

to us in the native tongue, but we could not understand much. We used what few words we had in asking them question and telling who we were. They made out to us that they were Mormons, and also told us that Brother Brown and some other Elders were upon the Pao Muto group. We had been told before about Brother Brown being up on that group, but we are expecting him every day. The schooners do not run regular trips, as they carry on a trading business. This is the reason, I suppose, that he is not here, as he told some of the people he expected to be here on the 8th of March.

The other day I had a taste of poi. The natives carry it in a bag made of green leaves. It tastes something like burnt molasses, only a little more pleasant. Yesterday was observed here as a holiday, it being Good Friday. In the streets was the place where the young people would gather to drink their rum.

Sunday, April 2.—This day is observed here as a holiday more than anything else. When we went down to get something to eat we passed crowds of young people who were drunk and were still drinking. They drink in the streets, as the law will not permit a female to go in a saloon. All they have to do is to call out to the saloon keeper to bring them out whatever they want. The young native girls as a rule are nice looking, but there are some half castes far ahead of them in this respect.

I suppose you wonder how we spend our time. Time passes rather slow to us, but I hope it won't be long before Brother Brown arrives and sets us to work. During the day we read some of the Church works and talk to the natives when we have a chance. This morning Brother Fox and myself took a walk around the seashore for a few naps. The coral reef extends out from the land about half a mile, where the waves strike it and make quite a noise. After returning from the walk we held a sacrament meeting.

Thursday, April 6th.—Today our thoughts are centered on home, thinking of what a crowd there must be in Salt Lake to witness the dedication of the Temple. Today is a very quiet one for me, as we are at our house, some writing letters while others are reading books. Brother Brown has not arrived yet, and I have come to the conclusion that he did not expect us so soon. We have written two letters to catch him, but do not know whether they have done so or not. The group of islands that he is laboring on consists of over seventy, and the mail is very irregular, traveling on trading vessels. Yesterday I had a trip with Captain Poulson, of the Galilee, in one of his small sailing boats. We went around in the Papete. This letter I will mail so as to go by the fast sailing vessel Galilee, which leaves here on the 8th of the present month, and will probably reach you some time next month. Ordinarily the mail from these islands leaves on the 12th of each month, and for here it leaves San Francisco on the 1st of the month.

WINTER, HAVING perhaps concluded that after our experience with the temperature of the past few days we would be more than glad to welcome his return, returned.

IN FAR OFF SAMOA.

FAGALII, Samoan Islands, April 4, 1893.—According to previous arrangement, the Saints from Lalovi arrived here in a small open boat; this morning (Wednesday) as did also Brother Ifopo's boat and crew from Pulpapa. The latter were on their way to Sinpapa, at the east end of the island, it having been decided to hold the semi-annual conference of the island of Upolu at that place. They remained here until the strong eastern wind, that blows almost incessantly during the day time, had somewhat subsided, and the peaceful rays of a lovely clear moon were beaming brightly o'er land and sea, when they made preparations to continue their journey. Elder George E. Browning, president of the Samoan mission, and Elders Geo. McCune and T. H. Hilton were added to the company, Elders Browning and Hilton going in Ifopo's boat, while Elder McCune accompanied the Saints from Lalovi.

We had "tofa" and left the Fagalii wharf at 11 p.m. The natives were compelled to row on account of the slight head wind, but found it much more pleasant than rowing beneath the scorching rays of a Samoan sun. Our boats glided smoothly along inside the reef, our sculled oarsmen keeping time like clock work to one of their charming native boat songs.

A ride of fifteen minutes brought us to Vailiele, where we went outside the reef. We found the sea—comparatively speaking—quite smooth, but it did not take long to make us feel that it would be better for our health on land. As we continued our journey the sea became quite rough and our boats were tossed about considerably. But through it all we experienced that feeling of safety peculiar to the Saints when in the path of duty.

We arrived at Falespuna at 3:30 a.m. and, as our oarsmen were tired, dropped anchor and remained in a native house until 3 p.m. (Thursday), when we resumed our journey and arrived at Samusu at 8 p.m. There we were kindly welcomed by the natives and stopped over night.

The following morning (Friday) we were informed by the Saints that the path leading to our place of destination was a good one, and, as we were very anxious to avoid the sea as much as possible, we decided to walk and let the natives take the boats the remaining twelve miles.

We arrived at Sinpapa at 11 a.m. and received a hearty welcome from Presiding Elder C. E. Summerhays and Elder John W. Beck; also Elders R. M. Stevens and David R. Morgan, who had arrived with the Siumu Saints early in the morning.

The meeting house had been tastefully decorated by Elders Summerhays and Beck, assisted by the Saints of their district. After partaking of some of the bounties of life, consisting of taro, "palusami," fish, etc., we began preparations for conference.

On Saturday, April 8, our first meeting of conference was called to order by Presiding Elder C. E. Summerhays at 10 a.m. The following named Elders from Zion were present: Geo. E. Browning, R. M. Stevens, George McCune, C. E. Summerhays, John W. Beck, D. R. Morgan and T. H. Hilton. The morning meeting was

addressed by Elders George E. Browning and George McCune. In the afternoon Elder R. M. Stevens addressed the congregation.

After the afternoon services, the natives of the district gave a "Taalolo," (the bringing of food to visitors,) in honor of our visit. The high chiefs and "talking-men" led out in the first procession, each carrying a basket of food, which was laid on the ground before us. Following after them came young men and maidens from either side of the village, some throwing and twirling sticks and knives, others singing and dancing, and keeping time to the beating of a native drum. The whole ceremony was performed in a very dexterous manner.

After the noise had abated, three of the principal "talking-men" stood before us, and held a brief consultation, leaning upon their staffs, as is customary with them when addressing an audience. At the close of their conversation two of them retired and the remaining one stepped forward and made an appropriate speech. When he concluded, Elder Geo. E. Browning responded, and in a few well chosen words thanked them for the kindness and respect shown us. Some of the "tulatales," or talking men, then came forward and presented each article of food, with the name of the donor. While they were thus engaged a number of the young women present began the "silva," or native dance, which was very interesting. Several of the brethren present pronounced the "Taalolo" the best they had had the privilege of witnessing.

In the evening the Elders and native Saints, with a few of their friends, assembled in the meeting house and whiled away an hour or two listening to music and singing by some of those present. Brother R. M. Stevens's school children from Siumu went through some exercises in Samoan and English in a most creditable manner. All of the school children received presents in the shape of little calico jackets or coats, which had been made by the sisters at Fagalii.

On Sunday, April 9th, the morning meeting was called to order at 8:15, and after singing and prayer, the names of the Church authorities, general and local, were presented and unanimously sustained. The names of the missionaries on Samoa were also placed before the conference and sustained. The statistical report for six months ending April 6th was also read, showing an encouraging increase. Remarks were then made by Elders T. H. Hilton, John W. Beck, and C. E. Summerhays.

Immediately after the morning meeting was over we held a sacrament meeting, at which Elder George E. Browning spoke on the Sacrament. He also presented the names of Naial and Tagaloa as being worthy of holding the Priesthood, and favored their ordination to the office of Deacons, which met the approval of all present. The meeting was then given into the hands of those present to speak as the Spirit of the Lord should dictate. The following brethren and sisters responded: Fiamme, Ifopo, Taumal, Naial, Faaloke, Tagaloa, Si el, Salina and Teviseu. The Sacrament was administered by Elders Stevens and Mc-