

thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."

By the way, in speaking of swimming, these people are almost natural water animals, for it is a rare thing with a native if he does not bathe every day, and at times two or three times during the day. Everyone who has passed the Sandwich Islands or Samoa has no doubt gazed with wonder and admiration upon the expert diving performed by boys, who come swimming out to meet the ship, and who dive into the depths of the ocean bringing forth coins that have been thrown from the deck by passengers. Rarely indeed does one of the sinking coins escape their grasp. And during the ship's short stay in the clamar that results from the natives who have gathered trying to sell all the fruit, coral trinkets, etc., their crafts contain probably a shilling or a dime dropped by a passenger in exchange for a bunch of bananas, has missed the natives grasp, and has been swallowed up by the ocean. Suddenly a native darts headlong into the depths beneath and a moment later rises to the surface, and a coin within his mouth.

In the late war that raged here, several women, finding themselves among the enemy on this island, and with no means of navigation, and fearing insult of maltreatment if they remained, boldly plunged into the rolling deep and swam to the island of Aunu, one and one-half miles away. This would be no great feat were it not for the fact that waves are ever rolling high on the angry sea, which makes swimming a difficult matter. This ceases to be wonderful, however, when we are gravely told that, to win a wager, a certain native swam that distance holding his gun above the water with one hand and beating the waves with the other, striving safely on the opposite shore, having kept the gun perfectly dry during the mile and a half journey. I was told while on the steamer that natives often came on board of vessels that are passing here, and gazed about until the vessel was two or three miles from the shore, then suddenly plunging off into the ocean foam, the last that was seen of them was their heads occasionally bobbing above the waves as they were on their homeward journey. It is possible that the latter two statements would better be taken with a little salt, but the former declaration we know to be correct.

Saturday morning about 10 a. m. near sixty natives had gathered in a large native house, and meeting was called to order by Robert E. Dimond, presiding Elder on Tutuila. During the forenoon Elder Dimond spoke upon the apostasy in ancient days and the restoration of the Gospel through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith in these days. At 12 o'clock Elders and Saints, sitting cross-legged upon mats, partook of a native feast, consisting of taro, bananas, coconuts, fish palusami and salt beef. Flingers proved good substitutes for knives and forks, and banana leaves for plates, and it was observed that after dinner much less work remained for the women folks to perform than would have been the case after a meal of a similar nature at home, since there was no

clearing of tables, washing of dishes, etc., the whole clearing act having been performed in hanging up of baskets of food that remained and carrying the refuse to the beach.

Elder Harding spoke during the afternoon upon the subject of repentance.

In the cool of the evening sports of various kinds such as braiding baskets, racing, etc., were indulged in, and about thirty prizes awarded to the winning parties. It was noticed that female racers here have much the advantage of the gentler sex at home in this particular line of sports, since here they have no dresses as a usual thing to act as hobbles and impede their progress; therefore women and girls here are able to attain a speed hardly excelled by the men.

After opening exercises on Sunday morning, the First Presidency and Apostles, R. M. Stevens, president of this mission, the Tutuila Elders, and the names of individuals holding the Priesthood here, were presented and sustained. Elder Barton then spoke upon the Godhead, and Elder Barrus upon the true name of Christ's Church.

After a brief intermission, Sunday school was held, and among other exercises, about fifty questions bearing upon the restoration of the Gospel with its various gifts, blessings and ordinances, were admirably answered by the children. Here I will say that these Samoan children have wonderful memories, almost surpassing our white children in this particular faculty.

In the afternoon the natives present bearing the Priesthood were called upon and responded as follows: Lemata, S. Manoa, Viala Ioane Fiatale and Teo, each one making interesting remarks upon the various principles of the Gospel, the persecution the true Saints are called upon to endure, etc.

In the evening a testimony meeting was held, and about twenty persons arose and bore testimony, quoting passages of scripture sustaining our doctrines, etc. All present seemed to enjoy the gentle influence of the Holy Spirit; indeed this was a characteristic feature of the whole proceedings throughout the two days of conference.

Thus ended the sixth conference in this branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

We Elders during conference stayed with S. Manoa, who will be remembered by many as having been instrumental in the establishment of this mission, he having been sent here from the Sandwich Islands over thirty years ago. Upon his arrival converts were made and the mission flourished for a short time, but there being no communication with the body of the Church, this almost severed branch began to wither and continued so to do until a few years ago, when through the efforts of Manoa communication was again established with the main part of the Church, whereupon Elder Dean and others were sent over here to effect a revival. Re-baptisms and conversions followed, until at the present time we have a membership of over 400, and the mission seems to be in a prosperous condition.

ORLANDO BARRUS.

UTAH STAKE SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Deseret Sunday School Union for the northern part of the Stake convened at American Fork August 5th, 1894. Among the visitors were Elders Levi W. Richards and Joseph Summerhays, of the Deseret Union Board of Sabbath schools; Elder David John, Stake Superintendent T. E. Eggerton and William S. Rawlings, Secretary James Hardy and Patriarch John Brown, with a large attendance of officers, teachers and Bishops and counselors from the respective wards in the north. The meeting was held in the grove in the east part of American Fork, which was well attended and comfortable.

Called to order at 10 o'clock.

Prayer by Superintendent William Yates, of Lehi.

Superintendent Warren B. Smith, of American Fork, extended welcome to all who were present, which was responded to by Assistant Superintendent W. S. Rawlings, thanking the good people of American Fork for the welcome.

The exercises of the following schools were well rendered: American Fork, Pleasant Grove and Cedar Fort.

Superintendent T. E. Eggerton briefly reported the schools of the Stake, so far as had been visited, in good working condition.

Elder Levi W. Richards said he was interested in the Sabbath school cause and was pleased to hear the exercises that had been given, and exhorted the school workers to continue their labors.

The schools of Pleasant Grove, 1, 2 and 3, also Lehi and Alpine were each reported by their superintendents as in a fair working condition and improving in their class work.

Benediction by Bishop Cobley.

Afternoon session, 2 p.m.—Prayer by Elder Moyle, of Alpine.

Recitation, Second Ward branch, Pleasant Grove.

Class exercise, North School, Lehi, primary department.

Class song, American Fork First intermediate, "Beautiful Words of Love."

Class exercise, second intermediate, Pleasant Grove, Second ward.

Elder Joseph Summerhays then addressed the school; said he was pleased to meet and witness this large gathering and hear the exercises that had been so well rendered. He had been in these valleys 26 years and this is the best place on earth. The work of the Sabbath schools is of far more importance than any mission among the nations of the earth. Here we have the brightest spirits to labor among and we cannot work in a better cause. Young men and all must paddle their own canoe and there are two ways of guiding the bark, one up stream and the other down, "but be sure you keep going up stream and we will reach the fountain of life." He closed with an earnest appeal for all to be earnest workers in the Sabbath schools.

J. R. Vance, of Alpine, sang "O, My Father" in his usual pleasing manner.

President D. John said: It has pleased me to witness these exercises and note the advancement made by our children. The Sunday school is a great factor in our Church today, and a good work is being done through