

felt that he ought to remain in the Senate.

#### GEAR ON ALLISON.

In closing this article I would state that whether Allison wants to be a presidential candidate or not there is no doubt but that Iowa will present his name in the next national convention. After leaving him I crossed the street to the Portland Flats, and called upon Iowa's new Senator, Gov. Gear. I told him of the above remark of Senator Allison and he replied: "I believe Senator Allison is honest in his statement that he had no presidential ambitions. That will not effect Iowa, however. It will surely present his name to the convention, and it seems to me that he stands as good a chance to be the next President as any man in the United States. He comes from the right part of the country—the west. He is right on all questions, and he has proved himself a safe, conservative and at the same time able statesman."

"But, Senator Gear," said I, "it is said that Allison is too conservative. He is charged with being always on the fence, and his opponents say he is afraid."

"That is not true," said Senator Gear. "There is nothing of the coward about Allison. He is cautious, but not cowardly. He has a stiff backbone in him, and when the occasion demands he always shows that he has convictions and the courage to support them. There is no man in the United States better fitted by his wide experience and by his dealing with public affairs to be President of the United States. For the past thirty-two years he has been in public life. He knows the country, its needs and its men. He is now sixty-six years old, but he does not look to be more than fifty-six, and he is in prime physical condition."

*Frank G. Carpenter*

#### FROM MAORILAND TO ZION.

SALT LAKE CITY,

June 18th, 1895.

One of the most interesting native customs in Maoriland is the "Poroporoaki," or farewell meeting, usually held when Elders have completed their labors and are released to return home. Immediately after the annual conference in April a number of Elders met at Porirua, near Wellington, enroute for their various fields of labor. Elders Peterson and Best were returning to the South Island, where they are endeavoring to re-open the work in the vicinity of Christchurch and where a number of scattered members have been found. Some years ago the most flourishing branch of the mission was located in that district, but for various reasons the work was suspended for a season, and no Elders have labored in Canterbury until very recently. In the meantime the old members have been scattered, and many have grown lukewarm, while others have lost entirely the spirit of the work of God.

Elder Jedediah Goff has been transferred from Auckland to New South Wales, and he was one of the company awaiting the Sydney steamer.

Elders John F. Burton and W. F. Armstrong were also present, bound for Queensland, Australia. Elder Bird was

returning to the Wairau district, South Island.

Elder B. Goddard, having completed his labors, was ready to accompany the Australian Elders, enroute for his home in Zion: The last named had labored in the Manawatu district since 1892, and Porirua had been his headquarters, or Maori home. The Maoris signified their attachment and appreciation of his labors by numerous handshakes and hearty "hongis."

A "Poroporoaki" was held on the Thursday evening, as the above named Elders were leaving on Friday morning. At 6:30 p. m. the church bell announced the time for gathering in the meeting house, which was crowded by an attentive audience of members and quite a sprinkling of outsiders. After the usual opening ceremonies, the native chief—and first counselor in the branch, (Wi Neera Te Kanae,) arose and stated the object of the meeting. He referred to the faithful labors of their departing "Matua," (father) whose face they would probably never see again. In most affectionate terms he bade him "farewell," sending also love and good wishes to the Prophet, Apostles and Priesthood in Zion and especially the Moari Saints who had gathered there. He earnestly prayed that God would bless all the Elders in their respective fields of labor.

The meeting was then left in the hands of the members, who readily availed themselves of the opportunity of expressing their feelings. Brethren, sisters and children eagerly arose to pay a tribute of love to him who had dwelt so long in their midst, and to wish God-speed unto all who were laboring in the vineyard of the Lord. After each address the speaker would announce a favorite and appropriate hymn, and often while speaking and singing, the crystal drops would course down their cheeks. One of the native sisters sang with great fervor, in English, the sweet Sunday school hymn "We want to see the Temple," etc.

It was past midnight when the time for dismissal was announced, and it was a most difficult task to reply to all the expressions of love and goodwill. Finally the last word was spoken, the closing exhortation was given and tearful "hongis" and hearty handshakes were exchanged as the congregation separated.

The following morning the company of Elders prepared to leave. At 7 a. m. all the people assembled for the final farewell. 'Twas a sad, sad scene. Amid sobs and tears the last loving words were spoken, the last "hongis" was given, and the Elders departed amid cries of "Haere atu," "Hei konei ra," etc., etc.

At Wellington Elders Peterson and Best embarked for Christchurch, Elders Bird, Johnson and a company of Maoris left for Picton, and Elders Goddard, Burton, Armstrong and Goff boarded the steamship Wakatipu bound for Australia.

After the five days' sailing the last named company arrived at Sydney, where Elder A. J. Ridges was met. A few days were spent in the busy metropolis of New South Wales, and three of the Elders then sailed for Queensland. On arriving at Brisbane a number of meetings were announced, and for two weeks the time was fully occupied, visiting the Saints, and preaching the

Gospel to large and attentive congregations. Elders John F. Burton, D. W. Livingston and W. F. Armstrong are now located at South Brisbane.

A hurried trip was made to Ipswich—twenty-five miles from Brisbane—where Elders R. H. Bodily and C. H. Crow have been laboring for some time. A public meeting was held in the Olympic hall, which was well attended, and judging by the attention of the audience, an earnest spirit of inquiry has been awakened in the neighborhood.

The Queensland members are faithfully performing their duties as Latter-day Saints, and many are anxious to gather with the body of the Church where they may be privileged to become "Saviors upon Mount Zion." The Sunday school at South Brisbane, is in a flourishing condition, and the rooms are usually well crowded with happy children who delight to listen to the instructions given by their indefatigable teachers.

On the 9th of May, Elder G. left for his homeward trip. Another large company of Saints and friends assembled on the wharf and another affecting leave-taking took place. From the deck of the steamship Arawatta the lonely Elder watched the waving of handkerchiefs, listened to the parting good wishes, and earnestly prayed that he might again clasp hands with the faithful Saints in the valleys of fair Utah. Two days later, Sydney was reached, where Elders Nielson, Fisher and Palmer were awaiting the "home" boat. In the evening Brother Cox and family arrived from Victoria—bound for Zion. Berths were secured on the steamship Warrimoo and on May 18th the happy company bade "goodbye" to the Elders and Saints, and the gallant vessel steamed away—"homeward bound."

The sail from Sydney to Suva—1750 miles—was made in a little over five days. The beautiful harbor was entered on Friday morning, May 24th, and the green clad hills surrounding the capital of the Fiji Islands, formed a charming background to a tropical scene. Two British men of war were anchored in the harbor and at sunrise flags were hoisted, and the vessels were covered with gay-colored bunting from stem to stern, in honor of Her Majesty Queen Victoria's birthday.

There are about 250 islands in the Fiji group, Viti Levu, containing 4,000 square miles, being the largest and considered one of the healthiest islands in the South Seas. Many of the islands are well watered by large rivers. Being volcanic in their origin they are marked by beautiful and striking scenery. The soil is rich and the luxuriant verdure reaches to the summit of the mountains. The little town of Suva is almost hidden by palms, banana trees and tropical foliage.

The history of the islands resembles somewhat that of others of the Polynesian group. They were discovered by the Dutch explorer, Abel Tasman, in 1643, but the discovery was not followed up until 1773, when Captain Cook visited them. The Fijians were treacherous and cruel cannibals, often engaged in bloody conflicts and buried many of their prisoners and aged relatives alive. They are said to be of the Papuan race and are quite distinct from the Maoris of New Zealand or the Samoans. The language is totally different and their physiognomy indicates that the