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## ISLE OF OTAHEITE.

The following is taken from a letter written from Papiete, Island of Tahiti, by Elder Eugene Cannon, son of Elder Angus M. Cannon of this city, who, with seven of Utah's young men Elders Goff, Kossiter, Fox, Sudbury, Woodbury, Outler and Larsen—recently left this city to engage in missionary labors among the natives of the Society Islands:

March 26, 1893.—We arrived here last Tuesday evening, March 21st, all well, and feeling to rejoice in seeing land again. We had a very quick voyage, coming down in twenty days and five hours. We left San Francisco at 12:10 p.m., March 1st. After we had been out about an hour the tug boat left us, and we went down into the cabin for dinner. I ate a good dinner, and then we went up on deck and sang some songs. It was about 2 p.m. when I went down to write in my journal. I had written about a page when I felt a peculiar sensation come over me. It was not long before I was up on the deck and feeding the fish with the nice dinner that I had just partaken of. I was sick four days and then I was able to get around. Seasickness is something not to be desired, much less forgotten.

The first week it was cold out on deck, and then we got warm weather. We crossed the equator on the 15th. It was not as warm as I expected it would be, although it was quite hot during the day. At night it was nice and cool and we would get together and sing songs. During our trip we caught two large dolphin fish, one weighing eighteen and the other thirty pounds. They were very beautiful fish, and when out of the water changed their color.

It was evening when we sailed down the coast of this island, and everything looked grand. The green hills, the little cottages under the shade of the majestic coconut palms, and natives dressed in their "loud" colored dresses rushing down to the wharf, made an interesting sight. The mountains are quite high, one peak reaching to an altitude of 8000 feet. The villages which I have seen are along the seashore.

After the vessel came to anchor we went ashore and took a stroll through the village. We found it quite warm when we were walking, but did not feel like we do at home in the summer. The climate felt about like that in the

conservatory at San Francisco. The days are quite warm, but the evenings are nice and cool. Although one perspires quite freely, he does not feel like we do at home. I suppose one reason is because we have just come from a cold region.

The streets here are about thirty or forty feet wide, and run in all directions. The morals of the people are bad; all they seem to care for are rum, gin and cigarettes. Passing through the streets, we could see young girls smoking cigarettes and drinking rum. What I have seen among these people make me feel to pity them more than anything else, and I can say I am thankful to my Heavenly Father that I was born and reared among a people who are so much better off, and have not the temptations that these have.

We saw what is called a native band. It consisted of a dozen natives, mostly women, sitting in a circle; one was playing an accordion, one a flute, and the rest were singing. One will start up a tune and the rest join in the chorus. What a racket they make! They pass the jug and glass around, all partaking of the contents. They gather around the market place in the evenings, and there these proceedings are carried on.

Brother Brown was not here to meet us, so we returned to the ship to sleep. The next day we had to obtain a place to stop at until Brother Brown comes. We rented a small house and moved our trunks. We eat down at the lunch house, and then we have what fruit we desire.

Monday, March 27.—We have met some very kind natives here. The first day, when we were on shore, some came and shook hands with us, and greeted us with "tau rara" (good morning). They gave us some nice bananas and coconuts, and we made out that they were Mormons, but we afterwards found they were Josephites. There have been a good many call on us and give us native words. We have been unable to find any members of the Church yet, but some have told us that there are a few here.

There are a great many half castes here, and some Chinese have married native women and have families. The people follow the French style by opening their stores at 3 or 4 a.m., have tea at 7 and breakfast at 10 a.m., when they close their stores for two hours and then open again, having dinner at 5 p.m.

We have obtained Tabitian Bibles

but have been unable to obtain a dictionary. A Protestant minister has a few, but he would not sell any to Mormons, telling us that he wanted them for their missionaries.

Fruit is plentiful here, but there is not such a variety as I thought to find. It can be obtained cheaper early in the morning, about 5 o'clock, than any other time. Bananas sell in the morning at ten cents for a basket of about five dozen; oranges are the same price. The latter are quite nice and juicy, but they are not so nice as the California naval oranges. Coconuts are picked when they are green. The meat is much softer than that obtained in the coconuts at home. They sell five for ten cents. Limes sell for a franc for a basket of about six dozen.

The heavy clothes I brought with me I am afraid will be of no use, as it is quite warm here and the people don't wear many clothes. Most of them wear white linen suits, that is the men, and they look very nice in them. Some of the men and boys wear breechcloths, and some have shirts on, but I have not yet noticed a pair of suspenders or paper collar costume. The shoes I brought down I believe will do all right, but when anyone else comes down tell them not to get their shoes too heavy, or their clothes, as I believe the lighter these are the better. Merchandise is higher here than at home. You cannot get a meal at one of the restaurants for less than fifty cents. (Do not imagine we have been living at one.) The money of the United States is exchanged at a premium of thirty-six cents on the dollar. The money used here in the stores is the Chilean, but in the French offices nothing but French money is taken.

Yesterday was my first day at trying bread fruit. The taste is pleasant—something like sweet potatoes; in appearance it is like dough bread. Today we went up the canyon for a swim. We started about 6 a.m., and returned a little after 9 a.m. This canyon very much resembled our Utah canyons, only that there are a few different trees. On our way back I had my first experience in climbing a banana tree. I can say that it was pretty hard climbing; nevertheless I got the bunch of bananas. Limes are also quite plentiful up in the canyon.

April 1.—Brother Brown has not arrived yet. Yesterday we had a brother and two sisters visit us. They talked