

FROM THE SAMOAN ISLANDS.

Interesting Items of Experience from a Missionary—A Judge's Baptism.

The following is taken from a letter written at Sagami, Upolu, Samoa, November 26, 1895, to Sister L. M. Grant, Bishop of West Deseret's Davis county, by a member of the West Deseret ward now on a mission.

I have been here less than a year, as no person knew that I was blessed with the love of health was strength, and am trying in my way to serve the Lord and his people. It is not unusual for me to be called to baptize. He will be pleased to know His chosen blessings down upon me. I feel a weak instrument in His hands, and realize that when His blessing is on me I will be able to do much good while here.

I take great comfort from the words written in 1 Cor. 1, 24. I feel that this is truly the case as far as we are concerned in Samoa. I trust in Him, and believe if I serve at all times to serve and keep His commandments; that the Lord makes me an instrument in accomplishing a good work among this race and bringing souls to Christ. I am not a saint, but a true and obedient servant of God. He has been revealed to us in the latter days through the Prophet Joseph Smith. I feel that salvation I have been called to represent the true extension of an overarched institution, in protecting the opportunity for the normal and harmonious development of the human soul throughout this world.

I am full of anticipation concerning our work here. Among the men was a man by the name of Faleki. He is a native high chief judge, second in authority among the natives, not excepting the King himself; he is also a chief in a place worthy of the high and holy calling.

The church is steadily growing in this land. There have been about twenty baptisms since the arrival of the first three. Among this number was a man by the name of Faleti. He is a native high chief judge, second in authority among the natives, not excepting the King himself; he is also a chief in a place worthy of the high and holy calling.

Brother D. H. Dow and O. W. Lee visited this land. There were also present teachers from three other denominations. Brother Dow was a school teacher, and O. W. Lee a teacher. They did this the other gave the other teachers a chance, but none accepted the invitation.

Since the time the Elders have called on him of late, our work has been more systematic. We have had two hours and I call on him. There were two teachers at his house at the time. He asked me some questions, which were answered to his satisfaction. He also gave the teachers a challenge, as far as they could go. He said, "If you can do this, then you may do this." They made a very weak argument, which more than ever convinced me that this was the true church. We left him feeling good, and a new desire to do our best. We left him with his vest, his coat coming with him. They requested baptism. We asked them some questions, among other things. If they understood thoroughly the instructions they were taking upon themselves, they were to be given baptism. They did not understand the service of their brethren. They are simple with us, they walked up to the cross and, for the first time in my life, I had the happy privilege of performing the sacrament of baptism. I baptized Faleki, then his son. So this is the way the work prospered; some sang, some water and prayers in the gathering, while others came along and sang. Brother Lee will be pleased to hear of this baptism. He has many friends here who inquire about him often.

I am laboring at the mission headquarters. This has been my home ever since I came here, excepting two weeks that I was at Apia. My companions are President J. E. Beck (one of the best men in the world), and Brother Davis, who is also a good man. They are all good men. There is work for them in this mission, and there is work for them many miles here. Ten of this number are at Tonga, 600 miles south of here, seven in Tutuila, seven on Savaii, and seven of us on this island. Brother Williams, our teacher, has come to us, and I went part of the way with him on his journey to his new field of labor, as it about twenty-five miles, and I went to show him the way and do the talking, as it is very difficult to understand each other, as we are both speaking their language. I walk with him, and get a place for him to stay all night. I started him the same night in a boat with us, and he hasn't got off when the wind began to blow, and the waves began to fall in toward us. This caused the sea to be very rough, and the night was dark. We were afraid that we would run on the reef, so pulled for shore, and after getting out of the reef, the moon, the stars, and the clouds, and we continued our voyage. I arrived home the next day at 10 o'clock, after being out on the sea all night, with wet clothes on, I am very glad to be home again.

Brother Davis has been away from here for a month. He has gone to Manua, an island 100 miles from here. The object he had in view was to establish a new colony at that island. We are looking for him, now every day. I am pleased to hear of so many young men from West Deseret going on missions. It will be a great help to them, and when they return, we will be an ever lasting benefit to themselves. I would be pleased to hear of others being called.

The mail is sent to go out, and not having any more time I will draw to a close. D. C. KEEPER,

Encouraging Report From Mississippisippi.

Savannah, Miss., Jan. 4, 1896.
To the Editor:

The report to Mormonism, as stated, in this community, was not at the visit of Elihu Root, Hayes and Parker last summer, has gone down wonderfully. In former communions it gave a short sketch of the ecclesiastical affairs here at that time. The parishes here are few, and the congregations are quite poor. Elihu Root and Parker are with us, and have been for the past two or three weeks, on the quest that now begins in the community. I found them to be quite popular, and the report of their visit was excellent. However, this may be we acknowledge the hand of the Lord in it. The people are advancing now to a greater extent, with an increasing interest in the church, and what they are doing.

Hood's Sarsaparilla
Is the Only
True Blood Purifier

who shelter and feed the Elders wherever they go, and doubtless many are led to treat them kindly without knowing why. This is quite a credit to the people here, and I hope that the cause for the sick were applied for the Presidents office, when given him immediately, but, as far as my knowledge goes, nothing was done. The President was brought to bear, but no sufficient cause was given. Hood's Sarsaparilla and typical remedies were given him, and were used to great advantage. His recovery was rapid, and he soon returned home, where he died a quiet death several days from his first illness.

His services were held at the home of his brother, who was deeply grieved at the loss of his beloved son, and his wife, Mrs. Mary, was a widow. Many friends and neighbors came to pay their respects. Many holiday services were held in the city, and the funeral rights of his brother, whose body was interred in the ground, were observed.

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