

months, and the prospects are bright for more new members in the near future; in fact some have applied to be baptised at the semi-annual conference of the district which will be held on the 29th and 30th of this month.

Having received an invitation to attend the Poverty Bay semi-annual conference, Elder Allen and I left Mahanga at 5:30 a. m. on Friday. We had a large range of mountains covered with timber to cross. It having rained a short time previous, the roads were very muddy, and there was only a Maori trail through the forest of giant trees and dense underbrush. The heavy rains had washed the soil away in many places, which left huge roots rising up above the soil, thereby leaving the trail in a rough state for traveling. On descending some of the hills our horses would often slide down the slippery soil twelve or fifteen feet till their feet came in contact with the roots, which would usually bring them to a standstill. A long other portions of the road the land was covered with ferns, palm and other trees which grow spontaneously in this semi-tropical climate. The branches and leaves of the trees and plants hang over the trail, and make it difficult for a rider to stay on his horse in places. We stopped on the road several times to rest and let our horses graze, and arrived at Te Muriwai (the Conference place) late in the afternoon. The day following Elders Embley and Scott arrived.

Owing to missionary and other duties Elder Gardner was not able to be present. The President of the Conference (Elder Jas. E. Fisher) was off preaching to some natives in the north consequently he did not arrive in time to attend. But we had an enjoyable time together, and one that will be long remembered by those who were in attendance.

On the following Monday we Elders rode to the city of Gisborne; (which is a lively little sea-port town.) Here we rejoined Elder Gardner, who was waiting for the next steamer to Auckland. We spent the afternoon and evening in writing Saints and friends. Early next morning Elder Allen and I commenced our return to the Mahia. Elder Gardner accompanied us as far as Tauwhau. Wednesday we recrossed the mountains and it was one of the worst days known in this land for many years. There was a heavy fog all day, it also rained very hard, and blew so hard that many giant trees were thrown to the ground and broken into matchwood. It was indeed a bad day to travel through such a place, on account of falling trees. We walked and led our horses most of the way, as the roads were fearfully slippery. Early in the afternoon, we arrived at Mahanga, wet and tired. Our Saints soon had a large wood fire built in the meeting house, and we spent the remainder of the day in drying our clothes.

Thursday morning we rode to Waiwhara, got some fresh horses and continued on to Nuhaka. We were quite late, however, in leaving Waiwhara, consequently it was after bed time long before we reached the Nuhaka river. We knew it would be in vain to try to wake them up to ferry us across, as they all lived on the opposite side, almost out of calling distance.

Therefore we turned our horses out, and thought to make a big fire and dry our clothes. My companion had two matches; the first one burned all right, but the brush was too wet to catch fire before the match was consumed. Only one match left, so we got some of the driest wood we could find, and a little paper. "A" then struck his last match, when all of a sudden a gust of wind came and blew it out. I felt around and found an old broken match, and lit it; that, however, shared the same fate as "A's" last one did. We concluded we did not want a fire, so we spent the night in walking up and down the muddy road to keep warm. We would talk and sing one to another to help pass off the long, dreary, wet night. We succeeded in waking up an old native at half-past 5 a. m., and he got his canoe and rowed us across.

On our arrival at the "Pah," the morning bell rang announcing the time for prayer. We then went and administered to a little sick girl, thence to our home, where breakfast was all ready for us. At 12 o'clock the news came that the "Yankee" mail had arrived. We procured a "waka" (canoe), crossed to the office and got our "home, sweet home" news, which was full of good tidings. We only get mail once a month in this land, and we greatly appreciate it when it does come. We can say, as Solomon has said, "As cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."

Our Saints are now looking forward with great expectations to our semi-annual district conference, which will convene on the 29th and 30th of the present month. Many of the Saints have got the spirit of gathering, and quite a number intend emigrating to Zion after the close of the next annual conference of this mission.

Some of the Saints have great faith in the healing of the sick in the household of faith. A week or so ago two of the Saints tasted five and a half days for the benefit of a sick young woman in their branch. We Elders have also learned "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." We often use this means to assist us in the learning of the native tongue. We also find that if we "knock it shall be opened" unto us, "for every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Ever praying for the welfare and safety of the Saints of God, I remain your brother,
L. G. HOAGLAND.

JUAB STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Juab Stake of Zion was held in the tabernacle, in Nephi city, October 27 and 28. There were present, President Lorenzo Snow and Elder George Teasdale, of the Apostles, Stake presidency, and Bishops.

After the opening exercises President Paxman referred consolingly to a number of deaths that had lately taken place. He said that God is pleading with us to repent of our sins and prepare ourselves to receive the blessings he is ready to bestow.

President Lorenzo Snow was pleased to meet with the people of Nephi. Spoke of our condition when we first

came to these valleys—we were poor and had nothing. Today, in looking upon the thousands of cattle feeding upon the plains, and the beautiful settlements and farms, he thought, Who are the owners? As this country is settled by the Latter-day Saints, this wealth must belong to them. The promises that have been made to us in the temples are marvelous and and wonderful, and though the clouds may seem dark at times there is always a silver lining, and we learn afterwards that these experiences we have had to pass through have been for our good. We should strive against our weaknesses, but God does not expect us to attain perfection in one day.

Apostle Teasdale was the next speaker. Said the reflections placed before us by President Snow are good. Our reformation should be made little by little, and by so doing we will be more sure to make a success of it. It is only by the grace of God that we can accomplish anything. When we consider the amount it takes to build temples to preach the Gospel, to gather the poor, and to feed and sustain them it is wonderful, and it is only by the grace of God that we are enabled to perform it all.

2 p. m.—The Bishops reported their respective wards, after which President Snow addressed the conference. He spoke of the work that is being done in the Temple for the living and the dead. Since the work in the Salt Lake Temple commenced, over 60,000 have been baptized for, and released from their prison houses. He delivered an excellent discourse upon the sealing ordinance and temple work in general, explaining how we will become Saviors upon Mount Zion. He exhorted the Saints to remove all feelings of jealousy, and said his guiding star through life has always been, that what man now is God has been, and what God is man may become.

In the evening there was a general Priesthood meeting. Apostle Teasdale delivered an excellent discourse upon the different degrees in the Aaronic and Melchisedec Priesthoods, exhorting the Bishops to see that those who are ordained magnify their callings, and receive these degrees of the Priesthood in their proper order.

Apostle Lorenzo Snow then spoke for a short time. He said that the Priesthood is a Priesthood of sacrifice; that it is from One who suffered everything that man could suffer, and all who receive it should understand their duty.

SUNDAY, 10 A. M.

Apostle George Teasdale addressed the conference, speaking at length on a variety of subjects.

Apostle Lorenzo Snow occupied the remainder of the time. He said it is a good thing to be a Latter-day Saint and to be living as such. He spoke of the different ideas in regard to death and the consequences of rejecting the Gospel. Our spirits will never be annihilated; they are divine and eternal.

2 p. m.—The tabernacle was filled to its utmost capacity. While the Sacrament was being passed around, Counselor Jas. W. Paxman presented the general Church and Stake authorities, also the special and home missionaries, all of whom were unanimously sustained.

President Lorenzo Snow addressed