

district of Kau, and did more or less damage in every part of the island of Hawaii. At Kapapala, in eastern Kau, it caused a destructive land-slide, commonly known as the "mud flow." An enormous mass of marshy clay was detached from the bluff at the head of the valley and in a few minutes swept down for a distance of three miles in a stream about half a mile wide and thirty feet deep in the middle. It moved so swiftly that it overtook and buried thirty-one human beings and over five hundred horses, cattle and goats. Immediately after this earthquake, a tremendous wave, forty or fifty feet high, rolled in upon the coast of Kau, sweeping away all the villages from Kaalualu to Keauhou, and destroying some coconut groves. Over eighty persons perished in a few minutes, and the survivors were left destitute and suffering. At the same time the crater of Kilauea emptied itself of its lava through underground fissures toward the southwest. The central part of the floor of the crater fell in, forming a pit 3,000 feet long and 500 feet deep with sloping sides. On the 7th of April, 1868, the lava from the central crater of Mauna Loa burst out on the southwest slope of the mountain, in the land of Kahuku, at a point 5,600 feet above the sea. The lava spouted up in great fountains, several hundred feet high, and flowed to the sea, a distance of ten miles in two hours. This eruption continued only five days. It destroyed several houses and several hundred head of cattle and overflowed 4,000 acres of good land. Three men were imprisoned for several days on a hill surrounded by lava streams. On May 10th, 1877, a great earthquake wave was experienced on all the Hawaiian Islands, which washed away the village of Waiakea, near Hilo, and drowned five persons.

On November 5th, 1880, a light was seen in the summit crater of Mount Loa. The next day a stream of lava made its appearance at a point 11,100 feet above the level of the sea, on the eastern slope of the mountain. It continued to flow for nine months, along the southern edge of the flow of 1855, and finally stopped three-fourths of a mile from the town of Hilo, near the Halai hills, August 10th, 1881.

Again, in December 1886, there were frequent earthquakes in southern Hawaii. At length, on January 16th, 1887, fire appeared on the summit of Mauna Loa, and on the 18th, an outbreak took place in the district of Kau, north of Kahuku, at an elevation of 6,500 feet, and twenty miles from the sea. The lava stream reached the sea at noon the next day, four miles west of the flow of 1868, and continued to flow until the 24th. Since 1886 the grand old mountain has behaved itself, and kept its fire within its own bosom; but in as much as former eruptions have taken place when Kilauea is sleeping, and that being the condition of Kilauea at the present time, some are expecting another outbreak from Mauna Loa in the near future.

From the Volcano House, Hawaii's other great mountain Mauna Kea, (the white mountain) is also in clear sight, though its summit is over thirty miles away to the northwest. It has a number of peaks or hills, which give it a serrated appearance while its rival presents a more even, regular or smooth outline. The ascent of Mauna Kea is

not very difficult, and can be made in one or two days with good animals, starting from the inland town of Waimea. The trail from here is generally to the east and up the mountain through groves of mamane trees. The summit plateau is about five miles in extent. There the air is very cold and rarified, and has a stupefying effect on both men and animals. A lake of fresh water is found on the summit which is often frozen around the edges in winter, but seldom, if ever, entirely frozen over. Its elevation is 13,050 feet, and if not the highest, it is among the very highest lakes in the world.

The Volcano House is in the district of Puna, which is embraced in the South Hawaiian conference. This conference comprises all the Saints residing in the districts of Puna, Kau, South Kona and North Kona. The conference consists of eleven branches, containing a total membership of 517, including children under eight years of age. Of these 50 are Elders, 7 Priests, 11 Teachers, 10 Deacons and 350 lay members, namely, 154 males and 196 females. Five of the branches have meeting houses and Sunday schools, four Relief Societies and three Mutual Improvement Associations. Elder Wm. Thompson presides over the conference the present term (from April to October, 1895), assisted by Elder Wilder T. Hatch. The branches named in order of their geographical situation are as follows: Koae, 19 Saints; Kapaahu, 51; Pahala, 101, Naalehu, 86; Hinakukui, 32; Puueo, 30; Papa, 58; Opehale, 40; Kaohē, 26; Keokea, 26, and Kahaluu, 28.

The Koae branch comprises the Saints residing in the native village of that name, situated near the extreme eastern point of the island of Hawaii, in the district of Puna, and about twenty miles southeast of Hilo; Kipi presides.

The Kapaahu branch, (sometimes also called Kalapana) comprises the Saints residing in the two native villages Kapaahu and Kalapana, situated on the southeast coast of Hawaii, in the district of Puna. There is a meeting house (built in 1895) at Kalapana; a Sunday school organization exists, and Josepa Haapai presides.

Pahala, the largest branch in the conference, comprises the Saints residing in the village and sugar plantation called Pahala, which are situated inland about five miles from the southeastern coast of Hawaii, in the district of Kau, and five miles from the seaport town of Punaluu, with which it is connected by railway. There is a meeting house, a Sunday school, a Relief Society and a Mutual. Ikaaka is president of the branch.

The Naalehu branch consists of the Saints residing in the native village of that name, situated inland about two miles from the coast town of Honouapo, near the southern extremity of the island of Hawaii, in the district of Kau. Josepa Karakooli presides over the branch, which contains a meeting house, a Sunday school, a Relief Society and a Mutual. The meeting house at Naalehu was built in 1893, and is the only church building of any kind in the place.

The Hinakukui branch comprises the Saints residing in and about the sugar plantation of Hilea, situated about four miles inland from the southeast coast of Hawaii, in the district of Kau. Hilea is four miles from the landing place of Honouapo; Kaamahawale is president of the branch.

The Puueo branch comprises the few Saints residing in the villages of Puueo, Manuka and Waiohinu, which are situated near Naalehu on the southeast coast of Hawaii, in the district of Kau; J. W. Kahoalii is president of the branch.

The Papa branch comprises the Saints residing in the native village of Papa, situated on a mountain slope and inland about four miles from the west coast of Hawaii in South Kona, and about four miles from the seaport town of Hoopuloa. Makauhaole presides over the branch which has a meeting house and a Relief Society.

The Opehale branch consists of the Saints residing in the native village of that name, situated about two and one half miles inland from the west coast of Hawaii, in the district of South Kona, and about nine miles southeast of Hookena. The Saints meet for worship in a private house; and the branch which is presided over by R. W. Kalamuwaale, has a Sunday school, Relief Society and Mutual Improvement Association.

Kaohē branch comprises the Saints residing in a village of that name situated about one and one half miles inland and six miles southeast of the coast town of Hookena, on the west coast of Hawaii, and in the district of South Kona; it is presided over by J. W. Kaleohano.

Keokea is a native village situated about one and one half miles inland or northeast from the coast town of Hookena, on the west coast of Hawaii, in the district of South Kona. The small branch of the Church here owns a meeting house with rock walls and thatched roof. There is also a Sunday school, and Kalele presides over the branch.

The Kahaluu branch comprises the Saints residing in the native village of that name, situated on the western coast of the island of Hawaii, in the district of South Kona, and near the town of Napoopoo; Palikapu presides over the branch.

The South Hawaiian conference is the farthest away from the mission headquarters of all the conferences in the mission.

VOLCANO HOUSE, Puna, Hawaii, H. I. June 17th, 1895.

LETTER NO. XV.

Tuesday, June 18th.—We arose early at the Volcano House, ate a lunch and started on foot, with a guide, for the crater Halemaumau, a name given to that part of Kilauea where the molten lava used to be. Descending a steep hill we reach the black lava bed on the bottom of the crater, about 500 feet below the hotel grounds. Thence we walked over the rugged, broken and craggy lava beds for about three miles when we find ourselves standing upon the brink of the terrible abyss, from which sulphur vapor constantly arises, but where no molten lava has been seen for several months. In July, 1894, the molten lake which has been described by so many tourists suddenly sank 270 feet, and in December following it sank clear out of sight; but the indications are at present that it may re-appear at any time, either in the former pit, or break out at some other point in the immense crater which is about nine miles in circumference. The pit is now about 1400 feet in diameter, and estimated to be 500 feet deep. From the numerous crags adjacent to the pit hot sulphur smoke and gases issue forth. In some