

greatness of the United States and of the American people. There is nothing like to compare with them on the face of the globe, and we are only at the beginning of our prosperity. I don't mean to say that there will not be a temporary financial trouble, such as we are having now. These will come and go, but above them, and with them, the nation will move onward with giant strides."

Frank G. Carpenter

SOUTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE.

The past year was one of success and progression to us, and we anticipate no less advancement during the new year which has just been ushered in. Previous to October 1st, our conference comprised that part of Alabama south of Montgomery city and all the state of Florida. At that date it was thought prudent to divide our conference and make a new and separate one of Florida. Since then our limits have been confined to the southern half of Alabama.

Upon the arrival of Heber Ricks in our conference August 1st, our workers numbered twenty-four, which was increased by Elders George A. Wootton and John C. Poulson, also William E. Jenkins and Edward L. Black, about the 1st of October, when the division took place. Elder Joseph A. West of Salt Lake City, who had been laboring in Crenshaw Co., Alabama, with Elder Joseph S. Geddes was called to the presidency of the Florida conference, taking with him thirteen of our noble band, leaving twelve in our domains.

We are now numbering eighteen, there having arrived on October 18th, I. A. Porter and C. H. Alley. November 16th, George A. Reid and Charles A. Varley. December 13th, Lewis E. Barney and J. F. Wakefield; and we expect two new recruits about the 23rd inst.

During the past year we have baptized ninety-one souls into the fold of Christ, blessed forty children, held a great many meetings, and distributed a large amount of literature—which is greatly in excess of the work done in 1894; and this year we will do a much greater work judging by the present outlook.

About two weeks ago our worthy president, Joseph S. Geddes, was obliged to return home for a season on account of the death of his little daughter, and we will hail with delight his return to our midst.

JOSEPH S. GEDDES,
President.

D. H. THOMAS,
Clerk of South Alabama Conference.
LA-PINE Ala, January 16th, 1896.

JENSON'S TRAVELS.

LETTER NO. XXXIII.

Sunday, September 22, 1895. I attended two meetings at Fagalii, one early in the morning and one in the afternoon. Only a few natives attended, the branch of the Church at the mission headquarters not being large; nor are the few members here very lively as a rule.

Monday, September 23. At 3 o'clock p. m. Elder John W. Beck and myself left Fagalii to make a trip to the island of Tutuila. Elder Kippen took us in the mission cart to Apia, where we

boarded a small schooner christened Tutuila belonging to Thomas Meredith, an Apia merchant. The little craft was named by a German who could boast of a Samoan wife of no ordinary character, and a slim, tall, very long-legged native of Savage Island who became all attention when his master called out "Jim," which he did at very short intervals indeed. At 5 p. m. the schooner loaded with ballast and two Mormon Elders, besides captain and "Jini," some boiled bananas and other necessities, left her moorings in the Apia harbor and after beating against the wind for some time, we succeeded in reaching the open ocean where the waves rolled high and the brisk trade wind threatened to blow us to Savaii instead of helping us on toward Tutuila, in the opposite direction. Oh these blessed trade winds in the South Seas! Everything must conform to them. Hence a trip to Tutuila from Apia generally means beating against southeast wind for the space of three days, while the return trip is often accomplished in a few hours. Though the little vessel was tossed to and fro upon the face of the great waters while doing her best to obey the rudder which kept her close up against the wind, Elder Beck and I stood the motion well. We only fed the fishes once or twice, and even this we did very quietly. We did not wish to give offence to each other. Nor did we wish to lose the reputation for seamanship which we were so anxious to establish more fully; but our pale faces and somewhat soiled clothing told the story the next morning. We were only a short distance from Apia when the sun went down, and the darkness closed in on the lonely craft so thick, that even the outlines of the nearest mountains of Upolu could not be discerned. The captain offered us a place in his little cabin to rest our heads during the night; but the smell from below frightened us from the first; so we chose to take our chances on deck. Elder Beck stretched himself on one side of the main hatchway, while I crawled into the little boat which was carried on board, and it was not till the astonished captain launched it in the Pago Pago harbor three days later that the discovery was made, that the weight of my body had very near parted the bottom from the rest of the boat, which filled with water so fast that Elder Beck and myself nearly reached Tutuila swimming.

Tuesday, September 24. The early morning found us beating against a very gentle breeze off Fagaloa bay, about fifteen miles from Apia; and there we remained all day enjoying the "sweet pleasures" of a genuine pacific calm, while exposed to the burning rays of a tropical sun shining through a cloudless sky. In vain did we wish for more wind, even if it would blow from the wrong point of the compass; for with a brisk wind some little progress can always be made by beating against it; but a calm leaves sailing craft absolutely helpless and drifting. Half sick and seepy through not having rested the night before, we were unable to read, talk or sing with any sense all that long, weary day. The heat nearly stupefied us, and deprived us of all ambition. One suggested a swim in the ocean, but "Jini" told us he had great respects for the sharks which abounded here; he suggested, however, that we could do

as we pleased. But as I still remembered very distinctly the peculiar shape of the teeth and shark's jaw which I had seen at Nukualofa, Tonga, I feel no particular desire to expose my body to the tender mercies of such another jaw in the employ of a real live shark, nor did Brother Beck; so we remained on board; and I only dipped my feet and head in the water alternately. "But, man," says the captain, "Don't you know that to wet your head thus with salt water will make the skin sore and produce severe headache?" No, I did not know then, but I soon found out. Though the captain's stories were not all true nor consistent, he seemed in this instance to know what he was talking about; I have never dipped my head in salt water since. Poor "Jim," how could he help the calm! But the captain was cross and swore and cursed in German, Samoan and broken English because the wind would not blow; and as "Jim" was his only servant he was made the hapless victim on which the commander wended his spleen. "Jim" did not know the English name for all the ropes belonging to the schooner, nor did he move with that rapidity which is characteristic of the genuine and experienced sailor. And that made the captain angry, especially when the order was "bout ship," and all the sails with their ropes and other belongings were to "change sides" at once. And besides "Jim" was somewhat top heavy, as compared with his lower extremities, and he had to steady himself so as not to spill himself in the sea when the schooner rolled from one side to another.

In the evening the captain dropped a hook and line and soon caught a large fish of the "sapatu" family which served a good purpose at meals the following day. About midnight when the wind freshened up a little from the north, we succeeded at last in clearing the east end of the island of Upolu and the two small islets lying off the east point, about thirty miles from Apia, and we then headed for Tutuila thirty-five miles away.

Wednesday, September 25. As the sun rose the outlines of Tutuila could plainly be seen toward the eastern horizon. We breakfasted on fish and boiled bananas, and then spent another day on the ocean in perfect inactivity. The wind blew very gently indeed, and only a little breeze caled by the captain a "Yankee slant" moved us a little toward the point of our destination. My face and neck being exposed to the heat, pained me all day, and the time passed wearily away.

Thursday, September 26. A breeze which had sprung up during the latter part of the night had sped us somewhat onward, so that the still hours of morning found us beating against the trade wind a short distance southward from the extreme western point of Tutuila. The island is mountainous, the formation volcanic, most of the coast rock bound, and the scenery grand and imposing. To watch the waves spend their fury upon the rocks and see the spray shoot up high on the face of the perpendicular cliffs which constituted the coast was very interesting; and our condition on board was made more tolerable by the refreshing wind, which though blowing from a wrong point of the compass to suit our course, enabled