

## JENSON'S TRAVELS.

LETTER NO. XXV.

Monday, August 12th. I accompanied Mr. Henry T. Moltke, the manager of the Nausori plantation, on a horse back ride through the sugar cane fields, by which means I obtained a better knowledge of cane raising than I ever had before. Hundreds of people were at work doing the various kinds of labor associated with the cane culture. Several small incidents occurred. One man was slapped by the manager for not doing his work properly. A woman laborer, who claimed to be sick and unable to work was ordered sent to the hospital; and another one who claimed to have been insulted by the foreman and came running after the manager crying and telling a strange tale of woe, was ordered back to work as her story was not believed. Mr. Moltke told me that incidents of that kind happened more frequently on Mondays than any other day of the week, as many of the people, after having rested on the Sunday, were loath to return to their work again. Well, taking everything into consideration I can not say that I admire contract labor. The question naturally arises, what are these people but slaves during the five years of their indenture? Their bodies are certainly not their own during that length of time. They are also subjected to harsh treatment; the only excuse given for which is that they could not be controlled without it; that they are incapable of appreciating kindness, and would become absolutely useless as laborers on plantation, if they were treated with that consideration which is generally extended to white people. Their intelligence, I was informed, could not be appealed to successfully, as all they feared was corporal punishment, which by the way, is not allowed by law. I took dinner with Mr. Moltke, whose wife is a New Zealand colonist, born of English parents.

Tuesday, August 13th. I spent the day writing and conversing with my friends at the Nausori mills about Utah and the "Mormons." Both Mr. Thiele and Mr. Wilson, whose guest I was during my sojourn on the Rewa river, are both intelligent men. Mr. Thiele's family is in Sydney, and Mr. Wilson is unmarried.

Wednesday, August 14th. I felt weak from a violent bilious attack from which I had suffered during the night, in consequence of which I gave up a walk of twelve miles which I had contemplated across the country from the mills to Suva; and I hired a boat instead to take me by water. We tied the boat to a steam launch, which sailed ten miles down to the Lancela bay, from where my hired Indian rowed me two miles across the bay to the peninsula upon which Suva is situated, leaving me to walk about three miles to the town. On my arrival at Suva I was disappointed at finding that a circus had just arrived, which had broken into an arrangement made for me to lecture that evening at the Mechanics Hall.

Thursday, August 15th. The steamer Ovalau, one of the Union Steamship company's boats, arrived at Suva from Samoa en-route for New Zealand, via Tonga. As a number of our Elders are laboring on the Tongan group at the present time, I decided to take passage for New Zealand via Tonga and Samoa, instead of going to Samoa first, which

would have been a more direct route. I spent most of the day perusing literature on Fiji and writing. I also paid another visit to the Fijian quarters occupied by native officers and employees of the government, where I had been once before and renewed my acquaintance with some of the leading chiefs and prominent men to whom I briefly explained the principles of the Gospel as we believed them. I especially interested myself in Kadava Levu, the grandson of king Hakobau, previously mentioned, who promised me that if any of our Elders should be sent to Fiji, he would be kind to them and endeavor to pave the way for them to the native population. The white inhabitants in Suva as a rule are not religiously inclined like the whites in Honolulu, their sole object in life seems to be wealth of this world; nor can I give them credit for much hospitality.

In perusing a "handbook on Fiji," published by the government, I find that the Fijian Archipelago was discovered on the 5th of March, 1643, by Abel Jansen Tasman, who, however, does not appear to have found anchorage. More than a century later Captain Cook sighted the south-eastern part of the group. He was followed by Captain Bligh, who passed through the group in the Bounty's launch (1789,) and Captain Wilson, of the Duff, in 1797.

It is possible that some of the navigators of the seventeenth century, who sailed from South America and were never heard of again, may have visited the group, and during the eighteenth century there must have been occasional intercourse between the natives and the Spaniards; but the islands remained practically unknown until 1804, when a party of escaped convicts from New South Wales settled down among the natives. These were followed by traders. In 1835, a small settlement of whites was established at Levuka on the island of Ovalau; and others settled down among the natives in various parts of the group. In 1855, the American government having passed a claim for \$9,000 against the chief Cakobau, (Tnakombau,) which he was quite unable to meet, and the justice of which he never admitted, the leading chiefs offered to cede the islands to England, on condition that the claim should be satisfied. The commissioners reported unfavorably, and the offer was refused (1861.) In 1871 a Constitutional Government was established by the Europeans for the "Kingdom of Fiji" under Cakobau as king, but it broke down in 1873, owing to the opposition of the settlers in outlying districts; and in 1874 the chiefs formally offered to cede the islands to Great Britain, and sovereignty was proclaimed by Sir Hercules Robinson, G. C. M. G., Governor of New South Wales, on the 23rd of September, 1874. A year later the administration was assumed by Sir Arthur Gordon, the first Governor.

Under letters patent, dated 17th of December, 1880, the island of Rotumah, lying between 12° and 13° S. latitude, was, on the petition of the chiefs, annexed to the Colony of Fiji.

Friday, August 16th. The Ovalau did not sail today, but will leave tomorrow. Mr. A. M. T. Duncan, agent of the Union Steamship company, kindly presented me with a free first-class passage from Suva, via Tonga and Samoa, to Auckland, New Zealand.

Saturday, August 17th. I boarded the steamer Ovalau, and sailed from Suva, Fiji, at 11:45 a. m. The ship taking a southeasterly course, we were soon out of sight of land. The wind blew hard and directly against us, and the sea rolled high; hence the unpleasant sensation which to me meant the next thing to sea-sickness. There were a large number of passengers on board, most of whom were excursionists from New Zealand on a pleasure trip to the tropics. During the night we passed the island of Matuku on our right, and Totoya on our left, both belonging to the Fijian group.

Sunday, August 18th. I arose from a somewhat disturbed night's rest, at 7:30 a. m., just as we were passing the island of Kabara on our left or larboard side. At 11 a. m. we were sailing opposite the island of Vulaga; and a little later we passed the islands of Ogealevu and Ogea Driki, all on our left, which were the last of the Fiji Islands we saw on this voyage. At noon the ship's log, read as follows: Latitude 19° 19' 00" S., longitude 178° 28' 00" E. Distance from Suva 200 and to Vavau 260 nautical miles. The wind blew heavily against us all day, and most of the passengers failed to show up on deck.

Monday, August 19th. During the day I made the acquaintance of the captain and several of the ship's officers, as well as a number of the passengers, with whom I conversed freely about the "Saints" and their doctrines. At 11 o'clock we could see land ahead which proved to be the well known volcano island Lati, which on account of its height (1790 feet) is a noted landmark for navigators. The island is about ten miles in circumference and the mountain sides are clad in a beautiful green, the tropical forest covering the slopes from the steep and rocky coast to the summit of the crater. The island is situated in latitude 18° 35' S; and longitude 175° 16' E. Early in 1854 a new volcano suddenly broke out with great violence on this island. On the night of the eruption the loud roaring was heard by the people at Lipuka, sixty miles distant. From the shores of Navau, thirty miles away, an immense pillar of smoke was seen during the day; and at night the fire of the volcano was distinctly visible. The fall of dust and ashes was so immense that the light of the sun was thoroughly obscured for several days. The fine dust penetrated even into the closed houses which were from thirty to forty miles away to such an extent as to spoil the meals that the people were eating. Although frequented often by natives, who go there to gather cocoa-nuts, there were no people on the island at the time of the eruption; hence no lives were lost.

We passed Lati at 10 o'clock p. m. and even afterwards the outlines of the islands known as the Vavau group could be seen toward the eastern horizon. At 5 o'clock p. m., we entered the channel leading to the harbor of Neiafu, passing between two precipitous rocky islets that seem to stand as sentinels over the sea gates. We skirted the Vavau coast, having the towering cliffs of Monga Lafa on our left, and the island of Huga on our right. Upon doubling the headland of the former the natural formation and exquisite beauty of the harbor began to unfold to our view, I have seldom if ever seen a more beautiful coast than this one. Behind lay the small islands of Huga and Niubahu or Nalapa, shut-