

p.m. the moon came up, and with it a light land breeze, so we hoisted the sails, our boat having two masts. The natives one by one fell asleep, lying huddled together in all kinds of peculiar postures and even the steersman indulging in "forty winks" or so. In my cramped position I found sleep out of the question. About 3:30 a.m., we were off a village called Faga, we got through the opening of the reef without any trouble, and took possession of two houses in the village, as is the custom here for travelers. We stayed round there talking to the chief and others until about 2 p.m., by which time the food had been cooked and presented to our company. We had tried several times to make another start on our journey during the early morning, but our natives were impervious to any of our persuasions, but after the meal they evinced some signs of yielding and finally about 3 p.m. we again took to the boat and resumed our journey. On rounding the southeast point of the Island of Savaii we met a strong south wind which had been blowing, we found, for some days, but as we were inside the reef, it did not effect us very much. We had intended to cross the straits to Upolu, some twelve miles across, that day, but as it wanted only about an hour to sunset, the natives did not feel like it; and we then made for a village called Iva. I need not enter into particulars how one by one the natives got overboard and waded ashore leaving some four men, the women and ourselves to get the boat ashore as best we could. The tide had gone down and rocks were sticking up everywhere. We finally reached Iva and obtained accommodation for the night, our company being distributed among several houses. Some six of us stayed with the chief, and we spent some three or four hours talking. In the end we had the satisfaction of removing much prejudice and many false impressions they had imbibed against us. Next morning the wind was still strong and we felt we would have to stay here over Sunday. Brother Wood and myself, however, visited a white man who lived near by, and he said we could easily get across that afternoon. We then hurried the natives up and by 3 p.m. we started off again, having only come some 30 miles from Saleania. We made for the reef, having been advised to get as far south as possible to take all the advantage we could of the south wind. The natives, however, wanted to go through another passage. The tide was falling fast and breakers were coming up all around the opening. However we saw that it was no use to do anything but acquiesce to the natives' desires, and therefore made the attempt. Just at the critical time the boat was let down by a receding wave and struck its stern on part of the reef. The rudder was knocked clean out, and if Brother Wood, who was steering at the time, had not held vigorously to it, it would have been washed away and lost. We were certainly in a very perilous position. The natives lost their heads, as they always do in an emergency; the women and children cried; every breaker threatened to throw us on to the reef, which meant destruction. It was some fifteen or twenty minutes before the rudder was

adjusted. How we pulled through it all right was next to a miracle, and this is another instance out of the many, that the Lord has watched over and delivered His Elders in Samoa, for which we are grateful. We soon found ourselves out in the rough straits in the teeth of a strong south wind, and battling with the rough waves. Our boat was, however, a good sea boat, or we would have indeed fared badly. We need not go into particulars, how it took the natives one-half an hour to get the three sails up, in danger to themselves as well as the sails. When at last they were fixed we were blown before the wind, and as it came on quite dark, with only the stars for our light, our position was by no means an enviable one.

A little incident happened here which goes to show the superstition of Samoans. After they had got over their fright in the passage of the reef, they came to the conclusion that it was occasioned by the misconduct of some of our company while staying at Iva. They examined all the school children and they all declared up and down that they had stolen nothing. The women then began to feel repentant. One said she had taken a little coconut to feed her chickens, and another had done some such trifling thing, and another, another such misdemeanor or, if such it could be called.

We found the wind was taking us out to sea, so after a three hours' run we decided on a tack. In the confusion which ensued in changing the sails, through the stupidity of the natives Elder Wood's hat was carried overboard and lost. We then went on a course for about two hours and just cleared the rocky island of Apolima, which is in reality an extinct volcano, about one-half a mile long, rising from the sea, and has some 400 inhabitants, more or less. The winds and waves here were very bad. Brother Wood and myself then proposed another tack to Upolu. The natives now were getting frightened and were for going back to Savaii. They said Brother Wood was cruel and if they were drowned he would be responsible for it, etc. However, seeing we were firm, they at last gave in and we headed once again for Upolu. We got in nearer this time, and with another tack we were enabled to reach the island of Wanono (some four miles in circumference). While crossing the reef here we had a near shave of being swamped. The tide was nearly high and we passed over the reef, just grazing it. At the same time, a breaker rose up on our stern, and had it not been for the presence of mind of Brother Wood, who had seized an oar, we stood a good chance of being swamped.

We were here witnesses of a scene even worse than the previous one. The sails being up, they had been made fast in such a way that it was fully twenty minutes before they could be taken down and the oars brought out. The middle of the boat was a mass of struggling children and women in every one's way, some yelling out to do one thing and some another. I can assure you I felt thankful when I set foot on shore at Wauouo, at about 1:30 on Sunday, and I made the resolution that I would not in a hurry trust myself again to the tender mercies of a Samoan boat crew.

We visited a native house on shore, where the natives made a fire to warm themselves, as the night was chilly. Brother W. and myself laid down on a mat and were asleep before we knew it. We must have slept for about two hours. We then took to the boat again and rowed the remaining two miles to the village of Lalovi, which we reached about 5:30 a.m. surprising Elders H. L. Bassett and C. E. Summerhays, who were living there with a small branch of the Church, numbering some fifteen members. As we had not met for some six months, our meeting was indeed a joyous one, as we Samoan Elders fully know and realize.

Yours truly,

HATTEN CARPENTER.

FAGALII, Upolu, Samoa, October 14, 1891.

#### BEFORE CONFERENCE COMMENCED.

We concluded to observe a day of pleasure. As we have many friends in Apia who have done us many little acts of kindness, we thought it advisable to invite them. Invitations were accordingly sent to the King, Chief Judge Folan, American Vice-Consul Mr. Blacklock, English Consul Mr. Cusack Smith, Lieutenant Ulfsparré, and some officers of the German and American "man of war," and to R. L. Stevenson, and other prominent business men of Apia. The morning of Saturday, October 3rd, was spent in making active preparations for our exercises the same afternoon. From the school house floated the Samoan flag, while from the mission house the stars and stripes waved in the breeze. We all went assiduously to work and were hardly through with our decorations when the guests began to arrive. Sister Louie Lee did the work of a host herself. The appearance of the library or sitting room was an evidence of her artistic skill. The Samoan fans that appear so commonplace to us, she had transformed into gems of art by her skilful fingers and inventive genius. From fans they were changed into enchanting little picture frames or racks. In each frame were tastefully arranged a group of photographs. In these groups might be recognized the faces of our friends and loved ones, rendered doubly beautiful by their surroundings.

About 1 o'clock p.m. the guests from Apia began to arrive. They all came on horseback. The number of horses to be seen reminded one of the "stock department" of a fair ground, although it could hardly be said that they represented the highest grade of stock. However, many horses of worth were there. Among the guests who came from Apia were two sisters-in-law of Malletoa, the King, who represented the royal family; U. S. vice consul, Mr. Blacklock; Lieut. Ulfsparré, sergeant of police and private secretary to the chief justice; Lieutenant Burnett of the U. S. man-of-war "Iriquois," the chief native Judge Folan and wife; Capt. Hufnagel (manager of the Valle plantation) and wife, Mr. Dunnet, manager of McArthur & Co. wholesale and retail merchants in Apia; Mr. Carr of the same company; the Misses Taylor, leading milliners and dressmakers; Mrs. Jno. Bell, principal of the English school; Mrs. Moore, wife of a prominent and influential American merchant; Mauna