

peted with lovely green grass, with horses, sheep and cows quietly grazing, present a lovely sight, more especially to an Elder who has just come from the opposite side of the equator. Trees are in bloom and figs are appearing on the fig trees. In the fig season we have all that we can eat, gratis.

While attending the annual conference of the Australasian mission (held in this, the Mahai conference), April 6th, 7th, 8th of the present year, I was released from the Wairarapa conference and appointed to preside over this conference, with Elder Jas. C. Allen, as my traveling companion. This conference has a membership of nearly 450 souls; all Maoris (natives) except one European family. These are divided into eight branches, with Maori presidents, counselors, Teachers, Deacons, etc., over each of the branches. We Elders usually visit each branch once a month, hold Priesthood meeting, and spend Sunday with them.

We had been expecting a visit from Elder Gardner, president of the Australasian mission, and on calling at the Nuhaka P. O. on August 23rd I received word to meet him at Mohaka on the following day. We were up early next morning, and soon on our way to the Mohaka branch of the Church, which is 40 miles south of Nuhaka. We had some difficulty in procuring an extra horse for Elder Gardner; consequently we only got as far as Wairoa that day. Wairoa is a quaint little town (of Europeans), situated on the banks of the Wairoa (long water) river, within about half a mile from the sea beach, on the eastern shore of New Zealand.

Elder Allen and I were off on our journey towards Mohaka early next morning. When we had done about half of our day's travel we saw a lone horseman approaching us, and on his drawing nearer we clearly discerned it was our beloved president. On meeting we dismounted and let our horses graze while we spent a half hour in relating some of our many experiences since we parted last April.

As the shades of evening were fast drawing nigh we did not have much time to spare, so we were soon on the travel again. I continued on to Mohaka and preached to the natives of that place. Elder Allen returned to Wairoa in company with Elder Gardner. On the following Monday I was up at three o'clock and rode back to Wairoa before it got very warm. Shortly after my arrival the mail steamer arrived at the Wairoa with part of the American mail on board.

Up to this time all had been life and joy among us; but on Elder Gardner's reading his home news it conveyed the sad news of the death of his only living son, a bright little lad of about fourteen months. This cast a gloom over us for some days; still Brother Gardner feels that it is all in the wisdom of the Almighty.

We left Wairoa on the morning of Aug. 28th and spent the remainder of the month in visiting the Saints between Wairoa and Nuhaka. Sept. 1st found us at Nuhaka, the old home of brother Hiram Whaanga and his wife Mary, who went to Zion last June. We received word of their safe arrival by last mail, and the natives here are very pleased

to hear that they are so pleased with their new home. Sunday, the 2nd, being the first Sunday, we fasted (as also do our native Saints on the first Sunday of each month). At 10 o'clock we held Sunday school, the meeting house being crowded. Quite a number applied for baptism, so we set apart 1 o'clock to perform the sacred ordinance. At 1 o'clock the natives commenced to gather at the western bank of the Nuhaka river, to watch the performance of the holy ordinance. We then sang a song; Elder Gardner spoke a few moments to the candidates for baptism, explaining to them the importance of the ordinance that was about to be performed, namely, to "be born of water and of the Spirit;" John, 3:5. I then dedicated the spot, and Elder Gardner went down into the water and baptized (by immersion) 17 souls.

The baptism having been performed, we all returned to the village. At three o'clock the church bell rang out clear, which announced it was time for the Sacrament meeting. Our neat little frame church was soon filled to overflowing by our dusky-skinned Maori Saints, and a few visitors. The meeting house is built "white man style," except that there are no chairs, or benches, for the congregation, as it is Maori custom to sit down on the floor. The floor was nicely carpeted, however, with Maori flax mats. In the upper end of the hall was a raised stand, and a pulpit, with seats behind, on which were seated Elders Wm. Gardner, Jas. C. Allen, R. E. Scott, myself, also the Maori presidents and some officers. (Elder Scott, came down from Waiapu the night previous to meet Elder Gardner.) There was a little passage left down the center of the hall, along which paced two Deacons with long rods, ready to give the first one that showed signs of sleeping a poke, or gentle reminder to not sleep in meeting.

We confirmed the newly baptized persons members of the Church, and blessed eight little children. By the time the Sacrament had been administered we had consumed fully two hours' time, so meeting was adjourned till evening.

At the appointed time the house was again filled with the Saints. After the usual opening exercises, Elder Wm. Gardner spoke to the Saints for an hour, giving them much counsel and instruction pertaining to their duties in the Church. He advised early marriage among the young Saints, and dwelt at some length on the rewards that await the faithful: Rev. 20: 6. Elder Hoagland made the closing remarks. Elder Gardner's words regarding marriage proved effectual; so much so that on the next morning (during our regular morning prayer meeting) six hearts were made as three. Sunday was a day of great rejoicing to us, to see so many new members into the fold of Christ; but Monday was the reverse, as one of our dear sisters was lying at death's door. Satan, seeing the success of our previous day's labors, became infuriated and commenced to afflict this sister, and we went to administer to her. On arriving at the house where she was staying, we learned that her attendants were all outsiders, and they were practising their "tohungamaori"

(Maori doctor) business on her, such as dipping her in the cold river and using other medicines all unknown to the victim. We administered to her and it immediately afforded her great relief; and we remained for some time and conversed with her. As it was getting late, and time for us to return to our sleeping quarters, we bade her good night and left the house. We had hardly got outside the fence when a young man came running after us, and calling, "Come back, come back, the evil spirit has returned."

Bro. Gardner and I then retired to a secret spot, had a few words of prayer, then returned to the house. On re-entering the house we beheld five men holding her down, and they could hardly keep her from getting up. She was grunting and blood and froth were coming from her mouth. We had prayer, anointed her with oil, and confirmed the same in the name of Jesus. Within five minutes after the confirming was done she was sitting up, eating and talking to us. The outsiders soon began to see that their cold water baths and medicines had but little effect for good to the sick woman. On our return to the village that evening we asked the Saints to have her brought among them, so that they as well as we, could exercise faith in behalf of the afflicted one.

The next day the Saints went down where she was, procured a turnpike cart and brought her to her own home. We then felt more at home; but heretofore we felt as if we had been casting "pearls before swine." We all (including the Saints) fasted and prayed for thirty-six hours. As soon as they brought her home we saw she was unconscious and in great pain, so much so that she would cry out in agony and twist her body and features in unnatural shapes. After the house had been cleared of every soul except one attendant, we Elders anointed and blessed her four times in close succession, at the end of which she came to her natural mind, and knew for the first time that she had been returned to her old home. We kept close guard that day and night to see that she got no worse and we feel to thank God, as we know He has answered our prayers and fastings in behalf of our dear sister.

On Thursday morning (the 6th) Elder Gardner and I rode to the Waiwhara branch, twenty miles east, (Elder Allen remaining at Nuhaka to look after our sister for a few days.) We were warmly welcomed by the Saints, and remained two days and blessed one child. The Saints of this branch are very anxious to have a day school there, and Elder Gardner promised them a teacher as soon as they get their house, etc., finished.

On Saturday we went to Kopuwhara, where we met Elder Allen, who reported our sick sister as improving nicely. While at this branch we blessed two children and held three meetings on Sunday.

On Monday morning (the 10th) Elder Gardner left to go to the Poverty Bay conference. He expressed himself as being highly pleased with the condition of the Saints of this conference. We have had forty-three baptisms, blessed thirteen children and married six couples during the last two