

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Editor. November 9, 1894.

THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

Birds, Size, Products, and Population of the Group.

The Mission and Colony at Laie
Described—This Letter from a
Young Missionary.

The News has been kindly permitted to make use of the following interesting extract:

LATE, OAKLAND, CALIF., Sept. 20, 1894.

To the officers, members and friends of the Oxford High School, Oxford, Calif., U. S. A.

Beloved Friends and Companions—Until the old adage, "nothing like it than never," take great pleasure in communicating a few words to you all through the medium of my pen, which I sincerely hope will find you all well and enjoying the great boon of good health, and also the benign influence of God's long-sighted wisdom in true happiness to the soul of man.

Ten long months have come and ministered themselves with the past. I grasped the parting hand with you all, prior to my leaving friends, relatives and the dear old mountain home, so gaily stored in the world, to a strange land and people an unknown land of truth and salvation, to spend darkness with Christ's people and spend light with the world. Many things are now known, and though three thousand miles are stretched between us, I have not forgotten you, nor far from it and how frequently and vividly do certain scenes and incidents of our life and mission present themselves to my mind, giving me joy, yet sorrow, for my past times are reflected on with satisfactory feelings of friendliness and markedly improved knowledge. I am still with you all, out of course, in reality I am separated far from you, when separation was caused by a divine call from Almighty God and accepted with these feelings which all the servants of God feel, to serve their duty and serve Him, the servant of all good. I regret not that I was chosen to this capacity, but rejoice exceedingly, for there is honor in helping a cause that is just. Certainly God is in His minority and we could be engaged in no better.

I am truly thankful to be able to say that while I have thus labored, I have been and now am the happy recipient of many rich blessings. I never in my life had such a time of physical health as am now enabled in my missionary labors among the heathen of the house of Israel, have received kind treatment at their generous hands, and my desire was to be a useful instrument in the hands of God in his service, and to a higher standard of purity and righteousness. But I realize that to do so will require strong faith, earnest prayer and diligent work on my part, for in this part of the world, the language and customs are quite different from those of the United States, and the people are accustomed to a different mode of living than that to which we are accustomed to in Zion, and also have quite a different language to learn. However, what is most important is that I am a child of God and I feel trust in Him who doeth all things well, and be patient; for patience is the key of advancement along all the lines of life.

It may perhaps be well for me to give a little space to a few points of a descriptive nature. I trust that they may prove interesting to you. After leaving the city of San Francisco and sailing in a steamer to the southwest, we reached the coast of California, the great Pacific Ocean for several days, covering a distance of about 2,100 miles, one comes to a group of islands known as the Sandwich or Hawaiian Islands, stretching from latitude 19° to 22° N. and longitude 155° east to 161° long, twelve in number. Eight of them are inhabited and the area of the whole is 4,000 square miles. Their names are Hawaii, Maui, Lanai, Kahoolawe, Molokai, Oahu, Kauai, Niihau, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Maui, and Maui islands are barren rocks. The population of the islands as per the report of

September 1st 1890 was 407,400. In the year 1840 a census was taken and 132,000 were found. The last census, however, shows a marked increase. The total population today, October twentieth, is about 500,000, of which Chinese, Japanese and Portuguese form the principal part.

During the few months of my stay here during my labors here, I have visited to the islands of Kauai, Maui and Oahu, the sea is very rough and turbulent, the waves are high, the wind is strong, the weather is hot and humid. This is no summer and in winter, but perpetual spring. It is the trade wind belt, ensuring constant and perfect ventilation. The country is mountainous and the soil extremely nutritious and virgin. The air is sweet, the water is clear, the streams are numerous and the vegetation is luxuriant. One need never leave the sea, except to go ashore to keep the village always a beautiful green. Being, being dry weather with moderate rain, the soil is very fertile and the crops are excellent. There is no extreme heat or cold, and there is a refreshing breeze at all times. The climate is like our beautiful June morning at home. The kind of weather, with flowers, fruit, blossoms, vines, throughout the winter months, is what constitutes the beauty of the Pacific Islands.

One of the numerous varieties of beautiful flowers which spread over the island, are the lovely blossoms which grow in large trees and the flowers of the orange, lemon, lime, grapefruit, and other tropical fruits. The trees are planted with little cultivation and in some places I might say wild, similar to our country, the waterfalls are also found in many places. The daintiest species of trees, palms, ferns, and mosses give the appearance of a pretty garden. The fruits grown here are bananas, papayas, guavas, oranges, limes, lemons, the native mango and others, a variety of tropical fruit is raised, and the soil is very fertile, making the valley a paradise of the Pacific Islands.

The Fall is interesting.

It is a quiet and peaceful time, the sun is low, the sky is clear, the air is cool, the birds sing, the flowers bloom, and the leaves fall.

The varieties of trees are numerous, numbering about 120 or more, some growing very large.

One beautiful feature of the country is, there are no serpents here, and snakes are not to be found in the hillsides covered with a growth of tropical woods, the night is filled with sounds of various animals, birds, insects, and bats.

The principal products of the Islands are sugar, cotton, coffee, tobacco, rice, and various kinds of fruit.

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