

MISCELLANEOUS.

Written for this Paper.

JENSON'S TRAVELS.

LETTER NO. XXXIX.)

Wednesday, November 13th 1895 We arose early, and I worked on the records till 10 o'clock a. m., when we commenced another meeting at Wainae, near Gisborne, at which I spoke through Elder Jorgensen as translator. We held another meeting in the afternoon at which Elder Gardner was the speaker. Immediately after closing that meeting, Elders Gardner, Embley, Jorgensen and myself took leave of Elder Teeple and the native Saints, mounted the horses which had been provided for us and rode sixteen miles over a good though round about road, and through a beautiful and fertile tract of country to Muriwai, a native village situated on the lowlands near the beach which contains the oldest and best branch of the Church in the Poverty Bay district. We put up with Te Keepa, the president of the Muriwai branch who received us very kindly and made us comfortable during the night. We held no regular meeting in the evening but had an interesting time with the family and a few others who came in after prayer.

Thursday, November 14th. Our time at this place being very limited I worked with the records part of the preceding night. At 9 a. m., Elders Gardner, Embley, Jorgensen and myself and a native brother continued our journey from Muriwai, and we now traveled thirty-five miles over mountains and valleys, through gorges and timber following a genuine New Zealand bridle path to Mahanga, a native village situated at the foot of the mountains on the seashore, and near the narrow neck of land which separates the Mahia peninsula from the rest of the island. We arrived at this place at 5:30 p. m., and we bid welcome by Elder Lewis G. Hoagland, of Salt Lake City, who presides over the Mahia district, and also by the native Saints residing at Mahanga, which constitute one of the seven branches of the Church in the district named. Soon after our arrival Elder James N. Lambert, another of the Elders laboring in the Mahia district rode into the village. In the evening we held a little meeting, at which Elder Gardner and I were the speakers. We then retired, but not to sleep, though we needed that as well as rest very much after our long, tiresome ride over the mountains. The mosquitoes and fleas had apparently formed a conspiracy against us. Both seemed to be as numerous as the boulders on the seashore at this particular place; and they were determined to feast at our expense, notwithstanding all our efforts to the contrary. Even Brother Embley who always carries a flea sack with him for protection during nights found that extraordinary apparel altogether inadequate to afford his person protection on this occasion. It might serve a good purpose elsewhere, but not in Mahanga. As for the rest of us we were unable in the morning to tell which of the numerous bumps and swellings on our itching limbs had been produced by mosquitoes and which by the fleas. Portions of our bodies reminded me of a certain relief map of a very mountainous country

which I saw at the world's fair in Chicago two years ago.

Friday, November 15th. We resumed our journey at 9 o'clock and rode four miles, part of the way along the sandy beach, to Kopuawhara, a native village situated on the isthmus which connects the Mahia peninsula with the main land. Here we received a hearty welcome by the native Saints, and after rubbing noses, shaking hands, etc., I settled down to my usual historical work assisted by Elders Hoagland and Lambert. We also met Elder James C. Allen, who labors in the Mahia district, and is soon to succeed Elder Hoagland in the presidency of the district. In the evening we held a good and well attended meeting. Besides the members of the Kopuawhara branch, quite a number of Saints from the neighboring branches of Mahanga and Waiwhara were present. Elder Gardner and the historian were the principal speakers. After the meeting, the natives indulged in the usual speech making. It was welcome to Brother Gardner and his traveling companion and farewell to Elder Hoagland who visited this part of his district for the last time prior to his departure for his home in Zion.

Saturday, November 16th. After taking leave of the natives in the usual way Elders Gardner, Embley, Jorgensen, Hoagland, Allen, Lambert and Andrew Jenson, mounted our horses and rode about fourteen miles (following the beach part of the way) to Nuhaka, a native village situated inland about a mile on the right bank of the Nuhaka river which we forded at its mouth instead of crossing at the ferry further up. On our arrival at the village we were warmly greeted by the Saints, who saluted us with the usual haere mai (come) as soon as we came in sight. This is a fine village, and nearly all the people are Saints. There is a good meeting house with a little tower on it which gives the place quite an attractive appearance as seen from a distance. Here also the Elders laboring in the Mahia district have their headquarters and occupy the former home of Hirini Whanga who emigrated to Utah in 1894. Soon after our arrival I sat down to work with the district and branch records and continued thus till a late hour.

The Mahia district embraces a tract of country lying adjacent to the Mahia peninsula, which it includes. Its coast line extends about sixty miles from the mountains which separates it from the Poverty Bay district to and including Waikare on the south. In point of membership it is the largest district in the mission, containing a total of 537 souls belonging to the Church, including children, or 377 baptized members. Three missionaries from Zion are laboring here at present, and there are seven branches, namely, Mahanga, Waiwhara, Nuhaka, Mangatieke, Wairoa and Mohaka.

The Mahanga branch, which is an outgrowth of the Kopuawhara branch, consists of a small village called Mahanga situated on the seacoast immediately north of the Mahia peninsula, and seventeen miles northeast of Nuhaka. The branch was organized on March 5th 1888.

The Waiwhara branch embraces all

the Saints living on the Mahia peninsula, most of whom reside in the village of Waiwhara which is situated on the east coast of said peninsula, about eight miles southeast of Kopuawhara, and twenty-one miles southeast of Nuhaka. The branch was first organized by Elders John C. Stewart and James A. Slater December 7th 1884. In 1891 it absorbed the Tauapata branch, which was organized November 2nd 1884, and during its existence embraced the Saints residing in the south end of the Mahia peninsula.

The Kopuawhara branch embraces the Saints residing in the villages of Kopuawhara and Karaka. The former is situated on the narrow sandy isthmus which connects the Mahia peninsula with the rest of the North island. It is about a mile inland from the east shore and about two miles from the opposite coast. It is also thirteen miles northeast of Nuhaka. Karaka is about half a mile north of Kopuawhara. The branch was organized by John C. Stewart, October 12th 1884.

The Nuhaka branch embraces the Saints residing in a fine village of that name situated on the Nuhaka river, about one mile inland from the coast. This is the headquarters of the district. The branch at this place was organized by Elders James C. Stewart and James A. Slater December 14th 1884. Nuhaka is about fifty-five miles from Npyier by water.

The Mangatieke branch comprises the Saints residing in a village of that name which is pleasantly situated on a flat at the foot of the mountains about a mile inland from the Hawkes bay coast, and six miles southwest of Nuhaka. All the inhabitants of the village are Saints except two persons. This branch is an outgrowth of the Nuhaka branch and was organized February 23rd 1890.

The Wairoa branch consists of the Saints residing in the native village of Te Uhi, on the north, and Wairoa (or Clyde) on the north side of the Wairoa river; but most of the members reside on the Te Uhi side of the stream where the president of the branch lives and where the meetings are held. Most of the people in the village are members of the Church; and the fine Church of England chapel which stands on the river bank, is like a similar building at Nuhaka, unoccupied, as a rule on Sundays.

The Wairoa branch was organized March 29th 1885, by Elder John C. Stewart.

The Mohaka branch embraces the Saints residing principally in the village of Mohaka and vicinity. This village is situated on high ground about half a mile inland from the shore of Hawkes Bay and about twenty-two miles by round-about road southwest of Wairoa, which again is twenty miles southwest of Nuhaka.

In each of the seven branches in the Mahia district there is a Sunday school, and at Waiwhara, Kopuawhara, Nuhaka and Mangatieke there are good and commodious meeting houses. Two of the general or annual conferences of the Australasian mission have been held in this district, the April 1891 conference at Nuhaka, and the April 1894 conference at Waiwhara.

Sunday, November 17th. At the morning karakia (prayer meeting) a chapter was read in the Book of Mormon, each person present reading a verse. I was afterwards complimented