

At the conference held in Wai-kato Jan. 10, Elder Orson D. Romney was appointed to labor with me in this district. I am now showing him about as a final leave-taking, as he will probably take charge, succeeding me. He has been here now about fourteen months. Elder H. D. Haight, Jr., is also with us. He is a grandson of old Judge Haight, with whom you were well acquainted. We have an appointment for priesthood meeting here tonight, expecting those from the next branch to attend. I did not send you a copy of our last report, as we were short of blanks. We were blessed in the privilege of quite a number of baptisms and blessing of children.

We had a fine district conference on the 8th and 9th ult., and another fine time at Poverty Bay on the 16th and 17th. During that time we had the pleasure of the Lord's blessings made manifest through our administrations. One young man in particular was so sick as to be in constant pain. He was enabled to ride sixteen miles and be married as per previous arrangement. The next morning we administered to him again and he followed us to Kaiti, 85 miles, within a few days, attending the conference there. While there the assemblage of Maories with five of us Elders and a few other whites were photographed. I have not as yet seen a finished picture, but I am sure I shall prize it.

From there President Wright went on and I returned. He said he would like me to arrange so as to meet him at the Manawatu district conference which is to be held at Porirua, fifteen miles from Wellington, on the 29 and 30 insts. We will then come on over to the general conference beginning April 4, after which he expects to accompany us returning Elders to Auckland. This arrangement requires my leaving ahead of the company going to general conference, but will give me a fine visit through my old "stamping ground" where I had my first initiation into Maoridom. That evening July 1st, 1887, I think I never shall forget, when I, not knowing even a word of greeting, was set down alone to find my way into a Maori village. Yet I was not alone, for my footsteps were guided, and a kind and motherly heart had been prepared to welcome and give me shelter under her humble roof. How when those simple natives gathered round me chattering in their own strange tongue, and trying to make me understand their questions put in broken English, I sat there and thought of what was before me! Yet I was not unhappy or lonesome, but knew that I had come to do God's work, and in my faithfulness He would continue as He had begun to raise up friends for me. How true this has been! I have been enabled through His blessing to acquire a portion of their strange language and to expound His precious truths to this people. The time has flown by as on the wings of the wind. Weeks and months have sped by as simple short spans

of time, marking dates for labors to be accomplished. The years have now passed and I am, as it were, on my way home, saying good bye to scenes and people among whom I have labored. And so shortly I shall be with you all once more. But what shall I find? I ask myself. I am reminded that March 1st is city officers' inauguration day. A cable message says that "the Gentiles have carried an important election in Utah." All this means discomfort and inconvenience for those who have built up the country, and disaster to many. But it is all right.

Much must and will be accomplished in a brief space of time, and a few years, if we are faithful, will see us safely past the breakers, and the good ship Zion will gain a safe harbor, even though she be somewhat dismantled by the rude blasts and angry sea. The time when men "must needs flee to Zion for safety" is nearer than our people realize, and it is necessary that we see a little rough handling in order that we be awakened and prepared.

Oh what have we to be thankful for! Everything is for us if we will but firmly hold on to the "rod of iron." Stay at our post and her Captain will manage the ship.

In another letter dated Waipawa, Hawkes Bay, March 19, Elder Stevenson says:

At this pah, or village, is now staying a false prophet who claims power over unclean spirits, etc. He has a company of unclean followers, and it is only unclean things they accomplish, though some claim to be healed by his power. They are a lot of adulterous and drinking men and women going about in a body, remaining at a place as long as food lasts. They shun us, that is talking with us, reminding us of Christ's words, John 8:19, 20. The worst to me is their professing a respect for Deity and prophecy while upholding such works of wickedness. But it is for such that righteous indignation will be made manifest upon the earth.

LETTER FROM LAIE.

Sitting here with open door and window almost soothed into a pleasing revivie by the balmy ocean breeze, one is led to mark the strange contrast between these peaceful islands and the busy turmoil and agitation so continuously kept up in Utah by conspiring politicians. But my purpose is not to dwell upon the unpleasant contrast.

In our semi-annual conference convened here on the 4th, 5th and 6th insts., we have witnessed another manifestation of the marvelous workings of the Spirit of God in turning the hearts of His children from doing works of wickedness to seek after truth and intelligence. A full representation from the various islands and different branches rendered it apparent that many have determined to make fast their hold upon the "iron rod."

The Elders reported great satisfaction in their labors, kind and

fraternal care among the Saints visited, and progress in adding new members to the fold to the number of 276 new baptisms and 176 children blessed during the term.

It must indeed be a heart devoid of all the tender sympathies that would not be rejoiced to note the emotions of love, happiness and gratitude depicted upon the glad countenances of those native people, just emerging from darkness into light, as they sit under the sound of the Gospel expounded and proclaimed to them by the brethren under the influence of the Spirit of all intelligence.

In the shaking of the hand, the greeting with "aloha nui," the tear that trickles down the cheek, the quivering lip, and in every pleasing act of recognition of these children of simplicity, we are able to read as if it were impressed in golden letters, that silently permeating attribute of the Eternal Father that cements His children together in heart and soul, love. "God is love."

On Sunday the 6th inst., the names of the general authorities of the Church were read to the conference and they were sustained.

The local authorities appointed and sustained were:

Wm. King, president of the Hawaiian mission, with all the foreign Elders laboring here as counselors.

Brigham Johnson, president of the Island of Kauai.

S. S. Hammond, president of the Island of Oahu, and branch of Honolulu, with M. F. Eakle as his assistant.

W. H. Allen president of the Island of Hawaii, with Malin Horne as his assistant.

Isaac Fox president for the islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai.

Ward E. Pack president of the Laie branch, with Charles Harper and M. F. Eakle counselors.

M. F. Eakle clerk of conference and church recorder.

Isaac Fox band and choir leader.

Twenty-two native Elders were called to labor under the direction of the above named presiding officers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

The conference of Sunday schools was well attended. Reports of delegates showed a lively interest in the work. A pleasing programme of songs, recitations, instrumental selections, etc., was rendered.

The officers elected for the ensuing term were: Brigham H. Johnson, general president, with Isaac Fox and W. H. Allen as counselors.

Moki Nakuau, secretary, and Samuel S. Sun, assistant secretary.

"HUI OPIO" M. I. A. CONFERENCE.

In this conference a marked degree of comprehension of the design and purpose of these associations was shown in the lectures given and programme presented.

Officers for ensuing term are: W. H. Allen, general president; S. S. Hammond and M. F. Eakle, counselors; Moki Nakuau and Samuel S. Sun, secretary and assistant secretary.

The conference of