

CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.
IN THE ANTIPODES.

The annual conference of the Australasian mission was held on April 6th, 7th and 8th, 1894, at Waiwhara, Te Mahia, New Zealand. The following named brethren from Zion were present, viz., President William Gardner, Elders Wesley Gibson, William Douglas, L. C. Rasmussen, B. Goddard, James E. Fisher, C. B. Bartlett, W. F. Nebeker, Joseph C. Jorgensen, M. C. Nielsen, L. G. Hoagland, B. H. Hollingworth, Edgar Best, George Bowles, James Barrow, R. E. Scott, J. Johnson, C. H. Embley, T. J. O'Brien, J. C. Allen, L. Bradford, R. L. Bird, D. H. Packard and H. C. Jex. Brother C. Hardy, president of the Auckland branch, was present.

Conference was called to order by the president of the mission at 10 a.m., and opened with singing hymn 156; prayer by Elder William Douglas, and hymn 80.

President Gardner greeted the Saints and Elders who had assembled from various parts of the islands to worship God. He referred to his recent appointment and his feelings in assuming the responsibilities of such a position. He spoke upon his early experiences in New Zealand, when laboring in Waikato some years ago, and the changes that had taken place since then; was pleased to see the spirit of love and union manifested at the opening of conference, and earnestly exhorted the Saints to live righteous and upright lives that they might receive the blessings promised to them.

Elder L. C. Rasmussen, president of the Tauranga conference, after giving a brief report of that district, sustained the counsel given by Elder Gardner. He testified that, after many years of slander, misrepresentation and persecution, the tide had turned in favor of the Latter-day Saints. The work of God is spreading and the power of the adversary has been weakened. He testified to the fulfillment of prophecy in the establishment of the true Church of God in the latter days. Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream was clearly explained, and its literal fulfillment was traced through the rise and fall of empires, until God established His Church by direct revelation through Joseph Smith the Prophet.

Elder William Douglas reported the good condition of Te Mahia conference, in which were seven branches of the Church, most of which were in excellent working order. Energetic efforts had been made in preaching the Gospel unto the outsiders, many of whom were very friendly while others would not listen to the warning message. The prevalent evils among the Maori people were commented upon, and the Saints were earnestly urged to forsake all evil and live exemplary lives.

Hirini Whaanga, a native Elder and influential chief, also bore his testimony to the Gospel and the faithful labors of the Elders of Israel among his people.

The first meeting of conference

closed by singing hymn 105; prayer by Elder L. G. Hoagland.

The afternoon meeting commenced at 2 p.m. The congregation joined in singing hymn 40; prayer by Elder Te Kapa, of Muriwai; hymn 166.

Elder Wesley Gibson, president of Hawkes Bay conference, reported the condition of the Saints; rejoiced that many of the weak branches had been strengthened and that the members were increasing in brotherly love for each other. He commented at some length on Paul's counsel to the Hebrews (Heb. vi. 1, 2), showing that the same principles were now being taught in all the world by the servants of God. Latter-day Saints believed and accepted these doctrines, and must sacredly observe their covenants in order to be saved in the celestial kingdom of our Father. He earnestly pleaded with the Maori members to observe the words of the Apostle Peter (II Peter i: 5, 6, 7), that brotherly kindness, virtue, knowledge, and Christian charity may characterize their daily lives.

Elder L. G. Hoagland expressed his joy in listening unto the words of the servants of God, and testified that the Church of Jesus Christ, restored in the latter days, was the true Church of God. The conference of Wairarapa, over which he presides, was stated to be in a favorable condition, though the branches had been diminished through many of the members moving into other parts of the conference. He gave a good explanation of the parable of the ten talents, and closed his remarks by urging the Saints to be alive to every duty.

Elder B. H. Hollingworth expressed his gratitude in being privileged to labor amongst the Maori people, who were of the seed of Abraham. His love for them was great on account of their kindness to the Elders from Zion. He represented the Ngapuhi or Whangarei conference, where he observed that the Saints were improving in knowledge each month, and the Elders were constantly baptizing new members. There are seven branches under his jurisdiction. He earnestly desired that the spirit of God may be poured out upon all His Saints and testified to the saving power of the Gospel of Christ.

After a few remarks by Hoani Tautahi, a native Elder from Ngapuhi, the meeting was dismissed with singing hymn 117. Prayer by Elder Fisher.

An evening meeting was held, commencing at 7 o'clock, which was opened with singing, "O My Father," to Zion's new and favorite tune; prayer by Elder Te Wirihaia; hymn 33.

Elder Jos. Jorgensen, after giving a favorable report of the Saints residing in the Waipua conference, spoke upon the duties of the members and the necessity of observing the counsel given by the Elders of Israel. He testified to the joy always experienced in meeting in these annual conferences.

Elder C. B. Bartlett addressed the conference and reported the Bay of Islands district, over which he presides. He spoke encouragingly of the

Saints living in that part of the vineyard, where eleven branches of the Church were organized. He bore a faithful testimony to the divine mission of Joseph Smith, who had received revelations from heaven in these days for the guidance of God's people. The precious truths of the Gospel were commented upon, and the Saints were counselled to resist the temptation of Satan, that they might receive eternal life in the presence of God.

Ngawaea Poipoi, a native Elder from Te Mahia (our Maori orator), was listened to with breathless interest, as he fluently reviewed the history of Lehi and his sons, showing how the Maoris inherited the dark skin through the disobedience of their ancestors. This native Demosthenes most eloquently portrayed the Gospel plan of salvation, and with appropriate gestures, he forcibly emphasized these saving principles and urged all his people to render obedience to the laws of God.

Elder James Barrow, Arapata Neha and Wita Rewarewa also addressed the meeting, which was brought to a close by singing the hymn on page 166, "We thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet." Prayer by Nikero Te Koro.

The second day's conference was opened at 10 a.m., on Saturday, April 7, by singing hymn 22; prayer by Elder Rasmussen; hymn 24.

Elder James E. Fisher, president of the Poverty Bay district, stated that the four branches in his conference were doing well, and the presidents of the same were alive to their duties. He gave suitable counsel to the members assembled in conference, and desired that all would be strong in magnifying their callings.

Elder George Bowles felt well paid for his long and tedious journey on horseback to the conference. Felt exceedingly thankful for all the blessings enjoyed by the children of God. He dwelt upon Paul's declaration, "One faith, one Lord, one baptism," contrasting it with the teachings of modern Christianity. He spoke upon the necessity of entering in at the straight gate and walking in the narrow way to eternal life.

Elder John Johnson was the only representative from the South Island, but he stated that the members there were rejoicing in the spirit of the Gospel. The Saints were not absent from the conference through indifference, but the great distance rendered it impossible for them to attend. A spirit of earnest inquiry was now manifested amongst the Europeans in Waian district and every opportunity is taken to proclaim unto them the Gospel message. He urged all to seek for the Spirit of God to lead into all truth, stating that it was necessary to live pure and righteous lives to retain that Spirit with us.

Rangitire and Hirapaea, two native Elders, then addressed the Saints, after which the congregation sang hymn 152; prayer by Rangitire Kawea.

The afternoon meeting commenced promptly at the usual hour, with singing hymn 115; prayer by Iharaire Wenikare; hymn 93.

Elder M. C. Nielson greeted the Saints in the name of the Lord Jesus and, while associating with such a large number of members in conference, he