

The reports were then given of the sixteen different branches by the presidents, fourteen of whom were natives. They all reported the districts as being in a prosperous and flourishing condition, and the Saints as feeling well and desirous of living their religion and proving themselves worthy of the blessings the Lord has in store for the faithful.

Elder John E. Magleby, being a most fluent and able speaker in the Maori language, greatly edified the Saints upon the restoration of the Gospel. He quoted Scripture to prove that it has been restored in its fulness, and showed that the gifts and blessings are enjoyed by the Saints today, as they were anciently. This concluded the first day's services.

Before Sunday morning services we had the privilege of adding three more souls to the Church.

At 10:30 a.m. conference again convened. After the usual opening exercises we attended to the confirmation of the baptized members, and the administration of the Sacrament.

President William Paxman then delivered a spirited discourse upon various principles of the Gospel, giving excellent exhortation to the Saints in general, and impressing upon their minds the necessity of living their religion; he also proved by scriptural evidence that the coming of the Savior is near at hand and that the judgments of God are to be poured out upon this generation if they do not repent.

Addresses were also made by the following Elders: Geo. W. Davis, Walter S. Reid, Heber J. Wagstaff and O. D. Romney, the former two spoke in the native tongue, while the latter two spoke through an interpreter, Elder Magleby acting in that capacity. All gave excellent exhortations to the Saints and bore strong testimonies to the work of God.

The names of the general and local authorities of the Church were unanimously sustained by the Saints. The following Elders were then appointed to labor in the district: George Romney, Jr., as president, and George W. Davis, Walter S. Reid, Heber J. Wagstaff, and O. D. Romney as traveling Elders.

The statistical report was read, and showed a most pleasing result, there having been added during the last six months 227 souls; making a total of 440 baptized since the district was organized in October, 1887. The total number of members in the district at the present time is 523.

There were seven meetings held during conference, five general and two Priesthood meetings. All were well attended and excellent instruction was given by all the Elders, while the best of order was observed, and the Spirit of God prevailed. Pres. Paxman made the remark that the singing surpassed any that he had before heard among the natives of this island. Much more might be said with regard to the conference and the districts, but time will not permit, as the mail leaves this place in about three minutes.

I remain as ever, your sincere brother in the Gospel of Christ,
O. D. ROMNEY.

TAUMARERE, Bay of Islands,
New Zealand, February 19th, 1889.

LETTER FROM SYRIA.

By courtesy of Apostle F. D. Richards, we are enabled to publish the following:

The present has no particular object except to let you know about my safe trip and arrival here. At Paris Bro. Sjodahl went with two others to Berne, where he stayed about three weeks. By permission I visited numerous friends and relatives in France, north and south; thence I went to Genoa and Naples, the latter place a former residence of our family.

For pleasure I visited the south of Greece, and Egypt, rather conversing about than testifying of "Mormonism," (occasionally only). At Cairo I visited the Pyramids, the one called Cheops (or Shufu) with especial thoroughness. Where recently a portion of the immense layers of rock immediately above the arch of the passage facing the primeval Pole star, have been removed, is now to be seen a beautifully engraved cartouche, (11 columns) of hieroglyphics, which soon may solve the entangled opinions concerning the vast purpose of this wonder.

From Alexandria I took steamer to Jaffa. Owing to a fierce storm we had to go to Beyrout. There, too, it stormed hard, which enabled the Arab boatmen to collect ten francs per head, where otherwise they get less than ten cents. From Alexandria to Beyrout, cost thirteen francs (on deck)—a two days' and two nights' ride by steamship; for a twenty minutes' row through the harbor it cost ten francs. Brothers Hintze and Sjodahl went down south to Jerusalem and Jaffa, to meet me, and I came here from the north (Beyrout). I have telegraphed to them and written two letters. Mail service is very bad in this country.

It seems probable to me, as you may have anticipated, that I shall go to Armenia with Brother Hintze and perhaps stay there. While here I conversed with two German ministers. They have forbidden their flock to attend our gatherings. I have had two Sunday morning, two evening and two week-day meetings since I came here.

It is early spring at present here; the first flowers are out and early greens and salad. The Haifa colony bears some resemblance to Brigham City, but is much smaller. It is at the foot of Mount Carmel. The original Haifa is more like San Francisco's Chinatown, though not as systematic, clean or pleasant.

Traveling alone by land, I lost several articles in a desert district; at a small village, the only police officer or magistrate robbed me of my shoes. Fortunately I took no valise or clothes with me from Beyrout, where they are yet to come from.

The Arabic is a beautiful and

both rational and systematic language, although somewhat difficult; it very pleasantly resembles Hebrew. Turkish is easier and more adaptable to quick and immediate use. Like English, it has borrowed very copiously from all nations it has come into contact with. The alphabet is more intricate and fickle, however, than the English.

The Saints here do quite well.

C. U. LOCANDER.
HAIFA, Syria, Feb. 28, 1889.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

I have often desired to write to you, but my time has been so occupied since my arrival here, and so little of interest has occurred on these dots in the Pacific Ocean beyond what has already been sent to you, either in conference reports or in the correspondence of "Homespun," that I have not until now availed myself of the pleasure. Realizing, however, that my mission here is drawing to a close, I have now determined to let you know that I am still in the land of the living.

I will first relate a little of my experience during an absence of nearly three years and a half. For the first two months after arriving here I assisted in building a house to shelter our families from the heat, storms, and winds of this land of perennial summer, and in other labor at the plantation. Then for fifteen months I labored in the ministry on the islands of Kawai and Maui, endeavoring at the same time to obtain a knowledge of the Hawaiian language. During this time I had many interesting experiences, and made a number of baptisms. It was, however, no easy task for me to learn the language, on account of my age and English pronunciation. I did not expect to be bothered with the language, as I had learned to guard myself when speaking in my mother tongue; but the many vowels in the Hawaiian language showed me that I still had some of "th' ould country" brogue clinging to me, and it made such words as "ha-a-ha-a" (humble) "hana, ana" (doing, working), etc., very difficult for me to utter correctly. By diligent study though, when opportunity afforded, and by frequent fasting and earnest prayer, I had obtained a sufficient knowledge of the language before the fifteen months had passed to take an active part in the work of preaching to and teaching the natives. At times I have so felt the good spirit glowing within me when preaching to the natives in their own tongue that with difficulty I have kept back my tears, and my heart has burned with love for the benighted people, and for the work of God. At such times one feels that to give his life for the cause of truth would, indeed, be but a small sacrifice.

About two years ago I was called to fill the position which I now occupy. I was at that period travelling on the Island of Maui, when President Joseph F. Smith and Brother Davis came over there to dedicate a new meeting house. While they were there I was questioned in re-