

considerably before we got through the passage and reached the stone wharf in front of the village. Here I was in a fix without an interpreter, as the few Saints temporarily located on the island while fishing for shells soon gathered around me at the house to which I was first conducted, but the native brother who was our fellow passenger and who also landed could talk a very little broken English, and I got along as well as I could with his services. I also introduced myself to Mr. Carl Hanson, a Swede, and one of the traders of the island, from whom I obtained several particulars in regard to the island of Arutua, which is nearly circular in shape and measures about fifteen miles across lagoon included in most places. The pass which our boat came through is the only passage which connects the lagoon with the ocean; it is deep enough for vessels of twenty or thirty tons burden only, and as the current often runs very swift and it is on the southeast or windward side of the island, the entrance is very dangerous. The little village, which is nearly hidden from sight in the cocoanut grove lies on a small motu on the right hand side as we enter. The reef around the lagoon is pretty well covered with vegetation except on the west and south where there is considerable bare reef. Arutua is noted for its fine pearl shells, some of which are marvels for size. In one year alone (1886) fifteen tons of shells were fished out of the lagoon; but this season has been an unsuccessful one and all the transient divers are preparing to leave, as they cannot find shells in paying quantities. The cyclone of 1878 destroyed most of the trees of Arutua, hence the present beautiful growth of cocoanut trees consists mostly of new plantations. Arutua is about 215 miles northwest of Tahiti. That and the two neighboring islands Kaukura and Apataki were named the Palliser islands by Captain Cook.

Before I left the village Marerenui, a brother in the Church made me a present of a fine pair of shells, and we returned to the ship about sundown, reaching it with much difficulty, as the rowing had to be done against the wind and high rolling waves.

Friday, November 21st. We had sailed to and fro all night, and when the light of the morning dawned upon us, we were coasting along the west line of Apataki, but just as the crew was getting the boat ready to go ashore, a drenching rain storm set in, which continued all day, and thus we were compelled to spend a very dull day in an inactive manner at sea. Several squalls struck the vessel which somewhat relieved the monotony; but the real excitement of the day was the catching of a large sword fish (on the fish line) which had been following the ship for some distance. The fish which weighed several hundred pounds and was a beautiful specimen of his kind was successfully hauled alongside the vessel, where he was speared or harpooned almost to death; but just as the crew which was considerably excited, was in the act of lifting him bodily on board, the fish made one last desperate struggle and thus jerked himself loose from the hands that held him and was lost, as he sank in the ocean. It was too bad. We could have got him just as well as not, had the crew not been so excited that they neglected to secure him with ropes

before attempting to haul him on board. In the afternoon notwithstanding the rain, Mr. Mervin and part of the crew landed in the boat. On their return it was decided to sail at once for the island of Manihi, distant about sixty miles in a northerly direction. Consequently, about sundown we set sail for that island, and the wind being favorable and the weather now being good, we sped toward Manihi at the rate of ten miles an hour during the night.

ANDREW JENSON.

ISLAND OF MANIHI, Tuamotu Archipelago, South Pacific Ocean, February 22nd, 1896.

ALBERTA STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Alberta stake was held on Sunday and Monday, May 24th and 25th; President C. O. Card presiding; present, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, John W. Taylor; of the Presiding Bishopric, William B. Preston; Bishop Romney of Salt Lake City, and several Elders from different parts of Utah, who were visiting the country, also the Bishops and representatives from the different wards of the stake.

On Sunday after the opening exercises, encouraging reports were given from the different wards, quorums, associations and organizations of the stake, showing due diligence on the part of the members, and a desire to continue in the good works.

Bishop William B. Preston addressed the congregation, exhorting the Saints to keep the commandments of the Lord, for upon that depended their prosperity; spoke of the goodly land the Saints in Alberta had the privilege of living in, counselled the people to keep out of debt, strictly observe the Sabbath, and show by their example that they were Saints indeed.

Bishop Romney followed, expressing surprise at seeing so large a congregation, as also the many evidences of prosperity among the people in this part of the land; gave an interesting account of the early experience of the Saints, both in England and the Eastern States, and exhorted the Saints to so live that they could merit the blessings of the Lord. Elder J. W. Taylor gave an impressive discourse upon the fulfillment of prophecy in our day, and the developments of science in this century; referred to the favorable financial condition of the Saints in Alberta with many in Utah, and the exemption of the people from taxes in this region.

On Monday Bishop Romney spoke encouragingly to the Presidents of the different associations; counselled the parents to sustain the different organizations instituted for the advancement of the youth by their influence and their presence in their assemblies. Brother William B. Preston followed, stating that he had visited the Saints from Mexico on the south to this place, and knew of no place where there are so many natural advantages as in this region, and no stake where the organization is more complete, the element being here for a large Stake, which it is in area at present as it extends to the north pole; he said, "you have no taxes to pay, and the government is treating you kindly; if you will do the will of God you will have power to control the elements, rebuke diseases and call down the blessings of the Lord upon your labors, and

upon the earth, and the seeds you have planted and all of your substance; do not waste your substance in moving from place to place; the Lord requires ten per cent interest for the blessings He has bestowed upon us, namely our bodies, our reason, and intelligence, the earth and the elements; if the Priests and Teachers will do their duty, the Bishops will not have much difficulty in getting the people to pay their tithes and offerings; the blessings vouchsafed to us are predicated upon the observance of the laws of the Gospel; keep your accounts strictly, it saves misunderstandings; follow your file leaders as they follow Christ and no farther; you are safe in carrying out the counsels of the Presidency of the Church for the Lord will not allow them to lead you astray."

Addresses were given by Elders Wood, McArthur and Cotterill, full of good counsel appropriate to the circumstances of the people. President Card made the closing remarks, counselling the brethren to beautify their homes by planting trees and flowers, keep our schools in session as much as possible under the circumstances, and sustain our home industries.

The weather being remarkably fine, the attendance was unusually large both days, and the spirit of the Lord was poured out in much abundance upon both speakers and hearers, causing a time of rejoicing long to be remembered.

SYLVESTER LOW.

Stake Clerk.

IN THE NORTHERN STATES.

Wednesday we had the pleasure of Elder Joshua S. Clark of Tooele county, who has been president of the Northern States mission for some time and is now released from his labors in that section of the country. He arrived in this city Tuesday. On his way hither the train he was on was delayed nine hours in Kansas. At Junction, in that state, the trouble was caused by a big washout. During the rainstorm there on Sunday the rain came down in a perfect "cloudburst," and a swale across the country about quarter of a mile wide, had with an hour ten feet of water in it, then washing away about a hundred yards of railway track, the flood subsided almost as rapidly as it arose, and the passengers came along. To a News representative Elder Clark said:

"Owing to the protracted illness of my wife I have been released from the presidency of the Northern States mission and on retiring from the responsible position I feel impressed to say a little concerning my labors and those of the Elders over whom I was called to preside. Early in the month of January, 1895, I was called to preside over the mission, Elder D. F. Stout whom I succeeded, had been compelled to retire on account of sickness. He had outlined a work that I have no doubt would have resulted in great good to the mission if he had been permitted to carry it out. I took up the work where he left it off, and by the help of the Lord and the valuable assistance of the Elders, our numbers increased from thirty-six to ninety-four, which is a strong evidence that the Spirit of the Lord is working with the people. In some of the old fields where the Gospel has been preached at intervals for the last forty years and it was thought that they were ready to close up; today some of these fields are the