

States provides that all citizens of the latter country shall have full religious liberty in all territory under French jurisdiction. This, being the international law, is superior to the statutes referred to, so far as American citizens are concerned, and the United States government is under obligations to its citizens to see this treaty enforced with regard to them. Heretofore it has been fully observed by the French officials in Oceania until the violation by the present governors.

It will be observed that the edict is not alone against the Latter-day Saint, or Mormon, Elders, but is in effect directed against all American missionaries, these being represented in the three organizations named. There seems to have been found an excuse for the trouble over the use of the French flag by the schooner *Evangelia*, sent out by the Reorganized church. The governor refused permission to use this flag, but upon the representation of the American consul and the probability that such permission would be enforced by this government if necessary, the governor receded from his position. This was because of the treaty stipulation; and by virtue of the same rule the restriction now placed on American missionaries should be removed.

When Governor Martin instituted his crusade against the American missionaries, Governor Papineau was visited by the Elders and expostulated with. United States Consul Doty also called his attention to the unlawful character of the proceedings, but to all he turned a deaf ear. Finding personal remonstrance unavailing, and desiring to proceed unmolested with the preaching of the Gospel, the Elders, under the advice of the United States consul, made application to Governor Papineau for a license, as follows:

*To His Excellency, the Governor of the Colony of France, Oceania:*

Honorable Sir:—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly known as the "Mormon Church," is an organization, established agreeable to the laws of the Republic of the United States, which has for its object the promulgation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the uniting of all mankind into one common brotherhood of love and peace.

To accomplish this object missionaries are sent to all the nations of the earth, both civilized and uncivilized. Their duty is to teach all men to love their Creator with all their heart, to love their neighbors as themselves, to carefully obey the laws of health, to practice virtue, to honor and sustain the law of the land, and, in short, to live in complete harmony with nature and at peace with all men.

In May of the year 1844, two missionaries of said Church arrived at Tahiti, others subsequently came, and through their efforts branches of the Church were established on some eight or nine islands of the Tuamotu group, including Tahiti and Tubuai, and having a combined membership of between 1,500 and 2,000 souls. Some of them remained eleven years, or until the year 1854, or thereabouts. Subsequently, the population of the islands rapidly decreased, and this, combined with other causes, greatly reduced the membership of the Church.

In January, 1892, missionaries were again sent here by said Church, and they, with the aid of the natives, have established branches on some fifteen islands of the Tuamotu group, and also on Tubuai, comprising between 600 and 700 souls.

In the month of March, 1895, his excellency, Governor Martin, of Fakarava, verbally ordered Elders Cannon and Larsen, missionaries of said Church, to cease public preaching and teaching, under penalty of fine and imprisonment, without due process of court or any written charges being made against them, and at the same time refusing to issue a permit.

In the same month his excellency wrote to Elders Jones and Despain, at Takarua, forbidding the holding of a conference of the several branches of said Church on April 6th of the present year, threatening to hold them responsible if said conference was held (though the natives themselves have hitherto for forty years and do now hold such conferences irrespective of the presence of foreign missionaries), and instructing the governor and police of Takarua not to allow the conference to be held.

This also was done without due process of court or any specific charges being made against either the missionaries or the natives. The mandate of the governor was strictly obeyed. Elders Jones and Despain were also instructed by his excellency the governor to procure a license to preach, within three months, or be fined, imprisoned and banished.

Therefore, your petitioner humbly prays that Your Excellency will issue to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints a license, permitting it, through its agents, to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ without molestation to the people of all the islands under your jurisdiction.

Our teachings are such as will tend to produce a public sentiment that will greatly aid your excellency and aids in governing the people of this colony, tend to increase its stability, and insure domestic peace, for, in order for one to be a member of said Church, in good standing, it is absolutely necessary that he be a good citizen of the state, honest, law-abiding, thrifty and industrious.

We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, magistrates, in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law. We have no further desire other than to assist in bringing about a condition of peace, prosperity and happiness among the inhabitants of these isles and among all people.

Hoping to receive a favorable reply at your convenience, your petitioner will ever pray.

On behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

PAPERIE, Tahiti, April 20, 1895.

At the same time a request was made of the American consul that he use his influence to procure the license. The letter to Mr. Doty contains a repetition of much that is in the petition to Governor Papineau, but to preserve it in its entirety it is given here in full:

*To the Hon. J. L. Doty, U. S. Consul at Tahiti:*

Hon. Sir:—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly known as the "Mormon Church," is an organization established April 6, 1830, agreeable to the laws of the Republic of the United States, which has for its object the promulgation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the uniting of all mankind into one common brotherhood of love and peace.

To accomplish this object missionaries are sent to all the nations of the earth, both civilized and uncivilized. Their duty is to teach all men to love their Creator with all their heart, to love their neighbors as themselves, to carefully obey the laws of health, to practice virtue, to honor and sustain the law of the land, and, in short, to live in complete harmony with nature and at peace with all men.

On June 1st, 1843, Elders Addison

Pratt, B. F. Grouard, K. F. Hanks, and Noah Rogers left the city of Nauvoo, Ill., U. S. A., for the Society Islands, being sent by Joseph Smith, President of said Church. Elder Hanks died at sea, Pratt was left at Tubuai, and in May, 1844, Rogers and Grouard arrived at Tahiti; others subsequently came, among whom was Jas. S. Brown, Alva Hanks, and one Whitaker. A. Pratt was president of this mission, and under his supervision and through their efforts branches of the Church were established on some eight or nine islands of the Tuamotu group, including Tahiti and Tubuai, having a combined membership of between 1,500 and 2,000 souls.

About the year 1849, Elder Pratt returned to America and reported the result of his labors and the condition of the mission to B. Young, the successor of Jos. Smith as President of said Church, at Salt Lake City. He and Jas. S. Brown were immediately sent back by the Church and arrived at Tahiti sometime during the year 1850. The last of the Elders left this colony in the year 1854 or thereabouts. Subsequently the population of the islands rapidly decreased and, this, combined with other causes, greatly reduced the membership of the Church.

In June, 1892, Jas. S. Brown and others were again sent here by said Church, and they, with the aid of the natives, have established branches on some fifteen islands of the Tuamotu group and also on Tubuai, comprising between 600 and 700 souls.

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Elders Jones and Despain were also instructed by his excellency the governor to procure a license to preach within three months, or be fined, imprisoned and banished. He abused and insulted them in a most violent manner, calling them vagabonds, and saying they came here to flatter the people for food and sponge on the natives, all of which is untrue. All the Elders sent here by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day pay their own fare on, to and from the islands, take up no collections whatever, and have often refused money offered by the natives of their own free will.

In regard to the matter of marriage, we have strictly followed the advice of the former governor, Tabanu, as has been and as is now practiced by the Catholic and Protestant churches. None of the Elders have ever married any one until the ceremony has been performed by the government.

We have not wilfully or knowingly broken any law of the Republic of France, therefore we respectfully solicit your aid and influence as consul of the Republic of the United States to enable us, as American citizens, to obtain the protection of the French government, that we may dis-