

tive on this island apparently has it all his own way. No other religious denomination is represented here, not even the Catholics; hence the inhabitants are governed under church discipline, and so rigged and tyrannical were some of the church laws and rules being enforced a few years ago, that complaints were finally made to the British resident in Rarotonga, who in Oct., 1893, visited the island in person and effected a change of local government affairs. He found, on his arrival, that 194 native missionary policemen were employed to preserve order among a population of a little more than 2,000 souls; and that in trying to correct errors in the morals of the people the female offenders were punished much more severely than their male paramours, and that too in a manner that would naturally cause the heart of every British and American citizen to burn with indignation. Mr. Moss, the British resident, caused a law to be passed cutting the number of policemen down to twelve, and thus compelled 182 able-bodied men to seek other employment. Complaints were also made against the London society missionary, who was the instigator of the almost inhuman and barbarous punishment inflicted upon the women of the island who was suspected or proven guilty of loose habits; and in due course of time the missionary was called away, and a different man appointed to be his successor. The inhabitants of Mangaia seem to be of a warlike and quarrelsome disposition; each of the three villages or native districts have their own local self-government; and do not recognize a common head; nor do they seem to attach much importance to the federation inaugurated under the auspices of the British resident, though they generally send their respective members to the Rarotongan parliament. The traders, who came on board the Richmond gave the natives a very hard name morally; and also said that they lacked the hospitality and kindheartedness which generally characterize the inhabitants of the South Sea islands; and that they are very selfish and avaricious indeed. The products exported from Mangaia are mostly coconuts and oranges. Steamers only call two or three times a year, and that during the orange season mostly; while small sailing vessels constantly ply between that and the neighboring islands.

Early in 1845, Elder Noah Rogers visited Mangaia as a Latter-day Saint missionary. He came from the Society islands and found the language of the Mangaians somewhat different to that spoken on Tahiti; however, he could understand them, and as there was no white missionary on the island at the time, Elder Rogers offered to tarry and teach them. But he was informed that two London society missionaries in Tahiti (Messrs. Platt and Baff) had written to the natives on Mangaia warning them against receiving any missionaries or teachers unless they brought letters of recommendation from them. Consequently, they had passed a law to the effect that no white man should live among them. Thus Elder Rogers was compelled to leave without having a hearing, and he proceeded eastward to Rurutu, where he was told a similar story, and found that the missionaries named had written to other islands to the same effect, in order to prevent Bro-

ther Rogers or any other Latter-day Saint Elder from commencing missionary operations in that part of the Pacific. So far as I know no subsequent effort has been made by any of our Elders to preach the Gospel to the natives of the Cook islands nor Rurutu, which latter island lies about 350 miles southwest of Tahiti.

We resumed our voyage from Mangaia at 5 o'clock p. m., and spent another pleasant night on the briny deep.

Saturday February 1st. The day was cloudy, and it rained a little. When the usual nautical observations were made at noon by the ship's officers, we were in latitude 20° south, and longitude 155° 38' west. Our course was north 50° east. We were 176 miles from Mangaia and 318 from Raiatea. I spent most of the day thinking he is the only Elder who ever visited this group for missionary purposes.

The four islands named are the four principal members of the group which Captain Cook named the Society Islands in 1769; but there are five other islands or system of islands—for there is generally a number of them bearing a common name inclosed by the same coral reef. Thus we have Motuiti, lying north, and Maupiti west of Borabora. Still further west are the coral islands, Mapetia, Bellingshausen and Sally, the latter being the uninhabited island on the coral reef of which the unfortunate barque "Julia Ann," was wrecked enroute from Australia to California with a company of Saints in 1855. The present population of the whole group, or the islands named in the foregoing does not exceed 5,000, of whom 600 are on Borabora, Tapiti and adjacent islands were not originally included in the Society group.

As we continued our voyage from Huahine we took a southeasterly course for Tahiti, about one hundred miles away. About 3 p. m., the island of day conversing with the ship's officers and passengers.

Sunday, February 2nd. I spent part of the day reading. At noon we were only eighty-seven miles from Raiatea, and early in the afternoon the mountainous outlines of that historical island were seen straight ahead. A little later the islands of Tahaa and Borabora, all members of the society group, were visible a little to the left of Raiatea. At 3:30 p. m. the machinery was stopped in order to make some slight repairs, and we "laid by" for about an hour. When we resumed the voyage, we only proceeded forward slowly, as we would not be able to land at Raiatea till the next morning owing to the dangerous reef through which we would have to pass by daylight. The night was dark until the moon arose, when the voyage around the south end of Raiatea became very interesting. I stood on the bridge conversing with the captain till a late hour. The ship, after reaching the east side of the island "stood off and on" till morning.

Monday, February 3rd. Just after the dawn of day the Richmond was enabled to run through the narrow passage of the coral reef, and soon reached the stone wharf at Uturoa, the main village of Raiatea, which is situated on the northeast coast of the island, looking over toward Tahaa, the neighboring island. Both islands are enclosed by the same coral reef, and the four mile wide channel between them is not passable

for ships, except by very careful manipulations following the various windings or narrow passages through the coral reef. Both islands are of volcanic formation and present a general tropical appearance. Raiatea has about 2,000 and Tahaa 1,000 inhabitants, nearly all natives. On landing at Uturoa, Raiatea, we found the people in their holiday attire, it being Sunday with them, which indeed is the correct time, as this island lies in 151° 32' longitude west from Greenwich. I took a long walk along the road following the beach, and conversed with quite a number of natives who could talk a little English. The south end of the island is in a state of rebellion against the French government, and as a matter of protection to themselves the people have hoisted the British colors. It mattered not that a French man-of-war came along a short time ago and shot and pulled down a number of these flags; for as soon as the soldiers had gone away they hoisted them again. The queen of the island have accepted of French protection, and keeps the protectorate flag waving from her domicile, which is located somewhat centrally on the east coast. The north end, or the part of the island where we landed has declared itself French altogether. Thus there are three parties on this little island, of which one hoists the French, the other the French protectorate and the third the British flag. The natives generally favor the British government, which seems to have done them a flagrant injustice by selling them for a "mess of pottage." It seems that in the controversy between England and France in regard to their respective New Zealand possessions, England finally agreed to give up her claim on the Society islands to the French, in consideration of France relinquishing her claim to her infant colony in New Zealand; but it seems that the natives of the Society group, who, for causes pretty well known, has learned to love the English and hate the French, never were properly consulted in this matter and don't ever understand the situation now; as they are still expecting Great Britain to come to their rescue and protect them against what they call the aggressions of the French. On the other hand the French authorities are endeavoring to gain the confidence and good will of the natives by pursuing a mild and lenient policy toward them; and they expect that peace will finally be established on that basis. The neighboring islands of Huahine and Borabora have already yielded to French rule, though the former held out for a long time. In order to preserve the peace and protect life and property, about one hundred French mariners are quartered on Raiatea at present. The white population of the island does not exceed twenty-five or thirty all told; most of these are American, British and German traders; there are only two or three Frenchmen on the island, besides the soldiers. Most of the business of the group is carried on by the British. A son of the late Elder Benjamin F. Grouard, one of the first Latter day Saint missionaries sent to the Society islands is said to reside on this island.

After stopping just three hours at the wharf, the Richmond continued her voyage at 9 o'clock a. m., and "stood off" in an easterly direction for Huahine, twenty-five miles away. The weather was in an unsettled state, and we en-