

Exhorted all to pray for the Saints and Elders of those islands; invoked God's richest blessings upon us all.

Ngawaea Poipoi, president of Ma banga branch, said there was a general good feeling among the members of his branch and all were striving to live lives of Saints. He knew the Church of God had been established in the last days never again to be thrown down. He dwelt at length upon Nebuchadnezzar's dream and explained his subject in true oratorical style. He hoped that the Saints would obey the counsel of the Elders at all times. Spoke of the false reports that had been freely circulated among the Maoris concerning the natives who had gone to Zion and said this was only a fulfilling of some of the words of the Scriptures. He spoke also upon the subject of baptism for the dead and rejoiced greatly because he had heard that some of the Maori Saints who had gone to Zion were contemplating a vicarious work for their dead.

During the times between meetings, Kai (food) was served on a beautiful grass plot just in front of the meeting house. Every first class article of food that could be had in New Zealand was to be seen there, and the table was plentifully decorated with ferns and flowers far too numerous to mention. Our host, Watene Huka, had, as is his nature, spared no pains in having everything properly arranged and a goodly number of obliging and sprightly waiters were on hand to attend to the every want of the visitors; 173 persons partook of the bounties of life on each occasion and as all seemed to be enjoying the best of health, judge ye of the amount of food that was consumed during the three days of their stay.

Meeting opened again at 2 p. m. with several whites present. Sacrament administered by Elders Allen and Lambert.

Te Kepa, of the Turanga conference, said it was impossible for him to find words to express his great joy in meeting with Saints in this conference. He knew that if we were sincere God would bless us and the spirit seemed to tell him we were sincere. We must watch and pray always for we are surrounded on all sides by temptations. We have lighted our candle and now let us not put it under the bushel but rather upon the candlestick. He endorsed what one of the speakers of yesterday had said upon the truth of the Book of Mormon. The world would not accept it, but the world would not accept Christ when He was upon the earth although it had been foretold by the prophets where and under what circumstances He should be born. Every man should work out his own salvation. Our time upon this earth is but short, but if we are faithful we shall reign with Christ a thousand years. We have our free agency, and he hoped that we will choose the road that leadeth to life eternal. He was very earnest in his remarks and commanded the best of attention.

Watene Huka, president of the Mangatieke branch, said he felt to rejoice to see so many gathered together at this place. This is evidence that we desire to live as Saints of God. He was very glad to see the number of Elders present. They do not teach us to follow after the vain things of the world but they tell us to lay up treasures

in heaven. He knew that baptism by immersion was the only way to enter into the kingdom of heaven. He spoke upon the sacrament and said that great blessings are promised unto them that partake of it worthily, but if we would receive these blessings we must partake of it with pure hearts and clean hands. He desired to remain firm to the end, and hoped that this was the desire of all present.

The evening meeting at six p. m., was addressed by Elder Hoagland presiding, who said he was pleased with the way in which everything had been conducted during this conference. He prayed that God would bless all those who have in any way contributed to the success thereof. He felt to endorse all that had been said and hoped the Saints would resolve to practice what they had heard. Said that as there were so many present who had not had the privilege of speaking, the meeting would now be thrown open for all who felt so disposed to express themselves.

This invitation was accepted by forty-one persons all of whom bore faithful testimonies and occupied four hours' time.

Thus ended one of the pleasantest conferences ever held in the South Sea Islands. The spirit of God was felt throughout the entire gathering and even nature seemed to be on hand with her most beautiful weather. Taken as a whole the Saints in the Mahia are doing as well as can be expected of them. This is by far the largest conference in the New Zealand mission and is steadily on the increase. Twenty persons have been baptized and seven children blessed since our April conference.

HTomorrow Elder O'Brien leaves for ertauanga; Elder Teeples returns to Teranga, while Elders Hoagland, Allen and Lambert remain in the conference making their usual rounds among the Saints and also preaching to outsiders. During the last few months every village in the conference has been visited both where the Saints reside, whom we visit every month, and also the outsiders. Many seem quite favorable and we hope it will not be long before they will embrace the truth. "NITAMA."

## ANCIENT VIRGINIA GRAVES.

RED BANK, Halifax Co., Va.,

Jan. 28th, 1896.

No snow as yet here. The weather warm and delightful.

That there are still great American antiquities to look forward for discovery, is made manifest in a pleasant conversation with Colonel Webster of South Boston of this county, who is an old veteran and one of Virginia's highest men. On the evening of the 18th of December 1895, Elder N. W. Kimball and myself called on the Colonel and entered into a conversation regarding the caves. Mammoth, Kentucky, Surry, Virginia, and the curiosities of the National Park etc. "Well," said Colonel Webster, "there is a strange thing to me right here in our own county on the Dau River. I had walked over the ground hundreds of times, when trees of large size were growing there, and after this the land was cleared and became a corn field. Situated about three and a half miles from South Boston and

one half mile from Wolf Trap depot, on the north side of Dau river, was a saw mill that I built myself. The man who owned the mill and land on which it stood built a slide on the side of the river to keep the water from overflowing his land and destroying the crops, which it had done several times. But one day after a heavy rain storm the river rose beyond its bounds, overflowed the dike, and cut a large channel from twelve to twenty feet deep. At the bottom of the wash, after the water had subsided, could be seen graves of hundreds of bodies that were buried, hundreds, perhaps thousands of years ago, and covered deeper and deeper by the sediment of the river till they were from twelve to twenty feet deep. The river was lined with bones for miles, and what is still more curious is that there were pieces of cut glass which shows to me that there must have been a civilized people here some time. I have searched the history of Virginia through and through and can find no history of a battle along the Dau river."

I observed; "That is another evidence or proof in favor of a book we have called the Book of Mormon, which purports to be a history of a people who left Jerusalem six hundred years B. C., and came to this land by the direction of the Lord."

"I know nothing of that," said the Colonel, "but I know what I have told you, and I have several relics from the site now; but most of them have been carried away by the people."

"Yes," said the wife; "I have been there several times myself and many of the people went to see the same pieces of glass showed that spectacles were used by the people, also pieces of crockery etc."

"How long since that happened?"

"About twenty-eight or thirty years ago," said the Colonel. "There used to be a tradition among the Indians that a treasure of gold was buried near the Dau river. An Indian that lived here for some time called me to one side and told me the reason he was here. He said his father sent him here to find a treasure which was buried in a hill just south of Dau river between Hycoote and the big creek, now called Aaron's arch."

This again shows ancient civilization on this continent. The hill spoken of is a very high one, on which there are many diggings which go to prove that much searching has been done. There are among the many evidences which can be produced to show from nature that there once was a highly civilized people that inhabited this continent before its discovery by Columbus. The location of cities, the ruins of which can be found in south and central America, the mounds and miners of old, all go to prove a former inhabitation not by a semi-civilized, but a delishome and highly civilized people. In digging a well in Cincinnati Ohio, a gentleman found the stump of a tree three feet across the top some eighty or ninety feet below the surface of the ground: The stump had visible marks of an ax, also showed that an iron tool had rusted away on the top of the same, thus again showing that civilization had once reigned here. In the southern part of North America just north of the isthmus of Panama, are found the ruins of a city which at one time was of vast magnifi-