

According to the statistical report of December, 1894, the Australasian mission, exclusive of Elders from Zion, contained 139 Elders, 156 Priests, 109 Teachers, 153 Deacons and 1,998 lay members, thus making 2,465 the total of officers and members. Adding 933 under eight years of age in the families of Saints, the grand total of souls foots up to 3,398 souls. Only 110 of these are in Australia and Tasmania; the rest are in the New Zealand districts.

The colony of New Zealand which is a British possession, consists of three main islands with several smaller groups of islands lying at some distance from the principal group. The main islands known as the North, the South, (the middle,) and Stewart islands, have a coast line 4,330 miles in length, namely, North island 2,200, South islands 2,000 and Stewart islands 130 miles. New Zealand is a mountainous country, but it has many large plains. In the North island which is highly volcanic, is situated that famous Thermal Springs district. The South island is remarkable for its lofty mountains, with their magnificent glaciers, and for the deep sounds or fiords on the western coast. New Zealand is firstly pastoral, and secondly an agricultural country. Sown grasses are grown almost everywhere, the extent of land laid down being upwards of 8,000,000 acres, according to government reports. In the South island a large area is covered with native grasses, and the large extent of good grazing land has made the colony a great wool and meat producing country. The number of sheep in the colony in 1894 was 20,230,829, and the value of the wool exports for that year was about twenty-five million dollars. The frozen meat exports (mostly mutton) for 1894 was valued at about \$6,000,000. The North island with its adjacent islets has an aggregate area of 44,468 square miles; the South island, with adjacent islets, 58,525 square miles, and Stewart island 665 square miles. The area of New Zealand is about one-sixth less than the area of Great Britain and Ireland, the South island alone being a little larger than the combined areas of England and Wales. The North island extends over a little more than seven degrees of latitude, a distance in a direct line from north to south of 430 geographical or 498 statute miles; but as the northern portion of the island trends to the westward the distance in a straight line from the North Cape to Cape Palliser, the extreme northerly and southerly points of the island, is about 515 statute miles. The extreme length of the South island is about 525 statute miles. The South island is interspersed along almost its entire length by a range of mountains known as the Southern Alps. Some of the summits reach a height of from 10,000 to 12,000 feet, Mount Cook, the highest peak, rising to 12,349 feet. For beauty and grandeur of scenery the Southern Alps of New Zealand are said to compare favorably with the Alps of Switzerland, and even to surpass them in point of variety. So far, only a few of the loftier New Zealand peaks have been scaled, and many of the peaks and most of the glaciers are as yet unnamed. Situated in latitude from 34° 25' to 47° 17', South New Zealand enjoys a climate varying from one similar to that of Italy, in the north to that of England on the south.

British sovereignty was proclaimed

over New Zealand in January 1840, and it became a dependency of New South Wales, Australia, until May 3rd 1841, when it was made a separate colony. The government of the colony was first vested in the governor who was responsible only to the Crown; but in 1852 an act granting representative institutions to the colony was passed by the Imperial Legislature; and a general assembly, consisting of a Legislative Council, appointed by the governor, and an elective House of Representatives was provided. The first session of the general assembly was opened May 27th 1854. The governor is appointed by the queen; his salary is \$25,000 a year, which amount is paid by the colony. The members of the House of Representatives are elected for three years; four of the members are representatives of Maori constituencies.

The estimated population of New Zealand on December 31st 1894, was 686,000, exclusive of Maoris who, according to census of 1891, numbered 41,993, at that time. According to the census of 1891 the religious complexion of New Zealand was as follows: 250,945 of the inhabitants were members of the Church of England; 141,477 Presbyterians; 87,272 Catholics; 63,415 Methodists; 14,825 Baptists; 6,685 Congregational Independents; 5,616 Lutherans; 3,928 Pagans; etc., 1,463 Hebrews; 308 Unitarians; 315 Society of Friends members and last and smallest of all 206 Latter-day Saints, commonly known as "Mormons." This don't include the Maori population of whom nearly one-tenth are members of the true Church of Christ. Of the 41,953 Maoris given in the census returns of 1891, 251 females were Maori wives living with European husbands. It also included 1,466 half-castes living as Maoris. In addition to the 41,953 classed as Maoris there were 1,122 half-castes living as Europeans. Of the Maori population 1,883 only lived on the South island and 136 on Stewart island, thus showing that the bulk of the native population is on the North island.

Of the white population, enumerated in 1891, 612,064 were born British subjects and 14,594 of foreign birth, among whom were 1,603 North Americans (from the United States), 4,663 Germans, 2,053 Danes, 1,414 Swedes, 1,288 Norwegians, 711 French, etc. There were also 4,470 Chinese in the colony. The number of bachelors in the colony aged 20 and upwards was 70,197, and of spinsters aged 15 and upwards 67,000.

It may be interesting to the ladies of Utah and the readers of the News generally to know (if they are not posted already) that the women of New Zealand enjoy the elective franchise, "The Electoral Act, 1892," extended to women of both races (whites and Maoris) the right to register as electors, and to vote at the elections for members of the House of Representatives. The qualifications for registration is the same for both sexes. Women, however, are not qualified to be elected as members of the House of Representatives. For European representation every adult person, if resident one year in the colony, and three months in one electoral district, can be registered as an elector. Freehold property of the value of £25 held for six months preceeding the day of registration also entitles a man or woman to register, if not already registered under the residential qualification Maoris possessing £25 freeholds under

Crown title can also register; but, if registered on a European roll, cannot vote for representative of their own race. For Maori representation every adult Maori resident in any of the four Maori electoral districts can vote. Registration is not required in Native districts. The proportion of representation to population is not required in Native districts. The proportion of representation to population at the general election for the House of Representatives in November, 1893, was one European member to every 9,604 inhabitants and one Maori member to every 10,498 natives. ANDREW JENSON.

RUATANGATA, near Whangaiti, New Zealand, October 17, 1895.

## HURRICANE IN THE PACIFIC.

BAGAI, Lifuka, Haapai, Jan 6, 1896.

Thinking a short account of the hurricane with which we have just been visited and of the work of the Elders in this part of the vineyard would be interesting to the readers of the News, I forward the following for publication.

On December 29, 1895, Elders Alfred M. Durham, Alfred A. Rafoed and Thomas D. Adams returned from the island of Tangatabu where the latter two had gone to spend Christmas, and Elder Durham had accompanied them back to make a visit through the Haapai group. We were situated at this village on the evening of January 3rd, 1896, when about 8 o'clock a gale of wind began to blow from the north-east, which increased greatly, and in a short time a regular hurricane was sweeping things before it. The house in which we were located, did considerable rocking from side to side, but, like the one founded on a rock, it fell not. The hurricane had not been upon us long, when a loud knock was heard at the door, and upon opening, we found a family of natives whose house had fallen in, and they had come to seek shelter, which we freely gave them. By this time the wind was something terrible, and upon looking out we could see a number of houses near by which had fallen, and the ground was literally covered with cocoanuts and fallen trees. The wind kept up until 12 o'clock that night, when it began to abate a little, and we decided to go over to Brother James E. Giles's place and see how he and family had weathered the storm. We were pleased to find upon our arrival, that all was well with them; and as their house was much safer than ours we thought it best to spend the remainder of the night with them, so at 1 o'clock p. m. all retired to rest.

The wind had nearly ceased when we arose on the morning of the 4th, and the sight that met our eyes upon emerging from the house was something terrible. More than half of the native houses had fallen, and the ground was thickly covered with uprooted trees, fruit, cocoanuts, etc. From this sight of destruction we went down on the sea beach to see what had become of all the boats which were anchored in the harbor the night previous. We were not much surprised to see the West Australian, a Norwegian, and the Woosung, a German barque, piled high on the reefs. Both were dismasted and greatly damaged. Later in the day it was our privilege to visit these wrecked vessels, where we learned that no lives were lost, but the vessels will likely be abandoned.