

MISCELLANEOUS.

Written for this Paper.

JENSON'S TRAVELS.

LETTER NO. VI.

LAIE, OAHU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, May 31st, 1895—Thursday May 30th. After attending to some writing and business matters in Honolulu, Brother Edwin C. Dibble hitched up the mule team which Elder Matthew Noall had brought over from Laie, and took Brother Noall and family and myself out for a ride. This was the American decoration day, which is observed here the same as in the United States. I was surprised to see so many Stars and Stripes floating from business blocks and private residences, but was reminded that nearly everything in the Hawaiian nation is patterned after American institutions, and that the new government is in such close sympathy with the United States that a visitor, were he to judge from the spirit and influence surrounding him, might easily imagine himself on Uncle Sam's domain.

On my arrival at Honolulu yesterday I was somewhat disappointed at the appearance of the place; but as I traveled up and down its principal streets I liked it better and better. The neat cozy residence of the more wealthy citizens surrounded by fine tropical orchards, the extensive parks, respectable business blocks, government buildings, well-paved streets and macadamized roads can not fail to make a favorable impression upon the stranger. The appearance of Honolulu and vicinity, as viewed from the sea is deceptive as to size and extent, owing to the dense shrubbery growing along the seashore from Diamond Head on the southeast to the Kamehameha schools on the northwest, a distance of six miles. It is after the visitor lands and begins to observe the leading features of the city and the novelty of everything around him that he is struck with the great change from American or European scenery. A wealth of tropical foliage with its brilliant colors and the dwellings with their broad verandas shaded with vines covered with flowers attract attention wherever one goes. There are also stately royal palms, whose trunks are as smooth and round as if they had been turned on a lathe, and carrying in their tops mammoth pinnated leaves twenty and thirty feet long and of proportionate width. The beautiful algaroba with its graceful leaves, fir palms, pepper and encalyptus trees and many other kinds of beautiful shade trees are seen on every hand. The fruit bearing trees are even more numerous. Most of them have been imported from Mexico, South America and the East and West Indies. Among them are date and coco palms, chirimoyas and mountain apples, mangoes, bananas and pomegranates, tamarinds and bread fruit, the rose apple (producing a delicious fruit of the taste and fragrance of the rose) the avocado-pear (transplanted from South America) and many others. Among the great variety of flowers which pleases the eye, are magnificent oleanders, tuchias, geraniums and morning glories, which, generally speaking, for size and luxuriance eclipse anything of the kind in the United States.

The present number of inhabitants in

Honolulu is about 25,000, made up of about 10,000 natives and half whites, about 4,500 Chinese, 2,000 Japanese, and the remainder Americans and Europeans. The Chinese occupy one section of the city and the Portuguese another, but the bulk of the population live intermixed. Notwithstanding this mixture of races, there has never been much exhibition of race prejudices or jealousies, as is shown by their free commercial and social intercourse. The English language is predominant and strangers familiar with it will find no difficulty in getting along, either on the streets or in the stores.

All the newspapers published on the Hawaiian Islands are published at Honolulu. There are ten or twelve periodicals published in English; some of these are daily, others weekly and monthly. Four or five papers are published in the Hawaiian and two each in Chinese, Japanese and Portuguese.

The harbor of Honolulu was discovered by the captain of a trading vessel, November 21st, 1794, who named it Fairhaven, and Honolulu, in the Hawaiian language has the same meaning. Though small, it is perfectly safe in all kinds of weather, being completely landlocked. Its entrance is through the coral reef which surrounds the islands and is deep enough to admit the largest ships afloat in the ocean.

Honolulu is the capital of the Hawaiian Islands, and the only town of commercial importance in the group. The business part of the city is situated near the harbor, Fort street being the principal thoroughfare. The private residences, most of which stand in their own gardens, extend two miles up the historical Nuuanu Valley, two miles toward the suburban town of Waikiki and two miles westward.

Since June, 1846, when the ship Brooklyn en-route from New York to California with a company of about two hundred Saints on board, touched at Honolulu, the place was figured somewhat prominently in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The two hundred and fifty missionaries who have been sent from the headquarters of the Church to labor on the Hawaiian Islands have all landed at and departed from Honolulu excepting those who have not yet returned. Most of the Elders en-route for the other islands of the Pacific (the Society Islands excepted) as well as New Zealand, Australia and India have called at Honolulu on their way out and back. Nearly all the Elders who are appointed to labor on the different islands of the Hawaiian group sail from and arrive at Honolulu as they are assigned to their respective fields of labor from time to time. It is also the common post-office address for all our missionaries laboring on the Hawaiian Islands. On the arrival of mails from America, all letters and papers addressed to the missionaries find their way to Box 410 Honolulu where the president of the Honolulu branch receives them and redirects all mail matter to those of the Elders who are laboring outside of Honolulu, he always being posted in regard to their whereabouts. This is done right at the post-office without being obliged to pay extra local postage. There has

been a branch of the Church in Honolulu since 1853, and at the present time it is the largest branch in the mission, containing as it does about 560 members. Elder Edwin C. Dibble is president. The branch has a fine meeting house erected in 1888 under the superintendency of Elder Matthew Noall. The main building is a frame structure, 30x50 feet with a well proportioned tower on the east end. It stands on Punchbowl street, about a mile from the harbor. Adjoining it is the missionary's cottage, with four rooms on the main floor, which has been the temporary home of many an Elder in past years, and may do service as such for many years to come.

In our drive today we visited the beautiful suburban town Waikiki, where we called on an old faithful member of the Church called Holika. She is the president of the Relief Society in Waikiki, and during her long experience in the Church she has made the acquaintance of many of the Elders from Zion who have labored as missionaries on these islands. She mentioned a number of them, but seemed particularly interested in President Joseph F. Smith who was among those who have visited her in her home. She lives in a native hut with thatched roof; but owns a comfortable lumber dwelling standing nearby, the interior of which she keeps very tidy and clean; the walls are covered with photographs of Elders and other Saints. We also visited the Kapiolani Park, lying on the seashore and extending out to the Diamond Point; and returning we drove to the top of Punchbowl hill, from which a fine view is obtained of Honolulu and harbor, also of the country bordering on the noted Pearl Harbor westward, as well as toward the interior of the island.

The Saints in Honolulu are generally poor, and since the overthrow of the monarchy a great number of them, refusing to take the oath of allegiance to the new government, have been thrown out of employment. Nearly all the natives seem to be opposed in their hearts to the dethronement of the queen, and look upon the whole affair as a treacherous scheme concocted by the "missionaries" and other white adventures, who have grown rich on the expense of the Hawaiian people in many instances. They look hopefully to the United States government for justice, and think that their queen will shortly be restored to the throne and the present temporary government be forced to vacate in her favor. Though everything is quite and peace reigns supreme at present, it is evident that the troubles are not yet over, nor is the dissatisfaction by any means confined to the natives, but many influential people among the whites—those particularly who failed to become office-holders under the new government are not in sympathy with the present administration.

Our brethren here are taking no part whatever in political affairs, but they have in many instances suffered under the suspicion that they were in sympathy with the other white people, who pretend great friendship for the natives, but who in reality are their secret enemies. On this account whole branches of the Church have actually withered away or died spiritually; and the Elders laboring on the respective islands have had experiences in this connection different to anything had by