

ennes on the reservation; is 2132, of whom 990 are males and 1142 females; the Arapahoes number 1137, of whom 537 are males and 600 females, making a total of about 3269. These lands are said to be adapted for farming, and the Indians who have already begun to farm in severalty manifest a disposition to raise wheat in preference to other cereals.

The proclamation for the opening of these lands has not yet been issued, but along the whole border of the territory there is said to be an unbroken encampment of prospective settlers awaiting the hour of opening.

ACROSS THE PACIFIC.

[Correspondence of the DESERET NEWS.]

On the 7th of February last a large and happy company of passengers assembled on the deck of the "Alameda," and bade good-bye to friends and acquaintances who had gathered at the wharf for that purpose. We sailed through the Golden Gate, and watched Columbia's shores receding from us till the shades of evening hid them from view. After a few hours' sailing the merry laughter ceased and, one by one, passengers quietly left the deck to seek hiding places below. The reason for this will be obvious to all who have passed through the ordeal of crossing the "mighty deep." In a few days, however, the crisis was passed, and again the passengers returned with pale and sickly faces to gaze upon the wide expanse of waters.

Seven days' sailing enabled us to reach the Sandwich Islands, and it would be difficult to imagine a more beautiful scene than that which greeted us as we entered the bay. It being the Sabbath, the visitors at the wharves were dressed in their Sunday attire, and the light dresses, adorned with flowers, were very appropriate, the weather being as warm as a summer day in Utah.

Elder Brigham Johnson met our company and conducted us through the streets of Honolulu, to the Mission house. The town presented the appearance of a large flower garden. After partaking of a hearty breakfast, we attended a meeting of the Saints in the commodious and well furnished meetinghouse belonging to the Mission. About one hundred Saints welcomed us with "Aloha" and hearty handshakings. The visitors from Zion, Elders Goddard, Chipman, Fisher, Palmer and Hottendorf, addressed the congregation, their remarks being interpreted by Elder Johnson. A very pleasant day was spent, and at six o'clock four of the missionaries returned to the "Alameda" leaving Elder Hottendorf and family at Honolulu. Many interesting conversations took place on the steamer when it was known that a company of "Mormon" missionaries were on board, and we trust that some good may result therefrom. The following Sabbath land was again sighted as we neared Upolu, one of the Samoan islands. At noon the "Alameda" cast anchor in the harbor, about two miles from the town of Apia, which was almost hidden from view by the many cocoa nut trees, etc.

A novel scene was presented to us as the natives, in their small and quaint

canoes, surrounded the vessel, offering bananas, oranges, cocoanuts, etc., for sale, or diving for coins, thrown by passengers into the water. The weather was extremely hot—almost unbearable—and we pardoned the natives for wearing such scant clothing.

Our company hired a small boat and went ashore, where we had the pleasure of meeting President Browning and Elders Bassett, Summerhays and Abel, who reported that the good work was progressing on the islands and that nineteen Elders were now laboring in that mission. In a few hours we were compelled to return and continue our journey southward. Six days later we reached the coast of New Zealand, passing many islands as we approached our destination. As we entered the Waitemata harbor a good view was obtained of the city of Auckland and its adjoining suburbs, which occupy a fine location on the southern shores of the harbor. At the wharf President Stewart welcomed us and we were soon enjoying a long-looked-for rest. Several days were spent visiting points of interest in the vicinity. Near the city is Mount Eden, 664 feet high, from the summit of which the finest view of the city and surrounding country is obtained. We climbed to the summit and viewed the partially filled crater and the ruins of old Maori fortifications. The natives in time of war occupied all these elevations and built terraces around them which are still plainly visible.

The population of Auckland and suburbs is about 80,000. The residents are chiefly employed at the wharfs and in the manufacturing industries. The city has an excellent water supply from springs, and many of the streets are either flagged or asphalted. Trams run to the suburbs, and a line of ferry steamers plies between Auckland and the suburbs on the north side of the harbor. An enjoyable day was spent in the public free library, which contains over 11,000 volumes, and in the art gallery and museum, where a unique collection of manuscripts, works of art, Maori relics, specimens, etc., may be seen. The city is well provided with recreation grounds. Albert park is elaborately laid off and is almost a mass of beautiful flowers. The public domain contains one hundred and ninety-six acres, provides ample room and shady walks, and is a popular resort.

After spending a few days in Auckland the brethren departed to their various fields of labor. Two of the Elders boarded the "Wairarapa" steamship and sailed down the coast to Gisborne, a distance of 300 miles from Auckland. The town of Gisborne is located on the Turanganui river when flows into Poverty Bay. The town is almost hidden with the dense foliage of trees, but has been well laid out and contains several substantial business blocks. It has a population of about 2100. Captain Cook first landed on this island, near the present location of the town. About two miles from Gisborne is the Kaiti branch of the Church, where Elders Oscar Andrus and L. C. Rasmussen are laboring.

The Elders from Zion were welcomed by the Maori Saints in their usual peculiar way (nose-rubbing),

which was not disagreeable, especially when understood as an evidence of affection.

The Kaiti branch is small but contains as good a class of Latter-day Saints as can be found in many places.

The Book of Mormon is a favorite study and the questions asked at a recent Priesthood meeting would have perplexed many of our theological classes in Zion, and few of the members would have answered them more correctly than our Maori brethren and sisters.

Since arriving in this district I have visited all the branches. Elder Fisher has gone farther south, into the Mahia district.

Yesterday a visit was paid to the Nelson Bros. freezing works. This is now a flourishing industry in New Zealand. The above works have a capacity for handling 500 sheep daily. We witnessed the killing and dressing, which was done with skill and very rapidly. After the sheep are dressed and cleaned they are passed into chambers, where about 500 are frozen daily and stored in cool chambers ready for shipment. In this condition they are packed in the steamers and shipped to England. The "Te Anau" steamer left for London last week with nearly 12,000 frozen carcasses of sheep aboard, besides beef and pork.

There are quite a number of these freezing works upon the island at present, and of course the value of sheep has materially advanced. A few years ago sheep were almost worthless, being sold at about twenty-five cents each. Now they are in demand at \$2 and upwards.

We are at present enjoying the fall of the year, and in the midst of the water-melon season, and it is almost as warm as mid-summer in Zion. We are all looking forward to the arrival of our next "home" mails. PHOENIX.

THE IOWA CONFERENCE.

Convened in the Opera House, Belleville, Kansas, on Saturday and Sunday, April 9th and 10th. Meeting on Saturday began at 2 p.m. There were present C. W. Stayner, president of the Northern States mission, President J. M. Porter, president of the Iowa Conference; traveling Elders W. R. Johnson, W. A. Walker, N. J. Nielsen, J. A. Walker, J. E. Lewis, G. T. Marshall, jr.; also Elders J. G. Giles and John Christensen, who arrived Saturday night.

President O. M. Porter made the opening address. He spoke upon the necessity of true faith in the Godhead and of living faith with works to make it perfect.

He was followed by President Stayner, who spoke upon the subject of baptism, showing, by many scripture texts, that it was essential. In the afternoon Elder W. R. Johnson spoke upon the same subject. President Stayner then spoke upon the apostasy from the primitive church, spoke of John Wesley, Calvin and others as being good men, but they lacked authority, which they could not obtain without new revelation. Sunday morning Elder Giles spoke upon the Holy Ghost, showing that a man must have the Spirit of God to know the things of God; showed how the Holy Ghost was given.