were also spread in great abundance, and a number of hot-house plants lent beauty to the scene.

The large hall was decorated and festooned with tissue hangings, etc., and presented a cheerful appearance by lamp light.

At 8 o'clock an entertainment and dance were opened with appropriate remarks, and prayer by President Wm. Gardner.

The Maori Saints and visitors conducted themselves in a becoming manner, and it was a pleasant sight to witness them joyfully "tripping it on the fantastic toe." Most of the native sisters wore handsome dresses, beautifully trimmed with lace, tulle, etc., and adorned with bosom bouquets, and their appearance and behavior would have added grace and beauty to any ball room. Many of the young brethren appeared in black suits, white ties and white gloves, etc., and escorted their pair partners with becoming decorum and dignity. All present appeared to enjoy the evening's entertainment, which continued into the "wee sma' hours."

Thus was celebrated Pioneer Day, July 24th, probably for the first time in New Zealand, and the event presents another picture of advancing "Maoridom."

May the good work continue until the importance of the event thus celebrated shall be recognized by every nation and "the law go forth from Zion and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

Reports from various parts of the mission indicate that the good work is progressing satisfactorily. The Elders, who recently made special trips among outsiders on the North Island, were well received, and the results are already apparent. Shortly afterwards a number of baptisms were performed, at one "Kaainga" nine candidates offering themselves for baptism.

Elders laboring in the European districts are earnestly spreading the truth with prospects of great success. Very gratifying reports have been received recently from Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

A new district has been formed in the North (New Zealand), with Auckland as head-quarters, and Elders J. Johnson and Jedediah Goff have been appointed to take charge of the work there.

Elder A. J. Ridges, writing from Sydney, N. S. W., states that a great effort is being made to establish the work in that great city. Some years ago the Elders ceased their labors there on account of the abuse and opposition, but a better spirit now prevails there.

Elders Ridges and Armstrong have

been holding open air meetings on the public domain each Sunday with great success. Many enquiries were made, and so great was the interest that some of the audience offered to take up a subscription and hire a hall for services.

A great spirit of enquiry is amongst the people, and they desire our church literature.

From every side comes the cry of "tracts, tracts, we want tracts." Recently a few lines appeared in the News, soliciting the co-operation of the Saints in Zion, and requesting tracts and church literature from those able to aid in the good work. This was several months ago and up to date not a tract has been received. Literature addressed L. D. S. Mission, Box 236, Auckland, N. Z., will be thankfully received.

There are forty-eight Elders now in this mission, twenty of whom are traveling exclusively among Europeans.

Elder Goddard has been called to make an extensive tour of the colonies, in order to counsel and assist the Elders engaged in spreading the Gospel in Australia, and Tasmania, and the various districts in New Zealand.

Attention is now being directed to the Fijis, Chatham and Raratonga Islands, on all of which are large numbers of natives who have not yet heard the Gospel.

The Elders in the mission appear to be laboring with commendable zeal and the Master will undoubtedly bless and sustain them in their labors of love. "Heoi ano."

PHOENIX.

TAMAKI, Hawkes Bay, N. Z., August 6th, 1894.

Appointments in the Australasian Mission.

President of the Mission, Elder Wm. Gardner care of J. H. Dalton, Box 236 Auckland, New Zealand.

Manawatu Conference, Elders B. Goddard, J. S. Abbott, E. O. Best, *M. C. Nielson and *H. C. Jex, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Hawkes Bay Conference, Elders W. F. Nebeker and T. J. O'Brien, Waipawa, New Zealand.

Wairarapa Conference, Elders George Bowles, Lee Bradford, *James Barrow, Greytown North, New Zealand.

Te Mahia Conference, Elders L. G. Hoagland and J. C. Allen, Nuhaka, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand.

Poverty Bay Conference, Elders J. E. Fisher and C. H. Embley, Gisborne, New Zealand.

Waiapu Conference, Elders J. C. Jorgensen and R. E. Scott, Tologoy Bay, East Coast, New Zealand.

Tauranga Conference, Elders C. Peterson and D. A. Packard, Te Puke, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand.

Hauraki Conference, Elders J. M. Folkman and E. Ellertson, Te Aroha, New Zealand.

*Auckland Conference, Elders J. Johnson and Jedediah Goff, Box 236, Auckland, New Zealand.

Whangarei Conference, Elders B. H. Hollingworth, Willard Goff and H. B. Hales, Whangarei, Bay of Islands, New Zealand.

Waikato Conference, Elders E. J. Palmer and J. K. Nelson, Ngaruawahia, Waikato, New Zealand.

Wairau Conference, Elders J. W. Linford, W. Bunot and R. L. Bird, Canvastown, Marlborough, New Zealand.

*Otago Conference, Elders T. L. Cox,