

All were away at work when we arrived, but we made ourselves at home, turned our horses out and took possession till the natives came, about an hour afterwards. They gave us greetings of welcome and soon the pot of potatoes was on. This meal we heartily enjoyed. During the evening all gathered together, and formal speeches of welcome were given to the President, who had never before visited this end of the island. We held prayers in the morning and had a meeting at 11 o'clock, at which the President occupied all the time. After the meeting dinner was served, consisting of potatoes, pippico and kororiori. The afternoon was spent in reading and sleeping, the latter being the more preferable, as the weather is becoming somewhat warmer, causing a feeling of drowsiness. We remained over at this village three days. During one afternoon we received word that the natives had captured a whale, so we made arrangements to go and see it. The natives furnished us a boat for the purpose, and sent two of the young men to row us across the bay.

As the wind was favorable and the tide going out, we soon landed on the spot. A huge black whale lay upon the beach, and the natives were cutting it up with sharp spates, preparatory to boiling. As the place is a regular whaling station, the people have all the necessary apparatus to prepare the grease for market, and the manner in which they worked showed that they were accustomed to the business. We did not remain very long, as the smell from the "boil pots" was anything but pleasant. On our way back rain began to fall, and the sea rose so high that we were compelled to go back and borrow a larger boat before we could return home.

On Wednesday we left for another branch and nothing of importance transpired, except that we met with a piece of very muddy road. Arriving at the village we were received somewhat coolly, as this is a branch not very often visited, on account of bad roads. I suppose the members have grown a little careless in regard to the Gospel. I agree with what President Wright said when up here, namely, that there were about a dozen Saints among all the Mormons of the Ngapuhi tribe—that is those north of Auckland. However, to show their hospitality, supper was served with a little more variety than usual. Potatoes, bread, shark and a piece of whale which had been sent from friends, comprised the liberal supply of food.

In the evening Brother Bingham gave some good instructions. This was the last village of the Saints on our route. As we would be visiting outsiders on the morrow we consoled ourselves with the thought that perhaps we might do some good by delivering the truth to those who still sit in darkness.

On the following morning we set out in good time and rode till noon, when we arrived at a village where a number of Catholics reside. They had been preached to once before and knew to some extent what our principles were. I suppose they had found them to be too true and were afraid to investigate further, as they would not let us stay with them, giving us a reason that they were all going away. We did

not press the matter, so rode on to the next village distant about fourteen miles.

The chief of this place received us with much kindness and gave us the best he had. He also allowed us to hold a meeting and called all his people in to hear us; likewise asked numerous questions concerning our doctrine. I think a good impression was made, though he did not apply for baptism. The evening was devoted to music and speaking.

Next morning, after a breakfast of bread and potatoes, we took leave of our kind friends and proceeded on our journey. Traveling till about 3 o'clock we arrived within a mile of the village and stopped to discuss whether we had better go immediately to the houses or wait a little while for fear the people might turn us away if we got there too early. Finally we came to the conclusion that, if they wanted us at all, we would be made welcome, early or late. So we set out and reached our destination in a short time. But there was no one at home; all were in the field working. They had, however, seen us coming and two men advanced to meet us. They asked our business. We explained that we were ministers and wished to remain all night. To this they consented. The afternoon was spent looking around the village, and about dark the people all came in from work. Supper was prepared—bread and new potatoes, the latter being the first of the season. In the evening we were allowed to hold meeting and Brother Nye spoke on the first principles of the Gospel. At the close we asked if they would like to put any questions to the missionaries, but they did not feel disposed to talk on religion. Hence the conversation turned upon general topics. We sang and had some music. By this time it was 11 o'clock and we were ready for bed. The chief allowed us the honor of sleeping in his best hut, a little rush house eight feet by ten, furnished with the usual mats, and designated "No. 1." "No. 2" is what we call an upper berth, but it is going out of date now. I have tried them both, and I think I rather prefer "No. 2," as the pigs, etc., do not have an opportunity of making their beds with us, which happens not unfrequently with the other.

Starting out early next morning we had a long ride before us, but the roads were good and quite level. We rode till 5:30 o'clock and arrived at a European's house, a member of the church, Brother Ruffell. He made us quite welcome. The following day, Sunday, we held one meeting at which we all spoke and had quite a pleasant time.

Monday we again started, stopping at a store to get lunch at noon and also to have our horses shod. At 2 o'clock we again arrived at a Maori village and found all the natives at work in the field, where we went. We asked for the chief, and a tall, stout man was pointed out to us. As we approached him his first words were, "Well, you are Mormons, and are come to preach the Gospel." To this we replied, "Yes." At first he was not inclined to talk much, but finally entered into a conversation which lasted about two hours and a half. At the close he told us we were false teachers and requested us to "move on."

Brother Bingham rose to his feet and bore testimony to him and all who had gathered around. We then bade them good-bye and took our leave.

The next village was about six miles distant. We reached there at dusk and were made welcome. It seems strange that such a difference of feeling should exist among people who live so close together. Nevertheless, such is the case, as the people where we had just arrived made us more than welcome and called us the servants of God. Supper of fish and potatoes was soon served, after which we were requested to hold a meeting. The company paid great attention to what was said, and one of the number thought he would be baptized shortly. We sang and conversed till 11:30 o'clock and then retired to a tent which had been especially provided for us. In the morning we had a good breakfast and left. After riding about two miles we stopped on the beach, where some Europeans live, and where a store is kept at which we desired to buy some provisions to carry on our way, as we expected to camp out that night. On riding up to the store a man came out from the house close by and invited us to go in and stay a short time, as the tide would not allow us to pass at present. We accepted the invitation and turned our horses in his paddock. His wife provided a nice lunch for us. After the meal we had a conversation with the man, who said he had read some of our Church works and believed they were true. He also inquired about our belief, and stated he was convinced of the truth of Mormonism. On leaving, he desired us to call on our return, when we hope to have the pleasure of baptizing him. We jogged along till evening, when our horses became somewhat tired and we sought shelter from the ranchmen.

Arising next morning we partook of the balance of our lunch and continued our journey along the beach for some twenty-two miles, meeting with only a couple of ranchmen who were driving some cattle to some distant settlement for sale. Arriving at this point we took a road leading inland over some sandy hills for about three miles, and once more halted at a Maori village. As we landed there a heavy rain set in and after arriving at several houses we were admitted. Turning our horses loose, we were soon located in a regular Maori hut and served with a good supper—fish, bread and potatoes. News had been spread all over the village that "Mormon" Elders had arrived, and soon the hut was crowded with natives, who appeared to view us with no little curiosity. We also noticed that they were in better circumstances than many other natives, and appeared more intelligent. We spent some little time in talking over general topics and then they commenced to ask some questions about our religion. A discussion took place lasting about four hours, during which the natives advanced more good arguments than I have ever before heard from them, showing that they were conversant with the scripture, but mis-constructed the meaning, as do other people of the world, having accepted the views taught by European ministers of the day. This conversation gave us a better opportunity to set forth our views than we had held if