ANAA AND ITS PEOPLE.

An Island that Once Had a Population of 3,000 Has Now but 400.

An Interesting Letter from a Young Salt Lake Missionary—The Wonderful Cocoanut Tree and Its Fruit.

TERAKIU ANAA, NOV. 14, 1893.

Editor Deseret News:

Supposing, or at least hoping, that a few lines would be of interest to you and your many readers, I take pleasure in writing you while our labors. People as a rule have little conception of the peculiar customs, habits and occupations of this branch of the House of Israel.

It is many years since this people first heard the Gospel, and comparatively few have heeded its teachings. When the Elders first landed here on the fourth day of May, 1891, Anaa was a flourishing island of some 3,000 inhabitants, the most of whom were of the hard-working class. Deep wrongdoings were thrown up and lots cultivated which answered for flour. In fact they accomplished many robs that the people of this day and generation take no account. Since the introduction of flour, clothing and liquor by the whalemen, they have come near destroying their native health, stopped cultivating taro and other vegetables, and adopted foreign goods for sustenance. This has not agreed with them, or God has taken displeased with their actions. The result is Anaa has now a population of not more than four hundred.

At one time there were nine cities, while now there are but six, and these are full of empty dwellings and places where houses have been.

What has become of the people? Who can tell? are questions almost unanswerable, but one thing is true, their offspring has decreased. The majority of the people drink heavily, as do the men not merely facilitate themselves to the evil, but women are likewise equally prone to drunkenness and debauchery. When a commonly continually indulges to his limit of wine, rum, absinthe, gin, cognac, there is little condition, but who can offer them an acceptable remedy? We present the Gospel. Do they receive it? Very few. Still the salvation of every soul is important to God.

There are three religious denominations here, one of which held its conference in this city three weeks ago. At that date the people had a great feast, killing twenty-nine pigs and baking that many sacks of flour. Of course liquor was not distributed among them as meat and bread. But it was nevertheless obtained. When night dawned many were "dog heavy" and those made a great deal of noise during the dark hours, but never molested us, therefore, we cannot complain.

During the past three months nine baptisms were made. This makes us rejoiced; we feel the pressing onward and upward. As a rule our people are sober, good men and women, who seek to obey the Gospel and comply with our teachings.

At the October conference held at Tuhoro, Saints from the surrounding islands and the following Elders were in attendance, President Joseph W. Damron, W. A. Hoagstiler, Thomas Jones, Charles J. Carson and Thorale L. Woodbury. The report for the past six months showed forty-five baptisms and good prospects for the future. The conference lasted three days. All of the brethren expressed themselves as feeling well and deeply interested in the work. The meeting adjourned for six months in the Island of Kaueki.

President Damron has left for Hikueru and Brothers Jones and Larsen are at Tukapelo. These islands have been opened for preaching and many people have flocked to them. Force brings reports there were 1800 people at Hikueru and more coming every day.

This is the wet or rainy season. One day the wind will blow and water pour down in torrents while the next day will probably be calm and so warm you are hardly able to endure it. This kind of weather is unhealthy, causing the natives to continually complain. The unfortunate appear to stand it better than the natives.

The chief occupation of the native is manufacturing copra from the cocoanut. Perhaps the process would be interesting to you.

When I was a boy we were taught that cocoanut trees were too high for men to climb and monkeys were sent up in their stead. It is not true here, and I don't believe there is a tree too tall for these people to accend. If the tree is perpendicular the native takes some cocoanut leaves together, making a figure eight of them; putting both feet through the aperture he accends the tree in a scientific manner, holding by his hands and crowing his feet under, or placing them close to his hands he then hitches up his feet, straightens his body and repeats the process. If the tree is on an angle or slanting he walks up on all fours. The nut is encompassed by a tough, fibrous husk about an inch thick, which is used for the manufacture of ropes, lasts, etc. The husk is torn asunder by a man throwing it upon a pointed stick and prying it from the nut. When this process is completed the nut is broken in half and contents dried by the sun. When dry the meat is shaken from the shell and sacked up ready for shipping. Thousands of tons are made here annually.

The cocoanut is the most useful tree known. Food, building material, complete with the wood, leaves and fronds, the nut is eaten by man and beast. The trip of the tree is tender and when cooked resembles asparagus. The trees is extensively used for manufacturing baskets, mattresses, etc., leaves making the strongest of ropes, and the leaves are good for making baskets, rackets, mats, hats, and a host of other manufactures.

I will close by asking the reader a question. Can you name one tree and say that that is man's best friend and contain his entire subsistence? Is there anything (we feel) you can call equipped blessed with, manufactured from, food, fuel, ropes, mats, shoes and hats, and last (although we do not use it) intoxicating beverage on a warm day, as the milk from a young cocoanut?

THOMAS H. WOODBURY.

How the Islanders Obtain Fire.

They select a stick of dry wood (it will not do unless it is such) and with a knife thin the stick off at the other side to one place, so as to make a tail resembling a rat's tail. Then they take a piece of hard wood and sharpen it to a point, and place it on the stick, and by the aid of a bow and string, twirl it very rapidly, and in a few minutes the point is burnt through the stick and a hot glowing dust which is passed to the end of the stick. By and by the dust begins to smoke. Now a piece of dry rotten wood is brought and the smoke is put in it. In the end, but with considerable trouble, a spark will produce fire by rubbing two sticks together. For the act is so nearly equal, and a Rarotongan who lived in the Island for some time, assured me he thought it had been used to ignite a match, and he was quite sure it was used to produce fire in olden times. New York World.

To Annoy Newspapers.

A curious incident of which we may say, it has happened that people in Gallipolis, Ohio, are talked of Talbyhood. It was suggested that stolen or allied papers would continue a correspondence and with the merchants of Gallipolis, O., Helena.

Influential papers in the Ohio City this office M. de Montfleury, described as "the newspaper-in-law, a very jolly man." The being much pleased by his wonder, the man replied: "It is the only revenge which I will to take for the treatment of newspapers to be offered to me." "Why, what do you mean?" "Why, I mean that I will not allow any of the newspapers to be sent