

MISCELLANEOUS.

ON THE CONTINENT.

ARCHIVSTRASSE 20, BERN, SWITZERLAND
May 30th 1897.

By request of some of the readers of the NEWS I send you the following information regarding the Swiss and German mission, hoping it will be welcome to those who are interested in the progress of the work of the Lord here.

The Swiss and German mission extends from Geneva in the southern part of Switzerland to Kiel and to the northern parts of Germany. At present about eighty Elders are laboring in the principal cities of Switzerland and Germany, where regular branches of the Church are established, and are spreading the Gospel wherever the laws of the land permit them to do so. In many places religious liberty is limited on account of the priests of the different sects using their influence with the government to deny the Elders the liberty of preaching and distributing tracts, but in general we have more liberty today than at any time previous.

The mission is divided into ten conferences, viz.: 1. Berne Conference, including Langnan and Simmenthal; 2. Central Conference, including Biberist, Solothurn and Basel. 3. East Swiss Conference, including Zurich, Minterthur, Schaffhausen, Herisan, Sirmach and Graubunden. 4. Jura Conference, including Biel, Chaux-de-Foude and Priles. 5. French Conference, including Geneva, Lausanne and Nyan. 6. Frankfurt-on-the-Main, including Darmstadt, Saarbrücken, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and Mainz. 7. Hamburg, including surrounding towns, Kiel, Hannover and Bielefeld. 8. Berlin, including surrounding towns and Stettin. 9. Dresden, including Freiberg, Chemnitz, Leipzig, Muhlhausen, Sarou and Breslau. 10. Stuttgart, including Backnang, Calw, Nuremberg and Munich.

The majority of the Elders are not native born and have to learn the language before assuming their missionary labors. Some of these Elders acquire the language in a short time after arriving here, while others find it a task to master the same. At some places where the laws of the land permit, we have adopted the system of tracing, which has proved to do much good; while in other places public meetings have been held. But so far, the best result is obtained in laboring in a quiet way, with the help of the Saints and their acquaintances, and in holding small meetings where strangers are invited and where the privilege of asking questions is given. Through the efforts of the Elders in these various ways the Gospel is spreading and new fields are opening up and more Elders are wanted at different places. At present fifty more Elders could be used to good advantage. For this year sixty-two baptisms are reported, and the prospects are very favorable.

On account of the priests the Elders and some of the Saints at Munich have been arrested for holding a meeting in a private house, and a fine of 20 marks was imposed upon each person. But after a few days the money was refunded. At Muhlhausen the Elders were notified by the police to leave the

town, but through the efforts of the Elders and some of their good friends the decision had been reversed, and the Elders are able to continue their labors without further disturbance.

The Elders have tried to travel without purse or scrip, but owing to the strict laws of the land they have not been able to accomplish it. We think the time is not far distant when the Elders will be able to go without money, but certainly more branches have to be established than now exist.

In general we are better understood by the people of this country than ever before. Our doctrine is finding more investigators, and the time has arrived in this mission for a great missionary work to be done. The Elders are preaching the Gospel in places where only a few centuries ago noted reformers, such as Luther, Melancthon, Carlstadt, Fwingli, Calvin and others have gained their famous names, in establishing the Protestant religions. Truly, they were instruments in the hand of the Lord to prepare the way for the preaching of the Gospel as it is revealed from heaven through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

We are all well in body and in spirit, and are much encouraged in our labors
P. LOUTENSOCK.

CONFERENCE IN NEW ZEALAND.

WAIROA, Hawke's Bay New Zealand,
May 5th, 1897.

It is some time since anything was written to the NEWS from this part of the Australian Mission. Since the beginning of the year, we have had nine new baptisms, blessed four children and performed five marriages—a lot of which goes to show that the good work is progressing. During the month of March we had a genuine treat, for it was then that our semi-annual district conference was held at Mahanga, convening on the 13th. Our president, Elder E. F. Richards, accompanied by the secretary, W. C. Castleton, arrived in the district the Monday previous to the commencement of conference, and were met by the district president Elder J. C. Allen and traveling Elder G. L. Andrus.

The following day all rode to Waiwhara—the only branch we have situated on the Mahia peninsula—where they found one of our good Maori Saints very sick and weak, she being under the influence of the adversary. They anointed her with oil and after several administrations succeeded in rebuking the evil spirit. A meeting was held that night and all present seemed to acknowledge the hand of God in the healing. The next day all (with the exception of Brother Andrus, who was left at Waiwhara, as our good sister who was healed was yet very weak) continued on to Nuhaka. Here they were given a hearty welcome by Elder J. N. Lambert and Saints of that place. There is the old home—and a good one, too—of Brother Hirini Whaanga who is now located in Zion. After having supper we went to the meeting house, where Elder Richards spoke for some length.

That day and the following we feasted on watermelons, which were given to us by the natives. Boyish like, we all

tried to see who could eat the most, but none could beat Elder Castleton. He even got fat on watermelons while in the "Mahia."

On Thursday we rode to Tahaneiu and in the evening we held a well attended meeting. Elders Richards and Castleton were the speakers. The people listened with interest and seemed well paid for coming to meeting.

Friday morning we were up early, getting ready to go to Mahanga. After taking a good breakfast at Sister Katie Smith's place, we started out, arriving at Mahanga about 4 p. m., where we again met Brother Andrus; also a very large crowd of Saints and outsiders who had gathered there for conference. Shortly after our arrival Elders J. E. Teeple (of Turanga) and J. A. M. Jacobsen (of Waiapu) put in their appearance, which now swelled our Elders' ranks to seven.

At 10 a. m. on Saturday, March 13th, our conference began, our district president Elder Allen, presiding. That and the day following were ones long to be remembered by the Saints of the Mahia. On Sunday the 14th, we had four baptisms and confirmations, performed two marriages, ordained one man to the Priesthood, administered the Sacrament and also administered to a number of persons who were sick. Some were healed instantly, as was testified to in the closing meeting by the father of a child, that was brought to us to anoint. The little one, while we were administering to it, seemed to be breathing its last, but as soon as the administration was performed, it regained its strength. In the closing testimony meeting, held on Sunday evening, many strong testimonies were borne to the truthfulness of the Gospel and the power of God.

A rich outpouring of the Holy Spirit was enjoyed throughout the entire gathering. Some 275 persons were present; and Ngawala, at whose place the conference was held, did his utmost to make everything a success.

Our conference ended, all Elders left the following morning on horseback, headed for the general conference to be held in the Wairapa district, some 300 miles away. The trip was uneventful, with the exception that we got caught in one of New Zealand's heavy rain storms, which can only be appreciated by those who have been there themselves.

At conference Elder Allen was released to return home, Elder Andrus appointed to labor in another district, while Elder Charles J. Peterson was appointed to labor in this district as my companion. We returned to our district on the 15th of April, and since then we have been busily engaged in our labors.

The NEWS comes regularly to hand.
J. N. LAMBERT.

CONDITIONS IN IOWA.

SPENCER, Iowa, June 4th, 1897.

We have pleasure in writing briefly from this point. Elder James D. Coon Jr. of Riter, Salt Lake County, started on a mission, June 2nd, 1896, going to the Northern States. Reaching Chelsia, Iowa; he, in company with Elder Levi A. Colvin was soon after assigned to labor in Stony County, that state. After five months missionary labors, he with Elder Myron A. Holgate was assigned to Marion and later to Mahaska County, spending last winter there. In March