

separation from the confederation. The Colombians still supported Bolívar and again elected him president. He returned to Caracas to carry on war against Páez, but his native country refused to receive him and he was compelled to flee to escape assassination. His banishment was decreed, and he took refuge at Santa Marta, where, a few months after, he died of a broken heart, after writing an address to his fellow-countrymen, in which he reproached them for their ingratitude to one who had devoted his whole life and his entire fortune to secure their liberty.—*William E. Curtis, in Chicago Mail.*

### MATTERS IN SAMOA.

Our house on the small island of Aunuu became too hot to hold us, so we moved to this place during the first days of March. Circumstances have so changed since then, that we found it desirable to remain here, and expect to make this village the headquarters for Elders traveling on this and the island of Aunuu.

The thermometer here registers 81 degrees in the shade, and since the destructive winds of March the weather has been delightful.

Our village consists of a row of houses in a semicircle around the bay of Vatia. We get the benefit of the trade winds, which give an almost constant, cool sea breeze, making this a very desirable place to live in.

There is but one mountain ridge between us and Pago Pago, which is the safest harbor in all of the Pacific Islands. If the American and German men-of-war that were lost in the past storm had been in Pago Pago, instead of Apia, they would have been land-locked and perfectly safe. If our government carries out its present intentions, and establishes a coaling station there, they will have a most desirable place of refuge. Pago Pago runs at least three miles inland, and on both sides are high mountains. The entrance to the bay is narrow and curves so that persons inside cannot see the ocean.

There are some very good descriptions of Samoan life, and true illustrations, in the *Century* for May and *Leslie's Popular Monthly* for April. The former is much the better, but is not free from mistakes. The writer of the first article gives this island, Tutuila, credit for 8000 inhabitants, when in fact there are not more than 3500 on Tutuila and Aunuu.

Monday, June 17th, was a day of rejoicing with us, because on that day the steamer from America brought four brethren from Utah. They are: Brigham Solomon, of Salt Lake; H. E. Boothe, Jr., of Grantsville; Brigham Smoot, of Provo, and Jessie J. Bennett, of Meadow, Millard County, Utah. They had a pleasant voyage on the *Mariposa*, and arrived off this island at daybreak June 17th. They were met by our boat and landed here in safety on the afternoon of the same day. Of course they brought us many kind wishes and

substantial presents from our families and friends at home. None but those who have been similarly situated can appreciate what our feelings were as we welcomed our brethren, and received from them our boxes from the folks at home. It is now nine months since we left Salt Lake, and we have been living in a land of war and famine, but the Lord has greatly blessed us, so that we have not suffered to any great extent for the necessities of life. Any person seeing us unpack our things could not help being struck with a sense of the ludicrous. I imagine we looked very much like a party of children opening their Christmas boxes; and I am sure that our exclamations of delight, as each article was brought forth, would equal that of any party of youngsters. We will always remember the kindness of Bishop Solomon's wife, of the Twenty-second Ward, who sent us a large plum cake.

The second evening after the brethren arrived we held a meeting and received our appointments to labor on the different islands. Elders E. J. Wood, Brigham Solomon and Brigham Smoot will assist President J. H. Dean on the island of Upolu, their address being Apia, Upolu, Samoa. Elders A. Beesley and H. E. Booth go to the island of Manuu, while Wm. O. Lee and J. J. Bennett remain to labor on this and the island of Aunuu. The address of all the latter is for the present, Tutuila, Samoa. All mail matter should be marked via San Francisco.

We are putting the finishing touches on a house that we have been building here. We have leased a nice piece of ground, with coconut, banana, bread-fruit and orange trees on it, and expect to make a nice home for the Elders who labor in this district.

We have spent a good portion of our time thus far studying the language and building houses. We now expect to commence proselytizing in earnest. The brethren all have the spirit of their mission, and we know that the Lord is with us because He has proven it many times to our joy and satisfaction.

There is a great similarity in the languages of the inhabitants of Samoa, Hawaii, New Zealand, Tahiti, Rarotonga, Tonga, Marques and other islands of the Pacific. All writers on the subject agree that originally they were one common root stock, and that they must have lived on one of the continents. Some say they came from South-eastern Asia, others from an island similar to Australia, which some convulsion of the earth caused to disappear, leaving these islanders as a remnant of the original race. A writer in the *May Century* states of the Samoans: "Like all other races of Eastern Polynesia, this people originally sprang from the Malay Archipelago. Those who have studied Polynesian migrations, traditions, customs, and similarities do not for a moment doubt this fact."

I beg to differ from the writer of the above, and state that "we have a more sure word of prophecy" in regard to the matter, by which we

know that the Polynesians are of the same family as the American Indians; also that their common native land is America. I also claim that the facts will substantiate this statement. To all interested I would recommend that they read the Book of Mormon, which is a sacred history of the ancient inhabitants of America, and it gives a full account of the origin and characteristics of the copper colored race that the Bible and profane history does not account for. If that book is not convincing, compare the features, habits, natures and languages of the Polynesians with those of the Indians of Mexico, Central and South America. A noteworthy fact is that there is considerable Hebrew mixed up with the language of this race, which is perfectly natural, seeing that their forefathers originally came from Jerusalem to the western hemisphere, some 600 B. C.

All Samoa is anxiously waiting for the decision of the great powers as to who shall be king of Samoa. I suppose there will be a national debt as a result of the late war, but how these indolent natives will ever pay it, or meet taxation necessary to carry on a government, is more than I can fathom. These people are in debt, wherever they can get trust, for guns, cloth and groceries. If a native wants a thing he will give his land or anything he has for security; in fact it is not uncommon for the same piece of land to be pledged to a number of persons at the same time, so that the title is somewhat mixed. It is dangerous for a stranger to buy land here and pay cash down. Our land we leased from the supposed owners some two months ago, and since that time six different claimants have put in an appearance. We expect a few more yet.

It is rumored here that the Samoan government is to be reorganized, with white officers for the first year, to show the natives how to manage affairs. If this be true I pity the poor judges who will undertake to disentangle Samoan land matters.

There is room on this island for four times its population. John Chinaman would thrive and soon get wealthy here, as I doubt whether there is a place on the face of the whole earth where vegetation will grow with less labor than in Samoa. It will be a sorry day for these natives when the tide of Chinese immigration turns this way. It would not take one of those industrious persons very long to buy a Samoan's land, and then get the purchase money back for food raised on the same. We are all enjoying excellent health and spirits at the present writing. With love to all our brethren and sisters in Zion, NEMO.

VATIA, Island of Tutuila, Samoa, June 27, 1889.

### CURRENT TOPICS IN EUROPE.

As is well known, Naples is the most populous city in Italy. Indeed no other three Italian cities can equal it in population, its in-