

selves amenable to the influences of reason and religion

In Samoa, commercial interests have acquired great expansion, and the German houses, mostly connected with the Hamburg trade, were in earlier days followed by a well-regulated social culture among the natives. The coconut palm is largely cultivated for exportation, besides coffee and maize. Cotton was formerly one of the staple products. The great importance of the seaport of Apia, is due to the fact that it has become the emporium of the produce of all the other Pacific Islands, Tahiti and the neighboring group; alone excepted. The scarcity of labor, however, forms a great obstacle to the economical cultivation of the coconut palm in Samoa. To satisfy this want, the natives of the Carolines, the Gilbert and Marshall Islands have, in recent years, been frequently introduced, these settlers contracting to serve for four or five years. They are readily attracted by the inducements of better nourishment, good dwellings and kind treatment they receive on the plantations, which are managed after the European fashion. In 1872, the United States, assumed the protectorate of the Samoan group, and have established a coaling station at the commodious harbor of Pago Pago, on the island of Tutuila; but of late years the German and British influence have become predominant, and the Americans have almost withdrawn from the field.

Tau, the easternmost of the three islands constituting the Manua group is six miles long by four and a half miles wide; the highest point on the island, which like the neighboring islands is of volcanic formation, is 2520 feet above sea level. Three and a half miles westward lies Olosega, a small triangular shaped island. Immediately west, and only separated from Olosega by a narrow channel less than half a mile in width, is Olu, another small island about two miles long from east to west. The inhabitants on the three islands named number about 1,800. The Samoan group derives its name from an old line of kings who ruled Manua and who each in succession took the name of Moa. The prefix "Sa" in the Samoan tongue signifies "of" or "belonging to." For instance if Matua was the name of a man, Sa-Matua would indicate his family or relations. According to Samoan tradition the Manua groups was the first inhabited of all the islands now included in Samoa. This seems to indicate that the first settlers in Samoa hailed from the east. In that group also the inhabitants have retained the pure or older Samoan language. The same may be said of Savaii, while the language has become more or less corrupted on all the other islands.

Tutuila is situated sixty miles nearly due west from the Manua group, and is seventeen miles long by six miles wide. The highest point on that island is the mountain peak called Matafao, 2340 feet above the level of the sea. The inhabitants number about 3,400, who dwell in villages situated on the coast. The Pago Pago harbor on the south coast of the island is one of the deepest and safest natural harbors in the South Pacific Ocean. The dialect of the inhabitants of Tutuila has lately undergone some changes, among which may be noted the substitution of the letter "k" for "t" like the Hawaiians; as for in-

stance tagata (man,) as formerly written, is now spelled kagaka. In some cases they have also substituted the "n" for the "g." Thus gamu (mosqueto) is now pronounced namu. The "g" however, is pronounced as ng in singing. There are at present six Elders from Zion laboring on the island of Tutuila, who are located in pairs at their missionary stations. These are at the village of Pago Pago, situated on the harbor of that name on the south side; Vatia on the opposite side of the island, distant about three miles northeast; and Alao, near the east end of the island on the south coast. Immediately south of the east end of Tutuila, and distant from it about one mile, lies the little island of Aunuu, where Elder Joseph H. Dean, in opening the Samoan mission in 1888, first commenced his operations. This island which is scarcely three miles in circumference contains only one village.

Upolu, the chief though not the largest island of the Samoan group, is separated from Tutuila by a channel thirty-five miles wide. Upolu, is forty-four miles long from east to west with an average width of thirteen miles. It contains the principal town of Apia, where nearly the entire foreign population of the group resides. The interior is mountainous and covered with a dense tropical forest and mostly unknown to the present inhabitants. The chief mountain peak called Tatua, is 2,500 feet high and is situated about twenty miles from Apia near the west end of the island. It forms a perfectly round lava cone and crater completely filled with a dense forest. The population of Upolu is about 15,600, or nearly one half of the entire population of the group. Lanatoo is the name of a beautiful fresh water lake situated about ten miles inland from Apia, near the center of the island and close to the tips of the mountains. The water in the lake is nearly sixty feet deep, and ranks as a pleasure and health resort for the Europeans. There are numerous streams on the island and a number of beautiful water falls, of which the most important is Fuipisia, at which a good-sized mountain stream dashes over a precipice 720 feet high. This fall is near the east end of the island.

At the native village of Fagalii, situated on the north coast about two and a half miles east of Apia, are situated the headquarters of the Samoan mission. The home of the Elders at this point consists of a four-roomed frame building, with an adjoining kitchen and standing in a cocoa-nut grove nearly six feet above high water mark, and about six rods from the beach. The lot on which it stands embraces about half an acre of land on which grows a number of coconut, orange and mango trees; also one bread-fruit tree. Immediately west of the dwelling house stands the meeting house, built in a style peculiar to its own which originated with the first Elders on Samoa. The frame work consists of imported lumber, the walls or sidings are made of bamboo ingeniously interwoven and the roof is thatched, the material used being sugar cane leaves. The building is 38x18 feet, and is a fair sample of nine other Latter-day Saint meeting houses in Samoa. There are four other missionary stations on Upolu, where Elders in pairs are permanently located. One of these is at Lalovi, a small native village situated on the extreme west point of Upolu; another is at Siumu on the south side of the island across the

mountains from Fagalii, and distant from that place about twenty miles by trail; and still another station is located in the district of Lepa, near the east end of the island about thirty-five miles from Siumu. At Saleaamua, at the extreme east end of the island, a new station has just been opened, and a meeting house is now in course of construction there.

Off the east end of Upolu about half a mile, lies the little island of Nuutele, containing only a few families. It is scarcely two miles in circumference. Immediately southeast is the still smaller island of Namua, which for twenty-two years has been inhabited by a German family. A short distance north of these two small islands are two uninhabited rocky islets. West of Upolu, and separated from that by a channel two miles wide, lies another small inhabited island called Munono, renowned for its brave warriors and conspicuous for the absence of mosquitoes. The island, though only four miles in circumference, contains several villages. About two miles northwest of Manono is the smaller island of polima, containing only one village. Both Manono and Apolima are situated in the ten-mile wide channel which separates the islands of Upolu and Savaii.

Savaii, the largest and westernmost of all the islands belonging to the Samoan group, is forty-eight miles long from east to west with an average width of twenty-five miles. It has a population of 12,450. Savaii has been so recently subject to volcanic action that much of its surface is absolutely sterile. It has many extinct craters, chief among which is the lofty peak of Mua, which rises to a height of about 4,000 feet. Going inland from the district of Aopo, a village near the north coast, the traveler passes over a tract of country thickly strewn with scorie and ashes, which are evidently of very recent origin, so that the native trails on of the last eruption having taken place only two hundred years ago is probably correct. In the northwest of the island are also many miles of lava plains, but little altered, and in the east there is an older and larger lava bed partly decomposed and covered with a scanty vegetation. In spite of a considerable rainfall, Savaii possesses no rivers, owing to the porous nature of the vesicular lava, which offers a large extent of heated surface, so as to evaporate the greater part of the moisture, while the remainder sinks down and appears as springs near the coast. The mountainous interior is thus entirely waterless. In the absence of paths through the interior the traveling there is very difficult. It is a solitude destitute of animal life, alternately heated by a tropical sun and deluged by fierce rain storms, and affording neither food nor permanent water. But it is generally covered with green tropical foliage. The narrow belt of fertile soil which in places extends between the mountains and the sea, is however, exceedingly beautiful, covered with a luxuriant vegetation, and with lofty groves of coconut and fruit trees. Here and in some of the more fertile valleys dwell the population of the island. Savaii is noted for its picturesque scenery, remarkable caves, ancient ruins, large cocoa nut plantations, etc. Six Latter-day Saint Elders are permanently located on the island at three different missionary stations. One of these is at the village of Salelavalu, on the east end of the is-