

good spirit which had prevailed during the conference. He referred to the sad death of Elder Chipman in the Waikato district, and bore testimony to his zeal and good character. He spoke on the subject of the condition of departed spirits, and the labors necessary for the redemption of the dead, and expressed a belief that Elder Chipman had been called to continue his labors behind the veil.

The testimony meeting held in the evening continued till about eleven o'clock, and twenty-two members bore faithful testimonies.

A good spirit prevailed and much good will undoubtedly result from the meetings.

A MIDSUMMER CHRISTMAS IN NEW ZEALAND.

Christmas in the antipodes has a changed aspect. We miss the frosty blasts and fleecy snow, and Santa Claus cannot appear in his time honored garb of white.

Instead of the merry jingling of sleigh bells, we hear the sweet warbling of the feathered songsters and the skylark soars aloft with glad song to greet Sol as he rises in the glory of summer.

The weather is almost oppressively hot, which often indicates a heavy thunder shower.

A sumptuous Christmas dinner was provided for the Elders, who gathered to attend conference at Waitangi, New Zealand.

The dinner room was very similar to one of our oldtime boweries, and was tastefully decorated and festooned with native grasses and vines.

"A Merry Christmas to all!" greeted the guests as they entered and the tables groaned beneath their loads of beef, pork, vegetables, plum puddings, tarts. It is needless to say that full justice was done to the bounteous repast.

Christmas eve was a memorable occasion. Our conference meeting continued till after 10 o'clock, but notwithstanding the late hour it was deemed advisable to celebrate the festive eve with an appropriate program. A master of ceremonies was appointed and the merry laughter and joyous shouts continued into the early morning hours. Santa Claus was present and the brethren cheerfully surrendered their socks in the hope of receiving elegant tokens from his ever bounteous hands. The gifts were too varied and numerous to permit a description in this letter.

Appropriate addresses were delivered by Elders C. W. Taylor and W. T. Stewart, and these were followed with songs, recitations, toasts.

The sentiment on Our Wives and Sweethearts was enthusiastically received and the unanimity which prevailed indicated that the loved ones at home were not forgotten.

After singing "Home, Sweet Home," and "Star Spangled Banner," the company dispersed after a general hand-shaking and Christmas greetings.

Few, if any, refrained from reflections of the happy gatherings and family reunions in Utah's vales, but this also proved a family gathering, for all were brethren united in doing Father's will and laboring to proclaim Christ's mission for the salvation of His children.

It was fitting, therefore, that they

should celebrate the advent of Him who was heralded with "Peace on earth, good will towards man."

PHOENIX.

DEATH OF EX-SECRETARY BLAINE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Dr. Haytt who has just left Blaine's bedside, says the patient has suffered another relapse, much more serious than any that has yet occurred; that the patient's condition is extremely critical, and, being so feeble, he can not rally. While not venturing an opinion as to the extent of the relapse, it is estimated that the end is near at hand.

LATER.

The announcement is just made that Blaine is dead. He died at 11 o'clock this morning.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—The end came peacefully, ex-Secretary Blaine passing from a state of unconsciousness to death. The wife and children were at the bedside.

The news quickly spread to the capitol and throughout the city. It was everywhere expected, but when the announcement came, the impression was more profound than any created by similar news since the death of Abraham Lincoln.

James Gillespie Blaine's death although it removed from the world a character prominent in everything he undertook, occasioned little surprise. It had been so long expected. The announcement was wholly anticipated. It was a foregone conclusion that the battle with death would end in defeat, though the facts as to the illness have from the first been studiously concealed through official channels. He was a sick man when he returned to Washington for the winter and death and its bereavements added more and more to his ailment. He grew worse and continued on his journey to the grave as fast as the days could carry him. Science and skill furnished him weapons of defense for a comparatively long time, but death furnished the end fight. He was doomed, doomed from the start and to all intents he has been a dead man for many days. His mind has been almost a blank for weeks, the lucid moments having been few and far between, but the physical frame withstood the ravages of wasting disease till now.

AN ACTIVE LIFE.

From the cradle to the tomb, Blaine, for sixty-three years, has been active. All the trials and tribulations that fall to the lot of public men have been his, and he earned for him a peaceful ending of a career which closed when life's candle made its last flicker today.

The death bed has been almost incessantly surrounded for weeks by those nearest and dearest to him. In fact, only the family and those very closely associated with them have been permitted to even hear from him during the last days of his life. Trained journalists, calling into requisition every honest means at their command and resorting to every possible means within the line of legitimate journalism, have kept a watching eye on every movement about the house of the distinguished patient until he breathed his last. Naturally, the dis-

position on the part of the family and

physicians was to conceal the condition, but from time to time accurate information was obtained and reported. It is safe to say that few, if any journalistic experiences since Grant's illness could furnish a more thorough example of watching and waiting than this.

Dr. Johnson was summoned to the bedside early this morning, but the fact was unknown until shortly after 11, when, in company with Dr. Hoyt, he left the house. Both were unusually pale and when accosted by a reporter for the latest news a significant look in their faces answered the question.

"He's dead," said Dr. Johnson, "and passed away peacefully."

THE NEWS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE, crowds gathered on the corners, and visitors flocked to the house. Word was at once sent to President Harrison, who, accompanied by his private secretary, Halford, and Dr. Parker, at once walked over to Blaine's mansion, followed quickly by Postmaster-General Wanamaker. The President showed marked signs of grief.

The patient passed a restless night. This morning he was languid and weak but nothing serious was noted until shortly before nine, when a change for the worse occurred. Both physicians were hastily summoned and remained at the bedside till death. Blaine was conscious until a few moments before death, and the end was so peaceful that only the experienced eye of the physician could perceive that the great statesman had joined the majority. Dr. Hyatt said Blaine's death was due to sheer exhaustion. He was unwilling to make any statement regarding the exact nature of the disease until he had received the consent of the family.

DR. JOHNSON'S STATEMENT.

To a reporter Dr. Johnson said: "I was called to the Blaine residence at 9:30 this morning and found Blaine very exhausted. He had grown weaker during the early morning. About 8:30 the nurse observed that the breathing was more difficult and the pulse more feeble. Dr. Hyatt was also sent for and arrived at 10. After my arrival Blaine continued to grow weaker very rapidly, the pulse becoming very feeble. He was perfectly conscious till a few moments before death and recognized all those around him. He died without suffering."

CONGRESS ADJOURNS.

The Senate and House adjourned as a mark of respect to Blaine, without transacting any business.

In answer to the question, "Did Blaine die of Bright's disease?" the physician said, "While there has been, during the last several months, evidences of chronic disease of the kidneys, being the form commonly known as Bright's disease, yet this was not the sole cause of the death. There were other consecutive complications which tended to exhaust him and hasten the end. The lapses which he had for some time were due to heart exhaustion, that is, feebleness and irregularity of the action of the heart, accompanied by difficult breathing. During yesterday nothing of importance occurred. Blaine simply lay there in a feeble condition, taking very little nourishment. Indeed, he has taken very little nourishment since