

morning hour found us sailing off the north coast of Upolu, and as the wind soon afterwards died out, or nearly so, it took us all forenoon to get to Apia. But we got there at last; and we felt greatly relieved in body and mind when the anchor was dropped in the Apia harbor precisely at 12 o'clock noon. Our trip to Tutuila had consumed eight days, during which we had sailed about 250 miles (including beating distance); and we had been successful in obtaining historical information, though we missed some of the Elders from Zion whom we had expected to see.

On our landing at Apia, we learned that the steamer Taviuni, with which I should have taken passage to New Zealand, had come and gone during our absence, and that for a month to come no other Union Steamship company's vessel would leave for Auckland. This was somewhat disappointing to me, but I decided to secure a passage on the next mail steamer from America, which was expected in a day or two. After taking lunch with our friend, Mr. Hellesoe, Elder Beck and I walked through the bush, following a winding trail, to Fagalii, where we arrived at 3 p. m., and found all well at headquarters, Elders Sears, Kippen and Lemon holding fort. The latter, however, was there on a visit from his station on the east end of Upolu, where the brethren are busily engaged in building a new meeting house.

ANDREW JENSON.

FAGALII, Samoa, October 3rd, 1895.

ITEMS FROM TONGA.

MUA, Tongatabu, Tonga,
Dec. 17th, 1895.

So seldom do we see or hear anything from this remote place, in relation to the labors of the Elders on these islands, that I submit the following which I trust will find space in the NEWS for publication.

The account of Elder Andrew Jenson's travels to these parts and elsewhere will no doubt be read with interest by many, and his visit be greatly appreciated by the Elders and Saints throughout the different missions. Much good will surely result from his labors, not alone in regard to the importance and necessity of keeping records correctly, but his words of counsel and encouragement will ever be remembered and greatly aid the Elders in preparing for, and presenting the labors which have been assigned them.

At present there are two Elders laboring in these islands, viz., four here on the Tongatabu group, four at Haapai and two at Vavau, the latter field having been opened up recently. With the exception of Niuafou and Niuatohutahu which lie to the north between Vavau and Samoa, all the islands can be reached quite easily from where we are now located, which will thus enable us to present before the people the Gospel for their consideration.

The fruits of our labors have not been realized to a very great extent as yet, it is true, but the Gospel must be preached to all the world for a witness, and to aid in fulfilling this command we are now engaged, trusting that some of the people may yet turn and share in the great blessings promised unto them.

Church and state going hand in hand together as it does here, works a hardship on some at least who are weak (of which there are not a few,) as it furnishes

somewhat of an excuse, at least a pretended one, for not accepting the Gospel, even though they acknowledge the truthfulness of it; for they would at once be accused of not being loyal to their kingdom, as many are in the other churches which are established here, viz., the Wesleyans and Catholics. The question should be, however, which is the most profitable, to go according to one's honest convictions, and endure such accusations etc., and by faithfulness gain the greatest of blessings, eternal life; or to be spoken well of by the people, gain honor among men, and even if it should be gain the whole world and yet lose his own soul? Well might the question be asked, "What doth it profit a man?"

We have had beautiful weather the past four and a half months, and our efforts have been to make use of it and get among the people as much as convenient. We have made some thirty-one trips out to the different parts of the island, visiting all the villages and being away from one to five days each time; and besides our two regular meetings at headquarters every Sunday, we have been successful in holding seventeen in other places, all of which have been fairly well attended.

November 3rd, after holding a meeting at Nukuleka, a village about four miles from here, our hearts were made to rejoice over the privilege of baptizing three quite prominent men and confirming them members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We entertain hopes that their actions will yield quite an influence for good in that locality, as also throughout the island, for as a natural result every additional member tends to strengthen others who might be earnestly investigating.

We have great reason to be thankful for the treatment we receive when out among the people, as thus far we have always been provided with food and lodging, and as a rule without having to ask for it as Elders do in many places.

While we enjoy these great blessings, we realize that the enemy of all righteousness is working also with all his might to stay the spread of truth, and he exercises great power over the people, realizing as did he in Paul's day, that his "craft is in danger," when truth begins to reach the hearts of the people.

As to temporal matters, I do not know of a more independent people on the earth, than are the Tongans. All land is held by the government, and allotted out to the people as they require, it being impossible under present regulations for any foreigner to obtain land for any purpose whatever, only through lease. They can no doubt see the condition of some of their neighbors, where the whites have been successful in securing tracts of land, and by adding to them from time to time, they have gained such a hold as to crowd the natives out, and thus work hardships upon them. Such is not the case in Tonga. Though the islands are small, the population is still less (it not reaching twenty thousand) and as that land which is cultivated produces so abundantly, there is a great portion unused throughout the group. Food grows with but little care, and there is always a market for the coconut, of which there has been an excellent supply the past season, more than has been known for many years back.

I hardly need to say that such con-

ditions have a tendency to make the people very proud and haughty, and many are not slow to remark that it is because of their righteousness that such blessings are enjoyed. It has been wisely said that "pride cometh before a fall," and my advice to all thus minded would be to humble themselves before the Lord, and not be lifted up in the imaginations of their hearts, lest they be led away by vain deceit and thus bring destruction upon themselves.

The Elders are in good health and spirits and by their works show a determination to magnify their callings as servants of God.

Mail has been quite irregular of late, owing to steamer changes and not connecting with the Frisco boats at Samoa, and the consequence is that we are sometimes two months without receiving home news. Ever praying for the cause of truth, I remain, etc.

ALFRED M. DURHAM.

ORANGES FROM JERUSALEM.

Jerusalem is now competing with Mexico and California for the orange trade of Chicago. The other day five cases appeared in South Water street, the appearance of which soon attracted the curiosity of the commission men, who had never before seen any such packages. To the ordinary spectator they were simply wooden boxes secured with strips of green timber, but to the experienced handlers of produce they differed entirely from the usual run of cases.

As the top of the first case was removed and the yellow fruit came in view a South Water street wag was heard softly singing, "Jerusalem the Golden." Light in color, of oval shape and in the finest condition, the fruit was packed much more carefully than that from other countries. The cases were first lined with white paper and sheets were placed between every layer of fruit. Each orange was separately wrapped in the ordinary manner. Oranges from the holy land never have been seen in Chicago before, and these attracted much attention. They were grown in the district between Jerusalem and Jaffa. They are worth from \$4 to \$4.50 a case.

Spain and Northern California are also new competitors in the Chicago market this season. "The orange situation is remarkable," said George W. Barnett of the firm of Barnett Brothers. He added: "With the 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 cases of Floridas out of the market this year dealers have had to seek fresh fields for stock. Spain, whose fruit in ordinary years wouldn't pay freight charges, has sent over considerable quantities this year, which are now selling at from \$6 to \$6.50 a double case. The greater part of the stock has been sold in New York, because here it comes into competition with the California and Mexican crops. If it had not happened that the California fruit ripened two weeks ahead of the ordinary time we should have had to depend entirely on the supply from Mexico, and prices, which are high enough already, would have advanced still further.

The most interesting feature in connection with the new shipping points is that Northern California for the first time in its history has sought the Chicago market. Oranges in the Sacramento district ripen fully two weeks ahead of that in the southern part of the State.