

MISCELLANEOUS.

Written for this Paper.
CONFERENCE NOTES FROM "TE MAHIA."

The semi-annual conference of the Mahia having been called at Mangatike for Saturday and Sunday, September 7th and 8th, 1895, many of the Saints from the several branches that are included in this conference gathered at the above mentioned place on the day previous to the commencement of meeting, to be in readiness for conference and to meet friends and relations, whom they had not seen for some time. A large cook house 16x36 feet had been built for the occasion and on the arrival of the Elders everything was in "apple pie" order. We were favored with the presence of T. J. O'Brien of Hawkes Bay conference, who, together with Elder Hoagland, had just returned from a trip through Turanga and Waiapu conference, visiting the Saints and attending conferences at those places in company with Elder Gardner; also J. E. Teeple, traveling Elder in the Turanga conference. Several of the Saints were also in attendance, among whom was Te Kipa a native Elder who has been called to assist the Elders from Zion in furthering the interest of God's work upon this land. We may here state that we are sorry that our beloved president, Brother William Gardner of the Australasian mission, could not be in attendance. No doubt he would have done, had not business called him to Auckland.

The first meeting was called to order at 10 a. m. Saturday, September 7th. Elder Hoagland greeted the Saints, saying it gave him great pleasure to meet again with the Saints of this conference, and he was particularly pleased to see so many present and to note the universal good feeling among us. We had met here for a good purpose and he hoped that all present would earnestly pray that God would pour out His spirit upon us during our entire conference. He read the 139th Psalm and commented upon the same. We must follow the advice of the Savior when He said, "If you love me keep my commandments." He hoped that we would all continue in the straight and narrow path, straying neither to the right nor the left; spoke about the forefathers of this people, how they came from Jerusalem first to America, then to Hawaiki (Sandwich Islands) and finally here; promised the Saints great blessings if they would only live their religion.

Wi Pai Tarewa said it gave him great joy to meet with the Saints; endorsed the remarks of Elder Hoagland and knew that the Saints upon this land had been greatly blessed in their efforts to serve God. He said that of late some of the natives had been going to outsiders to seek a cure for their several sicknesses, when he knew that if they would only exercise their faith the Elders could heal them. The best and only thing for the Saints to do is to live up to the instructions of the Elders. He desired that all who had gone out of the Church would repent and return again into the true fold; he warned the Saints

against using obscene and profane language.

Te Rangitire, president of Waiwhara branch, said that the Lord desired us to do nothing but good works. He knew that this is the true Church of Christ. The many churches in Christendom at present do not even take upon them the name of Christ, to say nothing of keeping his commandments. He exhorted the Saints to be diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times and to pray without ceasing.

Matenga Waitaniwha said the knowledge of man benefiteth him nothing except he hath the spirit of God to dictate him in what he shall say; urged the Saints to be faithful to the covenants which they had made and to refrain from vain and worldly practice.

All then joined in singing a "Rongapai," which consists of verses taken from the Bible and arranged in form similar to the Ready References. These are sung in a sort of chant and may deal with any subject.

At 2 p. m., meeting again convened and Elder T. J. O'Brien (Hawkes Bay) addressed the people. He had listened with much interest to the words of the speakers this morning. The road to eternal life is straight and narrow and there are but few who seem to find it. We know that this is the road and we should endeavor to remain therein. Dwelt for some time upon the reason that this Church takes upon itself the name of Christ; showed the way in which all who desire to unite themselves with this Church must go, and said that the adversary is ready at any time to lead us astray, but he hoped and prayed to God that we would remain faithful. He knew the Book of Mormon to be the word of God although the world does not accept it.

Whaka Ngaro, president of Kopuwhara branch, spoke upon the first principles of the Gospel and Church organization. How many of the churches of the world today have apostles, prophets, etc? If not any, why not? How then can we explain the words found in Amos 3-7? The speaker urged the Saints to go onward and upward, obeying the words of the Elders, to hold fast to the Gospel and not go after other gods. He reported his branch in a good condition.

Te Kihī, president of the Wairoa branch, said that this people are naturally a free hearted people and exhorted them to continue so, for we can not do too much good in the short time allotted to us in this life. Rejoiced to be at our district conference. Said the people at Wairoa were living well up to their duties.

Karaitiana Teahiwerā, president of the Nuhaka branch, rejoiced that the privilege of speaking to the Saints had been granted him. He was glad also to know that we are trying to do our duty. There is only one way to salvation as has been abundantly proven by scriptural evidence. He advised the Saints to leave off all traditions of their forefathers that are abominable in the sight of God. We cannot serve God and Mammon. If we keep not the commandments of God we are liable to the fate which overtook the sons of Aaron when they burnt a strange sacrifice

contrary to the word of God. Hoped we would all try to live nearer to God in the future than we have done in the past.

Meeting opened again at 6 p. m., and Kipa Teaitu, of the Turanga conference, was the first speaker. He said this is the church that has been revealed from heaven in these the last days and through the atonement of Christ all mankind may be saved by rendering obedience to its laws and ordinances. Said the Elders had been sent here from Zion and are laboring diligently to keep us in the straight and narrow path. He testified of the divine mission of Joseph Smith and knew that he was a Prophet of God.

Epeniha Kaihote felt weak in standing before the Saints, but not because his faith was not strong, for he knew this was the Gospel of Christ. No man can be saved with faith alone. Christ suffered for us and it we will be saved we must follow in His footsteps. He rejoiced to know that he had entered into the church of Christ in a proper manner and hoped to be able to endure to the end.

Hoani Whariki said we had gathered here for the purpose of worshipping God, and we must be faithful in all that we do; because the children of Israel disobeyed the commandments of God, they were scattered to all parts of the earth. We are of the seed of Abraham and have been scattered, but the time will come when all Israel shall be gathered. Every man should perform well his part for a record of our actions is kept not alone by the Elders but also by the recording angel and at the day of judgment the books will be opened and we will be judged out of them.

After meeting was over Elder O'Brien and some of the other Elders amused the Saints until quite late by singing comic songs and Maori waiatas.

Sunday, September 8th, 10 a. m. Elder James C. Allen was the first speaker. We must listen attentively to the remarks of those who address us for the scriptures say—"Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God." Some of the Saints seem to have lost faith in the Elders, but the power is as much with them now as ever. When the Elders came first among this people many miracles were wrought but of late he had heard even some of the Saints say that the Elders have not now the same power as before. It is not the power but the faith of the people that is wanting. We must not allow our faith to dwindle and die, but we must strive to make it grow and spread like unto a seed planted in good soil. If we have done any evil let us not procrastinate the day of our repentance, for by so doing we become subject to the spirit of the devil.

Elder Jacob E. Teeple of the Turanga conference, next spoke, exhorting all to faithfulness. Those who are faithful are those who will be saved. Quoted the words of the Savior, "If you love me keep my commandments;" and bore a strong testimony to the truth of the work in which we are engaged.

Elder J. N. Lambert expressed himself as feeling well in the Gospel and was highly pleased with the successful time we have so far enjoyed. He had recently received a letter from his cousin who is laboring on the Society Islands and was sorely grieved to learn that the Elders were receiving such harsh treatment at the hands of the new governor.