

of late, have been treated kindly and dealt fairly with, but the ruins, the ruins! the houses without roofs, doors or windows, staring at you, while passing; the whole thing seems a misfortune all around.

The Indians were a dread to passers years ago, but their whole nature seems changed. Five years ago a desolating sickness destroyed half of them, and what remains are quiet and industrious, every ranch has its Indians who work for 50 cents per day and board. We have Sabbath meetings and Sunday School; we have invited the Indians to attend and appointed them a seat. Most of the land about Overton belongs to the "Mormon" people, and a branch of the Church has been organized.

T. W. CROSBY.

CHRIST CHURCH,
New Zealand,
Jan. 28th, 1883.

Editor Deseret News:

I stated in my last letter that I was thinking of visiting a place called Invercargill, nearly 400 miles from Christ Church. I was in want of funds and I asked the Lord in prayer to provide me with the necessary means, and two days before the time for my departure the necessary means were provided by a Brother Jensen, coming about 80 miles to Christ Church. I met him in the city quite unexpectedly, and the first words he spoke to me were I have come to pay you £3, just the money required to pay my railway fare and to take 1,800 tracts. I can truly say the Lord answered my prayer in this matter, for Brother Jensen was the last man that I expected to furnish the money.

December the 22d, I took train for Dunedin, about 230 miles from Christchurch. At Oamaru, a distance of 150 miles; I met with Elder Barber and Elder Hinckly, who are two young Elders traveling in the Timaru District. I had but ten minutes to stay with them, they were very pleased to see me, they are two good young men, they were just out of tracts, and I let them have 500; they were traveling from town to town, and are faithfully warning the inhabitants of their district. I bid them a hearty good bye, and then left for Dunedin, a distance of 230 miles from Christchurch. I there met with Elder Ralphs and Elder Ricks, who have traveled thousands of miles on foot, and who are faithfully warning the inhabitants of the mining district, not a very pleasant place to travel in. I stayed with them for the night, left them 500 tracts; next morning took train for Invercargill, a distance of about 145 miles from Dunedin. I went to the house of Elder Williams, President of the Invercargill Branch, he has been a faithful Elder, he has supported two Elders in Invercargill for the last nine months.

On Sunday morning, the 24th of December, in company with Elder Williams, I walked six miles to a place called Makarewa, I there met with Elder Morris and Elder Bastow, who are faithfully discharging their duties. At half-past two we held meeting in the house of Elder Gelderblom, we had some few strangers there; we held another meeting in the evening and again had some few strangers present. On Christmas Day we held another meeting in the afternoon, we had the house filled, and a good spirit of enquiry prevailed after the meeting; held another meeting in the evening. I blessed the daughter of a Mrs. George, at the close of the meeting, the parents and four others gave in their names to be baptized, on December the 26th we walked three miles to the river and there baptized them, one man named Hobday about sixty-two years of age, had been under the doctors hands for some time, stating that if he got his feet wet, it might cause his death, but he had faith and confidence in God, that He would heal him, he said after he was baptized, that he could dance a hornpipe, he felt so much better. We went to his house and confirmed them. When we got about half way home, we met another man named William Fryer, who had attended two of our meetings; he demanded baptism, we returned to the river and baptized him also, and confirmed him. In the evening we held another meeting and blessed three more of brother George's children. On Sunday December the 31st, I organized a branch of the Church, consisting of twelve adults and eight children, being assisted by Elder Morris and Bastow, the name of the Branch is Makarewa, South-

land, New Zealand. In the afternoon we held another meeting two young men named Merrie, walked ten miles to attend, and at the close of our meeting they were thoroughly convinced of the truth and demanded baptism and also a son of brother Hobday's. We attended to it immediately and in the evening we confirmed them, and I also blessed a daughter of brother Fryers; we had a goodly attendance of strangers at all our meetings; I also sold £9 worth of church-works to them, and the Saints treated me and my brethren with the greatest of kindness. I believe there will be several more added to the Church in that place. I believe another branch of the Church will be organized in Clifton, where the two brother Merrie's reside.

On January 2nd, I took my departure for a place called Henley, where a brother and sister Hughes had lately been baptized, who received me very kindly, we held two meetings in their house and one in a place about seven miles from their house. After the meeting walked back to their house, next day we went to Dunedin, held a Sabbath meeting and ordained brother Hughes to the office of Priest; on the eighth I returned again to Christchurch, after being absent 18 days, during my absence eleven were baptized, and five children blessed.

On January 12th I received a letter from President Bromley in which he stated the Lord had blessed his labors amongst the Maoris, the natives of this country. No doubt he will give you the full particulars of his visit to the Waikato district. One of the Maoris related to him the following: "I dreamt I was sitting in a room, when one man, two women and a girl visited me, all were dressed in pure white, not a dark garment or spot about them, the man was quite aged, with long white hair and beard, he was dressed in a white robe, which reached from his shoulders to his feet; one of the women, pointing to the man, addressed me saying, that is the Apostle Peter, he is working with men upon the earth, this was repeated three times, after which all four vanished. The Maori continued, when I saw you men (meaning Elders Bromley, McDonald and Cox) coming toward me, something told me that was the interpretation to my dream, and that you were the men whom my dream said the Apostle Peter was working with upon the earth." Brother Bromley says: "After questioning closely, I found the Maoris were convinced of the truth, they demanded baptism. We went to the Waikato River, and there on Christmas night, 10.30 p.m., with the bright rays of the moon for a light, and the Spirit of God to comfort us, we baptized and confirmed at the water's edge two men and one woman. On the following Monday, New Year's day, five men and one woman more were baptized, making nine in all. These are people of influence and very intelligent. They are eager for the gospel and accept it whole souled. I never felt more of the Spirit of God in my life than while presenting the glorious truths of the gospel to these children of nature." And I can also say I felt more of the Spirit of the Lord than ever before in my life, when confirming those that were baptized at Makarewa; though we were 1,300 miles apart the same spirit was powerfully felt at both ends of the Island. The Saints are very good to me wherever I go. I want for nothing. I am staying with Brother and Sister Porter who have charge of the Mission Room. Your brother in the Gospel of Christ.

WILLIAM BURNETT.

WAYNESVILLE,
Warren County, Ohio,
February 19th, 1883.

Editor Deseret News:

Holding meeting within forty miles of Cincinnati. Elder Pratt and myself, on the sixteenth, went to the city and found thousands of houses under water, causing many thousands of its citizens to be homeless, depending upon the charity of others.

On arriving at the water's edge, we took boat from Pearl Street to the Cincinnati side of the Covington bridge, and in doing so, passed by hundreds of four, five and six-story buildings the first stories of which were filled, and very many even the second story partially so; one story buildings being covered up entirely, with the exception of a small portion of the roof.

On arriving at the bridge, and

walking to the centre, we looked for some time upon the grand view presented before us in the raging flood that has rendered thousands homeless and destitute who, two weeks ago, were in comparatively easy circumstances.

Crossing over to Covington, Kentucky, we found very many of the large buildings, for numbers of blocks on the river side, under water to the first and second stories, causing thousands of dollars damage, but mostly falling on men who are able to stand it, and, therefore, not much suffering or distress among the poorer classes other than there generally is in the overcrowded Christian (?) cities.

Crossing the Licking River to Newport, we had to take boat again from the Newport side of the bridge, some eight blocks to Madison Street, passing hundreds of houses, some tumbled over and held by ropes from floating down the river, others covered except about one foot of the roof; three and four story buildings, with ladders to the windows, families living in the second and third stories, prefer doing so to leaving their property to the mercy of the roughs that are watching for an opportunity to rob and plunder.

It was a most pitiable sight to see; hundreds of buildings wrenched from their foundations, and coal-sheds, stables, one-story frame-houses and outhouses huddled up together with drift and rubbish that has accumulated during the raging of the floods. In Newport alone there are some 15,000 men, women and children that are left homeless and destitute, having to be provided for by charitably disposed persons; but, notwithstanding all that is being done, the suffering of those poor people must be fearful, and in looking at their haggard faces, you can read distress and misery in every feature. Crossing the Newport bridge to Cincinnati again, we traveled some two or three miles along the water's edge, and it is really impossible to describe the fearful destruction of property and the number of houses under water.

Arriving near McLean Avenue on East Street, where once stood the Southern depot, we saw a large body of water completely covering the ruins of the fallen depot, only a small portion of the freight shed left standing. On passing along the streets we could see hundreds of poor creatures trudging along, looking more dead than alive, carrying a tin

bucket and an old basket, going for their allowance of bread and soup. Indeed, it is heartrending to see them, for they look pale, thinly clad and hungry, and as though they have not had a good meal for a month.

The distress and destitution is and will be for some time to come, dreadful to think about, for thousands of men have been thrown out of employment, besides those who have suffered by the flood, and the great majority of the working classes in the city cannot afford to lose one day's work, for it is all they can do to provide the necessities of life, with constant work.

We are holding meetings in this section of Ohio, and have fair attendance at our meetings considering the excitement caused by the flood.

We are staying for a short time with Brother Jonathan Haines, an old and faithful member of the Church, who would have gathered to Zion long ago, but circumstances have kept him in Babylon thus far, but he is determined to gather in the fall.

Your Bro. in the gospel of peace,
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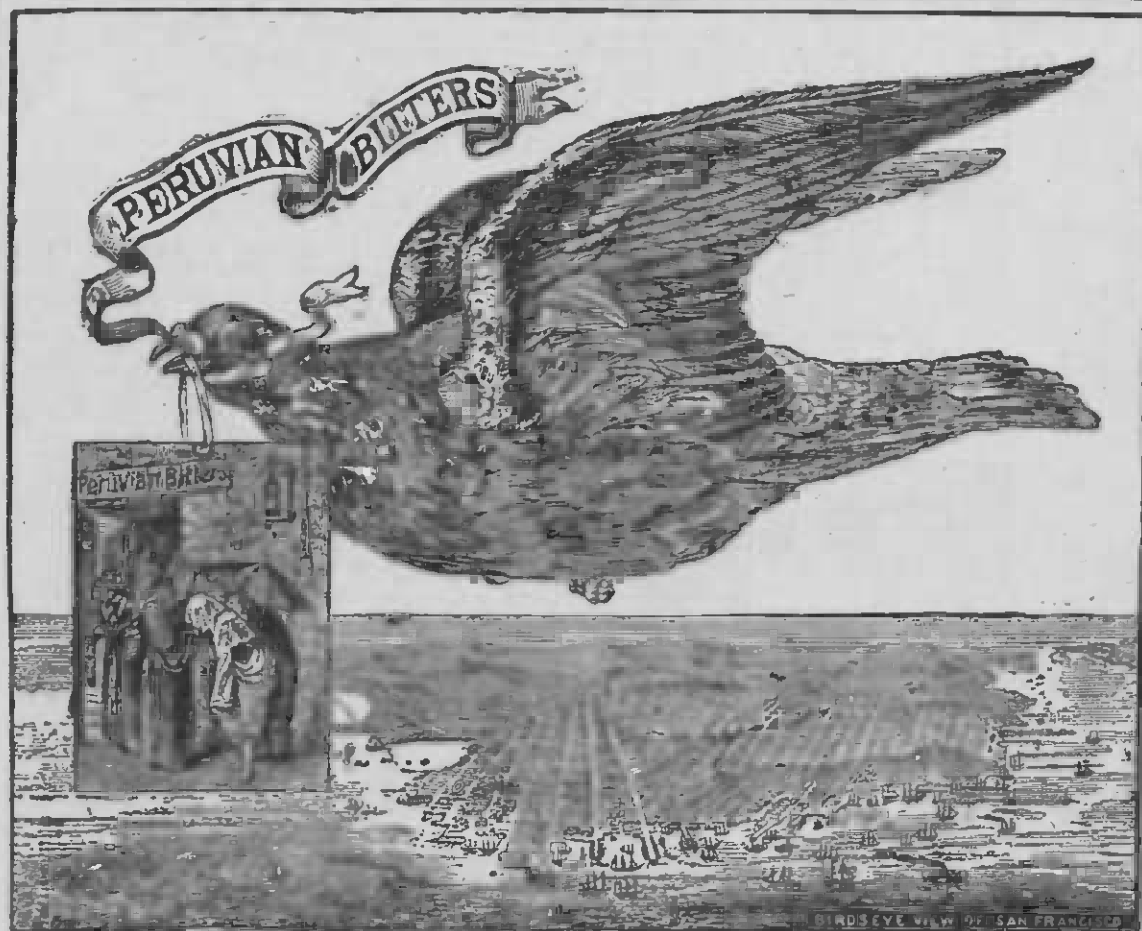
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