

ing the work of God here. Three months since Brother O. J. Larsen and myself landed on the Tuamotu Islands, at the city of "Teavaroa," were kindly entertained there by "Mapuhi" whose name has previously appeared in your columns as a charitable, open-hearted and God-fearing man. After an elapse of three weeks we were joined by Elders Jos. W. Damron, the present president, and Thomas Jones, who have been laboring among this Tuamotu group for upwards of ten months.

On July 2 we set sail for Fakarava, the island designated for this session of our quarterly conference. The sea being high and the rain continuous, our journey was anything but pleasant. Upon arriving at our destination, we found Brother William A. Seegmiller who has been laboring on the island of Tupoi. He reports a good feeling among the Saints, besides eighty baptisms during the past year.

Conference commenced at Tetamanu July 6th. Elder Seegmiller called the Saints to order, and after the opening services President Damron spoke upon the subject of Moses not being permitted to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land on account of disobedience, (Numbers, chapter xx) also the restoration of the Gospel in the last days. He closed by urging the people to serve God rather than Mammon.

The report for the past three months showed baptisms twenty-five, marriages twelve, births four and deaths two.

After the acceptance of the report the choir sang, and Elder Seegmiller pronounced the benediction.

In the afternoon Elder Seegmiller addressed the congregation on the subject of circumcision; and the meeting was brought to a close by the choir singing "Hail to the Prophet," etc. Benediction by Elder Mapuhi.

On Friday morning, July 7th, conference was called to order by President Damron. And after the usual services Brother Thomas Jones addressed the congregation. He exhorted the Saints to live in obedience to those in authority, and reiterated some of ex-President Jas. S. Brown's instruction. Elder Damron followed him with a few remarks. The choir then sang and Elder Thomas L. Woodbury dismissed the meeting.

The afternoon session was called to order by Elder Jones and after singing and prayer, the Saints were addressed by Elders Damron, Seegmiller, Woodbury, Larsen and Jones. Some preliminary business followed and the conference was adjourned for three months to the island of Aua.

Monday, July 10th, Brothers Larsen and Jones set sail for Rakaka, while the rest of us left for Aua. President Damron and I landed after a two days' voyage, leaving Brother Seegmiller on the vessel on his way to Takarua. We were hospitably greeted by the whites upon our arrival, and partook of their hospitality a number of times afterwards. Among them was the French peace officer; he treated us with all the courtesy and kindness possible, stating that he would do all in his power to protect our rights. The inhabitants of this island are principally Catholics. Here is where the Gospel was first preached, the people receiving its everlasting truths and

embracing the principles and ordinances with readiness and sincerity.

The success that attended our Elders soon awoke Satan; he flew to the rescue, putting it in men's hearts to circulate falsehoods concerning God's chosen servants. As a result, the government was deceived by the untruthful and evil intended reports. The officials listened to these falsehoods, and our Elders were forced to depart with no show of justice exercised in their behalf, thus leaving the branch seemingly without a head during their absence, which was about forty years. Wolves came into the flock, scattering it like chaff before the wind, and where we once had a membership of 1500, it has dwindled down to thirty. Still, by the aid of God we anticipate performing an extensive work among this people, although Satan is fighting us on every hand.

The Catholics have forbid their followers to come near us. The Josephites are doing all in their power to obtain our old broken down meeting house, besides printing a tract misrepresenting us. Many falsehoods are thus put afloat. The principal one is that we worship Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Adam and others instead of God.

We have visited five out of the six cities on the island. Some have received and treated us as servants possessing authority from the Creator of all, while others have shunned our very presence. The Sunday meetings have been well attended, and many have expressed themselves as to the simplicity and clearness of our doctrine, each statement being supported and sustained by a scriptural reference. Others make light of what is spoken. There are some who attend every meeting, listening attentively to what is said, no doubt laying a foundation whereon they may erect a structure which will be of an everlasting benefit to them. Each night the house is filled with people, some eager to listen and others only curious. When we sing a hymn the latter class crowd in, but when the scripture part is proceeded with they disappear into the darkness. No baptisms have been performed since our arrival, but prospects are favorable. Many have expressed their desire to join the Church and become numbered with the faithful.

Praying God to bless all who are striving to obtain truth, I remain your brother and co-laborer in the Gospel,  
T. L. WOODBURY.

#### SAMOAN.

The semi-annual conference of the Samoan branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was held at Fagala, Upolu, Samoa, on the 6th, 7th and 8th of October, A. D. 1893. Owing to the fact that a contagious disease (the measles) is at the present time affecting the majority of the native population, and desiring to obey the proclamation of the present king, Mafleton, to the effect that all intercourse between the natives of the different islands should cease lest the disease spread, the president of the mission deemed it advisable to postpone the general conference with the Saints, which we had anticipated so long, until some future time. He thought it best, however, for the Elders from the various islands to meet to-

gether, in order that business pertaining to the mission might be transacted. The following is a brief report of the meetings held:

Conference commenced on the evening of Friday, October 6, at 7 p. m. The meeting was called to order by Elder George E. Browning, president of the mission. The following named Elders from Zion were present: George E. Browning, A. W. Harding, Frank V. Van Cott, R. M. Stevens, J. B. Barton, C. H. Bridges, R. E. Dimond, Adelbert Twitchell, James Ricks, Wm. Low, Joseph A. Rashand, Jos. H. Merrill, O. R. Thomason, John W. Beck, Alma L. Green, Charles W. Poole, Orlando Arrus, George B. Freeze, Thomas J. Court, Louis R. Burnham, T. H. Hilton, also Sisters Annie D. Steven and Sarah M. Hilton.

Elder Browning addressed the conference. He dwelt mainly upon the duties of missionaries; exhorted us to be diligent in the cause of truth, and not get discouraged. His remarks were interesting and instructive throughout. Elders A. W. Harding and C. H. Bridges also addressed the congregation.

Saturday Morning, Oct. 7th.—Meeting was called at 7 o'clock. The following Elders offered words of encouragement to those present: Jas. Ricks, R. M. Stevens, A. Twitchell and F. V. Van Cott.

Evening meeting commenced at 7:30. Elders C. W. Poole, A. L. Green, John W. Beck, T. H. Hilton and Jos. H. Merrill were the speakers.

Sunday, Oct. 8th.—Meeting was called to order at 7 a. m. A number of natives of the village—who had recovered from the measles—were present and the services were conducted in the Samoan language. Elder James Ricks addressed the conference, and meeting closed with singing of a native hymn.

In the afternoon the natives were again present and Elder J. H. Merrill occupied the time.

In the evening the Elders and sisters assembled in the Mission house to hold a meeting in English. The services commenced by singing, "We thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet," and prayer by Elder Ricks. Singing, "From Greenland's icy mountains," etc., after which Elder T. H. Hilton read the statistical report of the mission for the six months ending Oct. 6th, 1893. The names of the authorities of the Church, general and local, were presented and unanimously sustained, as were also the names of the missionaries laboring in this part of the Lord's vineyard. Some little business pertaining to the mission was then transacted, and Elder Browning invited the Elders and sisters to speak as they were moved upon by the Holy Spirit, and all present responded. The meeting was of four hours' duration; the Spirit of the Lord was poured out upon all and we had a time of rejoicing, one that will long be remembered by those present. T. H. HILTON, Clerk.

AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVES, at which foreigners were at first inclined to sneer, have successfully made their way into South America, the West Indies, Australia, Japan and Jerusalem. It was easy to deride them, it is now a pleasure to ride them.