

here, but if they have lost money in the past they are surely getting it back now, with a good big interest, for everything has the appearance of prosperity. Besides seeing the things mentioned above, were cotton, castor-oil trees, and the finest patch of pine-apples that I have ever seen. They were all young, however, so we got but one small ripe one to eat. The cotton plant grows very luxuriantly in this country, but does not appear to yield so well as that grown in the Southern States. The downy substance of the cotton raised here does not have that same beautiful whiteness about it which is characteristic of the cotton produced down in the South.

After rambling about over the plantation for an hour or so, we returned to the house again and President B., having his little "kodak" along, took a number of pictures of the family and house, and also of some "black boys"—natives of the Solomon Islands—that have come here to work for the Germans.

The object of our visit being over, we turned our faces seaward and in much less time than we had been in going up we were at the bottom of the long slope again and soon found our way to the Mission home. The surprise had worked like a charm, and we had returned just in time to find two good-sized tables loaded with such luxuries as we Mormon Elders on Samoa can seldom afford to enjoy. There was bread, potatoes, pudding, chicken, etc., spread out before us. Immediately in front of President B. a nice cake was placed, bearing on its top, in pure, white frosting, his name and birthday. After partaking of this delightful repast, songs, music on the harmonica, etc., were indulged in for a short time. On retiring, each expressed himself as well pleased with the day's proceedings. It is the writer's humble opinion that a more genial company of young folks than that at the Samoan Mission home last evening would be difficult to find. In fact, it has been a subject of considerable conversation among ourselves how nicely we always get along together.

The Elders here are all quite young, and, in many instances, have had but very little experience in preaching the Gospel or been away from home for any length of time; yet they soon learn to adapt themselves to their new conditions, circumstances and surroundings. The Spirit of the Lord seems to pervade every soul, and each appears to feel it his duty to do as much good as possible to his fellow man, both by kind words and good deeds. In this connection it may not be out of place to mention that the labors of the Lord's servants are being perceptibly felt for good, not alone amongst the native population, but a number of foreigners have lately identified themselves with the truth.

We are all in possession of good health and spirits, for which our hearts are filled with gratitude to our heavenly Father. Our approaching conference, which is to be held some time in October, is anxiously looked forward to by us all. It is then expected that the Elders and Saints from the several islands of this group will meet together here at Fagali, and a genuine time of rejoicing is anticipated. Thus the good work is progressing in this

far-away part of the Lord's vineyard.

The News is an ever-welcome visitor in our midst, and is always read with much pleasure and profit by us all. Although we are not all subscribers to that most worthy organ of the Church, yet we eagerly look forward to the time of its arrival, as within its pages we find much of great worth that serves us as a sweet morsel to our hungry souls, feeding them with the inspired words of the Prophets and Apostles of the Lord.

Ever praying for the continued prosperity and welfare of Zion, I am, yours in the Gospel of peace,

BETEFANO.

THE ADVICE WAS SOUND.

It seems strange that some people will "gnaw at a file;" that, however ridiculous a position they may take, however false the ideas they assert, they will stick to them, stay by them, and reassert them. It seems as though their life, their being, would cease to exist unless they were constantly showing up their own foolishness. This idea struck me when I read the criticism of the Salt Lake *Tribune* on the discourse of A. H. Cannon in the Tabernacle last Sunday. After reading Mr. Cannon's remarks,—or take the *Tribune* reporter's synopsis—no reasonable person would come to the conclusion that the advice was "immoral," "dishonest," or "vicious" as characterized by the *Tribune*. I assert that not only was the advice proper to be given, but that the idea underlying it is thoroughly engrafted into the spirit and genius of our American institutions.

The principle obtains in all the states of the Union, that the home of the debtor shall not be touched to satisfy the claims of creditors. The doctrine that everything a debtor may own, and that his person may be imprisoned for debt is a relic of the past. In Kansas, the state I formerly resided in, a constitutional provision gives a homestead of 160 acres, with all its improvements, irrespective of value, which is exempt from seizure and sale for debts. No one claims that that provision of the constitution is immoral, dishonest or vicious. The supreme court of that state has very decided views on that provision. In *Monroe vs May & Well* 9th Kansas, 476, it was claimed that in case of a husband deeding land to his wife the homestead quality did not attach, but the court said: "It was a matter of entire indifference whether the homestead was in the husband's or wife's name." In the same case the court says: "The homestead is something toward which the eye of the creditor need never be turned. It is an element which may never enter into his calculations in his effort to collect his debt." In 17 Kans. 531, the court says: "By our constitution and statutes the most sedulous care has been manifested to secure the homestead of the debtor and to his wife and family, as against all debts not expressly charged upon it." And later along, in *La Rue vs Gilbert*, 18 Kans. 222, Judge Brewer, now one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, said: "The preservation of the homestead is, under the policy of our laws, considered of

more importance than the payment of debts. That is what homestead means—exemption from debts. It is not so much for the debtor, as for the debtor's family. And the family of the debtor have in this respect equities superior to the creditor."

Is this principle, and the above reasoning, immoral, dishonest, vicious? If Mr. Cannon's remarks are, so are the above. Mr. Cannon, even according to the *Tribune*, did not advise that after the husband got in debt, then deed to the wife, but it claims that Mr. Cannon remarked:

"He thought it a capital idea for them to put the deed to their homes in their wife's name if she would promise never to part with it; then, if the husband met with reverse, the home would be left anyway."

The idea was the preservation of the home to the family, that whatever may be the reverse that the husband may fall into, his family should not be left without shelter and homeless. It is the same idea that causes the states to make exemption and homestead laws and causes the courts to say, "The preservation of the homestead is, under the policy of the law, considered of more importance than the payment of debts." Put this with what Mr. Cannon actually said: "I still think it a wise provision on the part of men who have homes to place their property in the hands of their wives—that is the home which she occupies and which she has helped to earn," and the advice is sound—sound in morals and sound in policy. A. SAXBY.

Provo, Sept. 12, 1893.

REJOINED HIS CHIEF.

The late Hamilton Fish was not as generally known as a man of his eminent public service and great attainments during a very long period should have been. He is claimed by the *Boston Herald*—itself a conservative paper—with the conservative forces in American statesmanship. He was originally a Whig, and came into the Republican party at a later day than most of its prominent members. He had little prominence or activity during the war, and never took kindly to the radicalism that later came to the front. He was not an office-seeker, and still less was he a man who countenanced the corruptions of politics. His influence over President Grant was very great, and it was claimed to be exerted to wise ends in the ordering of our relations with foreign countries. Aside from his complication with Senator Sumner and Minister Mokey, he left a good record in his office, and is generally regarded by the country as one of the ablest secretaries of state that have administered that department of the government. He lived to a great age, and the latter portion of it was in such absolute retirement that many in the country were unaware of his existence. He was 85 years old, and yet the dispatch informed us that his death was unexpected.

THE CORRESPONDENT who telegraphed so alarmingly concerning President Cleveland's health was probably typographically misreported. It is rumor, not tumor, from which the President has been suffering.