

as I enjoy this rich and precious and glorious conference that I am sharing with you. We talk about our sons and our families. It really makes folks feel terrible all over if they see their families not in so good a situation as some of their brethren's. But we must just do the best we can, and then the Lord will do the rest for us, and set angels to help us. It is precious that we can look back to so great a father as Abraham. The Lord says, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him." And so he did. He instructed them concerning the very first commandment, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." While he had one side of his family, the descendants of Sarah, that came to be Twelve Tribes to enter into the Gospel covenant and the power of great salvation, there was another side of his household, the descendants of his other wives, that have gone off in the line of Mohammedanism. But as different as their views are from ours, they have maintained that feature which our father Abraham taught them, that they should have no other gods before Him, and with them there is but one God, and Mohammed is His prophet; while with us there is but one God, and the Lord Jesus Christ is our Savior. If we can establish our children in the right ways of the Lord, that is what we ought to do. But we can look back over some of the best families of Israel, beginning with the Prophet Joseph's family and going all along the line, and where are they? Look into the world and at some of the best preachers among the different denominations—men living up to the best light they have—and some of their children are the renegades of their town. Well, if men do the best they can, there will be help given to the righteous. Think of father Abraham! The Lord has told us that he has passed the angels and the Gods and gone into his exaltation. Where are his generations? where are these Moslems? Father Abraham has gone up to where he has power—power with the Gods, power with the Son of God, power with the courts of heaven, power with the council of the Eternal. He has a work on hand. In this world he has a multitude, like the sand of the sea shore, and they have to come around, in time or eternity, to inherit the presence and glory of their father Abraham in the eternal world, so many of them as can be rescued through obedience to the Gospel. I hope the Lord will bless us, and help us to understand the times and seasons in which we live, that we may make the most and best of them, glorify His name and build up His Church.

The Lord is going to turn the favor of the best men on earth towards this people as fast as we will let Him. Men already have come here with their millions and offered their money to us. They sense that we are a people who are trustworthy, and that pay our debts. They sense that we are a staid people, and our merchants have paid their debts in the east and maintained as good a financial reputation as any people in these whole United States. (We can say "these United States" since we have got in). Why do they feel that way? It is because they see the integrity of this people; that during the late panic the banks did not close up and burst us all to pieces and ruin everything, but held steady. They see virtues among this

people that make them feel safe that if there is a people anywhere where they can invest and do business with safety, they are here. We have the least number of defaulters among us, we have the least bankrupts among us, we have the least of anything of that kind that is mischievous and bad. We need to cultivate these virtues, not in our merchants only, but every man, woman and child ought to be brought up in the culture of these graces and virtues, so that we can stand up and be exalted above every other people; and the glory of God will come upon Zion, and they will look to her as the safest and best place for their great treasure storehouses and the establishment of all that is good. We will have men come in here with means to build railroads, and make labor for our brethren, and cause them to rejoice, so that they can get a little money to pay their debts and their tithing with. I pray the Lord to bless us all in cultivating every grace and virtue that the Gospel grants us, that we may so live as to be proper exemplars in the Church of our God, and be worthy of the blessings that heaven has to bestow upon us. May it be so. Amen.

OVER IN MAORILAND.

AUCKLAND, New Zealand,
January 23rd, 1896.

The northern annual conference of the Australasian Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been looked forward to with pleasurable anticipations by the Elders and Saints of this land. With such an event in Maoriland are associated the fond expectations of meeting and greeting friends, indulging in bounteous repasts, and partaking of the blessings of God in the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The heart of every Saint is gladdened by the prospect of mingling with brethren and sisters and receiving from the lips of the servants of the Lord instruction and encouragement in the precious principles of the Gospel.

On the morning of January 2nd might have been seen a happy company of Elders and native Saints laden with luggage, wending their way to the railway station. President Gardner arranged with the railroad authorities for a special car that the whole company might remain together. At 9:30 a. m. the train puffed away for Te Aroha, the place appointed for the conference. A happier crowd never traveled. The twenty natives from the Hawkes Bay district chanted their Maori songs as the long string of cars glided smoothly on. The passengers on board were not a little interested and could scarcely keep from trespassing on the reserved rights of the Mormon excursionists. On reaching Ngamawahia, the company was joined by Elders Johnson, Browning, Nelson and Waters, besides twelve of the Saints of the Ngamawahia branch in Waihatu. At Huntly and succeeding stations, many more were added until, when reaching Te Aroha, the Saints and Elders numbered about seventy-five. They were met at the station by natives who had brought horses and carts to convey the luggage to the Kainga (village).

More than a hundred from the various branches of the Hauraki district had already assembled, nearly all of whom came out to welcome those who had just arrived on the train. The familiar Maori call could be heard long before ap-

proaching the village. There were waving of handkerchiefs, chanting of "waiatas," and the "tangi" of love amidst cheering cries of "haere mai."

According to native custom, the resident Saints all formed themselves into a semicircle while the visitors and Elders passed round and indulged freely in the friendly "hongi." What feelings of joy thrilled every heart! What a happy meeting! The countenance of each was aglow with love and the spirit of the Gospel filled every soul. Only those who have witnessed similar experiences can realize fully the joy of Zion's Elders when they meet at conference. Though at first strangers, the spirit of brotherly love soon banishes all strange feelings.

The appointed cooks and waiters were not slow in the performance of their parts. Two long tables under a tent roof were soon spread with the delicacies of Maoriland, and the cry "haere mai hi te hai" was heeded with much alacrity. Though one hundred persons could be waited upon, a second and sometimes a third table was necessary. The most elaborate preparations had been made for the accommodation of all visitors. There were eatables of all kinds in abundance and good beds were provided for everybody.

After tea the vast concourse of people repaired to the newly erected church to engage in evening services. After the usual exercises, the resident members greeted and welcomed their visiting brethren and sisters and ere all had spoken it was well nigh midnight, and quiet reigned throughout the "Kaniga."

The conference commenced on January 3rd, at 10 o'clock a. m. with President William Gardner presiding. Besides there were present on the stand the following Elders from Zion: Andrew Jenson, C. B. Bartlett, L. G. Hoagland, Joseph C. Jorgensen, F. W. Nebeker, Christian Petersen, James S. Abbott, James M. Folkman, T. J. Morgan, J. W. Linford, John Johnson, Willard Goff, R. L. Bird, Hial B. Hales, David Packard, Joseph Markham, Heber C. Jex, William W. McDonald, Moroni Lazenby, Chas. H. Embley, T. J. O'Brien, Schuyler E. White, J. J. Derbidge, George Burnham, Jens K. Nelson, P. A. Waters and T. S. Browning.

Various districts were represented as follows: Hawkes Bay 20 Tamanga 22, Waihatu 30, Whangarei 1, Bay of Islands 1, and a sufficient number from Hauraki to make a total of 200. The house was crowded to its utmost capacity. The attention of the audience was called by the president and all joined in singing hymn No. 156. The opening prayer was offered by Elder Hoagland after which the congregation sang the 53rd hymn.

President Gardner greeted the Saints in the love of the Gospel. His heart was full of gratitude for being permitted to meet with his brethren and sisters under such favorable circumstances. He gave a brief account of the condition of the mission as a whole. There being so many to speak he warned those who were called against making lengthy discourses.

Elder Andrew Jenson, our esteemed historian, was the next speaker. (Elder Jorgensen acted as interpreter). He extended unto the Saints a most cheerful greeting and portrayed the object of the mission to which he had been called. It had been his pleasant privilege to meet nearly all of the Elders before meeting them in this land. Greetings in