

Up to February 25th 1883, some sixty-five natives were baptized and seventeen children blessed.

At a meeting held at my house in Cambridge, Waikato, February 25th 1883, Arekatera Te Puni was unanimously sustained and ordained to the office of a Priest. This was the first native to receive the priesthood. He was ordained by myself, assisted by Elder J. C. Williams. The first native branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized with Arekatera Te Puni as president at same place and date, by the above named brethren. The branch was named Te Woatu and was organized with a membership of twenty-seven baptized, and one child blessed.

A correct record was kept of all items of importance from the commencement of the work until I was released by President Stewart in 1884. The records were then handed over to my successor Elder William Gardner, now president of the Australasian mission, and if the records of the Waikato district are as correct now as they were then, they will tell of all the items before mentioned.

Up to this date many times the power of God had been made manifest in various ways among the people. In conclusion I will give a copy of a few words that Elder William M. Bromley was inspired to write. They are as follows:

On December 24th, 1882, Elders William M. Bromley, Thomas L. Cox and William John McDonnell presented the Gospel to the Maoris near Cambridge, New Zealand, and on the following day December 25th Hare Teimaua, also his wife Pare Teimaua and Hanu Takera were baptized by Elder William J. McDonnell in the Waikato river. The two former were confirmed by Elder William M. Bromley and the latter by Elder Thomas L. Cox, the foregoing Elders being privileged to be the first under the blessings of God to present the Gospel to the Maories on the Waikato river, New Zealand. Sister Hannah Cox nursed a Maori girl named Mary Teimaua who was very ill, and through her kindness made an impression upon the Maoris which will be lasting. She truly has proved herself to be an angel of mercy and her name will be remembered in connection with those who under the providence of God first presented the Gospel to the natives on the Waikato. William M. Bromley president of the Australasian mission, of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, December 30th 1882.

I remain one interested in the above.
THOMAS L. COX.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE.

1005 N. Market St., Nashville, Tenn., May 4th, 1896.

I take pleasure in once more reporting our conference in first class condition and the Elders all enjoying good health.

You will find enclosed the names and addresses of our noble band of missionaries. They are all out in their various fields hard at work and enjoying their labors. May God bless them!

I have just returned from a very pleasant trip through Dickson, Hickman, Maury, Giles and Lawrence counties and had a most enjoyable time with Elders, Saints and friends. Yes, friends

and some of which were once enemies. At Shady Grove, Hickman Co., I met with pleasure the venerable president of the branch there, Isaac E. Church and his brothers, all of whom are members of the Church. It was a pleasure indeed to be entertained under the same roof that had given like shelter to many dear old friends, George Teasdale, Henry G. Boyle, J. Argyle, J. W. Sharp, William Calder, Martin Garms, James W. Eardley and many others too numerous to mention.

Here I found the old mission records just as they were left by Elder John H. Gibbs, the conference clerk, a few days before that terrible day when we lost our beloved Gibbs and Berry like our Stephen of old for the Gospel's sake.

Cane Creek is not far from here and Brother Church and our friends are somewhat apprehensive concerning our Elders who are again laboring in these parts. We have returned again, after a long absence of ten or twelve years to find Saints stronger in the faith, friends more zealous and the enemy almost vanquished. Rumor brings to our ears however, an occasional threat, but I apprehend no further trouble. Times and seasons have changed and those that would, dare not.

We have strong and valiant Elders laboring near Lewis Co. Elders Ogden and Sessions on the north, Elders Hickenlooper and Shawcroft on the east, Elders Archibald and Cullimore on the south, and Elders Anderson and Greenwood on the west. All are well liked by the people, as I very soon found out whenever I suggested any changes, "Now, President, do not make any changes at present we can't get along without Elder So-and-So, he is doing so much good." These were the words I would hear on all sides in regard to the most of our Elders. That is certainly a good recommend.

In the records I read the following: "In the neighborhood of Chisholm Creek, Lawrence Co., the prospects are very favorable" written in 1879. Well, a few days after reading this, I visited this locality and found a flourishing branch here, presided over by an energetic young man by the name of David Brown, and met several who had just been baptized and many more who are getting ready to follow their example. Brother Brown told me that he was once a member of a mob that formed to drive out the Elders and that he was elected the scribe to write the notice. "Paul planted, Apollos watered but God gave the increase."

While we are laboring hard to spread the Gospel and to allay prejudice abroad, it is discouraging to hear of the strife and bitterness that is once more in your midst at home. Will the lion and the lamb never lie down together? We know who is at the helm, and if we cannot all see as far ahead as we would like, we do know that the ship will find her course allright whether we stay on board or not.

I would like to give you a long account of all my travels in Robertson county, the old home of our townsman, Honorable John W. Judd. They have been very interesting to me but might not be to your readers.

Your valuable paper comes regularly to hand and is the source of much information and joy. We all appreciate its good offices and ever pray for the prosperity of the News and the welfare of

Zion both at home and abroad. I am yours in the Gospel,

JOSEPH DON C. YOUNG,
President Middle Tenn. Conference.

Names and addresses of traveling Elders in the Middle Tennessee Conference of the Southern States Mission:

Joseph Don C. Young, John D. McIntosh; 1005 N. Market street, Nashville.

E. S. Larsen, Walter J. Sloan; 1005 N. Market street, Nashville.

J. H. Hale, Oley C. Olson; 1005 N. Market street, Nashville.

Wm. T. Ogden, Jos. Sessions; Center-ville, Hickman Co.

F. B. Rollson, S. S. Sanderson; 1005 N. Market street, Nashville.

John Jacklin, J. M. Brown; Clarksville, Montgomery Co.

W. H. Kemmington, Chas. L. Robinson; Box 13, Camden, Benton Co.

Henry A. Grover, M. B. Olsen; Waverly, Humphreys Co.

John A. Wootton, Alonzo Gowans; Pulaski, Giles Co.

Ray V. Wentz, E. E. Brown; Dover, Stewart Co.

Geo. A. Huntington, Orson H. Hewlett, Waynesboro, Wayne Co.

R. G. Archibald, A. L. Cullimore; Lawrenceburg Lawrence Co.

Chas. A. Hickenlooper, J. W. Shawcroft; Columbia, Maury Co.

W. O. Christenson, J. A. Yardly; 1005 N. Market street, Nashville.

A. F. Anderson, W. S. Greenwood; Linden, Perry Co.

EMERY STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Emery Stake was held in Castledale Sunday and Monday, May 10 and 11, 1896, President C. G. Larson presiding. Although none of the general Church authorities were in attendance and the weather very unfavorable, the house was filled and many could not gain admittance. President Larson made appropriate opening remarks, bidding all welcome; regretted that some of the leading authorities were not with us, but felt that we could have an interesting and instructive conference in listening to our local speakers, if the good spirit is in our hearts; said the Stake presidency had visited many of the wards during the last quarter, and found the spirit of peace prevailing among the people, although, as usual, plenty of room for improvement.

Five crowded meetings were held and the Saints truly felt that they had been fed with the bread of life. Besides interesting bishops' reports, the following named Elders addressed the conference: Presidents Larson, Seely and Howard, J. W. Nixon, D. C. Woodward, John P. Pearson, U. E. Curtiss, Patriarch F. Olsen, Erastus Curtiss, A. E. Wall and Levi B. Reynolds. The principal subjects treated upon were obedience to the Priesthood of God, missionary labors and the fallacy of evolution. Excellent music was furnished by the Castledale choir, assisted by neighboring towns under the leadership of Alex. Jameson. A. E. WALL,
Clerk.

Martin Bianco, a native of Italy, was killed Monday at La Honda, Cal., by falling into the creek. His neck was broken.