

lives by its merchandise in religion. That is, it is not a great place to exchange views or to obtain new doctrines. Few succeed here. This is a place to see and to worship. Here are shrines in abundance and people go to see or to worship at these. People are very fanatical here. They think but little of one another, and the spirit of murder is in their hearts. Often they think it a virtue to die in some way in or around these shrines, where one need really be careful. Christian, Mohammedan and Jew alike were alert. The Jews are probably the weakest, hence they suffer the worst, but had they the power, some radical affairs would certainly occur.

Brother Nishan and Brother Maycock were strolling around in the church of the Holy Sepulcher where there are many dark nooks and corners. They were followed by a Christian who mistook them for Jews, who began to pick a row with them, and it seemed for a while as though blood might be shed, until they got into daylight, when the affair ended.

Go where you will, some ridiculous story is told of some miraculous find or of some place where some man of note had put his foot, as though God was pleased with our reverence of these places.

Nevertheless here is business, a good deal of money is spent in and around Jerusalem. New discoveries of antiquity are made every year. In the last few years a large reservoir, or tank, of ages past, probably from the fourth century, was shown us. It is an immense affair. Probably it is seventy-five yards long and thirty yards wide, and very deep. It holds an immense body of water. This magnificent piece of work has been hid for centuries. It is mason work all through, well arched and calculated to last till Christ shall come, and it probably will if no serious accident happens. A little ways from there, part of the old walls of Jerusalem have been unearthed, the gateway and the steps. It is, of course, believed our Savior walked there, and as it is near a church of the Holy Sepulcher it is believed He bore His cross here. Many of these facts are interesting enough. We also visited the Mosque of Omer and the Mosque of El Aksa, both on the temple grounds, the former occupying the place where the altar of sacrifice once stood. The temple itself is believed stood off to the west from that. A detailed description of these places would be tiresome to the readers, inasmuch as it has been written up several times. But suffice it to say that the Mohammedans are not behind the Christians in having found great things of no value. Under this rock in the Mosque of Omer they have found a place where Mohammed stood and prayed and whence he attempted to go to heaven through the rock. As he could not, he, of course, made (?) a great indentation in the rock. Afterwards he was told to go to the center, where the stone gave way and let him through. The stone itself wanted to go with him, and to prevent it, God sent the Angel Gabriel, who put his fingers into the rock and held it down. To such humbug they treat the credulous pilgrims. They also claim to have three hairs in a sacred chest in the Mosques which they claim to be off Mohammed's head, and by others to be off Fathirara's hair. These will be stretched over the valley of Jehosaphat and all mankind are to walk over. The good, will, of course, cross very easy, while the wicked will fall down into hell, which they have located so uncomfortably close to a holy place. A good Mussulman, after quietly listening to all the wonderful things told, also came to this place and was told of the trial or test he would some time be put to in order to reach the

Mount of Olives by crossing this valley on three hairs. He answered: I am a horseman; I will just jump on one of my steeds and ride up around yonder hill; it is far easier.

The Mount of Olives is also built up so that one could not recognize the old land marks without study. When one contemplates the footing that Catholics and Protestants are obtaining in this land, and the push they are exhibiting in rearing beautiful buildings and planting nice gardens, one may justly wonder what strange thing will really happen to give this city to the Jews.

Emperor William of Germany will grace us with a visit in person this fall to dedicate a church to St. John, and then he will come and swim with us here in Haifa in the Mediterranean.

On the 9th we baptized two men from Aintab in Jerusalem. The ordinance was performed in the well of St. Mary in the valley of Jehosaphat. The well is underground about fifty feet, it being reached by substantial steps. I have baptized many before on the surface of the earth, but not many under the surface. We have thus proved by this, the first ordinance of the kind in this dispensation in Jerusalem, that there is water enough to baptize by immersion, although it is a dryer country now than ever before.

F. F. HINTZ.

From Australia.

Of a private letter to Brother William Salmon, the "News" has been permitted to publish the subjoined:

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

April 28, 1898.

My journey to this far off land "neath the southern cross" was a pleasant one. Leaving home, friends and family in Salt Lake on the evening of Jan. 5th, 1898, I arrived on the land of my destination on Feb. 6th following, having been nearly 28 of the intervening days on the ocean. The voyage was on the whole very pleasant to me, as I was fortunate in escaping seasickness, and got considerable time for reading and study, besides taking in all the sights afforded. I also had the pleasure of lecturing to the passengers on the mission I bore.

The stay at Honolulu, Hawaii, was particularly enjoyable, after a rough voyage of about seven days, during the most of which time it was extremely cold, as here we found the most veritable paradise of beautiful shrubbery, trees, flowers and fruit we had ever beheld. Space will not permit, otherwise a brief description of our bicycle ride of several hours to the plantations of rice, sugar cane and bananas, and groves of oranges, craters of extinct volcanoes, etc., would be interesting.

At Luva, Fiji Islands, I was much diverted studying the peculiar formations of those islands, sometime hoisted out of the sea, and the character of the woolly-haired, dark-skinned natives, once bearing the name of cannibals. Some of the latter are finely developed specimens, physically, of manhood, but their meagre dress—usually but a breech-cloth about the loins in the case of the men, and often little more in case of the women—their bushy hair extending on every side of the head far enough to be useful as a face-shade and always more or less imperfectly dyed white, or bleached with lime, their peculiar manner, language and customs, made them the strangest people I had ever seen. We also saw there numbers of Hindostanese or East Indians, brought there to work in the plantations. Although some of these were men of educational attainments, they seem to be a rather low grade of humanity.

Our stay at New Zealand was but a few hours, at Wellington. This time we spent very pleasantly principally in visiting friends living there. There was little new or strange to see, and the

best views we got of the two great islands of New Zealand were those we took as we sailed along the west coast and through Cook's strait, which separates the islands. It seemed to us the land of storms, and it was in that locality we experienced the roughest seas I had ever seen.

We arrived in Sydney on Sunday. This may be said to be the principal city of Australia, and is four or five times as large as Salt Lake. We felt relieved and happy as we dropped into a little Sacrament meeting of the Latter-day Saints about 3 o'clock p. m., at Newtown, or Erskineville, a suburb of Sydney. We felt what was next nearest like home as we began to associate with the little branch of Saints located there. In the evening my companion and Brother C. D. Fox, had the pleasure of addressing a meeting of Saints and strangers, and about five days later, after spending the intervening time in visiting points of interest, we were appointed our fields of labor. I was appointed to come to Brisbane, Queensland, and succeed Brother William Armstrong as president of this conference. I was accompanied here on my voyage of over 500 miles by Andrew Smith Jr., president of the mission. We had a very rough voyage, but I again wholly escaped seasickness. I found here a branch of about sixty resident Saints, and since taking the presidency of the conference I have been kept very busy laboring among both Saints and strangers. It has devolved upon me in addition to directing the affairs of the Elders to have the general direction of the branch, which is organized and presided over by local Priesthood (presiding Priests), to superintend the Sunday school, which has about sixty members, preside over the Mutual Improvement association, etc. I have also been tracting a good deal, visiting investigators, etc. Sacrament meetings are held in the branch every Sunday, also Relief Society meetings, etc., and every Sunday evening a meeting is held in a large hall designed for strangers. This is well attended by Saints and by some strangers. Brisbane is said to have a little upward of 100,000 inhabitants. To one brought up in Utah it presents a decidedly peculiar character. All the dwelling houses are set on posts four to ten feet high, after the manner of corncribs at home, to get out of the way of dampness and insects—and I may add floods. The whole landscape here presents a very green appearance, as there is much vacant space, especially in the suburbs, and this is always covered with grass, nearly as clear and even as a lawn. Trees here grow all the year round, and it is very common to see shrubs or trees in blossom while having both half matured and ripe fruit upon them. While you in Salt Lake were having the coldest weather in thirty years, I was experiencing the most intense heat I ever felt. This was just before a storm, which broke up the summer. We are now having late autumn, but the days are nearly as hot as they get there in summer. Early in the morning it is a little cool, though it does not come near freezing.

The people here think much of Americans and all sympathize with the United States in the present unpleasantness with Spain.

In reference to religion, however, there is a great deal of indifference and occasionally some opposition.

There are now seven Elders in this conference. Two—Elders Hamilton and Robison—have but recently undertaken a new field, Maryborough, a seaport city about 160 miles north of here. They have succeeded in arousing a great deal of interest or concern in that com-