

in use here are ten cents, twenty cents, fifty cents and one dollar pieces—all silver. The animal kingdom of the Society islands is represented by horses, cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, dogs and fowls, etc. Most of these species were originally imported by the whites.

Tahiti is by far the most important island of the group. It is about thirty-two miles long from northwest to southeast and is an elongated range of high land, which being interrupted in one part forms an isthmus about three miles wide, which connects the two peninsulas. From a low margin of sea coast the land rises to a very considerable height on both extremities of the island, when some highly fertile valleys intersect the ranges at different parts. The loftiest mountain on the northern peninsula is Orohena, 7,339 feet high. The next in point of elevation are Pito Hiti, 6,996 feet, and Vaorai, 6,771 feet. This last named mountain is sometimes called the Diadem. From these lofty peaks ridges diverge to all parts of the coast; they are precipitous and generally narrow, in places a mere edge. The island is nearly surrounded by an excellent broad road called the Broom Road, which overshadowed with trees affords a delightful means of visiting the different settlements distributed around it. The code of laws adopted by the Pomares in early days, the punishment for getting intoxicated was making so many feet of this road. Outside the low belt of land at the foot of the mountains a coral reef encircles the island at a distance of from one-fourth mile to three miles; and within this are several excellent harbors. Tahiti is decidedly a beautiful island, and is sometimes called the Eden of the Paape. It is sufficiently high to be seen at forty five miles distance at sea. Approaching it from the northeast or southwest, it looks like two islands, the low connecting isthmus not being seen. The natives distinguish the two peninsulas of which Tahiti is composed by the names of Opooreonu, or Tahiti-Nui (Great Tahiti) and Tiaraboo or Tairapu or Tahiti-Ihi (Little Tahiti, united by the isthmus).

Captain Cook in his description of Tahiti, or Otaheite, as he called it, on the occasion of one of his visits, says: "Perhaps there is scarcely a spot in the universe that affords a more luxuriant prospect than the southeast part of Otaheite. The hills are high and steep, and in many places craggy; but they are covered to the very summits with trees and shrubs, in such a manner that the spectator can scarcely help thinking that the very rocks possess the property of producing and supporting their verdant clothing. The flat land which bounds those hills toward the sea, and the interjacent valleys also, teem with various productions that grow with the most exuberant vigor, and at once fill the mind of the beholder with the idea that no place upon earth can outdo this in the strength and beauty of vegetation. Nature has been no less liberal in distributing rivulets, which are found in every valley, and as they approach the sea, often divide into two or three branches, fertilizing the flat lands through which they run. The habitations of the natives are scattered without order upon these flats; and many of them appearing towards the shore, presented a delightful scene viewed from our ships; especially as the sea within the reef which bounds the coast is perfectly still, and affords a

safe navigation at all times for the inhabitants, who are often seen paddling in their canoes indolently along in passing from place to place, or in going to fish. On viewing these charming scenes, I have often regretted my inability to transmit to those who have had no opportunity of seeing them such a description as might in some measure convey an impression similar to what must be felt by every one who has been fortunate enough to be on the spot."

Tahiti had 10,113 inhabitants in 1892, of which 4,288 resided in the city of Papeeti; the area of the island is 260,000 acres.

Moorea situated about nine miles northwest of Tahiti ranks as one of the loveliest islands of the Pacific, and the harbor of Talu, near Papetoai is one of the best in the world. The water is so deep close to shore that ships can be tied to a tree on the land. Moorea is a beautiful object as seen from Tahiti, and its beauty is enhanced on a nearer approach; its hills and mountains may, without any great stretch of imagination, be converted into battlements, spires and towers rising one above the other; their grey sides clothed here and there with verdure, which at a distance resembles ivy of the richest hue. Moorea has, if possible a more broken surface than Tahiti, and is more thrown up into separate peaks; its scenery is wild, even in comparison with that of Tahiti, and particularly upon the shores, where the mountains rise precipitously from the water to the height of 2,500 feet. The reef which surrounds the island is similar to that of Tahiti, and has no soundings immediately outside of it. Black cellular lava abounds, and holes are found in its shattered ridges, among which is the noted one through which the god Oroa is said to have thrust his spear. The inhabitants of Moorea reside upon the shores, and there are several large villages on the south side of the island. By the census of 1892 the inhabitants numbered 1,407. Coffee, cotton, sugar and all other tropical plants succeed well in Moorea. The island lies in a triangular shape, of which the north side which runs nearly due east and west is about nine miles long; the southeast coast is nearly seven and the southwest eight miles long. Its area is about 32,710 acres of which 8,650 are fit for cultivation.

Moorea was discovered by Captain Wallis July 27th, 1767, and by him named Duke of York Island.

Maitea, or Osnaburgh island is the easternmost of the Society islands, and lies about sixty miles east of the east end of Tahiti, or about one hundred miles from Papeete. The island is high, round and not more than seven miles in its greatest extent; its greatest elevation is 1,597 feet, and it is in latitude 17°52' south; longitude 148°51' west. Its north side is remarkably steep. The south side, where the declivity from the hill is more gradual, is the chief place of residence of the natives; but the north side from the very summit down to the sea, is so steep that it can afford no support to the inhabitants. The eastern part is very pleasant, coconut and other fruit abounding. There were a number of Saints on this island at an early day, but none now as far as known.

Teturoa is a small low island, or rather a group of small low coral islets inclosed in a reef about thirty miles in circumference, lying twenty-four miles north of

Tahiti. They formerly belonged to Queen Pomare, of Tahiti, and were inhabited by the poorer people who subsisted on fish and coconuts. The latter still abound. Tahitian ladies of rank made this place one of their favorite resorts, going there as they said, to improve their complexion by reposing beneath the shade trees; but more frequently, it is supposed, to recover from diseases brought about by licentious habits.

Tubuai Manu or Maiao Iti, formerly also known as Sir Charles Saunde's island, is the shape of a foot, hence one of its names, as maiao is foot in the Tahitian tongue, and iti little. This island is composed of many little islands which gradually have been joined together through the process of nature to make one island which is about thirteen miles in circumference, its greatest length from east to west is about six miles. In the center a hill, about 160 feet high with a double peak rises, but the greater portion of this land is fertile, and the lower ground abounds with coconut trees. The hills are wooded to the summits, and at a distance the island has much the appearance of a ship under sail. The northeast point is in latitude 17°38' south, longitude 150°33' west, is about fifty five miles west of Tahiti, and it has about 200 inhabitants. It was discovered by Captain Wallis July 28, 1767.

Huahine (Vahine woman) is the easternmost of the group which was called the Society islands by Cook, who discovered it in July 1769. It is situated about ninety-five miles northwest of Tahiti, is about twenty miles in circumference and is divided into two peninsulas, called respectively, Huahine Nui or large, and Huahine Iti, or small. A strait with shallow water and less than a mile wide separate the two islands. Huahine has a very narrow strip of fertile land near the shore, and the mountains, which are not near so high as those of Tahiti, more strongly indicate volcanic action, and are in some parts cultivated. On each side of the narrow strait separating the two islands the rocks in many places rise perpendicular from the water. Owhare harbor, which was visited by Cook a number of times, is situated on the northwest part of the island. It was here that he on his last visit, left Omali, the Tahitian native, who had attracted so much attention in England. Huahine formerly belonged to Tamatoa, the king of Raiatea, and was given by him to his daughter, king Pomare's sister-in-law.

Elder Noah Rogers, one of the first Latter day Saint Elders sent from Nauvoo, Illinois, to preach the gospel to the Pacific islanders, came to Huahine in his calling as a missionary in the latter part of 1844; but the people would not receive him. After being rescued from the Scilly island, on the occasion of the wrecking of the bark Julia Ann in 1855, Elders John S. Eldredge and James Graham returning to America from missions to Australia, spent about a month at Huahine, waiting for the schooner Emma Parker, to get ready to take them to the Sandwich islands. Undoubtedly they did some preaching at the time. This was in January 1856.

Raiatea, or Ulietea lies about twenty-five miles to the westward of Huahine and 120 miles northwest of Tahiti. It is about forty miles in circumference, of a mountainous character, covered with vegetation and but too well watered.