

angel that came to John the Revelator said to him: "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Then if there are no prophets in what condition are we today? The Savior in order to test His Apostles asked them, "Whom do men say that, I the son of man, am?" The Apostles replied that they supposed him to be some great prophet risen again. Then Jesus asked Peter, "Whom sayest thou that I am?" Then Peter answered "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said: "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed this unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven; and I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock will I build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

When Phillip went to Samaria many were converted by his preaching; but the converts did not receive the Holy Ghost—When the Apostles at Jerusalem heard that the Samaritans had received the Gospel, two of their number, Peter and John, went down to Samaria. They came, laid their hands upon the heads of the persons whom Phillip had converted, and the converts received the Holy Ghost.

If we are without Prophets we have no Holy Ghost, save the conscience given to each of us; for the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of prophecy.

I wish to testify to this congregation, that I repented of my sins and went down into the waters of baptism for their remission; and I obtained a testimony by which I know that Jesus is the Christ. If any person will take the same course he can obtain the same knowledge. I bear this testimony, not on account of my own merits, but because of the goodness of God.

In the days of the Savior the Gospel was preached by men who went forth, two by two, without purse or scrip, according to the instructions of the Savior. They were told that they would meet persecution, and that some would suppose that to kill them would be to render God service. They were told to let their peace come upon the house which should receive them, but to shake the dust off their feet as a testimony against such as should reject them. To those who should obey the message they bore, spiritual gifts should be given.

"Mormonism," as it is vulgarly called, is the doctrine which Christ and his Apostles taught. Paul said: "If any man preach any other Gospel unto you than that which ye have received, though he be an angel from heaven, let him be accursed."

He that doeth the things Christ taught, is like a wise man who built upon a rock—the rock of revelation—and the storms had no effect upon his house. I exhort you, my brethren and sisters, to be firm and steadfast in keeping the commandments of God; and in the resurrection you will be raised up and receive crowns of glory and immortal life.

The choir sang an anthem.

Benediction by Elder H. P. Richards.

Waiapu District Conference.

The semi-annual conference of the Waiapu District was held at Te Rahui, Waiapu, on Saturday and Sunday, March 9th and 10th.

For many days previous the Saints of Waiapu had been making preparations by digging potatoes and sweet potatoes, plucking melons and green corn, killing hogs, sheep and beeves, baking bread and gathering cobble stones for the kapa Maoris—native ovens. Everything was in readiness, and when on the evening of the 8th, the Saints from the southern portion of the district arrived, they found a hearty welcome awaiting them.

On Saturday, at 10 a. m. the Conference convened. There were present from Zion: President Wm. Paxman, of the mission. President E. T. Stevenson, of the Waiapu district, and Traveling Elders J. J. Jackson and J. S. Bingham. About 220 native Saints were in attendance, besides many who were not of our faith. Among the latter was the Maori Chief Wikiriwhi.

The congregation sang the hymn 174 of the Maori hymn book, commencing, Hoia o te Hahi; Whakatika ra—Soldiers of the Church, arise, etc. Opening prayer was offered by President E. T. Stevenson, and the congregation sang hymn 96. President Stevenson stated the object of the Conference and invoked the blessings of the Lord upon all who had assembled, that their minds might be prepared for the reception and retention of the truths which would be spoken and that the good seed that is being sown might take root in their hearts.

The six branches of the district were then reported by their respective Presidents or representative men. The reports were all quite encouraging, and showed a determination on the part of the majority of the Saints to serve the Lord.

President Paxman occupied the remainder of the time in speaking of the goodness of God, and warned the nations to repent before He visited them with his judgments, spoke of the blessings of the priesthood, and of the duties of those who are called to preside over the Church.

The meeting closed with singing and prayer.

At 2:30 p. m. conference re-convened. After the usual opening exercises the statistical report of the district was read, showing a total of 583—an increase of forty souls within the six months ending January 31st.

Elder J. J. Johnson spoke on faith and repentance, and made many scriptural quotations substantiating those principles.

President Stevenson dwelt upon the restoration of the Gospel, and testified that those who yield obedience to the ordinance and principles which have been revealed will receive eternal life.

Several of the native brethren bore faithful testimony, and the children rendered some songs from the Sunday School Union music book. Meeting adjourned until Sunday, at 10 a. m.

A priesthood meeting was held in the evening, and much valuable in-

struction was given by President Paxman. Among other business transacted was the closing of the day school, which for the last seven months has been taught by Elder J. S. Bingham. When this school was established there was no government school in Waiapu, but since that time two other schools have been established which are in session ten months in the year; therefore it was thought advisable to close our school and allow the children to attend the district schools.

At 10 a. m. on Sunday meeting opened with singing and prayer by J. S. Bingham. President Paxman addressed the congregation. He said that the Elders had been sent out to warn the world and to call them to repentance. Woe unto those who reject their message. Joseph Smith has been raised up as a Prophet, the Gospel has been restored, and the Church of Christ established preparatory to the restoration of all things.

Brother Anani Tekahaki bore his testimony, and the meeting adjourned till 2:30 p. m.

In the afternoon Elder Bingham spoke on the first principles of the Gospel, and the remainder of the meeting was occupied by the native brethren in bearing testimony and speaking of the goodness of God.

Testimony meeting was held in the evening and twenty-eight of the Maori Saints availed themselves of the opportunity of testifying to the truth of the great latter-day work.

President Paxman then delivered a powerful address, and was followed by Elder Stevenson, who gave much valuable instruction.

The conference closed with singing, and prayer by President Stevenson.

The blessings of the Lord were richly enjoyed through the conference, and much spiritual food was given. The Saints and Elders return to their homes and labors feeling greatly strengthened, and with a renewed desire to serve the Lord.

The work is progressing, and notwithstanding the influence of the adversary against us, we find an occasional honest heart that will accept the Gospel and yield obedience thereto.

Ever praying for the welfare of Zion, and the progress of the kingdom of God.

J. S. BINGHAM.

GISBORNE, Poverty Bay, New Zealand, March 14th, 1889.

The Honolulu Branch Conference.

Although much has been written from the Sandwich Islands, but little is generally known at home of the condition of our mission at the capital city, Honolulu. Some missionaries do not know on their arrival here of the existence of a branch in this vicinity, whereas probably one of the largest branches of our Church outside of the Rocky Mountains flourishes here. Our semi-annual conference was held on March 31st, and our new church was crowded. Seats were introduced into the aisles and entrance room,