

As to the character of this "marvelous work and wonder," special individual inspiration is as able and reachable as ever to give assurance, and that all abiding testimony which will insure fidelity to its interests. This is the side which we may call divine. The patient, struggling human side is that which is passing away. Every veteran carries his heroic record to the quiet grave. Far, far too little of it is today embalmed in books, and of that little only a moiety is calculated to provoke enthusiasm or bring to life again the strange and all too unappreciated past.

CONFERENCE IN NEW ZEALAND.

GREYTOWN, N. Wairarapa, New Zealand, July 18th, 1895.

The past few months having been a season of great rejoicing in this portion of New Zealand, both among the Elders and Saints, I take this opportunity and liberty of penning a few lines to you and the Saints of Zion concerning the cause of forementioned fact; thinking also that perhaps it may be of interest to those who rejoice continually in the work of the Lord among the different nations of the earth. While commencing upon this task, I hear the good advice given by our beloved president of this mission redounding in my ears, saying: "Be brief in all your correspondence." Realizing that it is good counsel, especially to an Elder in Israel who is engaged in promulgating the everlasting Gospel, I will endeavor to put the same into practice.

On June 10th I left my district for the purpose of escorting President Wm. Gardner (who was in the Manawatu district) into the portion of the Lord's vineyard. Owing to neglect of a postoffice official we were put to much inconvenience and expense, having to travel exceedingly long distances in order to reach Greytown where our semi-annual conference had been appointed to be held; traveled sixty miles one day, forty of which was done on foot. Though tired on reaching our journey's end, we soon became well paid for the haste we had made to enable us to fulfill our appointment. If ever there was a time when the Saints desired earnestly to be spiritually fed with the word of life and salvation, it was upon this occasion. Though the Maori land court was in busy session, the Saints arranged their affairs and eagerly made it a point to be in prompt attendance at the time specified for our "Hui" to commence.

At 10 a. m. on June 15th, Elder George Bowles called the large congregation to order, and we commenced what eventually proved to be one of the largest and best conferences ever held in Wairarapa. There were present the following from Zion: Elders William Gardner, president of the Australasian mission; George Bowles, president of the Wairarapa conference, and James Barrow, Lee Bradford, George Jarvis and John Walker. Good and encouraging reports were given in by the several branch presidents, from which could be very satisfactorily gleaned that the Saints, both European and Maori, were striving to fulfill their callings as Saints indeed. Elders Barrow and Bowles reported the district

as a whole; from their report it could be seen that much good work was being done by them and their companions among both races of people; that many were on the verge of entering into the Gospel, also many who were seeking to know for themselves as to the truth of so-called Mormonism. The following report will partially speak for itself as to how the inhabitants of this district are feeling toward the Church and its doctrines, or the principles taught by the servants of the true and living God: Since April last twenty-six have been initiated by baptism and four by blessings, according to the pattern which our Savior gave while He sojourned in the flesh.

During the conference session, eight meetings were held, conducted entirely in Maori, though a number of "Pakehas" were present (interpreters being chosen to translate unto them, the many good and valuable instructions which were delivered before those assembled). Many principles of the Gospel were dwelt upon and explained clearly by the many Elders and Maori brethren who were called upon to address us. The Saints were especially urged to live worthy lives, that they might secure every blessing promised unto those who keep the commandments of God; that they might also in the Lord's due time be gathered out from the midst of Babylon unto Zion to fit and prepare themselves to become saviors on Mount Zion, if it so be the Lord's will for them to so become. A very notable fact was witnessed in the attendance of a large number of non-Saints, who listened very attentively to all said; the outcome is, that they are at present busily engaged in searching the Scriptures and endeavoring to assure themselves that we are in the possession of the "one faith and one baptism" which the Apostle Paul spoke of in his epistle to the Ephesians.

After we had all been fed with an abundance of God's word, the Saints dispersed for their several homes, feeling thankful for the blessings which the Gospel had brought them in these latter days; determined also in their hearts to serve the Lord in righteousness.

Elder Bowles was called to accompany Elder Gardner to the South Islands, for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel unto the Maoris who resided in the different "paha" near Christchurch. We left Wellington per S. S. Rotomahana (a large and stately vessel.) After enjoying our supper we concluded that it would be advisable to go to bed, lest we might entertain a love for the fishes and feed them with the delightful feast which we had just partaken of. Yet how ignorant we were concerning the mighty deep—how rudely we were awakened from our brief slumbers and literally forced to feed those fishes, to part company with that which we desired to retain! How we wished we could get off and walk; but no—we must continue on to our destination, and treasuring a hope within us that we might be able to endure "all things."

Our mission proved to be a very enjoyable one both temporarily and spiritually, meeting with splendid receptions, opening their halls and "whare-karakia" (meeting house) to us, and attending in large numbers to

hear the principles, doctrines, etc., of the Latter-day Saints expounded unto them. During the time of our visit to Kalapoi (a Maori paha which has an eventful history of itself), a certain European minister who had evidently never had the privilege of meeting a Mormon Elder, came to listen to the discourse of Elder Gardner. At the close of the meeting privilege was given all to ask questions if they desired. The minister at once arose and requested that he be allowed to address his "own congregation," even the one which had gathered together to listen to Elder Gardner. He was permitted to do so; and after trying in his supposed superior knowledge and power to tear and pull down our doctrines upon our heads, and expecting our discomfiture, he stopped—fully expecting to see his desire manifested in having us banished forever from the presence of his congregation. Elder Gardner then turned to refute all the false accusations which had been made. By the power of the Holy Spirit of God which was poured down upon him, he proved from holy writ that the Church and Gospel which we represent is the true and only plan of salvation, that it is built upon the rock of revelation, that it is of divine origin, not of man, and thus will stand forever. Great was the perplexity and discomfiture of that minister, more especially as it occurred before his own flock. His accusations were that the Book of Mormon was written by a woman, and purchased by Joseph Smith for the sole purpose of money-making; the old, old illusion of polygamy, trying to show to his hearers what a blot it was upon the beautifully framed Constitution of the United States; the incorrectness of the Bible when compared with the Greek translation, (yet he himself had been and was teaching from King James's translation). He went so far as to say that Jesus condemned polygamy when He was upon the earth; upon being asked for chapter and verse, he could not furnish same, thus suffering another defeat. He eventually had to leave, crestfallen indeed, leaving the humble Elder master of the situation, who turned and gave unto God all the honor and glory, realizing that it was through Him above that truth had triumphed over falsehood.

Many members of that flock are at present investigating our principles; they have acknowledged them to be scriptural and have expressed themselves as being desirous of entering into the fold of Christ in the near future.

It would be encroaching upon the valuable space of your paper to report all our travels; suffice it to say that we returned, as did the Seventies of old, rejoicing exceedingly; and hope that we have sown many good seeds upon good ground to eventually grow, mature, etc.

President Gardner left this district on July 18th on his way north to Auckland, a long and tedious journey upon foot, horse and steamer, expecting to reach the above named place sometime in September. We who are laboring in Wairarapa have greatly enjoyed the visit of our beloved president and feel renewed and strengthened in our high callings, to work hard and also earnestly while the