

New Zealand Herald 16 November 1895

THE following biographical notice of the Rev. J. Matthews, is forwarded by Mr. H. Carré, licensed lay reader, of Kaitia:—

Another of God's heroes has gone home, On Sunday afternoon, 3rd November, at the parsonage, Kaitia, the Rev. Joseph Matthews sank peacefully to rest, at the advanced age of eighty-seven. He was one of that noble band of pioneers for Christ, who, with their lives in their hands and the love of God in their hearts, came into the wilderness, among the savage tribes, to preach the Gospel of peace.

Mr. Matthews was born at Deddington, Oxford, England, in November, 1808. When 23 years of age he was sent by the Church Missionary Society to New Zealand. In those early days communication between England and New Zealand was rare. He was therefore appointed as assistant chaplain, or lay reader to the convicts, on a ship bound for Sydney. He sailed from Plymouth on 26th March, 1831, remaining about eight months in the neighbourhood of Sydney, where he was initiated into his duties as missionary-catechist. He landed at Paihia, Bay of