

Written for this Paper.
FROM SAVAI, SAMOA.

On the 7th of November I started on my trip around the island to visit and encourage the brethren and Sisters and to make a more determined effort to get the Gospel before the people than has ever been done before, feeling that the time had arrived for such an effort to be made.

Elder Moody and two of our school boys took me to Puapia, twelve miles, on my way to Saleaula. Here I hired a young man to pack the parcels, etc., of the Elders, on to Saleaula for a dollar. We travelled through the lonely forest and rough rocks at quite a lively rate until nearing Lealeale, twelve miles farther on our way, when my knee became very stiff and painful, caused by jumping over and up and down on the lava rock, which continues from one side of "the ditch" to the other.

I reached Saleaula about 3 p.m. and of course Elders Jensen and Knudsen were pleased to see me come with their mail and a cake for Brother K. which we all enjoyed. The Saints and school children are about the same in number as for two years past, but they seem to manifest a greater hope, and feel better spiritually than they have for a long time past. Brothers Jensen and Knudsen have been laboring very earnestly to live the branch up again. We held three lovely meetings Sunday, November 10th and a Sunday school, in all of which I did the preaching. There were many men members present in the evening session, who seemed very much interested in what was said. It was a day of rejoicing for me!

On Monday, November 11th, Brother C. Jensen, three of our school boys—Meluit, Amupia and Tet—and I, left Saleaula on our march around the island. We called on friends at Samaua, eight miles west of Saleaula. They asked us to stay with them over night, but as they had another appointment for that evening we could not hold meetings, so we went on our way. We called on Mr. Nelson in Sopusue and he, too, asked us to stay over night, but as we wanted to hold meetings if possible in Saaina, a mile further on, we excused ourselves. Mr. Nelson is the same good, honest, accommodating man he always was. From Brother Wood's time until now he has been very kind to us, still he has never taken any interest in the Gospel as again revealed in this our day. In fact, he is one of the honorable men of the earth who has kept himself clean from the wrangling sects of modern Christianity, though he is not an infidel by any means. I believe the Lord will yet touch his noble heart and that he will then accept the true plan of salvation.

From Mr. Nelson's we went on to Saaina where we were welcomed by a chief and his wife, and very soon after our arrival we got his consent to hold meetings in his house. Before the hour for meeting arrived several others came in who seemed very pleased to see us. They also furnished us with a very nice supper. About 7:30 we began meeting with about ten of the important men of the town and others. We only had one lamp and no table, but Brother J. gave them a good

sermon. After meeting they stopped and talked for more than an hour about our beliefs and practices.

Nov. 12th we walked on up to Aopo, a bush town twelve miles from Saaina. We passed through Letuli about 9 o'clock, where we found the people all getting ready to go down to Saaina to "Me" meeting (a yearly donation paid by all natives belonging to the Church in England). We were unable to get breakfast at this place, so we had to walk on in the broiling sun and over the hot lava rock until noon, when we reached Aopo, as above stated. We had a very good breakfast about 2 p.m. and also a light supper that evening. As the villagers were also away to the "Me" we were unable to hold meeting or do anything that evening. We went to bed quite early in an old native "siapo" for a mosquito net, which had a very bad smell and being tight was decidedly unhealthy.

A little before sunrise we started across the "Mu," armed with a lot of young coconuts to drink. The "Mu" is the latest lava outburst on Samoa. The natives not knowing anything about dates or ages are unable to tell how long ago it was since the melted mass of rock came running down the mountain side to the sea. Where the trail crosses it it is not more than three miles wide, but on nearing the sea it gets much wider. The road across the "mu" is the most dreaded of all roads on Samoa. Being solid rock most of the way, it is very easy to lose the trail, though the most of the "mu" is a great shattered mass, for which cause I am unable to give a reason, unless it was caused by heavy rain falling upon the red hot lava. When the sun is shining and there is no wind, it is almost impossible to endure the heat while crossing over the lava bed. Vegetation is beginning to grow most all over it now, and some of the trees are twenty feet high. The first foreign sailors who came to this group, inform us that there was no vegetation at all growing on this lava bed. All Samoa was once the same and it is astonishing how trees will grow without a bit of soil.

Our company reached Asau, 14 miles west of Aopo, about 2 p.m. This is by all the longest and hardest walk travelers have to make on Savai. We were treated very kindly in Asau, but they gave us nothing to eat because they didn't have it. For the past two seasons this district has almost burnt up for the want of rain, and last year a fire swept over the whole country, doing great damage. The week before we reached Asau, Elders Walker, Silver and Geo. Burnham had been there and had held a very large meeting, but we were unable to do so, for they said: "Your Gospel and our Gospel is just alike and there is no need of dividing the village and having two churches." We bore our testimony to them and then left, and went on to Sataua, six miles farther west. Here we found Elder Walker who was on his way to Saleaula from Fogatuli. Through his report and from what we learned there were a number who wanted him to stay and teach a free school for their children but they had no desire to turn "Mormons." Old Brother Critchton was well and quite

beardy, and still has great faith and hope in the Gospel.

November 14th we went on to Papa, where we were very kindly treated by the L. M. S. teacher and his wife and several others, who asked us to stay over night, but as Sunday was growing close at hand we left Papa at 4 o'clock and went on eight miles to Falealupo where we arrived at sunset. This is a large, long village and is situated on the extreme west end of Savai. It is about half Catholics and half Protestants, but quite a number express strong desires to become initiated into the true fold; for they say they have weighed the others in the balance and found them wanting. We sang a few native hymns with our tunes to them this evening, which fairly charmed them. Later on we held a Gospel talk, and had it about all our own way, but were unable to hold a regular meeting.

Nov. 15, we went on to Tafu; most of the villagers and our friends being away, we went on to Neafu, where we arrived about noon. Neafu is about twelve miles northeast of Falealupo, and the same distance north of Saaina. We were very kindly treated in this place but being unable to hold a meeting, we left for Falealima at 4 o'clock. We arrived at Falealima at sunset and were heartily welcomed by George Burgess and family. He is a half caste, and has a native wife and two little children. They have always shown great favors and love to the Elders since the very first; but as yet have not been baptized; still they tell us and show by their actions that their hearts are with us; and only through the law of the town have they put off being initiated into the fold of the True Shepherd. We find this to be the case in a great many villages, for many would like to join us but are afraid if they should do so their houses would be burned, the property confiscated and themselves driven from the town. The highest chiefs of every town can do about as they please, but it isn't so with the second order of chiefs and the lower classes. But we feel that the time is close at hand when we will have the confidence and esteem of high chiefs to that extent that the people can do as they please. We have good reasons to feel so. Besides, the Lord is to cut His work short in righteousness during the last great struggle of truth and error on the earth in this great dispensation of the fullness of times.

November 16th we went on nine miles to Fogatuli, where we arrived about 1 p.m. We found Elders Silver and Burnham well and feeling splendid, as were also the Salute. The old chief Atualo has been trying to lead and dictate the Elders for the past eight months but at last he has found out by a sad experience that the Lord will not honor and bless those who dishonor those whom He has chosen to lead His cause (a lesson to us all).

Sunday the 17th we held three good meetings. Brother J. spoke twice and I once. In our evening meeting we ordained Apualo a Priest, and also set Opapo apart for his mission in the conference of Tassaleleaga. Opapo was ordained an Elder at our late conference in Saleaula and called at the same time to this field of labor.

Monday, the 18th, we all went down