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THE ELDERS AND THEIR
WORK.

TO DAY we surrender a liberal share of our available space to communications from the Sandwich Islands Mission, giving an interesting description of late proceedings at the Laie plantation. The presence of the King, his taking a personal part in the dedication ceremonies of the new house of worship and joining in the festivities of the occasion are notable incidents in the history of the Mission. The compliment he paid to the Saints does him as much credit as it did them. He frankly and generously stated that the people of the Laie plantation, the gathering place of the Latter-day Saints in that quarter of the globe, were among the best subjects of his realm. His Majesty spoke advisedly, as his opinion was based upon personal investigation.

The condition of the Sandwich Islands Mission is a striking example of the nature of the work of regeneration being performed by what the people abroad call "Mormonism." It also exhibits the qualities of the indefatigable and devoted men who constitute the adherents and propagators of the principles of the system. From the time the Gospel was first introduced upon the Islands it found a large number of people ready to accept the message. There is a law in existence, however, that forbids the native population from emigrating to other parts of the world without a special permit from the King. It was necessary under these circumstances, to establish a gathering place on the Islands. The Laie plantation was purchased, has been operated by the missionary brethren for many years, and forms the headquarters of the Mission, to which the Saints gather and are there furnished with employment.

We need not state that the Hawaiian population have, as a rule, descended very low in the scale of being. This is too well known to need more than a passing reference. This condition has made the labors of the Elders sent there more than ordinarily arduous, requiring great stretches of faith, patience and energy. Upon them has not only devolved the duty of becoming familiar with a strange language and preaching the gospel of faith, repentance, baptism for the remission of sins, the imparting of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands, and the subsequent leading of a new and better life, but they have in most instances also been under the necessity of laboring diligently with their hands, and teaching those who identified themselves with the Church, in every practical way, how to walk in accordance with the doctrines of the Gospel, whose precepts enter into the everyday affairs of life. It will be seen by what is published to-day, that some mention is made of temporal labors performed by the brethren, who receive no monetary reward for their work. Their business from the beginning has been to turn the tide of life from a downward tendency, to an incline to higher and nobler conditions. How well this work has been done is evinced by the substantial showing of the reports published to-day, and the acknowledgment of King Kalakaua, who esteems the Saints as among his best subjects.

In their devotion, their untiring energy, their faith and unflinching courage, the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints set a noble example to the world, while the fruits of their labors, performed amid adverse circumstances and under the frown of the world, stand conspicuously to their credit in a certain sense, although not in

another, as they themselves give the glory to God who sustains them under trial and gives the fruition of their efforts. It might well be queried as to where else men could be found in the ordinary ranks of life, willing to leave their homes for several years at a stretch, and devote themselves exclusively to the interests of humanity without the incentive of a temporal reward.

The compliment paid by the King of the Sandwich Islands to the members of the Church under his sovereignty is highly creditable to him. It is a good example to the chief men of other nations much more advanced in civilized methods. If the "Mormons" were treated as they deserve to be, they would receive the same consideration from every source. The labors of the Elders have the same tendency wherever applied, as the effects of the doctrines of the Gospel never differ. It is a work of regeneration and general improvement in temporal and spiritual affairs. It is exhibited here to a remarkable extent. The people gather from every quarter of the globe, and if they abide in the genius of the system, advancement and progress is the result. The effects of this onward course is specially observable in the great bulk of the generation now rising in this community. As a whole they are a splendid race of young people.

The works performed by the Elders of this Church manifest beyond all successful contradiction that they are the practical friends of humanity, and being such are the most abused, maligned and misrepresented class on the globe. But in meeting with a flood of popular vindictive opposition and being totally misunderstood, they but share the lot of all genuine reformers from the earliest historic times. Some fine day the world will wake up and do justice to their motives, their labors and their productions. Until that day of justice comes, they will go on with the good work, surmounting every obstacle and gaining experience beyond all price.

SANDWICH ISLANDS MISSION.

INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF ITS CONDITION—DEDICATION OF THE NEW MEETING HOUSE ATTENDED BY THE KING AND PARTY—THE SAINTS NUMBERED AMONG HIS BEST SUBJECTS—PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE.

LAIE, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands,
October 11th, 1883.

Editor Deseret News:

Many of your readers are interested in matters pertaining to this mission, which is my only apology for writing to you at this time. The corner-stones of our new church at this place were laid on the 6th of April, 1882, by Elder Harry H. Cluff, assisted by the other Elders of the Sandwich Islands mission, the King also taking part in the ceremonies. Since that time some of the Elders have labored steadily upon the building until the day it was dedicated, the 6th of October, 1883, and others have labored when occasion required. Elders J. B. Meldrum, E. M. Hanson and H. A. Woolley performed the carpenter work and Brother Carl Anderson painted the outside and Elders B. M. Young and C. A. Brim the inside. The building is a frame one, with substantial rock foundations, 35x65 feet, 19 feet ceiling, with three centre pieces turned, from which depend chandeliers. There are six large windows on each side, 11 feet in height. From the ground to the top of belfry is 58 feet, and a 14 feet flag pole above that. Two flights of stairs lead to the singers' gallery. The bell weighs 210 pounds. The inside of the building is tastefully finished and painted, and provided with comfortable seats to accommodate 550 people or more. Further description I will omit.

Great preparations were made for the dedication on the 6th. The King and Queen being expected to attend, the people had been gathering from this and other islands for several days, and by the morning of the 6th there were a great many people on the land who began to assemble early to be ready to meet his Majesty when he should arrive, he having sent word of his intention to come by special steamer and return the same day. The sea was quite rough and the steamer late in making her appearance. Besides there was considerable delay in our pilot reaching the vessel and those on board were unacquainted with the coast. It is considered by many a

dangerous place for vessels to land, especially in rough weather. His Majesty expressed some doubts about being able to get in, but the native pilot assured him that there was no danger, and the pilot was given charge of the vessel and he brought her through the reef all right, but it did look fearful to see the little steamer apparently almost at the mercy of the angry waves and white-crested breakers, tossed about like a bubble upon the mighty deep. It was eleven o'clock by the time a landing was effected. Appropriate committees had been appointed to attend to all of the details of the proceeding. His Majesty was met on board of the steamer by Elder Kinkimakahia, who, in a short speech informed him of the programme of proceedings, and a committee was ready to receive him at the landing, where a brief address of welcome was read by Elder J. B. Rhead in English, and a similar one in Hawaiian by Elder Kalehano. A mounted escort of twenty-five men led by Elder S. E. Woolley accompanied the party from the beach. The two large gates through which the party had to pass were beautifully decorated with wreaths and festoons of fern leaves, with flags fluttering in the breeze, and appropriate notices as follows, over the first gate which opens into the pasture in large letters, "Welcome to Laie," and on the reverse side, which would be seen as the party departed, "Farewell All." Above the second gate on an arch were the words, "Eia man ka Mo'i." (Long Live the King), and on the opposite side "Hui Hooulu Lahui," with an imitation of a crown underneath the arch. Between the two gates a distance of about a quarter of a mile the natives were formed in line on either side of the road, and the Sunday school from the second gate to the house. The Kahana choir were stationed at the beach, the Honolulu choir at the first gate, and the Laie choir at our residence. They all sang appropriate pieces, the words having been composed expressly for the occasion, and as the party passed between the lines they were cheered repeatedly. At the last gate his Majesty dismounted and was met by Elders H. A. Woolley and L. B. Nainoa, who conducted him to the President of the Mission, who received him on the veranda, and with a few words welcomed his Majesty to Laie, to which the King responded with a few appropriate remarks, and then was introduced to the rest of the Elders and the ladies.

After changing apparel—the King dressing in spotless white—and lunch being served we proceeded to the new meeting house, where the congregation were already seated or as many of them as could get into the building. Upon the entrance of the King the people all arose upon their feet and the choir sang: "Hawaii Pono," the national hymn. The people remaining standing until the King was seated. After the dedicatory services were over His Majesty being invited made some very interesting remarks, praising the people for the evidences of their enterprise, expressing his astonishment in beholding so fine an edifice, which far exceeded all his expectations, encouraged the people to continue in the good work they had begun.

Mr. John Cummings made a few remarks in the same strain. During the services several pieces appropriate to the occasion were well rendered by the choir.

At the close of the meeting we attended a native feast which was prepared in our old meeting house in true Hawaiian style. After all being seated upon the floor in primitive fashion, some of us were a little non-plussed at first on discovering that no knives, forks, or spoons had been provided, but being in royal company we concluded the royal example and the admonitions of the Apostle Paul to those who go among the Romans. The ladies of the royal party appeared perfectly at home at the business, but the efforts of our ladies to eat pol with their fingers were rather amusing. Apparently, however, the Elders who had traveled and lived among the natives were not at a loss how to proceed, but went at the business of eating in true Hawaiian style, and with a true Hawaiian relish. After eating and changing apparel, the party returned to the beach and embarked for Honolulu. The natives presented His Majesty with some hogs, bananas, etc. As the boat shoved off we gave three cheers, which were responded to by His Majesty swinging his hat and cheering in return.

The King was only accompanied by Mr. John Cummings, who owns the steamer *Waimanalo* which brought the party here, a boy, four ladies and servants.

Everything passed off pleasantly. His Majesty appearing a gentleman in every respect. He expressed himself well pleased with his visit and the reception given him. The *Honolulu Gazette* barely mentions the affair in its locale, in a rather contemptuous manner, the other papers I have not yet seen. The *Gazette* is an opposition paper and is bitterly opposed to the administration, the King and all who render any homage to him, such things as that do not particularly annoy us, slurs and ridicule can hardly disturb us, being so used as we are to more pointed attacks from both the press and the pulpit that we do not deem them worthy of particular notice unless they contain falsehoods—old ones rehearsed or new ones manufactured for the occasion. And while we render to kings and rulers the homage due to their high position, it does not follow that we endorse all their unwise and unrighteous acts. We accord to others the right to oppose in every legal manner possible the wrong doing of public officials. We have nothing in particular to gain by taking sides with the contending factions of government, and prefer to attend to our legitimate business.

Thus ended the visit of King Kalakaua to the dedication of the Laie Church. The Queen sent a note expressing her regrets at not being able to attend in consequence of the serious illness of her sister, the governess of the Island of Hawaii. The Queen's sister Kekauiki was also quite anxious to come, thinking it would improve her health, but was too weak to make the attempt. Your Brother in the Gospel.

EDWARD PARTRIDGE.

SANDWICH ISLANDS SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The largest congregation of Saints that perhaps ever assembled in Conference capacity upon these Islands, assembled in our new meeting-house at Laie, Oahu, in the forenoon of October 6th, 1883, on the occasion of its dedication to the Lord.

The house was crowded to its utmost capacity (between 500 and 600) with hundreds on the outside unable to obtain seats within.

Present on the stand: President E. Partridge and Utah Elders 15 in number; also His Majesty King Kalakaua I, first crowned king of the Hawaiian Islands, and Mr. John Cummings, who accompanied him. Three choir—Laie, Kahana and Honolulu—were in their positions in the "singer's" gallery.

At 12 o'clock noon, the meeting was called to order by President Partridge.

Singing by the Laie choir, prayer by Brother James H. Gardener. Singing by the Kahana choir.

Prest. Partridge made a few remarks on the object of our present gathering. Requested all to be as quiet as possible, that we might enjoy the peaceable influence of the Holy Spirit. Said it had been the intention to read the names of all those who had donated for the house, but all the names were not yet obtained, and the time was short, therefore it would be left until another time. He then read the meeting-house report, showing: Receipts, donation labor, foreign, \$3,231.75; native \$188; tithing donations \$500; other cash donations \$4,027.63; total \$7,947.58. All had been expended except \$390, which is reserved, as was agreed upon, to pay the passage home of the Elders who had built the house, and \$28.97, which will be expended in completing the painting of the house.

An appropriate song composed for the occasion was then sung by the choir.

Prest. Partridge offered the dedicatory prayer.

After which he invited His Majesty to address the congregation. He responded, expressing himself as highly pleased with again meeting with the Latter-day Saints. Said he was here at the laying of the corner stone in April, 1882, at which time he enjoyed himself exceedingly well, but now his pleasure was ten-fold greater. Our house was splendid and did us credit, was far beyond his expectations. He was pleased to see our oneness, and urged us to continue our good works. Said the Saints were his best subjects in fulfilling the laws and keeping the peace of the kingdom. He could not speak long nor yet re-

main long, as pressing engagements called him elsewhere. Her Majesty the Queen very much regretted that she could not accompany him, being detained by the serious illness of her sister the Governess of Hawaii. She had sent a letter of regrets; but because of the shortness of the time, he would not read it. (He gave it to President Partridge, Mr. Cummings being invited to read it addressed us as "The true Christians.") Said he would not detain us long, but wished to express his approval of our good works, etc.

Meeting was then adjourned until October 7th, at 10 a.m., and adjourned to the old meeting house where a mammoth Hawaiian feast was awaiting.

On the 7th, three meetings were held, and rich and varied instructions given. The first two meetings were occupied by the foreign Elders speaking principally upon the subjects of the Priesthood, the gifts and blessings pertaining thereto, and the gathering of the Saints. President Partridge said that our meeting house was now finished, and he would like the Relief Societies to take hold of another work, that of building a Relief Society house here at Laie, the land of gathering. For this purpose \$276.60 had already been donated. He also wished Saints to assist in organizing a band, as Elder Fox was being prepared to teach them when the instruments were obtained; with estimated cost of the instruments was \$350, and that \$50 had been donated for the purpose, was put to vote and unanimously sustained. The evening meeting was principally occupied by twelve Elders.

Three meetings were also held on the 8th. The forenoon was mostly occupied by the Elders who had been laboring as Presidents upon the different islands in giving their reports. All had enjoyed themselves well in their labors, had been well received by the people and had returned enjoying good health and spirits. They reported the Saints improving slowly; there are still great many evils to be remedied, much labor to be done among the Saints as well as sinners. Reports were: Statistical—Old members, 3,190; new baptisms of this term of six months, 289; moved, 99; deaths, 77; excommunicated, 53; number of children under eight years of age of whom 77 have been blessed this term, 496; total number of souls at the present time, 3,689. Financial missionary fund Amount in treasury April 6th, 1883, \$84.86; received, \$241.55; disbursed, \$170.20; amount in treasury, \$256.21.

President Partridge spoke of genealogy of the Hawaiian race also of the seed of Ephraim, God was no respecter of persons, those who did His will and kept commandments were accepted Him as His children.

In the forepart of the afternoon the General and Local Authorities were presented and sustained. The remainder of the meeting was occupied by the Presidents and Elders from the various branches reporting the same, and bearing their testimonies.

In the evening the reports of Relief Societies, Y. M. and Y. W. L. Associations and Sunday school were read showing: Number of Relief Societies 15, number of members 347, number of Mutual Improvement associations 8, members 5, number of Sabbath schools 9, pupils 289. Full reports will be forwarded to the proper authorities in time, suffice it to say here they are progressing finely and doing much good among the people, especially among the younger portion.

Several native Elders spoke briefly upon the principles of the Gospel. By unanimous vote of the conference Elder H. A. Woolley was honorably released to return home at an absence of nearly three years.

The remaining Elders were sustained to their fields of labor as follows: Elders George Cluff and Fox to Kona, Hawaii; J. B. Rhead and Jno. Meldrum to Kohala, Hawaii; Wm. G. Farrell and W. C. Partridge to Maui, Molokai and Lanai; F. W. Marchant and E. M. Hanson to Kaula and S. E. Woolley to Oahu. M. E. Pack tutor of the English school of Lahenei, and Prest. Partridge, Elders A. A. Brim, B. M. Young and V. R. Miller to remain upon the plantation.

Elders J. H. Gardner, S. E. Woolley and J. B. Rhead made additional remarks and explanations of what had been said during the conference. Elder H. A. Woolley spoke a few moments expressing his love for the Saints and the joy in