

for more than two years past have been, more infrequent than bigamous offenses in many of the States.

Mr. Speaker, the brief time allotted will not permit me to pursue this subject further. In conclusion, therefore, permit me to place on record my solemn protest against the iniquity which this House is about to perpetrate. Pause, gentlemen, and consider that by this act you disfranchise without trial, without conviction, twenty-five thousand American citizens, among them the pioneers of Idaho, for the Mormons were the pioneers of that Territory. They are the men who have made it possible for those to live there who are now persecuting and oppressing them. Do not allow prejudice to sway you to do this monstrous wrong even to gain a political advantage. A State gained by such means will bring no glory to your party nor add any luster to our glorious constellation.

IN THE SAMOAN ISLANDS.

One year has passed away since that destructive storm at this place, which caused so much loss of life and property in the German and American navies. The signs of that event are still very prominent, and to a stranger entering the Apia harbor for the first time his heart is apt to beat somewhat faster at the sight before him. The first object that attracts the eye is an immense egg-shaped body on the reef, which at low tide is high and dry above water. As you draw nearer, this object is recognized to be the remains of a large vessel which has been cast up out of the sea. It lies fairly on its side with the oval-shaped bottom facing the sea, and presenting a most peculiar sight, with its deck changed from a horizontal to a perpendicular position. This vessel was once the *Adler*, of the German navy. Her companion, the *Eber*, was literally smashed to pieces against the reef, and there are still great pieces out of her sides sticking in the sand on the beach.

The most mournful sight of all is the wrecks of the American flagship *Trenton* and her consort the *Vandalia*. The latter was the first to be driven by the wind and waves against the reef, and then the *Trenton*, which is a much larger vessel, was driven broadside against her. As a result, the *Vandalia* was crushed between the larger vessel and the reef, and now lies with only the point of her bow and broken masts above the water, while the huge black body of the *Trenton* seems far enough above the water to float. Taken altogether, the scene is a sad one, although a year subsequent to the occurrence, and it is very suggestive of the power behind the elements, and teaches us that with the wind, waves and other forces at His command, the Lord can bring about mighty changes.

There are no large vessels in Apia at the present time, and only one man-of-war in these waters. That one is the American *Adams*, which is lying at Pago Pago harbor for safety. She comes here for the

mail, but at the slightest sign of an approaching storm, seeks refuge in land locked Pago Pago.

During the last year two Japanese trading ships came to these islands. They remained in Pago Pago two weeks and then came to this place, but were so frightened at the sight of wrecked vessels that they immediately left for safer waters.

We happened to be in Pago Pago when the "Japs" were there, and met a number of them who could speak very good English. Among their passengers was a reporter of the *Tokio Public Opinion*. The first question he asked was, "Is it true that there is a man in Utah who has one hundred wives?" We answered his question and gave him a few facts and figures about Utah and the "Mormons," which he jotted down in his note book for the benefit of those who read the *Tokio Public Opinion*. In company with the reporter we visited one of the Japanese men-of-war, and were shown the guns, large and small, of various designs and strength. Both vessels were made in England for the Japanese government, and are fitted up with all modern conveniences; even their cooking is done after the European style. In our ignorance of the rapid march of the Japanese in modern civilization, we expected to see foreigners on their vessels teaching them the science of steam navigation, but we were mistaken; they are capable of running their own vessels.

It seems to be a part of the nature of every Japanese, or a result of their training, to be on the watch continually for something new. They are fast becoming great travelers filled with a desire to find something that will benefit their country. If they lack originality, they certainly are not slow to copy things they consider good in others. Their ships are English; they dress like Germans and their coins are like ours, even to the nickel, which is marked "5 sen."

We had the pleasure of bearing our testimony to quite a number of this interesting people, some of whom have accepted modern Christianity and others who still adhere to the faith of their forefathers. We gave them the written "Articles of faith," and several said: "We would be pleased to have you bring your religion to Japan."

Between fifty and sixty years ago the London Missionary Society sent missionaries to Samoa, and for about thirty years were left undisturbed by other religious bodies. Then came the Catholics, from France, who, during the last twenty-five years, have succeeded in causing a division in many a village, and in some places they have the entire population. It is a common thing to see two church buildings in one small village, one Protestant and the other Catholic. The Protestants are still in the majority, but in my opinion the Catholics are gaining fast. The circumstances are favorable to them as they have everything to gain, and it is a well known fact that they seldom lose a convert after they once get their mark on him.

The mysterious rites and ceremonies of the Catholic church take well with the simple-minded natives, and they love to wear around their necks a rosary with a large bright metallic cross attached to it. After more than half a century of Protestantism and 25 years of Catholicism we find it uphill work to spread the true Gospel. However, the work of the Lord is progressing here and He blesses our labors from time to time with those who are sincere and honest in heart. Many apply for admission, desiring their financial condition to be bettered thereby; while others who sincerely believe dare not join us for fear of losing their earthly possessions, as they are bound body and soul to Babylon.

A favorite mode of campaign among the Catholics is to loan money on a native's land, which almost invariably is not repaid; then the land belongs to the church and the former owner will very likely become a Catholic and live subject to the church on their property. The Catholics also furnish medicine free to their members, while the Protestants charge for the same; this may seem a small item, but it has a great weight in adding numbers to the Catholic church. We seldom have an opportunity of bearing our testimony to the Catholics, but usually get a hearing among the Protestants.

Messrs. Pratt and Murray, two members of the London Missionary Society have published a tract in the Samoan language entitled "The History of the Mormon Church." In it they repeat the old lies about blood atonement, the "Danites," Mountain Meadow Massacre, etc., and also state that they know the Book of Mormon to be a copy of the Spaulding story. In perfect harmony with the above is their closing exhortation to the natives, saying all manner of evil about us, and telling them that their former condition of heathenism would be preferable to what we would teach them. This tract has been scattered all over Samoa and works both ways—as a hindrance in some places and an assistance in others, to our progress.

What we seem to lack, are missionaries, a knowledge of the native language and printed tracts in the same. The first we understand are coming; the second can be acquired through diligence and hard study, and the third is ready for the press, President Dean having just completed the manuscript of a large tract that we hope will reach many thousands of this people where we are not permitted to preach.

We get our newspapers regularly and manage to keep posted on what the outside world is doing. Our faith is strengthened to see the purposes of the Lord and the words of His Prophets being fulfilled among all nations, and we mourn for all those who persist in persecuting the Saints of God and in saying all manner of evil against them. May the Lord bless His Saints in every land and give them strength according to the trials they have to pass through.

NEMO.

APIA, Upolu, Samoa, March 15, 1890.