

we undertaken this warfare to conquer, or are we yielding to the insidious influences that are brought among us? I am reminded of a story I read on one occasion of an old man who was ascending a steep hill, and there were seven devils pulling at his skirts and jerking him back. A traveler observing this, wondered why there should be so many little devils pulling at the old man's garments determined to defeat his efforts to get up this steep place; but he went on and came to a great city, where he saw one little devil perched upon the pinnacle of a shaft, half asleep. He thought that was strange. He had seen seven of these little fellows trying to annoy an old man who was striving to climb up a steep place, and here was a great city with a hundred thousand people in it and only one little sleepy imp. He asked what the meaning of this was. The reply was that this old man was determined to follow in a path that led to somewhere that was good, while the hundred thousand people were resting easy following their own pleasure, and the little fellow had nothing to do, for they were traveling the road he wanted them to travel. I say to you Latter-day Saints, you are climbing a steep hill, and there are more than seven devils to every one of you, determined that you shall not gain the prize that you are laboring for. And the warfare is internal as well as external, and is going on constantly. The Latter-day Saints have the world upon their back determined to overthrow them, if it is in their power to do it. Why do I say this? Are there not good men and women in the world? Yes, just as good as we are. But here is a system that is superior to any system that has ever been discovered since the Gospel was revealed to man upon the earth. The Gospel never has been revealed before in the perfection that we behold it today, because the restitution of all things in one has been left to the last days. This Gospel is to regenerate fallen man, through the instrumentality of those who will engage in the work; and every man and woman is called to this work, if he or she will receive it. God will give to all freely who will receive it; and as you have undertaken this labor, let your trust be in Him, and you will carry it to a successful issue. But I say to you that every man, woman and child will see the time when they will bow the knee and confess that Jesus is the Christ to the glory of God the Father. God has committed this work to the Latter-day Saints; and He calls upon us now, in this time of temptation and trial, sorrow and gladness—the most peculiar time that ever was upon the earth—to be as faithful as our brethren and sisters who have died and gone to their place of rest, as faithful as Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith, who gave their lives to perpetuate what we enjoy today. As Jesus laid down His life for the whole world, so did the Prophet Joseph Smith and the Patriarch Hyrum Smith lay down their lives in Carthage jail, and John Taylor spilled his blood, to make possible what we enjoy today in the blessings of the everlasting Gospel. We stand today upon the foundation of the blood of martyrs, and the fiat has gone forth that this work is perpetuated through the shedding of the blood of the best men of the nineteenth century. Shall we, then, forsake the benefits that God has given unto us? Shall I permit these fleshly desires and appetites of mine to destroy the hope

that I have of everlasting life? Oh, no! Nor will the Latter-day Saints do it; but they will cleave to light and truth. What kind of a prayer shall I offer? Shall I offer the prayer of my heart, or shall I say that the printed prayer is good enough for me? God requires the heart. Jesus has bought us with a price, by the sacrifice of His life. Again our Father has bought this people by bringing them out from the midst of their enemies and planting them here, where they can have every blessing that their hearts can desire in righteousness. Never has a Latter-day Saint done a good thing without the Lord being present immediately to reward him. Whenever I have done a good act God has rewarded me right then. Yet, as it is written in the Book of Mormon, I still owe Him my life, my family, my surroundings, my good father and mother, and all that I have that is beautiful and lovely. Now, after He has blessed us with these things, shall we take the bit in our teeth and say that we will go our own road? If we do, we shall go to destruction. This people have a work to perform that the world know little about, and I fear that many of us do not appreciate it.

Brethren and sisters, I testify to you that the Gospel of the Son of God is in the midst of this people. I testify to you that the power is in the midst of this people to overcome the evil that is in the world. The power is given unto this people, in embryo, to save this nation from destruction. Power is given unto us to do a work for the dead that have passed away without a knowledge of the Gospel, that the prison doors may be opened, that the prisoners may go free and partake of the blessings of heaven in conjunction with us. The power is given unto us to prepare a church and a kingdom that God will accept; and whoever of this congregation are upon the earth when Jesus Christ appears will, if faithful, be caught up to meet Him in the air, while others will suffer the destruction that will come upon the earth. We know these things and can testify of them. Therefore, let us take a course that will be approved of God, that through our faithfulness we may receive the blessings which He has promised unto us.

May God bless us abundantly and give us more of His Holy Spirit, more union, more light, more intelligence, though I do not want more unless I can live by it. A short time ago I met a minister coming from his church, and as some children were passing he said, "Oh! that I could be a child again." I asked him what he wanted to be a child again for. "Oh," said he, "if I could be a child like one of these, I could serve my God all my days." "Why," said I, "you might serve the devil—how do you know?" You had better be satisfied with your lot." Take what God has provided, be humble, pure, honorable, upright, pay your debts, serve God with an undivided heart, and trust Him in His beneficence for the salvation which He will give every son and daughter that is worthy of it. Amen.

FROM THE SOUTH SEAS.

MUA, Tongatabu, Friendly Islands,

January 9th, 1897.

Thinking a few of our experiences of the last three months would be of interest to some of the many readers of your valuable paper, we pen you a sketch of a trip we made to a few of the

South Sea islands which none of our Elders had before visited. We boarded the schooner Fleetwing October 14th, 1896, and began to sail from Nukualofa to Vavau, a distance of 175 miles north. After sailing two days and nights over rough sea, we arrived at Neiafu, Vavau where we met Elders Alfred A. Kofoed and Amos A. Atkinson, who had just arrived from Haapai the day before, and also Elders Charles E. Jensen and Albert S. Jones, who were laboring on the Vavau group. We stopped there four days and a half with the brethren, holding two meetings in the Tongan language with a very fair hearing of Tongans, and one counsel meeting. We had a very pleasant time together, and a good portion of the spirit of the Lord, which had a tendency to strengthen and buoy us up in our labors, and fill our hearts with thanksgivings to the Lord. Wednesday, October 21st, the brethren took Elder Smith and I to a little village, Tuuniku, five miles from Neiafu, where the schooner was anchored. We there took leave of them, and again boarded the ship which began to sail early the next morning for Niuaotubutu. The weather was good, and the wind fair, therefore everything went along very smoothly. Friday the 23rd, at 10 a. m., we had sailed 140 miles northward from Vavau, and we could then see Niuaotubutu, a beautiful little island that appeared in the distance to be a tiny green mound in the mighty deep. At 6 p. m., the captain cast anchor in a narrow passage leading into the harbor, darkness preventing him from taking the ship in until the next morning.

Saturday the 24th, Brother R. A. Smith and I went ashore and called on the governor, George Finau, and made known to him the object of our visit. He received us very kindly, and listened to what we had to say, and also asked some questions about the Gospel. We had a very pleasant conversation on the Gospel for about one hour and a half. He said for us to go ahead and preach the Gospel to the people as we believed it, as they were free to join any church that they may desire. We then called on Mr. Robinson and Mr. Kiesewette, European traders, who were very hospitable, the latter telling us his house was open for us as long as the schooner stayed there. We were very grateful to our heavenly Father for raising up such a kind friend to provide for our wants in that strange land. We then took our grips and started out among the people to try and disseminate some of the seeds of truth among them, but were privileged to meet very few that day, as the most of them were out in the bush at work; but, however, we were successful in getting a few Gospel conversations with the people, and also in making arrangements for holding meeting Sunday at 12 o'clock. We then returned to Mr. Kiesewette's place, and partook of his kind hospitality.

Sunday the 25th, at 8 a. m., we went to the Free church meeting, after which we gave out notice that we would hold forth at noon, and would like to have all come that wished to hear the Gospel of Christ as it was taught in the days of the Savior and His apostles. At the appointed time we went to the place of our native friend who had proffered the use of his house for meeting, and found the house full of people. I would judge a hundred or upwards were present. The spirit of God was