

A GARDEN IN THE PACIFIC.

Gamoa is evidently a genuine gem of the ocean.

Visits to a Coffee Plantation High Up—Enter the one—A Pleasant novelty—Grand Work of the Slave.

Proceedings of the Foreign Press—Fiji Islands, August, 1893.—Thinking that perhaps a letter from this part of the world would prove interesting to the many readers of the News, among whom we have many relatives and friends, I venture the opportunity of penning you a few lines, and if they are worthy it would be doing a favor to have them appear in the columns of your valuable paper.

A YOUTH FROM THE CHURCH.

Another Samoan chief has just been terminated by the timely intervention of the three great powers who are treaty with this country, viz., England, Germany and the United States.

About five years ago there was a skirmish between the natives between the Germans and natives, which resulted rather disastrously for the former; several of their women having been killed and decapitated, according to the Samoan custom.

There has been a turbulent revolution, politically speaking, and not long since, about three weeks ago, a civil war was inaugurated by the natives, which resulted in about thirty-four being killed and severely wounded.

To enter into detail regarding this matter is not my purpose in the present writing. Suffice it to say, a war has been had in our very midst—a war that, but for the timely intervention of the three great powers, would have proven very detrimental to the little kingdom of Samoa. This disturbance has been a great hindrance to the efforts here in the successful prosecution of their interests.

The war is now over, however, and things are beginning to assume a more favorable aspect. The "boys"—so we Elders on Samoa have been called—are again earnestly engaged in preparing for the future, and will be in raising the people of these far-off isles to a higher degree of civilization, and leading them out from the spiritual darkness into the glorious light of the precious Gospel of the Son of God.

At present there are eleven of us here of Fagaloa—three Elders and the two others. We have been anxiously waiting all day for the arrival of the Marquesas, which is expected to bring two more men, and also some additional supplies from our loved ones in the faraway land of Zion. After the mail comes there will be a general scattering of us again to our various fields of labor on the island, and until the next number of this column comes two or three of us to their homes and doors close before the deep.

A. SCHURZ.

August 1, 1893, twenty-seven years ago, there might have been found in the then little town of Oregon a happy family filled with joyful delight over the birth of their first child, Zora, who had just emerged to the world of the ministry on the islands of Samoa.

Our esteemed president, Elder George Browning, being the only retired to the Lord, having died in 1886, wrote to take a visit with him in Utumaga, a coffee plantation about four miles from here, back on the mountain side. I readily consented,

although Elders and the two others,

had just returned from a tour of

labor, consisting of two months of

traveling in the interior of the island.

After rambling about over the plantations for an hour or so, we returned to the house again and cleaned up, having the little "house" made, took a number of pictures of the family and the surrounding scenes, and the natives—reminders of the Solomon Islands—had come here to work for the party.

The object of our visit being over, we again took our departure and in much less time than we had taken in going up we were at the bottom of the long slope again and soon found our way to the Mission house.

The party had worked like demons to get the house ready and clean, and the good-sized table, seated with green napkins as we Marquesas Elders on Samoa can seldom afford to enjoy.

There was bread, potatoes, peeling chicken, etc., served out before the party began to sing some hymns.

A nice cake was placed, heating on the fire, in order, while reading the news and birthday.

After partaking of this delightful repast, songs ensued on the harmonium, etc., were indulged in for a short time. Our young, enthusiastic hostess, with her mother, sang a solo, while the rest of the party enjoyed the day's proceedings.

It is the Will's family opinion that a more general assembly of young girls than those in the Marquesas have not been seen in the Pacific.

Two natives accompanied us to point out the road and our relatives living on the plantation. Leaving the level strip of land which borders the sea, we turned inland, up a steep, grassy mountain slope, leading higher and higher to the peak of our destination.

"Old Bill's" searching raps extorting down, leading open air with his long staff, regular as our own.

Arrived at the plantation, looking from every pore, running down our cheeks, like streaks, reminding us of life's strife.

Large trees of sugar, large palms of coconuts, like the oranges and the passion-fruit.

Only those who have traveled healthily the burning rays of a tropical sun can appreciate the beauty of the scene when walking up hill on a sunny day, or appreciate how pleasant it is to sit down beneath the spreading boughs of some large palm tree to rest. Our road led through an extensive banana and plantation belonging to a German

man that has large possessions there. His plantations, three in number, are said to be among the largest in the world. While passing along we were struck with our native trees, one of which belongs to the Church. President B. remarked "What a plantation! It would be the envy of any man to live here." He had a large house, built by him, where he goes to church. In this residence he may be.

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