

MISCELLANEOUS.

JENSON'S TRAVELS.

LETTER NO. XLV.

Thursday, December 26th, 1895. After morning prayer the Elders at Papawai were made the recipients of another poroporo aki, in which the chief Tamahau took a prominent part and gave us his parting greeting. He expressed his entire satisfaction and endorsement of all we had done in his village, and asked the Lord to bless us in our future labors. He also exhorted all his people who were members of the Mormon Church to be strong in the faith, true and consistent to their convictions, and exemplary in their habits like the Elders who were teaching them the principles of truth and salvation. By and by he said, he might also become a member; but he considered himself a wicked man, who perhaps could not live the life of a Saint yet. In referring to the religious questions which had been asked and answered during the conference, he had learned this, that the Mormon Elders were prepared to answer any question concerning the Gospel which might be propounded; but that when similar questions were put to the Church of England ministers, they, as a rule were unequal to the task of giving satisfactory explanations. After breakfast the chief had two vehicles prepared to take Elder Gardner and myself to the railway station at Greytown; and after hongiing with about one hundred natives and exchanged words of love and greeting, we bid Papawai good-bye, to continue our labors elsewhere. Elder Gardner rode by the side of the chief in his carriage, and I followed in the next vehicle. At Greytown, two miles from Papawai, we boarded the train at 10:15 a. m., and rode three miles to Woodside, where we changed cars and rode sixteen miles to Masterton, a European town of about 3,000 inhabitants, where we attended to some business and thence walked out in the country to Hione (Zion) a little Maori village situated one and one-half miles from Masterton, where Toi Te Huatahi, president of the Te Oreori branch and other native Saints reside. Here we took dinner with the Saints, and then walked to Te Oreori, one and one half miles further, where we visited Saints and strangers, and then walked back to Masterton, where we boarded the train at 5:15 p. m. and rode nine miles back to Carterton, where we met several of the Elders who had returned that far from the conference, and also some Saints, there being a small European branch of the Church at this place. After saying good-bye to Elders William S. Dimond, John H. Ellis and H. Lee Bradford, who continued their journey northward on horseback, Elders Gardner, Bowles, Jarvis, Clayton and myself walked two miles out in the country to the house of Brother Charles Jensen where a sort of Sunday school review was held in which all the Elders present also took part. At a late hour we returned toward Carterton where we stopped over night with Saints; Elder Gardner and myself met Brother Jacob C. Petersen, who is about to emigrate to Utah with his family.

Friday, December 27th. Elder Gardner and myself took leave of the Carter-

ton Saints and Elder George Bowles, George Jarvis and John Clayton and boarded the train at 7:40 a. m. at Carterton bound for Wellington. At woodside (six miles from Carterton) we were joined by Elders Hoagland, Abbott, Nebeker, Linford, Bird, Jax. Best, Castleton, Barton and Lindsey, who were all returning from the conference in Papawai. In crossing the mountains we made the everlasting hills resound with the songs of Zion, which were enjoyed also by others of our fellow passengers. At 11:30 a. m. we arrived at Wellington, fifty-six miles from Carterton, and those of us who were bound for Auckland took our baggage at once on board the steamship Anglian which had just arrived in the harbor from Lyttleton. After attending to some transportation business at the office of Huddart, Parker & Co., we took leave of Elders Best, Castleton, Lindsey and Barton, who expected to take train for Porirua and thence go to their respective fields of labor, while Elders Gardner, Hoagland, Nebeker, Abbott, Linford, Bird, Jex and myself boarded the Anglian and sailed from Wellington at 4 p. m. Elders Nebeker, Hoagland and Abbott are returning to their homes in Zion, after good and faithful missions while Elders Linford, Jex and Bird are going with Elder Gardner and myself to Te Aroha, to attend the January conference. The evening and night were beautiful and clear, the sea smooth and the ship better than we expected; and thus we had a good voyage. The sleep and quietude which we obtained on board was much needed by most of our Elders, whose rest had been considerably broken during our stay at Papawai.

Saturday, December 28th. At 8 o'clock a. m. we passed Cape Kidnappers, thus named by Captain James Cook, the great navigator, who on Sunday October 15th, 1769, had an unusual experience with the Maoris off this point. While the explorers were trading with the natives, who had come out to the ship in their canoes, the latter seized a boy belonging to the ship, pulled him into one of their canoes and started for shore with him. But the sailors opened a musket fire on the Maoris, who then released the boy. He immediately jumped overboard and swam back to the ship. Captain Cook named the cape at which this happened, Cape Kidnappers.

At 10 a. m. we arrived at Napier (two hundred and three miles from Wellington), where Elder Thomas J. O'Brien and twenty-one native Saints from the Hawkes Bay district came on board. Most of them were going to attend the Te Aroha conference. After taking a walk along the beach to the Spit, I climbed the Napier hill (three hundred feet high) from the top of which a good birdseye view is had of Napier and surroundings. At 7 p. m. the voyage was continued from Napier. We were now thirty Saints on board, of whom nine were Elders from Zion.

Sunday, December 29th. Having had a fine passage during the eighty-six miles' run from Napier we anchored off Gisborne at 3 o'clock a. m., and remained stationary for eight hours. Later in the morning we were visited by Elders James C. Allen and James N. Lambert, from the Mahia district, who

were on a visit to Gisborne. At 11 o'clock a. m., anchor was weighed and the Anglian steamed off for Auckland, the good weather and smooth sea continuing. About sundown we passed East Cape.

Monday December 30th. Early in the morning we were passing Mercury Bay and the island of the same name; at 10 a. m. we rounded Cape Colville, and at 1:30 p. m. we arrived safely at Auckland, where we met three Elders (George F. Burnham, Schuyler E. White and Joseph F. Derbidge) who had just arrived from Zion as missionaries to the Australasian Mission. Some of the brethren put up at our Grey Street room while Elder Gardner and myself and three other Elders engaged board and lodging with a Mrs. Donnelley, who keeps a private boarding house on upper Queen Street. Since Elder Gardner and I left Auckland eight weeks before we had traveled 2520 miles, namely 1800 miles by steamer, 335 miles by rail, 115 miles by vehicles; 169 miles on horseback and 101 miles on foot. We have visited nine districts of the Australasian mission and held conferences, or two days meetings in seven of them. We have worked up to the programme which we prepared before starting in every particular, and have not missed a single connection with any of our many and varied modes of conveyances on which we relied for transportation. We have also been imminently blessed in our labors. Almost invariably we have good meetings and our associations with the Elders and Saints in the different districts and branches have as a rule been of the most pleasant and agreeable nature. I have also been successful in obtaining historical data and information for Church history, and been the means of introducing certain reforms in record keeping on general principles. We also feel in duty bound to acknowledge in a public manner the courtesy of the Huddart, Parker & Co., which gave us both free transportation on their steamers from Auckland to Dunedin and back, and for other courtesies extended to our Elders and the Saints, who have traveled in vessels of the company.

Tuesday, December 31st. I spent the last day of 1895 in our upper room on Queen Street, in Auckland, preparing correspondence for the DESERET NEWS, and finishing my private journal for 1895. By summarizing I find that since I left home in May last I have traveled 13,616 miles, namely 10,825 miles by water and 3,191 by land. Of the water travel 10,425 miles made in steamships, 30 in a steam launch, 265 in schooners and 105 in small boats. The land transportation was 1622 miles by rail, 452 by vehicles, 333 on horseback and 384 on foot. Since I left Salt Lake City, I have spoken in public 105 times, namely thirty-five times in Hawaii; seven in Tonga, eleven in Samoa, forty-nine in New Zealand and three on board steamers. I have spoken through interpreters seventy times and without thirty-five times. I have been imminently successful in my historical labors; and being assisted by the clerks of the various missions visited and by other competent Elders, I have been able to gather a vast amount of information and Church history data in a short time. My acquaintance with the native race inhabiting Polynesia, have been of a pleasant nature, and the kindness and hospitality which they