

stories, events and interesting subjects that there is no need for other works. He had heard a great deal said about diagrams and plans being used in teaching in the Sunday schools. These may be useful help; but simplicity in giving instructions and in the exercises of the Sunday school, teaching the principles of the Gospel, the history of the Prophet Joseph Smith and of the Church, accompanied by the Spirit of the Lord, should be the aim and object of every Sunday school worker. Technicality should be avoided. It has been found that those who become acquainted with the Bible in their youth understand the Gospel more easily than those who do not know its beauties. The Elders in their travels among the people of the world are most successful among those who are acquainted with the Scriptures. It is so among us. Superintendent Cannon trusted that the teachers would take such lessons as the story of Daniel, Joseph, Nephi, Moses and the Prophets and Apostles of God, and our own Church history. The children would be inspired by such noble lives, and no better way can be used in teaching the Gospel than by these means.

The choir sang: "From afar, gracious Lord, Thine has gathered Thy flock."

Benediction by Elder John W. Taylor. JOHN M. WHITAKER, General Secretary.

#### NORTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE.

JASPER, Walker Co., Ala.  
Sept. 27th, 1898.

"Go thou therefore and teach all nations," was a commandment given by our Savior to His disciples. It is also the commission given to the disciples of Christ today. It is what two humble Elders with the help of God are trying to do their part in the North Alabama conference.

We find the path thorny and rough. Bitter prejudices meet us at every turn; our friends are few but firm, and in the breast of every Elder who is alive to his duty, is the sweet consolation that God is watching over him and will never forsake one of His humble servants if they will trust in Him and ask in faith for His blessings.

At our conference on August 15th and 16th Elder Tolton of Beaver, Utah, and myself were assigned, as "meteoric Elders," to labor in the counties of Winston, Walker and Jefferson, having some large cities. We went forth feeling the weak of the weakest, but knowing that if we were successful it would be only by keeping the commandments of God. We went forth without purse or scrip, depending upon the hearts of the people to be opened unto us by our Father. We left conference with no money and since that time have not wanted for friends or food. We know that Elders need no money to preach the Gospel in the Southern States, if they will but do as they are commanded.

We entered Walker county fasting and praying, and we can truly say that God has blessed us, by not only providing us with friends but with opportunity to hold meetings more than ever before. Two honest souls having applied for baptism we first went to the Sheppard settlement, where we were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Hutto and McMillan, who, for a num-

ber of years, have made their homes a home for Mormon Elders. We held eight spirited meetings in the neighborhood and have invitations to come and hold more.

Sunday, Sept. 13th, we had the pleasure of meeting the good people of the place upon the water's edge, and after explaining to them the import of baptism, led Brother and Sister Frank McMillan into the water and baptized them for the remission of sins. But something happened which caused me (Elder Brown) to look rather gloomy. I hung my pants out to dry, and while out filling an appointment at church (in borrowed pants) my own were stolen; and there I was without purse, scrip or breeches.

Although we are among friends yet we can hear the "old tempter" around us raking up old prejudices; but the more he "kicks" the more and stronger friends are made for us. To show the interest in this neighborhood where we have held three meetings: Last night it rained hard yet when we arrived at the place appointed it was crowded, some coming three and four miles.

How different does the Gospel seem to a young man after he begins to labor as a missionary, spreading an unpopular doctrine among a prejudiced people. At home he thinks perhaps that he is at the top of the ladder with nothing more to learn. How suddenly he drops when arriving at his field of labor he finds his stock of information very limited; at least this is the experience of your humble servant. But when he is humbled, he is then able to go to work in humility, depending upon God, without whose Spirit we cannot expect to be successful. It is the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that gives power to our task and causes conviction to sink into the hearts of the people.

The summer has been very warm and dry and much sickness has been among the people.

I have suffered greatly with indigestion, but by the faith and prayers of myself and other Elders have been healed, and am enjoying better health than for years.

We have received no news from Utah in any form for a month, therefore the News would be a welcome visitor, to us as well as letters from friends who know us.

JAMES E. BROWN,  
WALTER S. TOLTON.

#### ZION'S MAORI ASSOCIATION.

The semi-annual reunion of the members and friends of Zion's Maori association was held on Tuesday evening, Oct. 6, in the Fourteenth Ward Assembly Hall.

A ter usual opening exercises, prayer being offered by Elder Robert Menzies, the treasurer's report for six months was read and adopted.

Brother B. Goddard reported that a lot of literature, consisting of Contributors, Juvenile Instructor, Deseret News, Woman's Exponent, etc., has recently been sent out for use in the mission. These papers and magazines, the back numbers to use at home, are eagerly sought for and read by our European Saints and friends in far-off New Zealand and Australia.

The proposition now is to publish a pamphlet (J. H. Anderson's "Latter-day Saints"), which has been translated into Maori for use in the mission. The aid of members and friends is solicited for the accomplishment of this purpose. It is also desired that we publish a Maori hymn book soon as practicable. Meetings are held each Friday evening with our Maoris who are here; they are working daily in the Temple and feeling well.

Also announced that Pres. Wm. Gardner and Elders Jos. W. Linford, Phoe. J. Morgan, Heber C. Jex and R. Leo Bird were present, having arrived during the day from missions in New Zealand.

President Gardner addressed the meeting. Expressed his pleasure in being present on his return from his second mission. Said that on his first mission he was among the first six Elders who were appointed to learn the Maori language and labor among that people. With his companion, Brother Charles Anderson of Sevier county, he started out by cutting and splitting 1,600 fence posts for a livelihood while prosecuting their studies. While thus engaged the Maoris began to take an interest in and listen to the Gospel message and the work among the people began. There were many hardships to contend with during those days, but they were blessed in their efforts and had the pleasure of seeing the fruits thereof.

Said that the experiences of his second mission were more in caring for those who are now within the fold, though the work is spreading and the numbers increasing until now there are upward of 3,600 members. The Elders have been much blessed in their labors, and the mission is improving. Reported also that quite a work is being done among the Europeans in New Zealand and Australia. He left the Elders feeling well and enjoying their labors.

Brother Angus T. Wright of Ogden said that he had labored in the New Zealand mission and during the latter part of his time presided over same. Was pleased to be at the meeting and enjoy the association of Elders and friends. Related many interesting experiences and feelings while laboring among the Maoris.

A census of those present showed presidents, 3; Elders, 28; representatives of Elders now in New Zealand, 32; returned Elders from Australia, 2; representatives of Elders now in Australia, 6; returned Elders from Tasmania, 1; Saints gathered from Tasmania, 3; Saints from Australia, 7; Saints from New Zealand, 19; and many friends, in all about 200.

Brother Nicholas H. Gruesbeck was the oldest representative laborer present, having been there in 1880.

President Wm. Paxman said that the meeting of friends, relatives and fellow laborers is one of the sweet things of life, and he rejoiced in our reunion meetings. Related some of his experiences; knew Brother Gardner there and labored and traveled with him. The Maoris are very zealous in providing and caring for the Elders. The power of God is with the Elders in their labors. Power to overcome evil and unclean spirits being preserved from personal danger, power to raise the sick through