

asked permission to lay before them the principles of the gospel. I was informed that they had no desire for worship or to listen to the gospel, they having a form with which they were satisfied. Te White gave me a parable which was as follows: A peach stone, planted, grows a tree. The top is cut off, leaving root, and trunk; a new piece of another tree is brought and grafted to the peach; it grows and many branches shoot forth. First question, can any of those branches say they belong to the peach? I answered no, as they have come from that which was grafted. He then told me our church was one of those branches. I answered, "No, verily no," and explained to him that this Church is not of man, but that it has been established by God, therefore belongs to the root. In this parable all other churches have fallen before this learned man. If the first branch come of the branches which grew out of the church of Rome, the fruits of the reformation, they all alike could not prove they were of the root, the church of Christ which He established. Te White could not have given a better parable wherein he illustrated our true standing before the world. The great prophet realized the fact that he could not contest his point, so said, that all the churches were of God. His statement was proved to be a mistake. His next was, that there was no trusting a traveling missionary, Scriptural evidence was brought to prove that we were called as were the Seventies of old. It was evident that Te White could not hold his own. His followers, seeing his predicament, came to his rescue, suggesting that the conversation close to enable them to proceed with their own affairs.

Next morning a long conversation was held with Te White's son-in-law, Waitara, in the presence of a large company of his followers who had gathered together upon this day it being the great day for the Te Whitiites and Tohuities. Waitara's statements were as follows: First, it is impossible to tell which is the true Church, as all claim to have the right. I informed him as to the many scriptural promises made whereby we might know which was of God. Second, the Te Whitiites had the true Gospel. In questioning it was soon evident that not one of their principles could be sustained from holy writ. Third, that they left it for their good works to proclaim the gospel throughout the world. He was informed as to the proper method as laid down in scripture for the promulgation of the Gospel.

Through the rich outpouring of the Spirit of God I was enabled to overthrow their man-made doctrines; prove ours to be established upon that rock of revelation which we are told, not even the gates of hell shall prevail against us. The divinity of Joseph Smith's mission and the restoration and first principles of the Gospel were dwelt upon and explained to the assembly.

Time had sped so rapidly it was near noon when a visit was made to Tohu. He being absent a long talk was held with a number of his followers, chief among whom was Tahana their Maori orator, who informed us their forefathers came direct here from Jerusalem upon dry ground. He could not however give the necessary proof. Next, that the Maori people were of the lineage of Ephraim. This also he was unable to

substantiate. These, with the remainder of his remarks which occupied some two hours, he was unable to verify. He and his friends lacked the intelligence which Te White and Waitara had displayed.

At this juncture Elders John H. Ellis, president of the Manawatu conference, and Reui Maaka (Maori) his traveling companion arrived. It is needless to say that our meeting was a pleasant one, as all who have labored in the world for the spread of truth know the joy which attends such meetings far from Zion and the habitation of the Saints.

The late arrival of the two before mentioned brethren occurred through the departure from this life of one of our dear sisters, who has been in very deed a mother to the many Elders who have labored from time to time in the Manawatu district. This was the beloved wife of our fellow laborer Reui Maaka. Sister Meri Niko Maaka passed from this sphere on September 27th at Porirua. She died as she had lived since the time of her embracing the true Gospel, a true Latter-day Saint, in full hope of that eternal life which is promised to all those who prove faithful unto the Gospel.

In the evening we visited the residence of Tohu. At 7:30 he and his followers were ready to commence their usual celebrations. First, a few Maoris greeted our native companion Rewi. He replied, asking permission for us to preach to Tohu and people. This is how we were answered. Twenty-six men arose and performed a haka (or ancient Maori war dance); second, in filed eleven women and girls who poi, which consists of chanting, keeping time with the movement of a light ball to which is attached a cord; this illustrates or conveys the meaning of their song, and is moved with an agility that showed them to be thorough adepts at the poi. Third, this company was followed by another of women and girls, twenty-one in number, who also poi, singing the first Psalm. Upon reaching the name Lord they bow in honor to Tohu demonstrating the fact that they acknowledge their prophet to be God upon the earth; this showed us their desire was not for the Gospel, but for that which was of man made origin. Tohu occupied about two and a half hours in advocating his principles. He dwelt upon the evils of drink and admonished all to abhor same; also to use discretion in voting for members of parliament. The scriptural portion of his remarks was, that in Christ came only the shadow of peace, but now the Tohuities had its fulness. Second, Jesus said, "Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden." Tohu claimed there was no rest for any of the Gospel throughout the world; the only life, peace and rest being in his (Tohu's) house—He desired to say definitely that he would give rest to all who took his yoke, which was light upon them; even should 153 churches come, all should have rest with him. Another claim made by Tohuism is, that Te Whiti and Tohu are the two prophets spoken of in revelation 11 chapter. Such an absurd claim only shows how far men will depart from truth while battling with private interpretations of the scriptures and not having the light and Spirit of God to direct them on the way which leads to life eternal.

October 19th, we left on our return journey, bidding an affectionate farewell to Brothers Ellis and Maaka, who trav-

eled southward, Brother Waters and I going northward. After continual traveling for two weeks we reached Ngarnawahia, having been absent six weeks lacking two days; we traveled 515 miles held 22 meetings, had 13 Gospel conversations, and baptized 5 persons.

Preparations are being made in this district for our annual conference to be held in February next, for this part of the island. Elders and Saints are being blessed abundantly by the Lord. The good work is progressing well. Bright also are the future prospects in this portion of the Lord's vineyard.

One especial item is worthy of mention, which testifies of the blessings which are in store for the Elders of Israel if they will only live for the same. Elder Francis W. Kirkham of Lehi, who came direct from Zion and was appointed to labor here among the Maoris, in eight weeks from arrival was able to preach the Gospel in power and demonstration in the Maori language. His knowledge of the same has increased very rapidly. This blessing has been received by prayer, humility and lasting. He traveled in the north part of Waitakato district during the journey of Brother Waters and myself south.

This proved to be my last interesting trip in this land; after a sojourn of eight three and a half years, the sometimes not unwelcome letter has arrived from our beloved president, Brother Ezra F. Richards telling me I might bid adieu to Saints and friends of this land and dwell once again in our dear old mountain home.

Rejoicing in the glad tidings we hear of the progress of the work of God and ever praying for a continuation of the same, Elders and Saints send love and greetings to all the Saints of Zion.

HORI.

One of the largest California lions that has been killed in Butte county was brought to earth last Saturday by D. C. Orndall, who lives near Magalia, says the Chico, Cal., Enterprise. The young son of Mr. Orndall, aged about 12 years, has a "sq ilrel" dog, a little fellow only about a foot high. This dog is splendid for treeing squirrels, and when his bark is heard in the woods the boy takes his rifle and goes to the place, where he generally has the pleasure of killing the squirrel. On Saturday afternoon about 2 o'clock the bark of the little dog was heard a few hundred yards from the house, and the boy grabbed his gun and soon reached the spot. But when he cast a glance up among the branches of the tree he saw a very large, fierce-looking lion. The boy did not know what it might be, but was aware that it might prove dangerous, so he hurried back to the house to inform his father, the dog bravely guarding the lion's escape. Mr. Orndall supposed a mere coon of such animal had been treed, and followed the boy to the place. He immediately recognized the dangerous animal and with a steady aim he sent a bullet through a vital part of the lion, and it came tumbling to the ground. The boy was badly frightened when he learned the danger he had been in. The animal was an old one and had immense feet and limbs. It weighed 200 pounds, and measured from tip of nose to tip of tail seven feet, while in height it was over three feet.