

ZION'S MAORI ASSOCIATION.

On Friday evening last a pleasant social reunion was held in the Fourteenth ward assembly hall under the auspices of Zion's Maori association, for Elders who have labored in the New Zealand mission, and their friends.

The first part of the evening was passed in a formal meeting presided over by President Paxman and B. Goddard. There were present of those who have presided over the mission, 3; returned Elders, 36; Saints from New Zealand and Australia, 18; relatives of Elders now in New Zealand, 36, and about 75 others.

After the usual opening exercises a financial report was read and adopted; also a report of the work accomplished by the association; the comfortable condition of the Maori Saints who are now located in this city and doing temple work; publishing literature for the mission and the further work necessary in this direction. Epistles from the association and the First Presidency have been translated and the latter was kindly published in the DESERET NEWS and distributed among our friends in New Zealand.

President Wm. Paxman then addressed the meeting, expressing his pleasure for the same. Felt much gratified in listening to the report of the work done, and the interest manifested by the returned Elders in regard to the welfare of those who are now laboring in far away Maoriland. Was much pleased with the epistles sent, and spoke of the joy in the hearts of the Saints and the good that would surely result from the same.

The assembly then sang, several Maori hymns.

Elder Joseph Jorgenson of Logan represented the recently returned Elders. He reported the mission as being in a prosperous condition. At the general conference held just before he left in October last, each district or conference was represented and gave favorable reports.

Sister Kate Romney rendered an organ solo.

Elder William Bromley of American Fork was present and said that he had presided in New Zealand in 1880. Stated that he was instructed to visit the Maoris and endeavor to open up the work among them. He spoke of the valuable assistance rendered by Brother Charles Hardy of Auckland and others and the condition of the mission generally during his term as president. He referred to an incident in which he endeavored to get a small tract translated. Not being able to do the work himself he employed a government interpreter to do it for him. But when the man saw the matter to be translated and the name of Joseph Smith, he trembled with fear and said he dared not do it. "How different now," said Bro. Bromley, "we have scores of competent men in Zion who are able to do this work."

Elder W. T. Stewart was the next speaker. He said he succeeded Brother Bromley as president of the mission and had since served a second term in the same position. His special mission was to the Maoris. He rejoiced in the meeting and said that it would be productive of good. He spoke words of comfort and cheer to those who have relatives laboring in the mission.

Elder Ezra T. Richards, about to leave for New Zealand, having been called to preside there, said he had already filled one mission to that land, from 1884 to 1888—three years and seven months. While there he was engaged in the translation of the Book of Mormon. Spoke of the present call, and although surprised, he felt like going and doing his best in the work. He appreciated the labors of the association and hoped the work would continue.

Refreshments were then served, and all enjoyed themselves in conversation, reminiscences and sociable interchange of sentiments. Later in the evening a Maori brother—Hinni Whanga—addressed the meeting, expressing himself as being greatly pleased in being able to attend.

The association is doing much good and received substantial expressions from many present. Many expressed themselves that it was one of the happiest meetings attended for many years. Parents, wives and children had the pleasure of conversing with those who had seen their loved ones in the Antipodes and Elders lovingly grasped the hands of their co-laborers in that far-off land. The reunion will be long remembered and it was unanimously decided to hold such gatherings semi-annually.

EZRA STEVENSON,
SALT LAKE CITY, April 8, 1896.

"MR." JACK RABBIT.

FILLMORE, Millard Co.,
April 6, 1896.

In the DESERET EVENING NEWS of March 31, 1896, we find an article on the jack rabbit, and learn from it that the government of the United States is trying, through Dr. T. L. Palmer, to find out something about his "distribution and habits," and also "to bring together facts and figures concerning the economic use of rabbits in general for the purpose of indicating how our native species may be more generally utilized."

The farmers hereabouts are well posted on Mr. Rabbit's "habits," and would emphatically say they are bad. And if anything favorable is discoverable in the latter proposition we would be glad to know it.

Why Dr. Palmer did not get some information from this county when seeking information from Utah, we do not know. Perhaps he went to Rabbit valley, in Wayne county, and was disappointed, as we are informed that that valley received its name from the late Hoo. A. K. Thurber, who as a pioneer found no other living thing in that district but a solitary jack rabbit.

Mention is made of rabbit hunts, in which from five hundred to two thousand have been killed near Parowan since 1885, as far back as the inquiry appears to have gone. A rabbit hunt was had for a wager of fifty dollars a side, between Fillmore and the nearby town of Holden, when 30 men—15 on each side—with shot guns, killed 2,206 rabbits in seven hours. Mr. Jos. E. Ray, who was the leader of the Fillmore gunners, on this and many other occasions of rabbit slaughter, tells me that this county alone should be given the total accredited to the whole of Utah, and County Clerk T. C. Callister, who has paid many

hundreds of dollars in bounty for rabbit ears, thinks it is a light estimate.

With regard to methods of rabbit destruction, the little town of Holden with a population of, then, less than 400, have expended large amounts of money in the purchase of factory which with stakes planted in a V-shaped chute or corral formed a wall running out on either side for about 200 yards; then women and children would continue to form the V wings as long as possible whilst men and boys, on horse and foot, would scour the country and drive the rabbits towards and into the trap. At the end of the V was an enclosure about four feet high, made of hurdles and factory; here was where the chief slaughter went on, with chute, until men were bloody and exhausted. Hundreds would be killed at each sitting of the corral, but as many more would get away; women and children would count the scalps at the close of the hunt.

These were not hunts for fun, but bread; it was a question of the "survival of the fittest;" the children's bread was at stake, and has been frequently taken by the innocent looking jack rabbit. Few people here ever think of eating the pest; the slaughter is disgusting; and there have been frequent periods when disease took them off by thousands. Small spots of a gelatine nature form under the skin, would grow until the rabbit became puffed out and could scarcely travel and eventually lay down and die, in such numbers that the stench therefrom became almost unbearable to men working in the fields. If it was not for these "Providential takings-off" we don't know, who would claim the county today.

We do not know what our great and good Uncle Sam is going to do when he finds out all about Mr. Bunny, but if he is going to give a bounty or a medal for his capture, we assert our claim; if he is going to condemn us as ruthless slaughterers of the innocents, we are equally guilty. A. BIRD.

THE CLOSING HOURS

Speaker Denny is an old and good friend of mine, and before it was too late I thought I would drop into the House of Representatives and see how he handled himself and those he presided over. It was just between times of presentation that the call was made; he had but recently been presented with a gold-headed cane by the Democratic members and was shortly to receive a gold watch at the hands of the Republicans, so there must undoubtedly be a good opportunity to see how things went when there were no side issues on, so to speak.

There was a quorum present, including the Democrats, and Mr. Denny was in the chair. The clerk was reading off something at a pace which I was unable to follow and suggested that he must be getting paid by the folio instead of by the day as is usually the case. It was from the Senate and was voted on immediately, everybody, including the Democrats, voting "aye."

Pretty soon a Republican of Goose Creek arose and said—"Mr. Speaker, I move you, sir, that the honorable gentleman from Ashley Fork, Mr.