

Brother Gardner spoke in the forenoon and I addressed the congregation in the European session held in the afternoon, at which quite a number of whites were present; and there would have been many more had the weather been favorable. But it rained all forenoon, which kept most of our friends at home in the afternoon also when it cleared up a little. We had good meetings and the attempt of the evil one to break up our conference ended in a failure to him. While Elders Gardner, Linford and Bunot remained at Te Hora and held another meeting with the Maori Saints there, Elder Bird, Cook and myself went to the European settlement (Canvastown) and held a cottage meeting in the house of Brother Witney. On our way there we visited Sister Simonsen, who treated us to ripe raspberries and strawberries. They were the first fruits of that kind that I ever ate in New Zealand. Our European meeting was attended by several strangers besides the Saints who constitute the membership in this neighborhood. We stopped over night with Brother Witney who has a good and interesting family.

Monday, December 16th. We arose early, and assisted by Elder Bird I attended to historical labors in the forenoon, after which we walked back two miles to Te Hora where we finished our labors and then took leave of the Saints, got into a hired cart and started on our return journey. On our way down the valley, we took leave of the European Saints and also Elder Cook, while Elders Gardner, Linford, Bird and myself proceeded on the cart and Elder Bunot on horseback forty miles to the native village of Wairau, situated on the Wairau river about four miles from Blenheim. At this place there is a small branch of the Church, and we held a little meeting with some of the members in the evening, at the house of Mehaka Watere, the president of the branch where we also stopped over night. On our journey today we turned aside from the road, and visited a monument erected on the top of a hill in memory of twenty-two men who were killed by natives in battle June 17th, 1843. The occasion was a land dispute. The colonial government had sent a party of surveyors in to survey the Wairau with an eye to forming white settlements there. The natives objected, and ordered the surveyors off. They refused to go. Soldiers were sent for; a fight ensued. There were killed and wounded on both sides, but the Maoris came off victorious, and it appeared afterwards that they were in the right.

The Wairau missionary district embraces the north end of the South Island or the Marlborough and Nelson districts. It consists of four organized branches of the Church with a total baptized membership of 113, with 31 children under eight years of age; there are 144 souls, of whom 15 are Europeans. This is according to the statistical report of December 31st, 1894, from which all the statistical figures given by me regarding the districts and mission have been taken. Of the four Elders laboring in the district at present, two devote most of their time to the Europeans and to the Maoris. The names of the branches are Te Hora, Wairau, Whangarae and Rangitoto.

The Wairau branch, organized July 17th, 1887, by Elders Nelson S. Bishop and Joseph S. Groesbeck, is the oldest

branch in the district. The two Elders named, accompanied by Erueti Kingi Manihera a native brother arrived at Wairau, May 4th, 1889, as the first Latter-day Saint missionaries sent to preach the Gospel in its fullness to the Maoris in that part of New Zealand. They commenced to preach immediately and on June 2nd, 1889, began to baptize at Wairau. The Wairau branch consists of the saints residing in a village of that name situated on the left bank of the Wairau river, about one and one-fourth miles from its mouth, or the outlet into the ocean. It is also about four miles northeast of Blenheim.

Te Hora branch consists of the Saints residing in the Pelorus valley, the principal village being Te Hora which is situated at the junction of the Pelorus and Whakamarino rivers opposite the latter stream from the European burgh called Canvastown, which is six miles up the Pelorus valley from Havelock, a European town situated at the head of the Pelorus sound. The Te Hora branch was organized October 4th, 1891, with Watene Hemi as President. His brother Hakaraia now presides.

The Whangarae branch embraces the Saints residing in the village of Whangarae which is situated on the Croixzelles bay, in the Nelson district about fourteen miles southwest of the so-called French Pass, about thirty miles by roundabout road northwest of Te Hora or Canvastown. The branch which is an outgrowth of the Rangitoto branch was organized at a district conference held at Ohana, Rangitoto, May 13th and 14th, 1893, with Renata Te Morehu as president.

The Rangitoto branch organized November 12th, 1892, by Elders Ben Goddard and R. G. Meikle, consists of the native Saints residing in the Rangitoto or D'Urville island, which lies north of the South island, from which it is separated by the dangerous channel known as the French Pass. The island is about sixty miles in circumference, and nearly all the inhabitants are members of the Church.

Tuesday, December 17th. We spent the forenoon at Wairau attending to historical labors, and at 2:30 p. m. Elders Gardner, Linford, Bird, Bunot and myself started off with the cart and traveled about ten miles to Para, a small railway station up in the mountains, where Elder Bunot took leave of us and returned with the cart, while the rest of us boarded the train and traveled eight miles to Picton, a fine little town with 1,000 inhabitants, beautifully situated at the head of Queen Charlotte's sound. Here we went on board the steamer Wainui together with quite a number of native Saints from Te Hora and other places who are going over with us to attend the Christmas conference to be held in the Wairarapa valley. We retired to rest after conversing with some fellow passengers about religion, at a late hour, while the steamer was yet lying at the Picton wharf.

Wednesday, December 18th. At 2 a. m. the steamer Wainui sailed from Picton, and after a pleasant voyage of fifty-three miles we arrived at Wellington at 8 a. m. We spent part of the day at Wellington, visiting the museum, parliament buildings, etc., and also attended to some business. At 3:30 p. m. we boarded the train and started for the Wairarapa valley. The journey along

the bay, up the Hutt valley and around Rimutaka mountains, a spur of the Tararua range, is very interesting, the scenery along the road being of the most varied and picturesque description. That part of the road which passes over the mountain named is considered a great triumph of engineering skill. The grade on the Wairarapa side of the summit is very steep, the gradients in some places being one to fifteen, and many of the curves five chains radius. The line is constructed with a centre rail, rising about eighteen inches above the level of the other two; and the wheels of the engine are so made that they grip each side of the centre rail, acting both as a brake and as an assistance in the ascent. The first glimpse of the Wairarapa valley with its romantic lake nestling in its centre reminds me of Utah valley, as it appears from the mouth of Provo canyon. We arrived at Woodside, fifty miles from Wellington at 6:30 p. m. Here we changed cars and traveled three miles on a branch railway to Greytown, where Elder George Bowles president of the Wairarapa district and Lewis G. Hoagland, from the Mahia district, were on hand to receive us, and conducted us to the elegant residence of Aporo H. Kumeroa, president of the Papawai branch, who together with his family and other natives were there to greet us in the usual native style. In the evening, after prayer, speeches of welcome were made by the principal Maoris present to which we four Elders who had just arrived, responded. A good and pleasant spirit was manifest, and we soon felt quite at home with our Maori friends in the Wairarapa valley.

ANDREW JENSON.

PAPAWAI, Wairarapa, New Zealand, December 25th, 1895.

MISSISSIPPI AND LOUISIANA.

JACKSON, Miss., April 12, 1896.

Herewith please find an account of the Mississippi Conference of the Mississippi Conference held in New Orleans, La., the 16th, 17th and 18th of February.

All Elders of the Mississippi Conference to the number of thirty-four arrived in New Orleans on the 15th and 16th of February, (excepting Elders Johnson and Baker, whose money for railway fare did not arrive in time,) and assembled at the hospitable hotel of Sister Schweitzer, who had prepared for the "Mormon boys," and a jollier and more healthy looking lot could not have been found. For one public service a large hall on Camp Street, just across from the Picayune office, had been obtained, where on Sunday at 11:30 o'clock a small audience greeted us. But the Spirit of God was with us and a most enjoyable time was had.

The meeting was called to order by President Frank T. Pomeroy, Singing, "Should you feel inclined to censure." Prayer by Elder William M. Holt. Singing, "Do what is right let the consequence follow."

Elder Pomeroy then addressed the meeting. He referred to the object of our meeting, then spoke at some length on Mark 1: 14, 15, or "the Gospel." He proved from the Scriptures that an acceptance and obedience to the principles and ordinances of the Gospel was required of all by our Lord. He outlined the glorious plan of salvation, showing God's mercy, and man's responsi-