

effected, and every attention is given by the government to this end."

Another authority speaks of the Fijians as follows:

"The Fijians are a dark-colored, frizzy-haired, bearded race with tall and muscular bodies, much superior to the Papuan race inhabiting the islands westward, both in regularity of feature and in degree of civilization. They exhibit, however, a considerable amount of intermixture with the Crown Polynesians of Tonga and Samoa, who have long ago established colonies in the Fiji Islands, and have to some extent modified both the customs and the language of the Fijians. Yet they are generally believed to belong to the Melanesian race, and differ from their Polynesian neighbors not only in their scanty dress, but in using the bow and arrow, and in making pottery, both arts being foreign to the true Polynesians."

My first impression on meeting the Fijians when the *Miowera* arrived in the Suva harbor, was rather an unfavorable one. Their appearance seemed to indicate partly African origin very plainly, and this idea still obtains with me; though their intermixture with their Polynesian neighbors on the east entitles them to some of the blessings vouchsafed unto the promised seed—the house of Israel. I should be very pleased to see a mission established here by the Latter-day Saint Elders, though I have reason to believe it would require an extraordinary effort to make it a success. The Fijian language is not hard to learn, a young intelligent Elder, assisted by the Spirit of God, would be able to acquire it in a few months; and this would certainly be the first step to be taken for reaching the natives successfully.

The Wesleyan Methodists were the first to introduce their form of Christianity in Fiji. This was done in 1835 by the Rev. D. Cargill and the Rev. W. Cross. They now have churches or meeting houses in nearly every village in the group. According to the official report of the "Australian Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society for the year ending March, 1894, they had in Fiji at that time 846 churches, 475 other preaching places, 11 missionaries, 69 native ministers, 52 Catechists, 1,117 teachers, 2,325 school teachers, 2,064 local preachers, 3,680 class leaders, 21 English members, 30,583 native members, 5,299 native members on trial, 1,671 sabbath schools, 2,377 sabbath school teachers, 36,675 sabbath scholars, 1,671 day schools, 36,907 day scholars, altogether 99,031 adherents or attendants on public worship. Besides the Bible and a grammar and dictionary the missionary society has published seven or eight books in Fijian, and they are now (1895) also publishing a small periodical at Bayedeted by the Rev. A. J. Small.

The Roman Catholics founded a mission in Fiji in 1844, and they have now about 9,000 adherents. The missionaries—14 in number in 1892—are of French nationality. The mission supports an orphanage for the children of Roman Catholic parents, and has established schools for European children both at Suva and Levuka.

The Church of England commenced operation in Fiji in 1870, and has now churches in both Suva and Levuka. There is also a Presbyterian church at Suva; and there is plenty of element

out of which to make converts for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

ANDREW JENSON.

Suva, Viti Levu, Fiji Islands, August 8th, 1895.

YOUNG MEN'S MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE.

At 10 a. m. an officers meeting was held, with Stake Supt. Jos. H. Felt presiding there being present of the general superintendency Rodney C. Badger; of the Stake superintendency, Supt. J. H. Felt, Assistants J. W. Eardley and C. B. Stewart with Aids A. S. Geddes, J. B. Higge, Geo. E. Wallace, W. B. Doucail Jr. Eighteen city and thirteen county associations were represented.

After singing and prayer Supt. Felt addressed those assembled. He expressed his pleasure in meeting thus with the actual workers in the Mutual Improvement associations of the Stake, and regretted that there were so few present, the importance of the work, really demanded a larger representation. We understand that our people are between eight and nine hundred missionaries abroad preaching the Gospel, yet in the speaker's opinion the work at home was at least of equal importance. It had been suggested to each president that any question concerning the work of mutual improvement on which light was desired should be handed in, that, if possible, the light might be secured and harmonious action in the associations be insured, but no questions had been received.

Elder Wallace urged that the members of our associations should support the organ of the Y. M. M. I. A.—the Contributor—by subscribing for it, and that it be called to the attention of the people, and thus increase its sphere of usefulness. Referred to the 50 cent annual donation expected of each member of the association, and requested the officers to take the matter up in their own wards and awaken an interest in and response to it. Gave instructions as to the roll and record, and made some suggestions concerning joint sessions with the Y. L. M. I. associations.

Questions were then asked by several officers and discussed, explanations being given. Supt. Felt gave some ideas as to the use of Manuals Nos. 1 and 2, and asked the secretaries to be more careful, if possible as to properly recording their minutes. Advised that new members be not put on the program until they signified their willingness to thus take part. Leave politics out of the associations. Urged that lectures be given as often as practicable during the winter, and stated that a lecture bureau had been arranged for.

Brother J. B. Higge spoke upon libraries, making very valuable suggestions concerning them.

Then followed some discussion concerning the Manuals, and it was suggested that these matters be taken up at a later meeting to be called by the Stake superintendency, after which the Doxology was sung and Elder R. C. Badger pronounced the benediction.

2 p. m.—Present on the stand—of the General Superintendency—Presi-

dents Willford Woodruff and Joseph F. Smith, also Apostle Heber J. Grant and all those present at the morning session.

The usual preliminaries were carried out and Elder A. S. Geddes was the first speaker. He dilated at some length upon mutual improvement work and admonished the fathers and mothers, to use every endeavor in persuading their sons and daughters to attend the Mutual Improvement Associations.

Master Charles Pike then sang in a touching manner "Angels ever bright and fair."

President Joseph F. Smith then addressed the congregation stating that he supposed the people gathered here this afternoon understood that this meeting was intended as a conference of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations of the Salt Lake Stake, presided over by Brother Joseph H. Felt. This work is a great one and one in which the parents ought to be deeply concerned, for the future welfare of our children is bound up with it to a considerable extent.

Read from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants relative to the duty of parents to teach their children the gospel so that when they reach the age of eight years they will be prepared for baptism, also regarding their duty as to prayer, labor and observing the Sabbath day.

Choir sang the anthem "O Lord I Will Praise Thee." Benediction by Elder J. W. Eardley.

7 p. m.—Choir sang "Guide Us On Thou Great Jehovah" and prayer was offered by Elder Thomas Hull. After another hymn by the choir, Elder C. B. Stewart delivered an excellent address on exhortation—Its moral and spiritual influence. The address was replete with good and noble instructions and showed what a mighty power and influence could be brought to bear by setting good examples.

A quartette made up of Brothers G. D. Pyper, H. G. Whitney, W. G. Patrick and J. D. Spencer then rendered in an impressive style, "Refuge."

The general superintendency of the Y. M. M. I. A. and their assistants as presented at the last general Y. M. M. I. A. conference were unanimously sustained by the vote of the congregation, and also the following Stake officers: Joseph H. Felt as Stake superintendent with James W. Eardley as first and C. B. Stewart as second assistant; C. B. Felt as secretary and J. B. Higge as treasurer.

Elder H. J. Grant then addressed the congregation. Stated that he was deeply interested in M. I. A. work not only in this Stake but in all others and thought much good was being done by or through them. Every young man who enters an association to do good and improve will improve. Urged all to seek the Spirit of the Lord, to be humble, prayerful and faithful, and fulfill our whole duty.

The choir sang "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken" and the benediction was pronounced by Elder John H. Smith.

On Saturday thirteen prisoners escaped from the county jail at Sacramento, all of them succeeded in leaving the officers without a trail to follow.