

President Jesse N. Smith then made a few closing remarks, expressing pleasure and joy in meeting with the Saints in conference. Conference adjourned until the last Saturday and Sunday in March, 1881.

JNO. R. HULET,
Assistant Clerk.

Correspondence.

Interesting from New Zealand.

AUCKLAND,
New Zealand,
Dec. 8, 1880.

Editor Deseret News:

I esteem it an honor to be a representative of the kingdom of God to a foreign nation, notwithstanding the many difficulties connected therewith, especially in a land so far off as New Zealand, where the counsel of the authorities of the Church seldom come. I realize that the experience gained by a missionary is more precious than gold, and will be of everlasting benefit to the faithful.

It is not as if there was nothing divine in this work (as is manifest in all the systems of men), every part of the organization shows beauty and life, and is stamped with the grandeur of heaven. This gives comfort in the midst of mobbings, imprisonment, false brethren and death, and lights up all eternity with undying glory. But, alas! how few, comparatively speaking, comprehend the fact that we have the gospel of Jesus Christ! During the last fifty years have the elders of Israel proclaimed the plan of salvation, and what has been the result? Much the same as the Prophet saw it would be—"one of a city, two of a family" have been gathered into the fold. And often think if the Lord succeeds in getting in this dispensation one representative of every family to attend to the redeeming ordinances of his house, he will do pretty well.

In this country we behold the great folly of the people. They go to church to see and be seen, and allow others to think for them. And thus "respectability" with a strong hold is leading its thousands to eternal disappointment. It is a sad spectacle to behold indeed.

Of late some dreadful murders have been committed in these and the surrounding islands, and sin generally is on the increase. But still we have reason to be thankful. All the Saints are rejoicing in the truth, and enjoying several of the gifts of the spirit. The word of prophecy has been fulfilled to the letter, and remarkable cases of healing have taken place in the mission these last few months. Since I last wrote to you I have baptized five more in this city. Last Sunday I was at The Thames about 40 miles up the Gulf. I preached three times at the Odd Fellows' Hall to good meetings. On Monday night I gave a lecture on "Utah and the Mormons." Good order prevailed throughout all the services. Some were surprised at the noble principles advanced by the Latter-day Saints and promised to give it a fair investigation, and also said they would get a larger hall when I came again. I baptized one T. H. Locke, and ordained him to the office of an elder, and I feel confident he will do a good work there. The Thames is a gold mining town with a population of between 4,000 and 5,000. At one time there were 18,000.

I did not see in the account of Pioneer Day when the gospel was first brought to New Zealand. Perhaps it is not known. I met a man at the Thames by the name of Jones, who told me that he took in Elder Wm. Cook at the city of Nelson some 15 years ago, when he came over from Australia. Whether he was the first elder to bring the gospel or not, I am not prepared to say. Charles Hardy, who helped to send Elder Cook from Australia, thinks he must have been the first here.

After I got away my last mail to Utah, I paid a visit to Dairy Flat, where Bro. Hardy lives. He took me into the "bush" where I saw some beautiful native scenery. I saw very large kauri trees, some 14 feet through, the largest I ever saw. There used to be many thousands of acres of these kauri trees in the Auckland province, but in times of war the Maoris burnt them. The Europeans dig gum from the land now, which pays to be shipped to England and America. One pleasing feature of visiting the "bush" to a hungry man is that he can have a good feed of "Nikau." It has a pleasant taste. You would almost

fancy you were eating well grown celery.

Elders Sorenson and Jensen are in the Hawkes Bay province; they are having rather a rough time of it. We have just collected in this branch a little more than £3 for them, which I shall at once forward to them. All the branches report favorably, but greatly wishing the visit of an elder. As I have received no word of other missionaries, I intend leaving here in a few days for New Plymouth, which is on the east coast of the island. Elder Bailey will join Elder Sorenson, and Elder Jensen will travel with me. After we have gone through all the settlements, we will meet in Wellington, the empire city, and re-open the gospel there, or die in the attempt. Many have said we should not come there, but they are mistaken. We have seen too many rotten eggs to be afraid of them. From there we will go to the west coast of the South Island.

I have just received from President Budge, Liverpool, a receipt for £31 for books. I had begun to think the money lost, as there has been some 500 letters lost between here and England this year; but thank the Lord that anxiety is gone, and I have another box of books, which we began to need. At our last general meeting, all the authorities of the Church were sustained, as set forth in the DESERET NEWS. And we pray that the Father may bless them and spare their lives. I must just mention that the denunciations made (by the religious clown, De Witt Talmage) upon our people, reach most of the papers here.

I now conclude, praying the Almighty to bless you in your arduous labors, and all Israel.

I am, etc., yours in the everlasting gospel of peace,

GEORGE BATT.

SNOWVILLE,
Box Elder County,
January 12th, 1880.

Editor Deseret News:

On New Year's Eve, our worthy Bishop, according to his general custom, gave a free party to all the settlers of this place and its surroundings, at which we received a good supply of pie and cake and other seasonable delicacies. And on the eighth of this month, our Sunday school held its jubilee, at which could be plainly seen the progress our children have been and are making, which was gratifying to the parents and creditable to all those that are assisting in the progress of the rising generation. The children and parents all assembled together and partook of a dinner and supper that was worthy of the lords of the land. And again, on the 10th, our Female Relief Society held a party at which the settlement received another feast of good things. So you see that this people believe in feasting, if they can get it, at which our Bishop is none behind and does a good shore of furnishing the goodies.

Our meetings are well attended. We have a good day school running. Our Primary and Y. L. M. I. Associations are alive and up to the mark. We are contemplating getting out rock for a new school-house or a foundation, this winter, ready for work in the Spring.

We have had a good share of snow, but now it has been raining, with a south wind, for two days, and the snow is fast disappearing, which will help us in other ways as well as to obtain our rock.

The health of the people is good, and when sickness makes its appearance, it is soon dispersed by the administrations of the Priesthood, who have uncommon faith.

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

U. S. LAND OFFICE,
AT SALT LAKE CITY, U. T.,
January 4th, 1881.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and secure final entry thereof, and that said proof will be made before the Probate Judge of Morgan County, U. T., or in his absence before the County Clerk of said County, at the County Court House in Morgan City, U. T., on Saturday the 12th day of February, A. D., 1881, viz: Eli Kilbourne, Homestead Entry, No. 2414, for E. 1-2, S. E. 1-4 of Sec. 14, T. 3, N. R. 2, East, 80 acres, and he names the following witnesses to prove continuous residence upon, and cultivation of said tract, viz: Sanford P. Chipman, Lyman W. Porter, Samuel C. Porter and Justin Porter, all of Porterville, Morgan County, U. T.

H. MCMASTER, Register.

STAYNER & SIMMONS,
Attorneys for Claimant. w60 td

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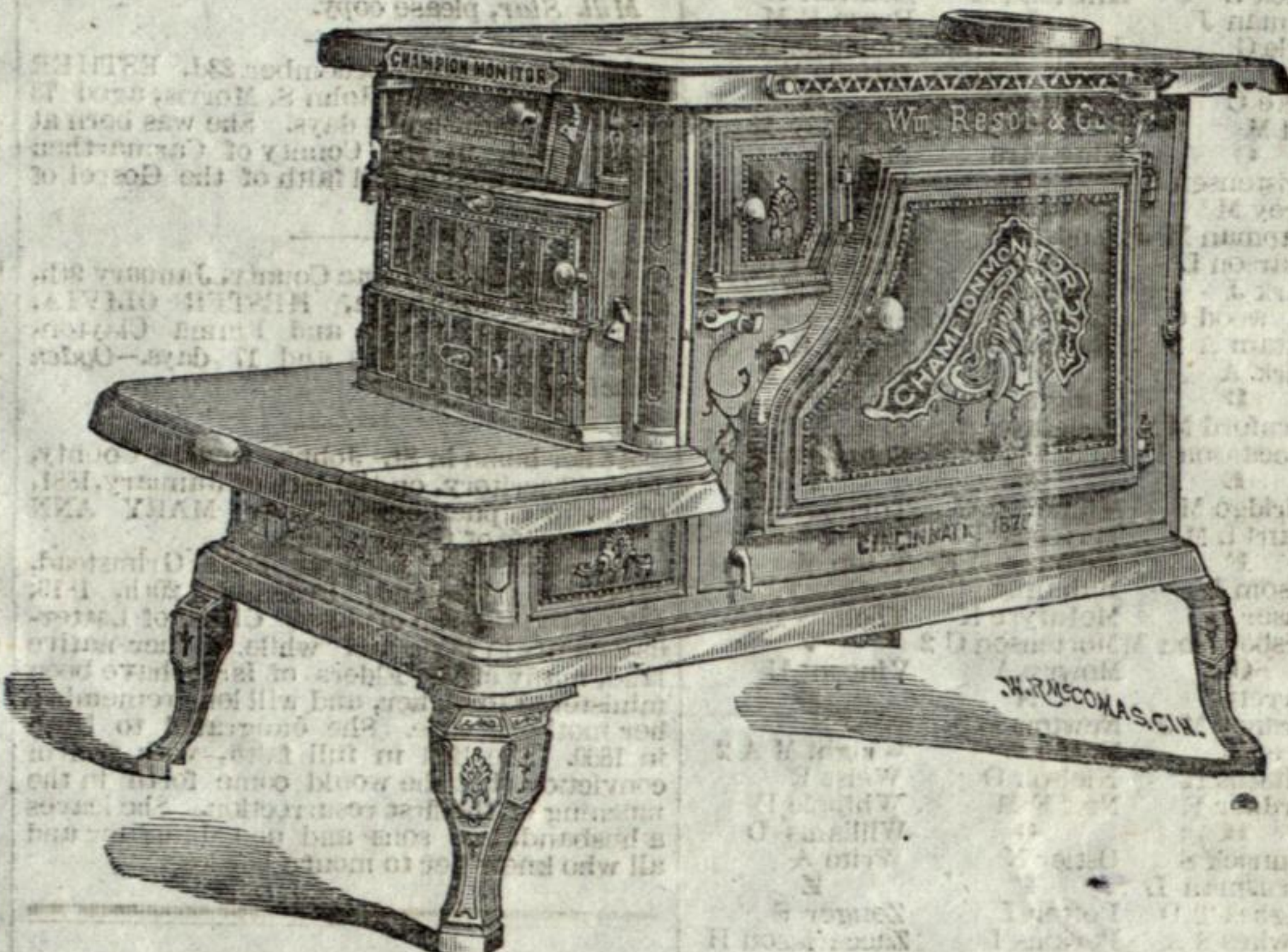
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