

The Bishops of the several wards gave in their reports which were generally good.

Counselor William W. Burton next spoke on the great destitution of the poor in the world and the many blessings and privileges the Saints enjoy. He showed how the Saints were blessed above the majority of mankind, also showed how the people had advanced since the first settlement of Utah.

2 p. m.—After the opening services, Brother A. Gardner spoke on temporal matters especially on the raising of small grain.

Brother Samuel Henderson advised the Saints to pray earnestly for wisdom to guide them into all truth.

President George Osmond occupied a portion of the time again in impressing on the minds of the Saints the great responsibilities that were resting upon them. He dwelt a little on tithing and hoped all would keep the Kingdom of God foremost in their minds.

Sunday, 10 a. m.—After opening services Counselor Anson V. Call compared the situation of the people now with that of the people in the early rise of the Church. He felt grieved to hear some complain of their hard lot, and explained what a blessed people we were compared with some of the outside world. He urged the necessity of educating our children and building and furnishing good comfortable school houses.

Brothers Thos. W. Lee and Andrew McComb gave some good advice to the Saints to be industrious and to serve God continually.

2 p. m.—Opening services over, sacrament was administered, and Counselor Anson V. Call presented the following names for the further organization of the Star Valley Stake of Zion.

For the Y. M. M. I. A.—Thomas W. Lee, president; Hugh E. Morgan, first, and Byron H. Allred, Jr., second counselor.

Sunday Schools—Edmund McLatchie, superintendent; Melvin Henderson, first assistant, and Emery Barrus, second.

Relief Societies—Kittle E. Dixon, president; Sarah A. Burton, first, and Jane Parsons, second counselor.

Y. L. M. I. A.—Martha E. Roberts, president; Sarah I. Call, first, Alice E. Lee, second counselor.

Primary Association—Annie R. Kennington, president; Alice J. Call, first, Mattie Barrus, second counselor.

President Geo. Osmond and Counselor Wm. W. Burton made a few closing remarks, asking the Saints to be charitable to each other and kind to all, and strive to fill the positions where unto they had been called. Conference was adjourned for three months.

WM. H. KENNINGTON,
Stake Clerk.

LETTER FROM TAHITI.

PAPEETE, Tahiti, Society Islands,
October 10, 1892.

Thinking a short letter from this part of Oceania will be interesting to the many readers of the NEWS I submit the following for publication, should it meet with your approval.

We often read letters from different papers, descriptive of the Sandwich, Samoan and New Zealand Islands,

while Tahiti and the adjacent islands, being off the great steamship line running from San Francisco to Sydney, Australia, is but little heard of, and doubtless the nature of these beautiful Isles of the South Pacific is almost unknown to the majority of the inhabitants of our temperate zone.

There are five islands in this group (Tahiti being the largest). Three, with the Tupuai and Tuamotu islands (the latter group numbering about 100), are all under the French flag. Tahiti and Tupuai, with their adjacent islands, are very productive. All tropical fruits, such as oranges, bananas, mangoes, pine apples, etc., grow abundantly. Many choice vegetables of the temperate climate are cultivated and daily brought into Papeete to market by Chinamen, who are the most successful gardeners, and are well rewarded for their produce.

The principal exports are coconuts, copra and vanilla. Some cotton and coffee are cultivated, but not extensively, the buying prices being so low the past few years that the natives have ceased cultivating to a great extent, which is regrettable as they pass their time in idleness, saying there is no profit in industry. A large sugar plantation, known as the Atimono plantation of Tahiti, was successfully run many years ago by a Mr. Stewart, and gave employment to several thousand people. Sugar is now only manufactured for home use, it being claimed that it cannot be shipped and compete with other market prices. Great quantities of ava, an intoxicating beverage, are made from the juice of the sugarcane and sold to the natives, which is the foundation of many evils existing among them.

The Tuamotu islands, located about 300 miles northeast of Tahiti, unlike the other islands, are not mountainous. They are of coral formation and noted for the superior quality of pearl shell found there, of which there are hundreds of tons shipped annually to different parts of the world. No kind of fruits or vegetables grow on these islands, though the coconut flourishes, and this with the many varieties of fish, forms the natives' principal food, which certainly must be very nutritive, as the natives are of the largest and most corpulent type. The skin of the Tuamotu native is several shades darker than that of the Tahitian, owing to their constant labor in the hot sun and salt water—diving for the pearl shell.

About the year 1850 A. D. the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had a membership of at least 1400 natives throughout the different groups of these islands. Shortly after the above date the missionaries were compelled to leave, and many of their converts suffered imprisonment for the Gospel's sake at the hands of jealous opponents. Years have passed and "grievous wolves entered, scattering the flock."

On the 27th of January, 1892, myself and companion, Brother W. A. Seegmiller, of Richfield, Utah, landed on Tahiti as missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and upon inquiry we learned that most all the church members of former days were dead, while the younger class, being left so

long without a shepherd, had associated themselves with other denominations.

We were greeted with many discouraging remarks, but assured those who could speak English that we had come to stay. Two weeks after arriving we started out, on foot, for a tour of the island, anxious to begin the study of our new language. We were hailed at every town with *la oranar Paaaa?* (How are you, strangers?) and when near meal time someone would cry out *Haere mai ta maa tatou!* (Come and eat with us!) We soon learned the meaning of these words of greeting, and very thankfully accepted the kind invitation to eat, sleep, etc. It being the rainy season at that time, we had much rain and mud to contend with, and on the east side of the island we had many rivers to wade; but we succeeded in making the tour of one hundred miles around the island, feeling that we had been greatly blessed in our first experience of this kind. We found the native people to be very hospitable and self-sacrificing in their crude mode of living.

June 1st, 1892, we were joined in our labors by Brother James S. Brown and son Elando, of Salt Lake City, and Elder Thomas Jones of Hooper. Brother Brown fulfilled a mission of three years to these islands forty-two years ago and is well remembered by many of the natives. He is now aged and crippled, but, through his faith, has been strengthened for every trial to date, and says his health is better now than it has been for five years.

Through the blessings of the Lord two baptisms have been made during the past month, one being a native man who was greatly afflicted, and instantly healed by the power of God—through faith. We find the same spirit of prejudices here that the Elders have to contend with in other missionary fields, occasioned by the false statements of the unbelieving. We are diligently striving for a knowledge of the language and with the assistance of divine aid hope to be successful in removing prejudice and implanting the principles of truth instead.

I will add before closing that all navigation from the different islands and to San Francisco is accomplished by sailing vessels only.

Very respectfully,
JOSEPH W. DAMRON.

DEATHS.

WILCOX.—In this city, Nov. 16, 1892, at 4:30 a. m., of heart failure, Maggie Wilcox, aged 26 years.

TIMPSON.—In the Twenty-second ward of this city on the 16th of November, 1892, Maggie Leone Timpson, daughter of Nephi and Maggie W. Timpson.

WALSH.—At Alma, Wyoming, at 1 a. m., November 17, 1892, of paralysis, Henry Walsh, son of James and Ann Booth Walsh. The deceased was a resident of Salt Lake and was aged 64 years, 5 months and 5 days. He was born in the township of Tottington, Lancashire, England, June 12, 1828.

CONDIE.—In the Sixth ward of Salt Lake City, Nov. 19, 1892, of old age, Gibson Condie. The deceased was born in Stirlingshire, Scotland, Clackmannan Parish, June 14, 1814. Embraced the Gospel in his native land in 1848. Emigrated to St. Louis January 29, 1850. Arrived in Salt Lake in September of the same year. He was a good, moral man, a kind husband and an affectionate parent.