

the Saints of the prevalent evils among them, especially that of witchcraft, which enticed many of the Maoris from the path of righteousness. False prophets had arisen among them, and they needed, therefore, the Spirit of God continually. He treated upon the principles of the Gospel and referred to the great faith exercised in the ordinance for the healing of the sick.

Elder James S. Abbott was called upon to represent Manawatu conference; stated that many of the members were very diligent, while the waywardness of others caused great anxiety to the Elders. He stated that God had blessed His servants during their travels among the people, and rejoiced in these evidences of divine favor. He urged all the members to cease all their evil practices, that their lives might be a living testimony to the truth of the Gospel message.

Elder Jedediah Goff expressed his pleasure at being privileged to partake of the good spirit manifested in the annual conference. He referred to the early prophecies of Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, after their baptism, that the Church should be great, and rejoiced to witness the result of a boy's prayer. He traced briefly the work of God from the commencement, and the striking fulfillment of prophecy.

Te Awapuni, president of Tamaki branch, and Wiremu Takana, an intelligent young Maori, also addressed the people, after which the congregation sang hymn 70; prayer by Henare Aparari.

The evening meeting was held at 7 p. m.; opening with singing hymn 96; prayer by Nihwai Te Rangī; hymn 52.

Elder R. L. Bird, being called upon, expressed his pleasure at meeting with the Saints in general conference. He had labored one year among the Europeans on the South island, and found a good spirit existing among them. Some had been baptized recently, and he thought others soon would be. The servants of God had been sent forth to "preach the Gospel as a witness unto all nations," and to combat error with eternal truth. He compared the commission given by Christ to His disciples with that possessed by the Elders in these days; commented also on the restoration of the Gospel through the ministry of angels, in fulfillment of Revelations xiv, 6. It was a grand scene to him to witness so many Saints anxious to bear their testimonies, and he reminded them that it was only necessary to continue faithful to all their covenants to earn a great reward, and finally be counted among those whom God will gather unto Himself as "His jewels."

Elder Charles Hardy, president of Auckland branch, felt happy to witness the fruits of the labors of the servants of God, who have left all to preach the Gospel unto the people. He was pleased to see the light of the Gospel spread abroad. He perceived in the world a spirit of division, nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom, father against son, mother against daughter, and the signs of the times indicated clearly the fulfillment of prophecy. He warned the Saints against apostasy, for apostates will go into great darkness and suffer much misery. He bore a faithful testimony to the latter day work.

Elder John Johnson had listened with much interest to the instructions given

in conference, and he testified that the principles of the Gospel as taught by the Elders, could be substantiated from holy writ. For the past eight months he had labored in the city of Auckland, and, while some opposed the truth, many kind friends had been found there. The doctrines of the Church may be unpopular, but they nevertheless are true. He commented on the relationship between Mormonism and Christianity, and desired to bear his testimony that Joseph Smith was a true Prophet of God, and no man had ever instituted a better form of worship. The power was received from God and the Elders are now clothed with authority to preach these principles to the world.

Elder T. J. Morgan, from the Bay of Islands district, addressed a few words on the first principles of the Gospel. He testified that the words of the Elders were true, and that the true Church of God had been restored to the earth in the latter days. The Church organization, and the mission of the Elders to all parts of the world, was also referred to. He spoke of the great change now noticeable among the Maoris in the Bay of Islands conference, and the kindness extended to the Elders in contrast with the treatment received a few years ago.

The following Maori Elders also spoke to the people, viz: Paratene, an influential chief from Wairarapa; Kewi Maaka, of Porirua, Naa Pere, of Te Hauke; and Wi Neera, first counselor in Porirua branch.

Meeting was closed with singing hymn 24; prayer by Elder R. E. Scott.

Third day of conference—the Sabbath meetings were commenced at 10 a. m. promptly, and opened with singing hymn 18; prayer by Elder E. J. Palmer; hymn 86.

Sacrament was administered by Elders Nebeker, O'Brien, Hoagland and Bowles.

Elder M. C. Nielson was the first speaker. He complimented the members on the general observance of Fast day, and felt the influence of the Spirit of God present, as the members were evidently "hungering and thirsting after righteousness." He stated that he had labored with much success among the Europeans, and felt sure that many honest hearted souls would receive the truth. Schoolhouses are often obtained free, and many halls have been obtained at a nominal rental. After commenting on various principles, he prayed that the Spirit of the Lord might continue to rest upon the Maoris and Europeans, and that the good would continue till every soul had an opportunity of receiving or rejecting the Gospel.

An interesting letter of greeting and counsel was read from President William Paxman, which was very much appreciated by the Maori Saints, who listened attentively to the cheering words of their beloved ex-president.

The statistical and Sunday school reports were read by the clerk of the mission, Elder B. Goddard. The former showed a total membership of 2,465, children under eight years 933, total number of souls 3,398; number of families 585; total number of baptisms during 1893, 252; number of European members 359; the net increase for the year is 204 members, of which 98 are Europeans. The Sunday school report show the total number of officers, teachers and children to be 1,227; ses-

sions held during the year 1,559; average attendance of pupils 563.

The meeting was closed with singing hymn 104; prayer by Elder E. O. Best.

A European service having been announced for the afternoon, a large number of visitors were present. The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p. m. Singing, "Jesus mighty king of Zion;" prayer by Elder John Jolinson. The congregation joined in singing, "Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation."

Elder B. Goddard was called to address the congregation, and felt dependent upon the Spirit of Jehovah, knowing that no man without it can declare intelligently the truths contained in the word of God. He showed that the same spirit of persecution, which was rife among the primitive Saints, was also prevalent in this age toward the people of God. The first principles of the Gospel were spoken upon, and scriptural references quoted in connection therewith. The gifts, graces and blessings that characterized the early Christians were restored once more to the earth, and God had sanctified His Church by fire from heaven—the gift of the Holy Ghost. The Church organization was touched upon, the form of the primitive Church being plainly portrayed from Holy writ. The speaker explained fully I Corinthians, 12th chapter, in connection with this subject. Authority to minister in God's name was given to Joseph Smith and the everlasting Gospel was again being preached to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. The speaker called upon his hearers to render obedience to the laws of God, and closed by bearing an earnest testimony to the truth of the principles of so-called "Mormonism."

An evening meeting was held at 7 o'clock, and opened with singing hymn 112; prayer by Brother August Nielson; Hymn 166.

President Gardner announced that several Elders had faithfully completed their labors, and he desired the Saints to honorably release Elders B. Goddard, E. J. Palmer, M. C. Nielson and J. E. Fisher, with their blessings, though they would continue their work in the vineyard until they sailed from Sydney May 18th.

The general authorities of the Church, and appointments of local Elders, were read by Elder Goddard, and sustained by the conference.

The meeting was afterwards addressed by Pukeroa Te Aweawe, Te Haata, and Karaitiana, three native Elders, who gave timely counsel to the Saints, and bore faithful testimonies, and twenty-four brethren and sisters afterwards also bore their testimonies.

At the close, President Wm. Gardner addressed the people, and returned thanks to all who had contributed to the success of the annual conference. He gratefully acknowledged the zeal and hospitality of the people of Tamaki, and gave encouraging instructions to all.

The following appointments were made and sustained during the meeting:

Manawatu conference—Elders James S. Abbott, John H. Ellis, *H. C. Jex, *W. S. Dimond; P. O. address, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Hawkes Bay—Elders W. F. Nebeker

*The first named in each conference is President and those marked thus * are exclusively European districts, or Elders engaged in European work.