

LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND.

Interesting Correspondence from a Missionary.

PALMERSTON,
North New Zealand,
March 20, 1888.

Editor Desert News:

I have just returned with N. S. Bishop, President of this district, from a two months' trip in the Wairarapa valley, having visited all the Saints there and held many meetings, preaching to outsiders and performing some baptisms. This is the oldest part of the Maori mission and as a consequence has been pretty thoroughly preached to, though there are yet many who have not received the Gospel.

We find much to do in endeavoring to keep evil from the midst of the Saints, as their naturally loose ways and the habits contracted from a wrong civilization tend to assist Satan in opposing the work. Although often pained in witnessing to what a depth humanity may go in degradation, we rejoice in seeing those who have embraced the Gospel endeavor to do their duty and to appreciate our labors. Some have great faith and there are many cases of healing amongst them.

About three weeks ago we witnessed a three days discussion on religion, among the natives. The Maoris are

RENOWNED FOR SOCIABILITY.

and truly no people could enjoy being together more than they do. When they go to a gathering, they make a business of it, taking bedding etc. with them, and in the summer time, tents, prepared to stay until they get tired. The entertaining pahi (village) lays in a supply of potatoes, cels, meat and other eatables, and it takes about all the time the women have to prepare three meals per day. It was at such a gathering, gotten up by the Saints, that the subject of religion was brought up. A high chief, the most influential Maori in the valley, suggested the desirability of many—that of a oneness in faith; and gave it as his opinion that the Gospel as taught by the Latter-day Saints and sustained by the Bible, is that faith. He was followed by another who added proofs that this is the Gospel spoken of, Rev. xiv, 6. The English Missionary Church, the Catholics and the Hauhaus were represented and each had a wily chief to speak in its favor. The Hauhaus are followers of the Maori prophet Te Whiti, and take just such parts of the Bible as suits them. This man, Te Whiti, is said to have caused many cases of healing, and his followers seem to have great faith in him; though their doctrine is very shallow. They were represented by an intelligent Maori as one will see, and as he stood opposing the truth, putting his whole force into the words he uttered, I could not compare him with what Paul says, 1 Tim. iii, 8; for certainly he is "reprobate concerning the truth." The hall was now fully opened, and a well informed Maori, J. A. Jury, ventilated our faith by giving a sketch of the origin of the many churches now in existence, and showing up the truth in plainness. This man has made

A GREAT STUDY

of scripture since joining the Church a few years ago.

The second day the English and Catholics retired from the field, and the only opponent left was the Hauhaus who is very familiar with scripture, but is no match for our exponent. If ever a man was urged on by evil spirits I think this one was, but the more he said, the worse he made his own cause to appear, for he would often contradict himself, and could not acknowledge that our faith is taught according to the plan laid down by Jesus Christ, and acted upon by his apostles. When confessing that Mormonism is taught from the Bible, he would say that its laws are too strong for Maoris; they are not able to keep them; and when God is ready to give them a religion He will do so direct, and not through pakehas (foreigners).

The effect of the interview is to make the Saints more firm in their belief, while with the outsiders it remains to be seen what will come of it. I am satisfied, however, that much good was done, and many hearts reached that will yet turn to the light, being made aware of the darkness of their way. Just before we left the meeting place, a letter arrived from a Jew living a few miles distant, exhorting the Maoris to leave all religions alone, not paying special attention to any of them, but to worship the great God regularly once a week, sitting side by side with any denomination; that "Mormonism" is no better anything else; and that there are now many trees standing in their forests planted there by the great God long before Mormonism was established, or Brigham Young thought of.

THE MAORIS LAUGHED

heartily as we translated the letter to them. It was accompanied by a collection of hymns and reformed prayer rituals taken from English church works.

A general good spirit is prevailing among the Saints. The work of God is rolling on and many are being gathered into the fold.

By a letter from the north part of the Island I see that two of the Elders have made nearly 130 baptisms in three months. Our conference convenes next month, April 6th, 7th and 8th, and we are looking forward to happy meetings. Good health among the Elders and progress in our labors causes us

to rejoice and praise the Lord. The arrival of our mail each month is anxiously looked forward to, and the Desert News is hailed as a welcome messenger, though its latest news is nearly a month old.

With prayers for the prosperity of God's kingdom on earth, I am,

Respectfully yours,

EZRA T. STEVENSON.

PREHISTORIC CIVILIZATION.

TRACES OF AN ANCIENT RACE IN NORTH CAROLINA—ANCIENT WALLS OF WELL BURNT BRICK.

In the mica mines in the western part of this State, notably in Mitchell County, there are from time to time found traces of people who antedate the Indians, and who were apparently highly civilized, says a letter from Raleigh, N. C. There have not been lacking those who believe the Spaniards under Cortez visited this section and worked these mines. Gentlemen who are veracious and well informed tell me that spurs, lance-heads, and even a part of a helmet have been found in these mines when the latter were reopened. The search for mica is very thorough, this State being the chief producer of it and yielding the finest in the world. The theory about the discovery of mica and the opening of these mines by Spaniards has opponents, who have many grounds for their belief.

A discovery just made at Cronly, not far from Wilmington, tends to prove a state of something like civilization ages ago. In making an excavation for the walls of a factory workmen struck a wall, carefully built of well-burnt brick. Portions of it are many feet below the present ground-level. Luckily the excavation was made by a man of wealth and love of research. He has had the wall exposed. It is 160 feet laid in a fashion unknown in this part of the country, and differing from that of buildings over a century and a half old, at Wilmington. It may be assumed as a fact that it was not the work of white men of this race, and not the work of Indians. In 1780 a similar wall was discovered in Rowan County near Salisbury, and the records of that date give full accounts of it. Parts of this wall yet remain, and it can be traced for hundreds of feet. Not far away a wall of stone was also discovered, and this extended for a distance of some miles. In 1897 a wall was discovered in Halifax County near Weldon, and last year one was found in Buncombe County, near Asheville. All of these walls are under ground. The foundation of the Hope Mills, near the old town of Fayetteville, were laid mainly with sandstone which once formed part of what were known as the "Indian walls," a massive structure laid in a sort of cement. The "Indian walls" were there when Florr McDonald came to Fayetteville after "the 45."

There are people who believe that a race which had many of the characteristics of that strange people who once inhabited Yucatan dwelt here also and built these structures whose foundations yet remain. The discovery at Cronly has caused a great deal of comment and will be thoroughly investigated.

BUTTERED LOBSTER.—Empty a can of lobster some hours before you wish to use it, and keep in a cold place. To prepare it, break the meat into coarse bits, avoiding the mince meat or "stirbry" look that disfigures much salad and many entrees. Put a clean saucepan on the range with three large tablespoonsful of butter, as much cayenne pepper as will lie on the point of a penknife, the juice and a quarter of the grated peel of a large lemon. When the mixture simmers, put in the lobster, with a tablespoonful of fine crumbs, and let it get smoking hot, stirring it cautiously with a silver fork to prevent scorching. Fill a buttered bake dish or scallop shells with this, strew fine crumbs on top, stick minute bits of butter in them, and brown lightly in a quick oven. Send heated crackers and sliced lemon around with this dish.

THE LARGEST GORILLA.—Boston has just received from Africa the largest gorilla ever landed in this country. His name is Jack, and he is five feet in height when standing erect, and measures seven feet from the end of one outstretched hand to the other. He weighs about one hundred and twenty-five pounds and exhibits enormous strength, compared with which that of man seems like a child's. He arrived in a large box made of planking two and one-half inches thick, and when being removed from the ship he tore large splinters from the hard-wood planks with as much ease as a child would break a twig. The hair, which is very coarse, and from two to four inches in length, is of a greenish gray color, and on the back, legs and arms inclines to a black. His shoulders are immense. The expression of his face, which is black, is scowling. The eyes are small, sunken in the head, and the lips large and thin.

A SHORT TIME ONLY.—House Hunter.—But this is an awfully dismal place. If I was young, now, I wouldn't mind it so much; but at my time of life—

Real Estate Agent.—But my dear sir, you can't live long at the farthest; so, don't you see, if it is a little gloomy, you'll only have to stand it for a few years."—*Boston Transcript.*

READING FOR THE HOME.

BREAKFAST.

Mush and Milk.
Sausages. Baked Potatoes.
Pancakes (sugared).
Bread—brown and white.
Fruit. Tea. Coffee.

FRIED BREAD.—Cut the crust from slices of stale bread; dip each in a thin batter made of a cup of milk, two eggs and heaping tablespoonful of flour, salted slightly, and fry in lard or clarified dripping to a yellow brown. Drain off the fat from each piece as you take it up. Serve hot.

TOMATO SAUCE.—To half a can of tomatoes allow a small onion sliced. Stew both together for half an hour, rub through a colander and return to the saucepan with a tablespoonful of butter rolled in a teaspoonful of corn starch, half a teaspoonful of sugar, pepper and salt to your fancy. Boil one minute and serve in a gravy dish.

MUSH AND MILK.—Scald a heaping cup of cornmeal with a pint of boiling water and let it stand in a cool place over night. In the morning put it into a farina kettle with a pint of fresh milk; wash out the lumps, salt to taste, and cook for half an hour or longer after it reaches the boil. Beat hard and turn into a deep dish. Eat with cream and sugar.

SAUSAGE.—Make the sausage meat into small cakes, patting them firmly into shape. Lay in a frying pan, add half a cup of cold water, and let them simmer until the water is boiled away and the sausages cooked to a fine brown. This is a great improvement upon the usual method of frying sausages in their own fat. Lluk sausages cooked in the same way do not burst or crack.

LUNCHEON.

Italian Rice Pudding.
Tomato Sauce.
Bread.
Crackers. Cheese. Olives.
Apple Charlotte.

POTATO SOUFFLE.—Add to a cupful of cold mashed potato half a cupful of milk, worked in gradually; mash out all lumps and beat very smooth. Whip three eggs and beat them into the potato with pepper and salt. Heat two tablespoonsful of nice dripping in a frying pan, pour in the potato, shake as it cooks to keep it clear of the bottom, and when you "set" all over turn it into a hot dish as you would an omelette. Serve and eat at once.

APPLE CHARLOTTE.—Stew a dozen pared, cored and sliced apples, soft; sweeten well and rub through a colander; set again over the fire while you stir in the yolks of three eggs. As soon as it is hot (it must not boil) turn into a bowl to cool. When cold beat in the whites of the eggs mixed with a tablespoonful of powdered sugar. Line a glass dish with sliced sponge cake or lady fingers, pile the apple within it and cover with macaroons neatly fitted together. Set on ice till wanted.

PEA CAKES.—Empty the peas from the can, drain and let them lie for half an hour in cold, salted water. Cook tender in boiling water, slightly salt, rub while hot through a colander, work in a teaspoonful of butter, pepper and salt to your liking and let them cool. When ready to cook them, beat up two eggs, soften the peas with a cupful of milk, worked in by degrees, add a tablespoonful of prepared flour to hold the batter together, and fry as you would griddle cakes. Send to table, hot.

PANCAKES (SUGARED).—Two cups of "creamery-buttered" flour, two cups of milk, two eggs, lard for frying, powdered sugar. Whip the eggs light, mix with the milk, add the flour and beat one minute. Heat an even tablespoonful of lard in a frying pan, and when it hisses pour in enough butter to cover the bottom thinly; cook quickly, and when the batter is "set," turn dexterously with a spatula, unless you have had practice in tossing pancakes. Sprinkle with sugar, roll up smoothly, sift more sugar on the roll and send to table, hot.

DINNER.

Barley Broth.
Buttered Lobster.
Pot. Roast of Beef.
Potato Souffle. Pea Cakes.
Amber Pudding.
Fruit. Black Coffee.

BARLEY BROTH.—Three pounds of coarse mutton or veal, or a "scrag" of mutton and a knuckle of veal; three quarts of water; half an onion; one carrot; pepper and salt; one cupful of pearl barley, soaked three hours in water. Put the meat, cut up small and the bones broken, over the fire with the onion and cold water; cool slowly for five hours; season, and set away until next day. Skim off the fat, strain out bones and meat, put the liquor into a pot with the soaked and strained barley, and the carrot cut into dice. Simmer one hour and serve.

ITALIAN RICE PUDDING.—To two cups of boiled rice add a cup full of hot milk, in which has been stirred a bit of soda the size of a pea, and a dessert-spoonful of corn starch. Mix well and stir in a tablespoonful of melted butter and two well-beaten eggs. Add next a cup full of minced veal, chicken, turkey, duck or mutton moisten with three tablespoonsful of highly seasoned gravy, stir all thoroughly, put into a buttered mold and bake, covered in a dripping pan of hot water for an hour; or, better still, steam it for an hour and a half in Gower's steam cooker; turn out on a hot, flat dish and pass tomato sauce with it.

AMBER PUDDING.—One cup of butter, two cups of sugar, yolks of six eggs and the whites of eight; juice and grated rind of two lemons, half a glass of brandy, half a nutmeg; rub butter and sugar to a cream, beat in the yolks, the lemons, nutmeg and brandy, lastly the whites of four eggs. Whip very light and bake in open shells of nice pastry. As soon as the mixture is set and a skin has formed on the top, spread quickly, without taking the puddings from the oven, with meringue made of the frothed whites of four eggs, two tablespoonsful of sugar and juice of half a lemon. Shut up again until the meringue begins to color. Eat cold.

OWEN'S VALLEY.

A DESERT REGION WITH UNBOUNDED BORAX DEPOSITS.

The following facts in relation to Death Valley are given by Mr. Henry Melone, who returned from there a few days ago. Mr. Melone went to Death Valley as deputy assessor. The distances between the various points from Independence to Death Valley are as follows: To Keeler, 32 miles; thence to Darwin, 24 miles; to Shepherd's Cañon, 27 miles; to Postoffice Springs, 20 miles; to Coleman's Road, 30 miles; to Furnace Creek, in Death Valley, 50 miles; total distance from Independence, 183 miles. At all the points named between Darwin and Furnace Creek there is good water but no buildings of any kind, and the traveler must take along everything other than water needed for himself and what animals he may have. The road traverses valleys among a succession of mountain ranges. The mountains are high, very steep, and mostly bare rocks. The narrow valleys between have a scant growth of sagebrush and cactus, but are almost destitute of all other vegetation. Mr. Melone had no discomfort sleeping on the sand, rolled up in one blanket. The weather was very pleasant. A short distance beyond Darwin he met with two men who were going to the Colorado River. They had pack animals and a good outfit, and he traveled pleasantly with them till their ways separated before reaching Death Valley.

On arriving at Coleman's borax works Mr. Melone inspected the works carefully. Borax is there in apparently inexhaustible quantity. The deposits are usually but a few inches in thickness when first opened, but get thick as they are penetrated till they attain a depth of two feet or more. Thousands of acres are covered by the deposit. Adjoining the borax deposits are vast deposits of soda and salt. Great mounds of salt lie around glittering white that contain thousands of tons. The salt is fit for use as mined.

The proportion of pure borax contained in the mass, ranges from 30 to over 90 per cent. Great quantities of pure crystals are found. Vast masses are borate of lime, containing 90 per cent of borax. The crude stuff is shoveled into large wagons and hauled to the reduction works close by. Here it is put through a process of boiling, purifying and crystallizing; it is then dried and sacked, ready for shipment. The solution in which the borax is first dissolved is drawn off from the tanks, run into ground vats and is there evaporated. The residuum is taken up and worked over; it contains a large percentage of borax and soda. Twenty horses are constantly employed delivering the crude borax at the reduction works. Seven white men and twenty-nine Chinamen are employed. From the works the borax is hauled in wagons to Mojave, a distance of 160 miles. The round trip is made in 20 days. Five teams are engaged in this work, 30 animals in each team. The wheels of the wagons are eight inches broad on the face, and the tires when new weigh 1200 pounds. One new wagon costs \$1,200.

At Furnace Creek on a tract of 30 acres near the borax works hay enough is cut to feed all the animals employed there. The ground is planted with alfalfa. Nine months in each year a crop is cut monthly; during the months of December, January and February the animals are allowed to graze on the tract. The dwelling for the superintendent stands ninety feet below the level of the sea. The walls are adobe bricks and are four feet thick. The roof is double; the external covering extends eight feet beyond the walls forming a veranda entirely around the building. In the hottest weather a person can be comfortable inside the building.

FORESTS.—Forests are known to diminish evaporation and preserve moisture, and this has been explained by the lower temperature and greater humidity which exists under their shadows. The most important factor in the production of this state of affairs, is, however, the resistance which is offered to the winds by the woods. The force of the winds being greatly reduced under the trees, the air is changed more slowly, and the moisture less readily carried away. The quantity of rain increases in the vicinity of a forest. During the rainy season the moss and herbage of woods store up the moisture for consumption during the dry season, and it is in this way that luxuriant forest growths are permitted to flourish in regions where it never rains except in the fall and winter, as is the case on the coast of the Caspian Sea.

NEWS NOTES.

Items Gathered from Various Sources.

The strike of the brickmakers and hodcarriers still continues in Denver.

On Monday last, Albert Belcher, miner at Georgetown, Colorado, fell a distance of eighteen feet, resulting in probably fatal injuries.

A horrible accident occurred at Lodi, Cal., on April 21. John H. Miller was engaged in mowing hay, and had cautioned the children not to run through the clover in front of the mower. Later in the day a two-year-old child playfully attempted to run in front of the machine, and was caught by a knife, and his arms were instantly severed from the body. At last accounts the child was alive.

Blanche Connors, a half-breed, was convicted at Kansas City, Mo., 23, of murder in the first degree. The crime occurred on Christmas day. Blanche enticed Joe Peters, a colored laborer, into her room, for the purpose of robbery. She had two accomplices, Paul Enders and "Boney" Thompson. Failing to get money, she pushed him out on sidewalk, where she and her plies killed him.

Reno, (Nev.), April 23.—Frank Campbell, on the regular passenger train, was discovered missing shortly after the train passed Hunaker's by Engineer Clark. The train was stopped. After looking up some five miles very slowly, he might have wandered and been on the track insensible, and not for him, the brakeman was left behind the train proceeded to Reno, arriving here an hour late, whence they turned a special. It is unknown whether Campbell is alive or not, friends and relatives fear the worst.

San Francisco, April 19.—A sad accident, which resulted in the death of the three-year-old son of Simon Schwartz, the tailor at 456 Folsom Street, occurred opposite that place at 9 o'clock yesterday morning. David Stevens, a truck-driver in the employ of Collins & Lyons, the teamsters at 11 Stewart Street Pier, was driving along Folsom Street in an empty truck. The child, who was playing on the sidewalk, ran towards the moving truck, and was served by Stevens, and in some corner fell under the wheels, where he over its breast, causing almost instant death. The catastrophe was witnessed by several spectators, who shouted to Stevens to stop. He did so, and covered that the child was dead. Once gave himself up to the police at Folsom Street station, where a charge of manslaughter was entered against him.

Kansas City, April 23.—The Rock Island Railroad has entered Kansas City. For weeks it has sought in peaceable entrance and has been refused. Last night it took the matter into its own hands and determined to come in—by fair means, if possible, but to come in. Last night a party composed of 75 workmen armed with picks and shovels set to work on the terminus of the road and began to build it across Station Street. During the evening and night considerable work was done, and when West Kansas City looked around this morning one of the things to meet their eyes was the road track of the Rock Island stretching 500 feet this side of State street. The action has created excitement in railroad circles and will undoubtedly lead to a bitter fight. Day the intruders have been kept building the road further, but the city has already made is a very strong one and gives the Rock Island a foothold.

Salida, Col., April 18.—News reached here this morning of the murder of Enoch Patterson near Howard Station, twelve miles below Salida. The murder was committed by Charles Bell, Mart McClellan, ranchmen, living in and one-half miles below Howard, and occurred between 3 and 4 o'clock this morning. The three men spent Friday in Salida, and during their stay drank heavily and quarreled frequently. About 10 o'clock last night Bell left for home, and before their arrival at their destination they engaged in a quarrel relative to the virtues of different women. During the discussion Patterson cast reflections upon the character of Bell's sister, and upon their arrival at the latter's ranch Patterson attempted to enter the house. Bell warned him off, but Patterson paid no attention and was again ejected. He returned in a few minutes accompanied by a friend named Cal Bates and again tried to get into the house. The moment his foot showed in the doorway Bell and McClellan opened fire, killing Patterson instantly. He fell upon his back within two feet of the doorway. Bates received an ugly but not serious wound, the bullet entering at the left side, plowing a ridge across the chest and landing in the lining of the coat near the right arm. The killing caused intense excitement among the coal burners, who are the principal inhabitants of Howard and with whom Patterson was employed. The murderers escaped to the woods immediately after the killing and have not yet been captured. A posse of neighbors are in pursuit and will hang them if caught.