

put into steel vats about eighteen feet long and four feet wide and two feet deep. These vats have partitions running through them, and each compartment is loosely filled with this zinc excelsior. Now the cyanide solution, with its gold in it, is turned into the vat and so arranged that it will slowly flow about through the zinc excelsior. As the golden water washes the zinc shavings the atoms of gold leaves the water and stick to the zinc until at last every bit of water has given up its gold. The zinc under its influence gradually turns from a bright silver to a dirty yellow. It grows heavier and heavier with its golden load, until it has at last gathered all the gold. The solution is then drawn off through holes in the bottom of the vat and strengthened up in order to be used to gather more gold. The zinc and gold is put into a furnace and smelted, and after a short time the result is a brick of solid gold, purer than that which is used for wedding rings or golden eagles.

Frank G. Carpenter

JENSON'S TRAVELS.

LETTER NO. LIV.

Saturday, March 7th, 1896. I boarded little "Hituni" once more at 7 a. m., and at 8:30 we sailed from Rotoava, Takarava, after taking on board Hotea, a Maru, the native governor of Temarie, Anaa, and his wife; and after getting out of the lagoon we "stood off" direct for Tahiti, distant about 250 miles to the south-west. The wind was in our favor and we sped along nicely. About noon the island of Nian was distinctly seen on our right. This island is about seven by five miles in size and is said to contain 100 inhabitants. As the wind fell off later in the day our speed was slackened correspondingly, and the island of Nian was still visible toward the north-west when the sun went down.

Sunday, March 8th. With only a little wind we made slow progress toward Tahiti. I spent most of the day reading the Bible, as I could not participate in the animated religious conversation which was carried on nearly all day between the Catholic governor and my Josephite friends. How I suffered mentally because my ignorance of the language hindered me from being "in it." The day was extremely hot.

Monday, March 9th. Early in the morning the dim outline of mountainous Tahiti were seen against the south-western horizon, but as the wind died completely out we were still ten miles from the island at sunset.

Tuesday, March 10th. A gentle breeze having sprung up during the night, we found ourselves nearing Point Venus when the morning dawned, and about 6:30 a. m. we passed through the opening in the reef into the Papeete harbor, where a large French man-of-war, the American mail ship, "City of Papeete," and a number of other large vessels lay at anchor. We came to an anchorage about 8 o'clock, and I at once sought our rented mission cottage on Rue de l'Est, where I expected to make my home till the arrival of the steamer "Richmond" from New Zealand, with which I was to return to Auckland.

Having obtained permission from Elder Cutler to open his paper mail I

hastened to the post office, as the American mail had just arrived per "City of Papeete," and I was soon busy reading the papers from home; and thus I received my first news of Utah's admission into the Union as a State on the 4th of January last.

Papeete has monthly mail connections with San Francisco, the three ships named, respectively City of Papeete, Tropic Bird and Galilee, making regular trips between the two cities. The steamer Richmond also keeps up a monthly mail connection between Papeete and New Zealand via Rarotonga. The distance to San Francisco is about 4000 and to Auckland, New Zealand, about 2400 geographical miles.

The city of Papeete is the seat of government of the French possessions of Oceania and the chief port; it lies on the north-west coast of Tahiti, at the foot of the highest mountains of the island. The ground here is level, but there is not much space between the coast and the foot of the mountains. It is covered with the richest and most beautiful vegetation, and far above all the rest the stately coconut palms raise their lofty heads. Papeete is a town of modern construction, possessing both water works and an electric light system and a few fine business blocks. Its streets are more regularly laid out than common, and the houses nestle in the midst of orange, coconut and guava groves. The aspect in general is extremely pleasant and picturesque. The background is filled up with a number of pinnacled mountains, jutting in a great variety of forms. Immediately back of Papeete is the village of Amelie, a single street of houses or cottages in the European style, built of coral rock and so constructed as to be capable of being defended. On the height over the village is the block house, one of six which protect the town. The harbor of Papeete can accommodate at least thirty large vessels; the entrance to it from the sea through the coral reef is only 320 feet wide. The city of Papeete faces the harbor in the shape of a crescent, with the concave side to the water, making a coast side of nearly one and a half miles. The principal business street is the one facing the harbor. The next street of importance is Rue de Rivoli, which runs through the town lengthwise, and its continuation both ways is the macadamized road which encircles the island. The Catholic church, which stands on the street last mentioned, is the most imposing structure in the city; its spire can be seen a long distance off. From the church front all distances to the different towns and localities of the island are measured. The complete circuit around the island by the road is 108 geographical miles. The population of Papeete, numbering about 4200, is a mixed one, consisting of natives, Chinese, French, Americans, English, Germans, etc., the great majority, however, being natives. The French constitute the official part of the population; and some of the government buildings, including the military barracks, are good sized structures. The governor's mansion, situated in a lovely garden, is a typical tropical home. The leading business houses and all the wholesale trade are run by the English, Americans and Germans, while the Chinese have almost monopolized the retail trade, and the natives run the market, consisting of long sheds built

on a small square near the town center. There all the natural products of the island are bartered, prominent among which are feis, bananas, oranges, coconuts, sweet potatoes, limes and fish. From about 4 to 8 o'clock in the morning are the chief market hours. During those four hours nearly the whole market business is transacted, the people being early risers. French official hours are from 8 to 10 a. m. and 2 to 4 p. m. They don't work neither ten nor eight hours a day as we do in the United States. On rising in the morning a very light meal is taken by most of the people, and then the real breakfast is eaten at 10 a. m., when nearly all business houses close their doors for two hours. Another meal taken after 4 p. m. suffices for the day. Unless there is some excitement going on the people generally retire early. The government brass band discourses music every Wednesday and Saturday evening from the great stand near the governor's mansion. On these occasions nearly the entire population gather there, it being about the only amusement the place affords, save a merry-go-round, which has been stationed at Papeete for some time. That being something new and novel to the natives it was well patronized at first.

Taking it all together Papeete, being a French town, seems to be different in almost every particular to an American or English city, the official language and influence, the etiquette, looks, walks and general appearance of everything except nature being patterned to a great extent after that of France. Until a man learns either the French or the native language it is hard for him to feel at home or satisfied in Papeete for any great length of time.

Tahiti and surrounding islands are in some respects the most important group in the South Pacific ocean. There is perhaps no spot on the globe which has received a more lively attention than this from the great experiment of the civilization of man by means of religious influence. The islands themselves are not so important to the rest of the world. It is generally believed that the great Spanish expedition under Pedro Hernandez de Oniro discovered Tahiti in 1606; but like many other Spanish discoveries this was unknown or unnoticed by the rest of the world, so that when the ship Dolphin, under Captain Wallis, sent by George III. of England to make discoveries in the South Seas, reached Tahiti June 19th, 1767, it was supposed to be the primary discovery, and it was named King George Island. Captain Wallis reached it on the south-east side, and was soon surrounded with a multitude of canoes filled with natives, who were friendly but thievish; this latter propensity led to a slight skirmish. Wallis sailed along the coast and on the 23rd discovered Matavai Bay. Lieut. Furneau landed and took formal possession in the name of George III. by hoisting a British flag. The flag was soon taken down by the natives, and was made by them into a badge of sovereignty for many years afterwards.

April 2nd, 1768, M. de Bongainville, a Frenchman, arrived at Tahiti in the frigate Bondeuse, and remained till the 14th. He called the island Nouvelle Cythire.

In 1689 Captain James Cook was despatched by the British government to the Pacific ocean to make observations