

will permit. Even a relief society is in process of organization.

The efforts of the president of the mission, Brother K. G. Mæzer to make this branch of the Church a nucleus for extended missionary labors in California are ably and faithfully seconded by his fellow missionaries, Elders J. D. Cummings, E. Blodgett, H. B. Williams, Geo. H. Maycock and S. A. Kellar, and the president of the branch, Brother Mortensen.

California is not a very propitious field for missionaries. Religion here seems to consist mainly in contentions between the various religious denominations who are struggling and scrambling for power and influence, while the rest of the people appear to know only three things worth living for, which are, money, pleasure and politics, each of these being made subservient to the other two. The labors of the servants of God are thus like a "voice in the wilderness."

W. B. PHILLIPS,
Clerk of Conference.

SAMOAN MISSION NEWS.

FAGALILI, SAMOA,
March 27, 1894.

Since my last letter to you the Samoan mission home has been the scene of another very sad occurrence which caused a gloom to come over us that is not yet entirely dispelled.

Little Harold Hilton passed from this life on the 17th inst. His demise was very sudden, he having been ill but a few days. On Sunday the 11th he was not feeling very well and was administered to during the night. For two days following he appeared to be improving, but on the morning of the 14th his mother again became concerned about his welfare. From then until his death, which occurred at 11 a.m. on the date before mentioned, everything that loving hands could do was done for his recovery, but he grew rapidly worse, and at the time stated, amid anointings and prayers and supplications to the Lord, the little spirit took its flight to Him who rules on high.

Oh, how loth we all were to believe that it was so! How sad to see our dear sister again bereft, and her so far from dear parents and friends, whom she has left for the Gospel's sake! We felt to say, "Thy will, O Lord, and not ours be done! Thou gavest and Thou hast the right to take away; we humbly bow to Thy decree, who doeth all things well."

Thomas Harold Hilton was about one and a half years old, a beautiful little boy and very dearly beloved by all the missionaries, as well as the natives who knew him. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved parents, and the blessings of the Lord are invoked upon them.

THE WAR.

The Samoan civil war, which has been raging for some few weeks past, is now reported as being about at an end; but doubts are entertained about peace being permanently restored for some time to come. The present trouble seems to have mostly originated over a petty quarrel between natives living on two separate islands—Upolu and Savaii—and is not considered, by

all at least, as a rebellion like the war of '93.

There are no warships here, or things would take on a different aspect, as the Samoans are very much afraid of the big guns (cannon), which they call "fanafanna." According to the best account obtainable, there have been but fifteen killed and twenty-five or thirty wounded.

The three consuls are laboring energetically for the suppression of any rebellious spirit which may manifest itself. They are doing a good work in the interest of peace, for which much credit is due to the representatives of the "Three Great Powers."

MISSIONARY LABOR.

Our labors here are being very much retarded by the present troubles, as the people, especially the natives, seem to think more about the destroying of their fellowmen than they do about the principles of the Gospel. Our conference, which was to be held next month, will now have to be postponed till peace is restored so that the people can be brought together without fear of being molested.

At our meetings on Sunday last the "falesu" was better filled than I have ever known before. The writer enjoyed the privilege of speaking to over seventy of these South Pacific Lamanites on the subject of the "Restoration of the Gospel," bearing testimony to them that the angel of the Lord which John saw has brought the "everlasting Gospel" to the earth for the salvation of all those who yield humble obedience to the requirements of the same. Thus we rejoice in the work of the Lord and pray for its continued progress in the midst of this degraded branch of the house of Israel.

The News is always read by us all with much interest and profit.

Ever praying for the prosperity of Zion and the welfare of the servants of the Lord in every land and clime,

I remain,
your brother in the Gospel,
STEFANO.

PLYMOUTH NEWS.

PLYMOUTH, Box Elder Co., April 12, 1894.—Spring has come at last and the farmers are busy putting in their crops. There has been considerable sickness here among the children the last few months, and on Friday last, April 6th, Brother Henry Clark, of this place, lost a little son, Charles Edward, aged 3 years, 5 months and 23 days, of croup; and on the next day, the 7th inst., a daughter, Sarah Annie, aged 12 years, 9 months and 20 days, of diphtheria croup; and on the 10th inst. another son, John George, aged 7 years, 3 months and 6 days, of croup.

Brother George Smith, of this place, also lost a little son on the 9th inst., James Samuel, of pneumoula or diphtheria croup, aged 7 years and 9 months.

The bereaved parents have the sympathy of the whole community in their great loss. Yours,

JAMES BURNETT JR.

Our people are very busy putting in crops; the outlook for fall grain is very bad again this spring, the cause being that a crust forms before the grain gets up. We are putting in much land to lucern, which pays better than any

crop grown on dry land. A great many of us have bought land under the great canal, and it is very productive; with water, fifty bushels of wheat per acre was raised last year; vegetables also do well. We are going to try fruit trees this spring. If we can make a success of fruit growing we will be happy, as this is a fine country and large enough for hundreds of families more. The canal company has located a town site for us. They gave a number of lots away and \$500 towards building a meeting house. The town is booming.

We are very sorry to record the deaths of three children of Harry Clark and one of George Smith, cause, diphtheria. It has cast quite a gloom over our place; our sympathy goes out to them and we ask the Lord to comfort them in their loss.

JAS. H. HESS.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

Owing to the very bad weather, there was but a small attendance at the Sunday School Union meeting Monday evening, April 16th. Superintendent Thomas C. Griggs presided.

The excellent musical exercises were rendered by the juvenile choir of the Fifth ward, directed by their instructor, Brother Daniel Smith. Opening prayer was offered by Elder James M. Barlow.

Elder Wm. Bradford was the first speaker, and delivered a very instructive address on the subject of "Attention, how to maintain and retain it."

In order to teach at all successfully, he said, attention must be obtained. The first essential is to arouse interest in the class of pupils; this may be obtained by illustrations on the blackboard of parts of the lessons, by the use of objects, etc., and the judicious use of apt and pointed stories that illustrate the principles the teacher wishes to impress upon the minds of the children.

The use of a chart, if handled carefully, is a great help in keeping up interest in Bible and Book of Mormon subjects. A chart should be shown only in one lesson at a time so that the interest may be kept up to the last lesson on the chart. The teacher should be well and abundantly prepared, that is, have much more prepared than he expects to present to the class, and he should always know what he is going to do next and never hesitate.

The work done in the class should be always adapted to the capacity of the pupils. No matter how good the lesson may be, nor how well presented, if the subject or matter, or the language of the teacher, is beyond the understanding of the pupils, the lesson will prove a failure, children cannot attend long to that which they do not understand, or that they are not interested in.

Variety should be studied by the instructor; the same old routine becomes very tiresome to children and should be avoided, and the lessons should be often presented in a new form, with new objects, and illustrated with new stories.

Lessons that cannot be presented in an indirect way, as in a parable or story, in which the children may be able to see the application themselves,