

I might perhaps give a long description of a trip over the island of Togatabu, how we are received by the natives, their food, drink, manner of cooking, making of the "kava," etc., but it would only be largely a repetition of the story told by Samoan missionaries, so I will not trouble your readers with it at present, but I will give an account of a trip on the sea from Nukualofa to Haapai and to the principal islands of that group, which lie about one hundred miles north of Togatabu.

Elder Merrill had met the premier of Toga and had a pleasant talk with him and was offered a passage free of charge, on the government schooner Jiale Tafa. According to arrangements he went aboard Sunday evening, October 22nd, and as soon as the hands of the watch passed twelve the anchor was drawn in, the sails spread, and soon the little white vessel was rapidly gliding over the waves in the moonlight, being driven by the trade wind which was rather strong on the evening in question. A merry party, consisting of the premier and attendant, the Latter-day Saint Elder above referred to, and the ship's crew expected to have a pleasant trip. But alas! a sudden change came. The bowsprit stay gave way crippling the boat so she could not make the trip, and they turned her head to the wind and tried to repair the broken place. In the meantime she rolled and pitched in the waves until many became very sea-sick, so much so that the only thing thought of was a place to lie down; and all went to the cabin and retired, not caring much whether she sunk or floated. This being the first taste of real sea-sickness this missionary has had, it was an experience he will long remember. When daylight came the schooner was anchored in the Nukualofa harbor about 100 yards from the steamer which was then lying astide the wharf; so he decided to leave the native schooner and take passage on the steamer and transferred his box, satchel, etc. At 6 o'clock in the evening he made another trial, which proved to be both pleasant and successful, as the ship was neat and clean and everything for the convenience of passengers is kept in first class style. The evening was spent in conversing with the passengers and explaining the object of our stay among the Toga natives. The steamer had not got a half a mile from the wharf until every one knew there was a Mormon on board and the natives were ready to point him out to those that wanted to see what kind of a creature he was. Bed time came and as good a rest was enjoyed as if it had been taken in one of the best bedrooms in Utah. Next morning Haapai was in sight and we intended to give Elders Kinghorn and Hunter a surprise, but that was taken off his hands by the supercargo who went ashore while breakfast was being served on board and told the brethren "Merrill will be over in a few minutes." The joy that those three Elders had in meeting after the separation of five months can be better imagined than described.

The next day (Wednesday) Elders Kinghorn and Merrill took passage on a ten-ton scow for the island of Nomuka, which is about fifty miles

southwest of where the brethren make their home. They boarded about eight o'clock and were soon sailing over the "rolling deep" before a gentle wind. At 12:30 the captain dropped anchor in front of the island of Hafeva and at once set his crew at work lashing merchandise for a trader by the name of Swanson, who is a kind friend to "our boys," while the brethren went out to visit the people; and, knowing the arrangement was to open the night here, they visited the chiefs of the island and made appointment for a meeting in the evening. In the afternoon they went over part of the island, looking through the village which has about four hundred inhabitants. When the time came there were over a hundred gathered and the first Latter-day Saints sermon was preached to the natives of that island by Elder Merrill. They seemed very much surprised to learn that the Bible substantiates "Mormon Doctrine." Elder Kinghorn also spoke to them and gave a chance for any one present to ask questions about what they had heard. The next day they sailed to Nomuka where they arrived about 3 o'clock. This is one of the best islands in the group, almost round in shape and a mile and a half across; it contains one small mountain and a lake. The soil is very prolific, producing the yam, sweet potato, banana and coconut in great quantities; also a great abundance of oranges, which have the reputation of being the best in the Friendly archipelago. I am told it is the place where Captain Cook made his headquarters while exploring in this vicinity. The boys were delighted with the island and the hearty welcome they received from Mr. Sands, the only white trader on the island; but were not so well pleased with the natives for they are the worse set yet visited. No meeting could be held, neither could they talk privately to any of them on the Gospel. They tell us "the Lord first made the Tongan, then the pigs, then the white man." Two days were spent here with no success whatever. They set sail Saturday morning, having the boat loaded with ten tons of coconuts and the whole day was spent on the sea beating against a head wind. Hafeva was reached at dusk, where they spent Sunday, taking advantage of every opportunity to "preach the Gospel to every creature." Monday morning they made another start towards Lifuka, but the wind being contrary all day and a calm coming on just at sundown, they were not successful in reaching home, but cast anchor near a reef and spent the night on the boat, using the sail for a bed. The next morning there was a wind which wafted them into the Bagai harbor by eleven o'clock, where Brother Hunter was anxiously waiting their arrival to learn of their success. One day was spent at home and Thursday evening found Elders Merrill and Hunter on the island of Uha, the home of the great warrior king Tubou, who used to be the terror of the South seas. Upon this island is a beautiful cemetery, where sleep twenty-four of the royal family and where there is an empty tomb which was prepared by the king for himself. A description of this place might be of interest, but I forbear lest my communication be too long. Three days

were spent here with great satisfaction, the brethren being busy most of the time explaining the principles of life and salvation.

Many are convinced and we all look with great anxiety for the time to come when we will baptize the believers. The islands of Foa and Haano have been visited within the last week and a great deal of talking has been done and many numbers of the little work entitled Bule'aga o Hevan have been left among the natives wherever we have been. This is a tract from the pen of Elder Brigham Smoot of Provo, so well written that we have to testify that we saw him write it before some of those who profess to be Toga scholars will believe it is original. They say men who have spent years of study on the language cannot handle as it is handled in that work. It is a great help to the mission and a credit to its author.

Trusting that the truth of the everlasting Gospel may spread rapidly, I subscribe myself as one who is laboring to that end, knowing a crown awaits all who are faithful to Christ Jesus,

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STAKE CONFERENCES.

MARICOPA.

The quarterly conference of the Maricopa Stake was held in Mesa Sunday and Monday, Dec. 17 and 18, 1893. No visitors were present; but there was an excellent attendance of Saints. President Chas. I. Robison made a few opening remarks, expressive of his pleasure in seeing so many present and exhorted all to exercise faith that the true Spirit may dictate the speakers.

Aside from the usual business of such gatherings the principles of union, Word of Wisdom, order of the Kingdom of God, the gathering, and miracles were treated upon, and the duties we owe to each other fully shown. The Ward and Stake reports were very satisfactory, showing an increasing desire on the part of many to do their duty. The necessity of paying tithing and of maintaining purity in all of our amusements and social gatherings were dwelt upon.

Our weather is delightful. No ice-freezing cold so far. General health prevails, and peace and prosperity reign. GEO. PASSEY, Clerk.

MALAD.

The quarterly conference of the Malad Stake of Zion convened in Portage on the 10th and 11th inst. There were present on the stand Pres. O. C. Hoskins and counselors, members of the High Council and Bishops of the various wards.

At 2 p. m. Elders S. B. Young and George F. Gibbs, of Salt Lake City, were on the stand.

The teaching from the various speakers was calculated to build the Saints up in the faith of the Gospel. The beautiful singing under the leadership of Prof. D. P. Jones added much to the pleasure of the Saints.

C. S. HALL, Acting Clerk.

Bonner's Ferry, Idaho, has been discovered to be within the Indian reservation. The postoffice, several stores and residences will have to be removed outside the Indian reserve boundaries.