

Evening meeting.—After singing and prayer the time was occupied by Elders Morgan, Hales, Packard and Waters, and by Ponuie, Kupu, Kerei, Te Whare-rauhō, and Te Haata of the native brethren. All were earnest in their exhortations, and were actuated by the Spirit of God in their remarks. The closing prayer was offered by Hori Takari.

Third Day, morning meeting.—It was a beautiful Sabbath morning. It being the first Sunday in the month, it was observed by all as fast day. A spirit of peace prevailed among the Saints, and all seemed to be of one heart and mind. After the usual opening ceremonies, President Folkman, of the Hauraki district, spoke briefly relative to the condition of his conference. The Saints has manifested a spirit of unity in preparing for the "Hui." The speaker chose for his subject "The Gospel." Its establishment in the days of Christ and its restoration in this dispensation were plainly portrayed from the scriptures.

Elder Andrew Jenson occupied the remainder of the time, with Elder Hoagland as interpreter. He dwelt upon the origin of the Maoris and their history. He portrayed the blessings that were promised unto them as a branch of the house of Israel. At the close a number of curios were exhibited, which interested the natives very much.

After singing No. 18, the meeting was dismissed by Hare Monetana.

Afternoon meeting.—Singing, hymn No. 102; prayer by Elder Bird, hymn No. 129. After the administration of the Sacrament by Elders Folkman and Lazenby, the following brethren then addressed the conference: Joseph M. Markham, T. S. Browning, Moroni Lazenby, Heber C. Jex, R. L. Bird and Hori Haaro. Their remarks were spirited and instructive, though necessarily brief.

At the close President Gardner spoke a few congratulatory words, expressing his gratitude to those who had labored so diligently to make the conference a success. The General Church authorities were presented and unanimously sustained. William Gardner, as president, and John Johnson as clerk of the mission, were also sustained by the sanction of the whole conference. Elders Jorgensen, Peterson, Hoagland, Nebeker, Abbott and Bartlet were honorably released from their labors to return to Zion. The appointments for the northern part of the mission were read, and with one accord accepted. Our beloved president implored the blessings of God upon all the Saints, and plead with them to be true to the sacred trust imposed in them. The meeting was dismissed with singing and prayer.

Elders' Meeting.—The object of this gathering was to receive special instructions from President Gardner and Elder Jenson, and also to give the brethren an opportunity to bear their testimonies. Elder Jenson explained fully the importance and method of keeping records and genealogies. When the business was transacted, each Elder spoke in turn as he was led; the Spirit of God burned in each bosom, and filled every soul. Brother Gardner gave some fatherly advice, and could scarcely refrain from tears as he addressed his sons.

In the evening the usual testimony meeting was held. Many of the Saints testified to the truth, and frequently in-

terspersed their remarks by appropriate hymns, which all joined in singing. This meeting lasted until midnight, after which the natives remained and engaged in farewell speeches until about 3 o'clock a.m. The Elders who were released to return home remained with them, as the "poroporoaki" was addressed to them in particular. Thus closed one of the most interesting and successful conferences ever held in the Australasian mission. All credit be to those who labored so faithfully to make it the grand success it was. God grant that good may result from having met together, and that the truth may spread rapidly in this distant part of the Lord's vineyard.

JOHN JOHNSON,  
Mission Clerk.

### IN NORTH CAROLINA.

WILMINGTON, April 26, 1896.

Thinking perhaps a brief article in regard to our missionary labors may prove of interest to the many readers of your esteemed paper, I make bold to ask you to insert this in your columns. We are often reminded of the prophecy of our beloved President Willford Woodruff at the dedication of the Temple "In the tops of the mountains" that Zion should begin to find favor in the eyes of the world. Slowly but surely the dark clouds of prejudice that have overshadowed the true history and character of the Latter-day Saints are being dispelled by the sunlight of truth. Though "dark as Erebus," those clouds are melting in thin air. Men begin to recognize the integrity and industry that, through the blessings of God, have converted the barren wastes into fruitful fields; they begin to see a mighty commonwealth springing up as if by magic in the chambers of the West; they see power manifest, though they may not recognize God's hand in it all. Men recognize consummate achievements in art and wonder at these things among a people that have been driven beyond the confines of civilization, and a people that have been called ignorant and non-progressive. These things are not the products of ignorance and stagnation. In talking with Governor Carr of North Carolina he gave expression to his great wonder at these things. Said he: "How strange it is that your people have shown such skill in architecture as to construct that vast dome-shaped tabernacle with its colossal pipe organ and your magnificent Temple at a time when they were shut out from access with the rest of the world." Thus, as the mists are clearing away, the nations are beginning to see the glory of Zion.

In the South the spirit of investigation is taking hold of the people as never before, and the Lord is opening up the way for the gathering out of the honest in heart, the blood of Israel that is sprinkled among the Gentiles. Elder R. M. Smith and myself have been up in Duplin county assisting Elders Kolter and Teiford in holding a number of meetings for the past two weeks among a great many friends and investigators. We held twenty meetings and baptized three persons.

Among our friends are some of the most prominent men of the county, where we were warmly entertained. One gentleman, a bible lecturer, who

has the reputation of successfully tying up most of the ministers with whom he comes in contact, had no stumbling block whatever to cast in our way but wished us "God's speed." One preacher that came twelve or fifteen miles to hear us preach, after meeting said that he could bear testimony to the truth of the Gospel; that time we had spoken upon the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon and had borne testimony that it was the word of God. We expect a number of converts in those parts in the near future.

Yet it is not all smooth sailing. There is an occasional cloud to obscure the sunlight, now and then the waves writhe angrily about the prow of the vessel, while dark clouds lower over the copious seas. Wherever the Priesthood of God is, there we always find the powers of evil ready to assail. Slander is the devil's most effectual weapon—he is a professional mud-slinger. He spreads lies concerning God's servants to poison the minds of the people against them and to retard the work, and thus we almost invariably find that some gross misrepresentations or falsehood goes before us.

As we were on our way one night to fill an appointment, we witnessed a scene that made a deep impression upon our minds. A woman and her sister and three children were turned out of doors and their household goods were dumped upon the public road. As we came up the woman exclaimed: "Children of God, tell me has God turned His back on me? What shall I do?" She said that she was going to our meeting if all her things were stolen. Some one said: "If she had not had anything to do with those Mormons she would not have been turned out." And this is a Christian land! I felt something like Mephistopheles says to Faust: "Wouldst grasp the thunder? Well for you poor mortals that 'tis not yours to wield!" I thought 'tis well that the thunderbolts of God's justice are not mine to wield. While speaking in meeting I promised her in the name of the Lord that she should find a home. The next morning first thing she found two places to go to, and is now a member of the Church.

At the last conference President Kimball predicted that we in this conference would hold ten meetings this year where we held one last year. This is being wonderfully fulfilled. Elders Harrington and Carter held twenty-seven meetings in March; so far in April they have held twenty meetings. Many of the other Elders are doing likewise. Last week's report for meeting held is thirty-six, and not all reports in yet for that week.

E. C. ROBINSON.

The great 700-foot tunnel at the head of the Rio Verde canal in the Salt river, A. T. valley, will be completed if nothing interferes within the next week. This will remove the chief obstacle on the line of the canal of which some twenty miles have been completed. There are, however, some intervening gaps to be excavated and work on the dam, now waiting for low water, to be executed. The upper portion of the canal covering Pariaise valley will probably go into commission in time for the next cropping season.