

its welfare, and that a few of the Lord's servants are still laboring there. As to its progress, the same may be gleaned by perusing the following.

At the last April conference held in New Zealand, an additional Elder was appointed to this district, for European labor; thus enabling the two already here to devote the greater portion of their time and labors to the Maori people, as well as assisting their new co-laborer among Europeans. During the past months, the work of spreading the everlasting gospel has been energetically pushed by all; realizing as we do, that a great work lies before us, and that the time is short to perform that duty, which is to warn all mankind that the Gospel has been restored, and of God's judgments which are so near, yea, even at our doors.

In my travels among both races here, I notice especially among the white race a marvellous change that has taken place, to the effect that the spirit of persecution has almost entirely ceased, which is in fulfilment of the prophecy made on the first day (if I recollect right) of the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple. I note with pleasure the change, yet I feel sad at heart in seeing the spirit of indifference manifested so much among the children of men. Still I have hopes that many will soon awaken and behold themselves in their own light and the position they occupy, before it is too late to embrace the true principles.

There is another matter which, upon reflection, gives me joy; even all the Saints of God, I believe, viz, that many parents who have children are beginning to see the folly of infant baptism, and possess a desire to have their offspring blessed by the true servants of the Lord, according to the plan which was laid down by Him. Let us hope that the time will soon come, when the parents of those children will enter into the true fold, to be under the protecting care of the Good Shepherd, even our Lord Jesus Christ.

In this district there have been sixteen baptisms and thirteen children blessed, during the past few months. Bright are the prospects of others who are at present investigating the gospel.

Recently Elder Bradford (of Spanish Fork) and I traveled into a new and strange part of the district, commencing our journey with the intention of going into all the highways, byways and hedges, to inform mankind of our mission and to lay before them the principles of life and salvation, should they desire to listen. We carried out the aforementioned as far as possible according to our limited knowledge of the country, which we had obtained by questioning first Maori then Pakeha (European.) Though rough the journey, our labors were greatly enjoyed; occasionally some kind friend would invite us to remain over night, other times we enjoyed the comforts of a "Maori whare," sometimes we had the clear sky overhead, the earth beneath was our bed; on such occasions we would wrap up in our blankets, and soon be lost in the sweet slumbers of refreshing sleep, after a long day's travel. The Lord protected us throughout, and gave unto us an abundant portion of His Holy Spirit, thus enabling us to be adequate for all duties. We sincerely hope within our hearts that many good seeds have been sown, which will in due time take root

in good ground, to grow and bring forth fruit a hundredfold.

Recently Elder Joe Barrow (of Salt Lake City) and I commenced laboring in a large town among Europeans; owing to persecutions, no labor had been done there for the past ten years. While we were engaged visiting among the inhabitants, seeking after the honest in heart, we soon became the object of attraction and comment. It was not long before a notice was seen in the daily paper, to the effect that two Mormon Elders were busily engaged in proselyting for their church; it warned the inhabitants not to listen to the false doctrines presented by those Mormons. A day or so afterwards the effect of the notice was very plainly shown, in so many "No thank you's," instead of accepting our tracts or listening as before. Still we are not discouraged, realizing the adversary is ever near seeking to overthrow God's work, which remains utterly impossible for him to accomplish.

Our semi-annual conference was appointed at Kohunui on the 23rd and 24th of December. For a month or so previous to above dates the Maoris have been busily engaged in gardening, attending to the growing of potatoes, cabbage, peas, beans and other vegetables, for the welfare of the Saints who should gather to the conference. On such occasions it is customary for them to have an abundance of food for their visitors, that they may have enjoyment temporally as well as spiritually.

On the 21st and 22nd the Saints traveled to the place of conference, coming from the furthestmost parts of the district. As the bell rang out announcing that it was time for our evening "parakia" (prayer meeting,) those who had gathered could be seen wending their way to the meeting house. In glancing over the number of Saints, I felt to rejoice in beholding so many of my Maori brethren and sisters who had assembled in response to the call which had been made of them.

At 10 a. m. on the 23rd began what eventually proved to be a very successful conference. Elder George Bowles, President of the Wairarapa district, called the assemblage to order. After singing hymn 134, "Tera te ao marama nui," prayer was offered by Aporo Kumeroa. Singing hymn 55, "I konton etiaho ne."

Elder Bowles then arose, greeting the Saints who had arrived from the several parts of the district. He desired that the Holy Spirit of our Lord might be poured down in abundance upon all, to enable us to speak forth words of truth, life and salvation. He reported the condition of the district as a whole, stating the labors which had been accomplished by the Elders laboring therein.

Elder Toi te Huatahi reported the Le Preore branch. Elder James Barrow, the Carleton branch, Elder Piripi Le Maari Kohunui and Elder Paratene Lui, the Wairapu branch. As a whole the reports were very good, a few of the members being a little weak, owing to so many temptations surrounding them. Still we trust that they will soon throw off that weakness and become strong.

Benediction by Arapata Le Maari.

Afternoon session commenced at 2 p. m., prayer by Piripi Le Maari.

The sacrament was administered by Elder Paratene Tui and Aporo Kumeroe.

All partook of those sacred emblems with but one exception, which spoke volumes, in the fact that there were but few troubles existing among the Saints.

Elder Lee Bradford addressed the assemblage for a short time, speaking in the Maori tongue. He dwelt upon the testimony of Paul as to what the Gospel was. He desired that all would be firm and faithful, to live lives as Saints indeed.

Elder Jas. Barrow, being called upon, spoke upon the establishment of the kingdom of God upon the earth in these last days. He explained the manner in which the Holy Priesthood was conferred upon the Prophet Joseph Smith, showing briefly the power of that Priesthood which Joseph had received and closed his remarks by invoking the blessings of the Lord upon all.

Elder Toi te Huatahi and Aperahama Tui occupied the remainder of the session. They sustained all that had been said, bore faithful testimonies to the truth of the Gospel, desired also to be firm to their duties even unto the end.

Benediction by Kaki Pera.

Evening session commenced with singing. Prayer by Le Rangi Lapu.

Paratene Lui was the first speaker. He expressed his pleasure in meeting with the Saints in conference assembled and then proceeded to explain the condemnation which would come upon unbelievers at the day of judgment if they would not turn; and obey the gospel of the Lord, which had been restored to the earth, and was being preached by the Elders of Israel throughout the world as a witness before the end should come.

Aporo Kumeroa occupied the remaining portion of the session. He preached an eloquent sermon upon the relation of the true church to others which were of man, proving very forcibly from holy writ that the Latter-day Saints were in the possession of the true Church, that it was not of man but of God. All listened with great interest to his remarks, and were edified in so doing.

Benediction by Repa Pera.

December 24th second day—Conference assembled and began morning session at 10 a. m. Prayer by Cruha Le Maari.

Repa Pera was the first speaker. He spoke concerning our meeting together in conference of this kind, and expressed his joy in so doing; gave some excellent advice to those assembled.

Piripi Le Maari then occupied a portion of the session, dwelling upon the conditions of the Saints in these days, of those temptations which were around them, and of the necessity of holding fast and firm to the end. His desire was to be faithful himself and each of the Saints together with him. He spoke for a short time upon the Salt Lake Temple.

Cruha Te Maari bore a faithful testimony to the truth of the Gospel, explained briefly a few of its ordinances, and blessings, closing with the desire that all might live lives worthy to secure unto themselves all the rewards and blessings which the Lord had promised to His Saints. Session was closed with prayer by Elder Jas. Barrow.

Afternoon session commenced at 2 p. m., with hymn and prayer by Pera Tui.

Elder Bradford, having been requested, spoke upon the word of wisdom through an interpreter. (Elder Bowles)