

MISCELLANEOUS.

UPOLU CONFERENCE.

SIUPAPA, Upolu, Samoa,

May 10th, 1897.

Conference on the Island of Upolu was called to meet at Siupapa, to commence Saturday, May 8th, 1897. The Saints in this locality, who are at present presided over by Abinadi Olsen and N. G. Stringham, spent several weeks in making preparations for the entertainment of the visiting Saints and friends who were expected; and having received information that a large number would be present, the wall of one end of our meeting house was taken out and an addition of some twelve feet was added, in order to make room for the accommodation of the people at meeting. In this connection special mention should be made of the earnest and unceasing work of the big chief of Siupapa, Tupua, who takes great pride in being called, and he truly is the father of the Church at this point. Fiaame, a native Saint, at present holding the office of Priest, together with many other Saints here, are also worthy of commendation for their untiring efforts in preparing for conference.

On Thursday evening the 7th, Elder D. Foster Cluff arrived from Fagali with one of our native Saints, from the vicinity of Apia. Early Friday morning, Elders J. W. Dangerfield and William L. Worsencroft arrived from the same place, having come overland by another route, passing through the village of Lufilufi, where was assembled the rebel party holding a "feno" or council, considering the advisability of declaring war against the present king and his subjects. The German consul was in session with them and a German man-of-war was in anchor in the harbor to protect his interests. The Elders reported having had good treatment on their two days' journey among the natives. President Ed. J. Wood, Elders Christian Jensen, Jr., William W. Winegar and our native missionary, Viali, reached here about noon the same day and reported having had a very pleasant journey overland from Fagali. Early in the evening Elders Joseph Quinney Jr. and William McDermott Jr., arrived from Saleaamua, accompanied by most of their school children. The Elders were all enjoying good health and were more than pleased at having the privilege of enjoying each other's society for a short time.

A good representation of Saints were in attendance, especially from the south side and east end of the island. Among our many friends from the east end were noted, Mr. John Bayerlain and wife, and the Purcell family, who in times past have extended many favors to the Elders, for which we all feel very grateful. Brother John H. Rosenquist and wife were also present, the value of whose favors extended to the Elders, cannot be named in earthly riches, but surely great will be their reward in the world to come.

Before conference was formally opened on Saturday, an English testimony meeting was held by the ten Elders above named. We assembled about 9 o'clock in the morning. Each Elder made a few remarks, bearing a faithful testimony to the truth of the Gospel, and reported

their several branches in a flourishing condition. Several questions were asked, all of which were answered to the perfect satisfaction of all by Brother Wood, who closed with supplying the Elders with some valuable instructions.

After the usual Samoan presentation of food to the visiting Saints, friends and Elders, meeting was called about 4 o'clock by President Wood. Elder Viali was the first speaker, exhorting the Saints to an obedience of the Gospel and bearing a strong testimony to the truth of the same. President Wood closed meeting with a few remarks along similar lines.

Meeting was again called about 7:30 in the evening. Brother Abinadi Olsen was the first speaker, and used for his subject, repentance. Brother D. Foster Cluff then spoke on the Holy Ghost.

Meeting was called about 7:30 on Sunday morning, the 9th inst. Fiaame was the first speaker, bearing a strong testimony to the truth of the work, and speaking from Acts, xxviii; 22. Brother Quinney followed, speaking on the resurrection, and bearing his testimony in a very forcible manner.

Three schools were represented in the Sunday school exercises that commenced at 11:30 a. m.; Saleaamua, seventeen members. Siumu six, and Siupapa thirty-two. The three schools recited the Articles of Faith, in concert, in a very creditable manner. The Saleaamua school then gave an exercise on the Priesthood, sang an English song, and one of their members, Timaio, gave a brief story of the Book of Mormon, using the Book of Mormon chart for the purpose. The Siumu school answered a series of questions on the Sacrament, in concert, one of their members, Nu'u, giving an account of the work that had been done by that school during the past six months. The Siupapa school repeated the Ten Commandments in concert, and sang an English song. Brothers Jensen and Wood each made a few remarks.

Priesthood meeting convened at one o'clock; and there were present, besides the ten missionaries from America, two white Deacons, four native Deacons, one native Priest and two native Elders, one being a missionary. President Wood presided. An opportunity was here given for all the natives holding the Priesthood, together with the Elders who had not and would not have an opportunity to make remarks during the sessions of conference, to express their feelings. Fifteen of those present each spoke for a few moments, and it was a pleasure indeed to note the good spirit and earnestness that prevailed, especially among our native Saints. Brother Alfred Kenison was ordained to the office of a Teacher by Brother Quinney, Faanene to the office of Deacon, by Brother Cluff, and Timaio to the office of Teacher, by Brother Jensen.

The last meeting of the conference assembled at 7:30 in the evening. Brother Dangerfield spoke on the atonement. Brother Wood followed with a few words in English to our white and half-caste friends present, thanking them for their presence, and for the kindness they had extended to the Elders in the past. He closed the conference with a few timely remarks to both Saints, and

visitors. In the meeting at 4 o'clock the authorities of the Church and the missionaries were presented by Brother Cluff and accepted by the Saints. The conference exercises came to a close with all the Saints enjoying a good spirit. And, as one of our foreign friends from east end remarked, that in the nine years our mission has been established here we have indeed accomplished wonders, for which thanks be to our heavenly Father.

Brother Wood and party brought a number of prizes to be contested for, such as ink, thread, combs, matches and other useful articles to the natives, and Monday, the 10th inst., was used as a holiday when these prizes were contested for and distributed to the winners of various kinds of races, such as the sack, needle, orange and others, and the tug of war, swimming races, etc., and altogether it was a day that reminded us very much of a good old country Fourth of July at home.

Elder Ed. J. Wood, presiding Elder of the Samoan mission, furnishes the following statement:

There have been 107 baptized and 24 children blessed, since or from October 6th, 1896 to April 6th, 1897. The mission was never in a more prosperous condition and the prospects are encouraging for the near future. We now have twenty-four white Elders and a number of native Elders in Samoa, and room for more of the right kind. All are enjoying good health and excellent spirits.

We are pleased at the interest that Senator Frank J. Cannon is taking at Washington in our behalf on Samoa, and take this opportunity of expressing our thanks.

The following in the Samoan language is inserted in order that it may be read by our native friends:

Na amata o matou Konofese i Tutuila mo le masina o Apella. Oloo matou faa fetai tele i le au uso o i Pagopago ma Alao ma Aunuu ona o lo latou faama-losi atu i le aso na tara i Aunuu. Oi matou o Farfaeu matou te fiafia i le faatuatua ina tele o le au uso i nei ona po. Ia oo fai la ma tou faafetai i le au uso o i Savaii. Sa ese lo latou faatoaga i le aso na faia i Saleaula. Ua matou faatoa floa le atoatoa o le fiafia ia te i latou. Ua faapea foi ma le aso lea na matou i ai i Lepa. Ua auli ai lo matou faamaemoe ia Samoa talu lena Konafese. Faafetai ia Tupu ma alii sili uma ma tulafale atoa ma le au pala uma i le atunuu nei i le ma i latou uma o loo fesoasoani i ai i le galuega moni a le atua. Ia manuia Samoa uma.

A G. STRINGHAM, Clerk.

A VISIT TO CONSTANTINOPLE.

Constantinople, May 25, '97.—One of the most beautiful recollections that an American traveller carries away with her from a visit to Constantinople or the interior, is that of the relief work which the American, English, Swiss and German ladies of society and of the missions have organized and are carrying on for the maintenance of the thousands of Armenian widows and orphans made such by the horrible massacres of the past two years. Until that time the Armenians, though ground down by heavy taxes and by a constant system of legalized and systematic plundering, were able always to provide for their own. Frugal, industrious, and never afraid of