

am compelled to say like our Captain of old, "the harvest is ripe but the laborers are few."

If Brother William Searle or some of his family will send me their address I will forward it to his niece, Mrs. Young, of this city, who is very anxious to hear from her uncle or some of his family if he is not living. Brother Searle went to Utah many years ago from Giffordsbury, England, and when last heard from was residing in the Eleventh ward, Sault Lake City. Mrs. Young, fruiterer of Invercargill, New Zealand, is very desirous of hearing from him.

Trusting I have not trespassed too far on your space, I remain yours, etc.
JOHN G. YOUNG.

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AUCKLAND, New Zealand,
July 10th, 1895.

The report of our last annual conference has doubtless been read with much interest by many readers of the NEWS. From that spirited gathering much good has resulted, and its influence has been felt throughout the entire mission. Those who through unavoidable circumstances were prohibited from attending have expressed much regret, and feel that they missed much. The instructions given at the conference have been widely disseminated amongst the native Saints. They were filled with that desire so characteristic of the Spirit of God, to impart unto their brethren and sisters the good things they had received themselves. This fact was forcibly manifested in all the branches of the Church visited by President Gardner and Elder Johnson after the "Hut." They remained at Tamaki until April 15th, holding a number of meetings with the Maoris. All the Elders and visiting Saints had gone to their respective fields of labor and homes, leaving the "Kauiga" (village) in a somewhat lonely condition.

On the morning of the above mentioned date the president and the writer boarded the train for Wellington. The rain had been pouring heavily down for more than three days, inasmuch that the country all around was flooded and travelling by any conveyance was rendered impracticable if not impossible. The guard told us he thought we would be unable to get through to Palmerston as much of the track was under water, and perhaps some bridges badly damaged. However, we purchased our tickets and concluded to try it. We had gone but a few miles when the truthfulness of the conductor's statement was verified. Floods raged in every direction, and slips along the line were frequent. One of these came thundering down just as we were driving around a curve. It gave such a terrible crash that it seemed like the train would be crushed to atoms. Tons upon tons of mud and rock came down, almost completely covering two cars and the engine. In a few hours the debris was all removed and we were able to go on a few miles further to Woodville. Here we were informed that we could go no further, as the road through the Manawater gorge was rendered utterly impassable by floods and landslides.

We were friendless and had no more money than "Mormon" Elders usually have. Our valises were too large to

carry. These we concluded to send to Wellington via Wairarapa and we would start out on foot for Ashurst, a distance of eight miles. The rain was pouring down and a New Zealand "Tonga" (south wind) was blowing with much fierceness, beating in our faces as we trudged through the mud, which was almost knee deep. We met with none but discouraging reports. All advised us to turn back, declaring that we would never get through. Undaunted even to the face of the most discouraging reports, President Gardner pushed on and your humble servant followed along behind as best he could. You young missionaries who boast of your athletic qualities, who think you can outstrip the fleetest of the fleet, and jump like the antelope, I invite you to follow Brother Gardner for one day in a heavy rainstorm, and I dare say, it will rob you of much of your conceit, as it did me when I was compelled to ask him to take it easy. He was born on "The Plains," and he can travel as though he had roamed over them ever since.

When we reached the large bridge in the gorge we went on the cart road instead of the railroad. After having walked two or three miles down the canyon, we were informed that the bridge near Ashurst had been carried away and that we could not possibly reach town that way. Thus we were compelled to retrace our steps and start down the track. We were very uncertain that we could get through that way, but concluded to risk it. There were huge "cliffs" to climb over, shaky bridges to cross, and long dark tunnels to grope through. Finally we reached Ashurst, where we found Brother and Sister Wilson, who made us very comfortable. After getting a change of clothing and eating a nice hot supper we spent a pleasant evening with the good Saints. We thanked God for His mercies and retired to rest.

On the 18th we walked to Palmerston, a distance of nine miles from Ashurst, where we met Elders Nielson, Jex, Abbott, Ellis and Diamond, and also two families of Saints. Two European meetings had been announced and we were invited to assist in filling the appointments. The trains were now running again as usual, and on Friday, the 19th, we went by rail to Wellington.

There President Gardner was detained on business and it was decided that Elder Johnson should proceed across the strait to the South Island. He was accompanied by Elder Bird, and a number of Maori Saints who were returning from conference. A few days later our worthy President joined us, and we proceeded to make our round through the Wairarapa district. We found the Saints feeling well, and all the branches except one in a splendid condition. We met Elder Linford the President of the district at Wairarapa, and Brothers Bunot and Cook at Te Hora. At this latter place we held some spirited meetings with both native and white, and before leaving reorganized the Maori branch. All the Saints love with the sincerest affection our esteemed President. He is indeed a father, and his timely counsel stimulates many to deeds of righteousness and acts of nobility.

Our next visit was to Whangarae. That whole village belongs to the

Church, and in their religious and moral conduct they are an example to their race. Thirty miles from town they are out of reach of intoxicants and their attendant evils. Renata Te Morehu, a venerable and chief and staunch Latter-day Saint, is the President of the branch, and treated us with royal kindness. From thence we proceeded to Rangitoto Island where also has been established a branch of the Church. We sailed twelve miles in a small native boat and it is needless to say that we were seasick, as we bounded over the ocean billows. Besides visiting with the Saints, we enjoyed ourselves at fishing and hunting. It was grand sport to draw the huge "Hapuka" weighing from 40 to 80 pounds each, and the fierce shark, from a depth of more than 200 feet. On such expeditions President Gardner was more than ordinarily successful.

Thus we had spent a month on the South Island, and in every respect had an enjoyable and successful trip. We left Saints and Elders feeling well, and they have much reason to feel encouraged for the bright prospects before them.

At Pomla Elders Gardner and Johnson separated, and the latter boarded the S. S. Mararoa and sailed for Auckland, his permanent field of labor, where he arrived on May 30, after an absence of three months. The president starts out on an extensive trip through the mission, and intends visiting as many branches as possible before the December conference. Elder Browning has labored alone during the absence of Elder Johnson.

The mission generally is in a prosperous condition, and good reports are received from the various districts. Our Elders are all enjoying the best of health. Of late we have been preaching to full houses in the city of Auckland, and have been permitted to present the Gospel to some of her influential citizens. Though there are some who would seek to do us harm, "every kick has kicked us up-stairs."

JOHN JOHNSON.

IRRIGATION PROGRESS IN UTAH.

Following is the official report of the Utah Irrigation commission to the Fourth Irrigation Congress, presented by C. L. Stevenson, secretary of the commission:

To the Fourth National Irrigation Congress, held at Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 16-20th, 1895:

The Irrigation commission for Utah appointed at the last meeting of your body held at Denver, Colorado, respectfully presents herewith its report for the past year, believing that a brief recital of what has been effected by Utah people may be of some value to all where irrigation methods are in vogue.

The impetus given through the past Irrigation Congress has been most marked in our Territory; in fact it may be called a "revival" in a region which was the forerunner of showing what could be accomplished through irrigation in the later mountain region known generally as "the Great American Desert."

Perhaps no one of these conventions gave a greater incentive to a better utilization of water than the last held