

countered a number of squalls, accompanied by heavy rains before we reached the named island at 11:30 a. m. The steamer came to a stop off a village situated near the northeast corner of the island. A trader came out in a little boat, manned by five bright native boys, to communicate with the ship. From him I learned that there are about 1,500 inhabitants on Huahine, which really consists of two islands, namely, Huahine, Nui (Big Huahine and Huahine Ite (Little Huahine). Like the neighboring islands Huahine is mountainous and of volcanic formation. The highest point of the island is 1497 feet high. The loftiest mountain top on Raiatea is 3,389, on Tahaa 1936 and on Borabora 2,339 feet above the level of the sea. From our position off the coral reef surrounding the island, Huahine looks real beautiful, though we noticed the cocoa-nut palms were badly blighted. I was told that this blight had been brought over from Tahiti, where nearly all the cocoa-nut trees died under that disease years ago, and it is only of later years that a new growth have matured there. The Huahine people fear that they will have to pass through a similar experience with their cocoa-nut trees.

After laying by about half an hour, we continued the voyage passing around the north end of the island. Inside the coral reef at this point is a lagoon abounding with poisonous fish. It is a sort of flat fish with stingers in the back; and a little native boy who accidentally stepped on one a short time ago, died from the effects of the poison thus introduced into his blood. Near the extreme north end of the island is a very steep sugar loaf shaped mountain which is especially noted as the battle ground between the French and natives. The French landed their marines from their war ships, and the soldiers pursued the natives up the mountain slope, but the latter, who had previously prepared themselves for such an event, rolled heavy rocks down upon the French who were finally driven back to their ships, after losing several of their number. In continuing our voyage we passed outside of the bay or harbor where Captain Cook anchored at different times during his visits to the island between the years 1769 and 1777. Elder Noah Rogers, one of the pioneer Latter-day Saint missionaries to the Society islands, visited Huahine in the latter part of 1844; but he was rejected by the people; he also visited Raiatea, Tahaa and Borabora, but with the same result. Moorea was in sight; we passed it in close proximity in the evening on our right; and at 10:30 p. m., we anchored in the harbor of Papeete, Tahiti, after having sailed about 2,400 miles (the way we came) since we left Auckland. As no doctor could be induced to come out to the ship so late in the night, though the whistle was blown repeatedly for the purpose, all hands remained on board till morning.

Monday, February 3rd, (Tuesday 4th by New Zealand time) the Richmond obtained her landing permission early in the morning, and at 7 a. m., I put my feet upon the soil of Tahiti for the first time in my life. After some searching I found Elder Frank Cutler, president of the Society islands mission, who was waiting for my arrival, but had not heard the whistle of the steamer the night before, and consequently knew not of her presence in the harbor till I made him

aware of that fact by suddenly ushering myself into his presence. Elder Cutler lives all alone in a small rented cottage in the city of Papeete, boards himself and sleeps on the floor. He kindly invited me to share his humble home with him, if I could put up with his fare. The offer was accepted; and now for the history of the Society islands mission.

ANDREW JENSON.

PAPEETE, Tahiti, Society Islands, February, 14th, 1896.

### HAWAIIAN MISSION CONFERENCE

LAIE, Hawaiian Islands,

April 15th, 1896.

Many of the Hawaiian Saints and all those of Zion's missionary band, laboring on these far off sunny isles for the advancement of truth, have indeed witnessed and again experienced another time of great rejoicing, for there is doubtless no record on the pages of Church history in this land, of a more excellent, lively and enjoyable conference than the one of four days duration, concluded here at Laie, mission headquarters, on Monday night April 6th, 1896, under the superintendency of Elder Samuel E. Wooley.

The weather was beautiful throughout; the invigorating breezes from off the placid Pacific were incessant and all nature seemed to smile as it were, with expressions of joy and shout with us "Hosanna to God and the Lamb."

The various branches of this and the adjacent islands were, considering the financial condition of the people and the distance they were required to travel, fairly well represented, the meetings were filled with attentive listeners, the average attendance being 300, and a spirit of love for the work of God and a hunger for righteousness prevailed; and in turn all present feasted, not only on the real "bread of life," but on the fattings of the herd also, together with that ancient article known as "pol," which generally causes the new comer from Zion to think within him or herself it no public declaration is made, that "there is no place like home, sweet home." The hospitalities of Laie's residents were generously extended.

The first day, Friday 3rd, was devoted to the Mutual Improvement Associations and Sunday schools, the former, presided over by Elder Thomas Brimley, occupying the morning services and the latter, under the presidency of Elder Edwin C. Dibble, the afternoon and evening. The exercises consisted of Gospel lectures, appropriate questions and decisive answers, instructive dialogues, recitations, essays, etc., interspersed with songs, reports of branch representatives, thirteen in number, and remarks of explanation and encouragement by the Elders, all rendered in a credible manner; the schools and associations of Laie, Honolulu and Kalaupapa of Oahu, and a mixed class, comprising members of a number of the different organizations of the island of Kauai taking part.

The forenoon of April 4th, was occupied by the conference of the Relief Society, Sister Alice Wooley presiding. After the usual opening exercises and the reading of the statistical, financial and labor reports, the branch representatives, sixteen in number, briefly reported the condition of the societies from whence they came, the general expressions of whom render it possible to

state that woman is doing a good work in this as well as in all other countries—the most active and enthusiastic societies however, being those whose geographical locality will permit of frequent visits to them by the missionary Sisters and Elders from Zion.

Sister Wooley, assisted by native Sister Ruth Kaubini as interpreter, made a few encouraging remarks and gave some valuable instructions to the Sisters; exhorted them to be faithful and diligent in the good work of the Relief society and advised them to live lives of purity, set good examples and bring their children up in the ways of the Lord.

The congregation was then edified for some time with encouraging remarks by some of the missionary and native sisters interspersed with a few vocal renditions and biographical sketches on the lives of some of the members of the Relief society whose noble deeds have caused them prominence in the Church.

A little before 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, about 125 children of the Primary association gathered, as has been customary for some time past, at Lanihuli, the mission home and after being presented with badge and flag, formed in line and marched in military order under the management of Captain Pono, to the church building where services of the above mentioned associations, under the presidency of Sister Ella Birdno commenced, after the usual preliminaries, by the calling of the roll of both Laie and Honolulu associations, each member present responding promptly with an appropriate Bible verse or sentiment.

A nicely prepared program, comprising exercises similar to those of the Sunday school and Mutual Improvement Association, but principally in the English language, was tastefully and thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance. The general and island authorities of the different organizations were presented in the respective meetings and unanimously sustained, those for the latter being as follows:

For the Relief societies—Alice Wooley, president; Alice Harmon, Phoebe Scholes, Laura L. Fisher, Ella Birdno, Kekuewa Nakuaau and Kahuhu as counselors, and Makano and Kapo as aids, Tekuewa Nakuaau as secretary with Ruth Kaubini as assistant, and Samuel E. Wooley as treasurer.

For the Sunday schools—Edwin C. Dibble, president, M. M. Harmon and John R. Jolley counselors, George H. Fisher secretary, and Samuel E. Wooley, Treasurer.

For the Mutual Improvement Associations—Thomas Brimley, President, William H. Mendenhall and William H. Thompson, counselors, George H. Fisher, secretary, and Samuel E. Wooley, treasurer.

Some of the Elders and Sisters from Zion hold offices in the different organizations here at Laie but to avoid the occupying of too much valuable newspaper space, I will refrain from entering into branch details.

The general Church meetings of conference, occupying Sunday and Monday the 5th and 6th evenings included, were devoted principally to excellent advice and interesting encouraging remarks on instructive and important subjects by the Elders from Zion, during which time, in connection to the reading of statistical financial and labor reports by the clerk, upwards of twenty native Elders, repre-