

Church, numbering at the time more than 50,000 people, because a certain stone building was not built as quick as might have been the case had everybody put forth their best efforts. Nor is there anything in the revelation of January 19th, 1841, nor in any other revelation that will justify any sensible person in coming to any such conclusion.

Mr. Devore is the head of Josephite missionary operation in the South Sea islands. Besides him and wife there is only one other missionary and his wife in this field, namely Mr. Chase and companion who came from Rarotonga to Tahiti together with myself in the Richmond. Mr. Devore said that most of the people on Apataki, about seventy in number, are Josephites; those few who are not belong to the Catholics. We have thus visited four islands (Kaukura, Arutua, Manihi and Apataki) where the Josephites have deceived the people (who had been true and faithful for many years) from the true fold. I feel confident, however, that it will only be a question of time till most of them will return. In fact, the natives don't know what they have done, and most of them are apparently incapable at present of realizing their true position, as they still seem to think that they are members of the original church, notwithstanding their baptism into the other one.

The island reef of Apataki is triangular in shape and embraces a large number of motus, covered with trees and other vegetation. Its western shore runs nearly due north and south. There are two passages through which vessels can pass from the ocean into the lagoon, both on the west side of the island. The village lies by the south pass on a small motu containing less than twenty acres of land, where a stone wharf has been built. Pearl fishing in the lagoon is quite dangerous, on account of the many sharks that infest it.

At 12 m., Elder Cutler and I returned to the ship together with about seventy natives who were returning from their diving on Arutua to their more permanent homes on Takaroa and other islands. Most of them were members of the Church, and just before stepping on board the boats to go to the ship they gathered on the beach where they sang a hymn, after which one of the native Elders stepped to the front and offered up a short and appropriate prayer, invoking the blessings of God upon us all during our voyage to Takaroa. After getting all the people on board together with a lot of canoes and one quite large sailing boat, and tying two large boats behind the Teavaroa, set sail for Takaroa ninety miles distant about 2 p. m. We passed around the south end of Apataki, but as the usual trade wind prevailed the progress was slow as we had to beat against it going east. The island of Kaukura was visible toward the southwest. We had evening prayer on board, and the weather was pleasant all night.

Tuesday, February 25th. We were beating against the contrary wind all day and made but slow progress toward our destination. In the morning Toau, an uninhabited island belonging to the people of Fakarava, was seen on our right. We spent the evening singing, and in listening to the melodies of the natives, who kept up their inharmonious selections till a very late hour.

Wednesday, February 26th. We ex-

perienced almost a perfect calm, and the ship made next to no heading at all during the day. In the evening the natives caught a shark weighing about seventy pounds. I was given a jaw as a relic, and the natives had a good feast on the flesh, which together with the kavaka eggs gathered on Apataki, and boiled rice, was the principal diet of the seventy-odd passengers during the voyage.

After evening prayer, Elder Cutler addressed the Saints on the evidence of the existence of God. We also sang hymns and songs, and enjoyed a good night's rest on deck, where the moon "smiled" on ship and ocean with all its tropical loveliness.

Thursday, February 27th. What little wind we had last night was favorable, and we made good headway toward the northeast. In the morning the island of Takapota was seen against the eastern horizon and later in the day we were sailing along its northwest coast. This island, which is twelve miles long from northeast to southwest, with an average width of five miles, lies about ten miles southwest of Takaroa and 340 miles northeast of Tahiti. The reef is nearly covered with motus (some of them several miles long) except a portion of the southeast side. The lagoons abound with shells, and the village, which contains a school, ranks as one of the prettiest in all Tuamotu. The inhabitants number about seventy who are nearly all Josephites. A flourishing branch of the Church was raised up here by the late Elder Alvarus Hanks, which branch had a continued existence till the Josephites came.

Beating continually against the head wind, we found ourselves within a mile of Teavaroa, the name of the village on Takaroa, about 4 p. m., when the wind died out entirely, and we were drifting slowly away from the mouth of the passage with the current. The ship's boat was landed and the crew by rowing very hard succeeded in pulling the schooner very slowly toward land; a favorable breeze finely sprang up and helped us in. When near the reef, a number of the native passengers sprang overboard and swam to the reef pulling a rope after them, and when once standing firmly upon the reef they walked along and pulled the ship up to the wharf, where we were safely secured by 6 o'clock p. m. We had been twelve days coming from Tahiti, a distance of about 420 miles by way of the islands visited; but in beating against the wind as we had done, we had sailed at least 700 miles. On landing on Takaroa, we shook hands with nearly all the inhabitants who had been left on the island. They came down to the wharf to see the schooner come in and welcome their relatives and friends who were returning home. The natives who had come with the ship gathered on the wharf, where they again sang a hymn and offered up a prayer of thanksgiving before proceeding to their respective homes in the village. This devotion is nearly always attended to by the Tuamotu saints when they leave and arrive at the different islands that they visit.

After taking supper on board, Elder Cutler and I went into the village and attended a native Gospel school in the meeting house. After the regular exercises were over, we both spoke a few words by way of greeting the Saints, and then went to the elegant home of Brother Mapuhi, where a comfortable little room

was assigned to our use, and here for the first time since my arrival in the Society island mission I slept in a real bed. While in Tahiti we had slept on the floor in our rented cottage, and on the schooner we had slept on the hard deck. How thankful we felt for our safe arrival at this island, where there is a good branch of the Church, and where we expect to spend a few days.

ANDREW JENSON.

TEAVAROA TAKAROA, Tuamotu islands, February 29th, 1896.

AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE.

The conference was held at Lamaki April 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. Morning meeting—First day, 10 o'clock a. m.

The spacious whaukarakia meeting house was filled to its utmost capacity, and nearly every district in the mission was represented. On the stand were the following Elders from Zion: President William Gardner, John Johnson, John G. Young, Bryant Ashby, Wallace C. Castleton E. Best, Joseph K. Derbidge, Joseph W. Linford R. L. Bird, Hyrum Cook, George Bowles, Leo Bradford, John Clayson George Jarvis, John H. Ellis, Horace W. Barton, Heber C. Jex, William S. Dimond, L. J. O'Brien, David Lindsay, James C. Allen, J. N. Lambert, Charles H. Embley, J. E. Teeple, R. E. Scott, J. A. M. Jacobson, David Packard, Joseph M. Folkman, Jens K. Nelson, T. S. Browning, William Goff, Hial Hales, Thomas J. Morgan, F. W. Ellis, L. C. Pond, Robert Bodily, Louise Pond (sister), A. E. Asper and Walter Bunot.

Elder Gardner called the attention of the vast audience and when the congregation had sung a hymn, Brother George Bowles offered the opening prayer.

Our esteemed president greeted those assembled in the love of the Gospel. He extended a hearty welcome to all visitors and trusted they would partake of the spirit of the meetings. He then proceeded to give a general report of the Australasian mission. Nearly every part had been visited and it had been found that wherever the Elders were laboring the work was progressing.

Thomas J. Brien president of the Hawkes Bay district then reported the condition of his conference. The past year had been a most successful one. Many had been brought into the fold, and the Saints were setting the new members good examples by living their religion. Many who had fallen away had returned to the flock, and were manifesting in their lives that they were desirous of repenting and doing right.

Wi Neera, acting president of the Porirua branch in the Manawatu district was then called. The branch over which he presided was in a fair condition. Te Awapuni president of the Tamaku branch was the next speaker. It was he who had sent an invitation to all Maoridom to attend the conference. He was thankful that so many had responded and he felt that the Spirit of God had actuated them to come. His soul rejoiced that he was numbered with the Latter-day Saints. His experience in the Church had taught him that it was profitable to be faithful that blessings both temporal and spiritual followed a conscientious obedience to the laws of God. After speaking for a short time upon the subject of church organization and the spiritual gifts upon which he brought scriptural evidence to bear, he