

was reminded of the organization of the Church, sixty-four years ago, with six members. He showed the marvelous growth of the Church, and how Elders had been called to all parts of the world to proclaim the truth. These servants of God went in all humility to all the nations of the earth to call them unto repentance. He rejoiced greatly at the progress of the good work amongst the Maories.

Elder Charles Hardy, president of the Auckland branch, testified to the good spirit often manifested amongst the European Saints in Auckland in years past, and regretted that they were deprived of the special labors of the Elders. The Maories have been greatly blessed with the ministrations of these servants of God, and he exhorted the members to faithfulness, lest the Elders be taken from them and sent to a people more worthy.

Elders Nebeker, Embly, Wiremu Takana and Matenga Waitanui also spoke encouragingly to the Saints.

Meeting closed with hymn 74; prayer by Ngatoto Maere.

A Priesthood meeting was held at 7 o'clock, where suitable instructions were given by President Gardner. About seventy members holding the priesthood were present, and much time was spent in answering questions and explaining the duties of the members.

Simultaneously with the above, a sister's testimonial meeting was held in an adjoining "whare," or Maori house, presided over by Elder W. Gibson. Twenty-seven members bore their testimonies.

The third day's conference meetings were commenced at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 8th, were opened by singing hymn 113.

Elder B. Goddard, President of Manawatu conference, reported the labors of the Elders in that district. Four branches and three Sunday schools were in good working order, and most of the members diligently performing their duties. He complimented the Saints for their great faith in the ordinance for the healing of the sick; referred also to his labors amongst the Europeans, and his visit to the South Island. He warned the people against the evils of horseracing, adultery, witchcraft, drunkenness, etc., referring to the teachings of the Apostles on these and kindred subjects.

Elders Best, Bird, O'Brien, Bradford and Jex also spoke briefly and bore their testimonies.

Meeting closed with singing hymn 65; prayer by Elder Packard.

The sacrament meeting was held at 2 p.m., and a very large number of Saints were present. The opening hymn (80) was sung by the congregation; prayer by Te Naera Hotui; hymn 128.

The Lord's Supper was administered by Elders Gibson and Douglas.

Elder B. Goddard, the mission clerk, read the annual statistical report for the year ending Dec. 31, 1893, which showed a total membership of 3,194, including 841 children. These were organized into seventy-three branches. The total baptisms during the year were 135, children blessed 106. The mission was subdivided into fifteen districts, in which thirty-three Elders from Zion were laboring.

The general and local authorities of

the Church were duly sustained by the conference. Seven native Elders were also called to assist the Elders in their labors amongst outsiders.

Elders Gibson, Douglas and Rasmussen were released from their labors in the districts over which they presided, but in view of their knowledge of the Maori language, and their great ability to preach to the Maoris, it was deemed advisable to retain their services two months longer for speech labor amongst the native tribes who have not yet been visited.

President Gardner closed the conference with an earnest address to the members. He referred especially to the Book of Mormon and Ready References, both of which are translated into the Maori, and in circulation amongst the people. He spoke words of encouragement to the Saints, and exhorted all present to greater diligence.

Meeting was dismissed by singing hymn 28; prayer by Hori Te Poipoi.

A testimony meeting was held in the evening, and a most enjoyable time was spent listening to the faithful testimonies of forty members. Elders Scott, Allen and Packard also addressed the meeting.

Thus closed another eventful conference in Maoridom, and the Saints and Elders all rejoiced in being privileged to participate in such a feast of fat things. The Spirit of God was abundantly poured out and a continual song of praise gladdened every heart.

B. GODDARD,

Clerk of the Australasian Mission.
WAIROA, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, April 14, 1894.

NOTES ON THE "HUI TAU."

Waiwhata, a small Maori village on the Te Mahia peninsula, presented a lively appearance during the time of the annual conference of the Australasian mission. At any other time it must be a lonesome though very pleasant spot. The Maori wharves, all primitive structures, built of reeds and native grasses, were erected near the beach, at the foot of the sloping green old hills. Stretching out to the east was the mighty Pacific, calm and placid as a sea of glass.

Great preparations had been made for the accommodation of the visiting Saints who came in large numbers from the Bay of Islands in the far north, to Waipounamu (Middle Island), in the south. A spacious building 60x20 feet, had been specially erected (of native reeds) for the conference meetings. It was dimly lighted at each end, by the doorway and aperture for ventilation. A small table and rough bench served as a stand or pulpit, at one end of the building, and flax mats were spread down each side of the hall. Upon these the congregation was seated, or squatted, and during the service all imaginable positions were assumed for comfort. As these mats also serve as the beds of the natives, there was an abundance of blankets, pillows, etc., and hence the natives were able to lie at ease. The deacons paced to and fro through the center aisle, armed with long rods, and occasionally poking drowsy members of the congregation, to prevent them falling into the arms of Morpheus. The argus eyes of these vigilant officials were often fixed upon the Elders,

who were also compelled to lie upon the mats, as there were only two chairs in the village. The brethren would often chat till late in the evening and were aroused early in the morning, hence it was no wonder if, in a four hours' testimony meeting, some were found "nodding" and the watchful deacon enjoying the opportunity of giving a "Kaumatua" (Elder) a gentle (?) reminder.

The conference commenced on April 6th, though many of the Saints and Elders arrived a few days before that time. Each company was received with the usual Maori greeting, the "Haka," or war dance, being repeated daily. This peculiar, though cheering, reception has been previously described in the NEWS. Of course, the indispensable "nongi" was freely given, and duly appreciated by all comers, especially the newly arrived Elders from Zion. The writer being detained by storms and steamer delays, did not arrive until the first hymn had been sung, and hence, after meeting, the greetings came by wholesale. Many of the Saints desired to give forcible demonstration of their "aroha," (love) and after about 200 such impressions, the nasal proboscis was almost demoralized.

A good spirit prevailed during all the meetings of the "Hui tau," and much good will undoubtedly result from this happy reunion.

The Australasian mission now comprises sixteen conferences under the presidency of Elder William Gardner.

Forty-four Elders are at present laboring in these districts preaching the Gospel to all classes. In addition to the two Australian districts, a new field has been opened in Tasmania, where Elders Lewis, Poud and Sister Poud are spreading the good news.

Three Elders anticipated receiving their release to return to Zion at this conference, but were happily (?) disappointed; Elders Gibson, Rasmussen and Douglas are fluent speakers in the native tongue, and it was therefore deemed expedient to retain their services till June, in order to do some active work amongst a number of native tribes that have not yet received the Gospel. A number of exemplary Maori Elders were also called to assist in this special labor. The Elders assigned to Maori work in the various districts have few opportunities of visiting distant tribes, as the members need constantly visiting in the various branches and, if neglected, fall into sin. The assistance of the above named Elders, therefore, will be of great aid to the mission and will accomplish great good. They will be released to return to Zion in the month of June, and a few of the most faithful Maori members will accompany them.

The natives possess the spirit of gathering, but circumstances have hitherto rendered it inexpedient. There is probably no people better prepared for temple work than our Maori Saints, many of whom possess an unbroken ancestral record for more than five hundred years.

The names of Hirini Whaanga and his wife Mary will be lovingly remembered by the majority of Elders who have labored in this mission. Brother Whaanga is one of the leading "rangatiras," or chiefs, in the Te Mahia district, and the Elders have