

met in conference on October 26th and 27th, with the Saints of Tutuila and Aunuu, at Alao, Tutuila. Elder John F. Conley, who had recently joined us, has received his appointment to labor on that island and has already departed for there.

During the time that Elder Andrew Jensen was with us, the islands were divided off into districts, so that the Elders at the different stations know just what villages they are expected to visit. Thus a more systematic method of proselyting has been inaugurated and will enable us to better accomplish our designs to preach the Gospel to all, that none may be left without excuse. We believe, as do our South Sea co-laborers regarding their flocks, that so long as the Saints are surrounded with idleness and other grievous sins their progress will be greatly retarded. We are pained to report that many who have embraced the truth in this land have again fallen into byways forbidden by the laws of Heaven, while others are luke warm in their feelings. But hope points to us the near future when the splendid promises of ancient and modern prophets will be realized by this now benighted race. The once happy lot of their progenitors before God's holy laws were violated by them compared with their now degraded state causes us to exclaim:—"God will not be mocked," and should be an incentive to all who have entered into sacred agreements to faithfulness and unshaken integrity.

JOHN W. BECK, President

WILLIAM G. SEARS, Clerk of Samoan Mission.

Our Voyages to Conference.

The trip from Fagalii, Upolu, to Saleaula, Savaii a distance of seventy-five miles by the route taken, was made by Elders John W. Beck, James B. Barton, Joseph A. Rasband, William A. Moody and William G. Sears, in the mission boat Faaaliga. Were it not for the fact that it has been dedicated to the Lord that it may be a safe carrier of His servants from village to village, and if need be from island to island, it would not be looked upon as anything, but a precarious conveyance for such an occasion. But necessity required us to take it if we would be at conference, as we had been disappointed at the eleventh hour in procuring a better one, and He who rules above seemed to approve of it and smile graciously upon us.

We left headquarters one hour before noon on the morning of October 10th and were wafted by a stiff breeze along the western coast of Upolu. Rain, too, fell in torrents but there is little preference, if any, to a scorching sun while voyaging on Samoa. We reached the island of Manono in the evening, having traveled about thirty-five miles, mostly inside the reef. After a good night's rest we commenced pulling over to the western coast of Savaii. Soon after starting a favorable wind came up and we were borne along over the deep blue sea at a lively rate. We had hoped to find Elders and Saints at Saleiavalu whom we could accompany up to Saleaula, but on our arrival at that place we learned that they had preceded us a few hours. So, after eating breakfast, we again set out. The sun beat down upon us quite heavily, the dry being in striking contrast with yesterday and during

the ten miles we used our oars, perspiration flowed freely.

Just before reaching the place where we must again go outside the reef, a good wind commenced to blow, but the sea presented an angry appearance. However, we were bound for Saleaula that day, so we secured the services of a native to lead us through the dangerous passage of Uumalama. He went immediately before us in his canoe while we did our best to follow him. When we had fairly got started through the opening, the large breakers all around us gave him the impression that it would be impossible to get through; but we could not now retreat. To allow one of those monstrous breakers to hit us broadside meant that we would be swamped, as he was told to proceed. Vigorously we pulled and pulled, our boat being tossed about a great deal and only fanning the air at some strokes; but gradually we made some headway and after a long suspense we were safely through the reef and out among the white caps. We now partly hoisted sail and were blown along over the restless ocean. Our faith was centered above, not upon our own expertness as seamen, otherwise such a ride would have been a perilous one. By degrees the wind subsided, until we felt safe to travel under full sail and towards evening we were opposite our destination. We had no difficulty in finding the passage which leads into quiet waters so we were soon at our journey's end, being welcomed by Savaii Elders and Saints who had already gathered from their several places of labor and abode and stood waiting on the beach to receive us.

On our return trip the crew consisted of Elders Beck, Barton, Rasband and Sears; also Messrs Fred and George Kenison, as far as Tuasivi, Savaii, from there on, the Elders continued alone. We departed from Saleaula at 1:30 o'clock on the morning of October 15th, and upon getting outside the reef were helped along by a land breeze. The ocean was calm, much to our satisfaction and comfort; these two points in our favor made rowing quite easy. Owing to this favorable condition the way through the different passages was found easily. We had traveled about twenty-five miles by 9 a. m., and now rested about an hour with Brother David Kenison Jr., at Tuasivi, then set sail for Upolu. The wind blew us across the straits and by plying the oars along the Upolu coast we managed to reach Vala-lua—a point twenty miles west of Fagalii—before the setting of the sun. We rested in a house until two o'clock a. m., then as the tide was favorable we pulled for home, being assisted by a land breeze which enabled us to reach our destination at 7:30 o'clock on the morning of October 16th.

Elders John W. Beck, James Barton, Joseph A. Rasband, Jabez W. Dangerfield, Duncan Kippen and William G. Sears, accompanied by one native, left Fagalii, in the mission boat Faaaliga at 5:30 o'clock on the evening of October 17th, and at once went outside the reef and rowed towards the east end of Upolu. The sea was as calm as a mill-pond, so no one had that fond desire to supply the fish with food which is so earnestly manifested on other occasions when the boat is tossed about by large waves. We were assisted some by a

light land breeze but the oars were kept in constant use all the distance (thirty miles) to Saleaamua and we arrived there at 3 a. m., on the 18th of October. We had but slight difficulty in the dark in finding the opening into shallow water and again landed safely.

At ten p. m., October 24th, Elders John W. Beck, James B. Barton, William G. Sears, Brothers Ilopo and Tagaloa, left Saleaamua for Tutuila, thirty-five miles east, in Mr. Fraser's twenty-five foot open boat. It was equipped with three sails, six oars, and fifteen hundred pounds of sand for ballast. We felt much safer in this than we could have done in the Faaaliga, as it is rather small and therefore more susceptible of being tossed about. We had waited two days in hopes of getting a favorable wind and now concluded we must start if we would be at conference appointed to be held at Alao, at the east end of Tutuila, on October 26th and 27th. The moon lit up the country until we had safely rowed out of the passage, then she sank and the starry heavens furnished us with light. We now raised sails against the wind and hoped to make headway by tacking. We Elders slept while Ilo sat at the rudder. We were aroused at daylight by our helmsman with the joyful news that Tutuila was in sight, so imagine our disappointment to find, when the clouds of night's darkness had entirely flown away, that he had mistaken some of them for land and that we had been carried back fifteen miles down the northern coast of Upolu, a long distance out from land. As the head-wind continued blowing it required all day to reach five miles beyond the starting point. The sun was very hot and the Pacific was anything but peaceful; result, food taken sparingly, some of which was quickly ejected, no explanation given other than conditions just mentioned.

During Friday night, October 25th, we made fair progress and Saturday morning we were in plain sight of our proposed destination. We tried rowing and cutting closer to the wind but did not advance much as we soon discontinued. It was apparent that we would be unable to attend the first day of conference, so our hopes were to reach there for the Sabbath. During morning hours we gradually gained and at two p. m., we were within eight miles of Leone, which is situated on the western coast of Tutuila. But a fierce north wind struck up and simultaneously the sea grew fearfully rough—a characteristic of this particular wind. A consultation was held, which was necessarily brief, and we decided it would be impossible to proceed farther. We were anxious to be in attendance at conference but it was evident that we could not struggle against such a sea, which at this time was very undeserving of its title. Owing to its commotion, we experienced difficulty in turning the boat towards Upolu, but once in that position without the fore and jib sails up we went bounding over the waves, figuratively speaking over mountain and vale, at railroad speed. All hell seemed conspired to destroy us, for, in addition to the dangers already described, a heavy rain storm set in which obscured Upolu from our gaze. We were obliged to steer our boat at random and after a momentous ride of twenty miles, during which time the huge waves continually