

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.

## JENSON'S TRAVELS.

## LETTER NO. IX.

Monday June 3, 1895. The brethren at the mission house at Laie saddled up their horses, which Elders Matthew Noall, Walter Scholes and myself mounted, and took a long ride over the plantation and along the sea-coast. By this means I became acquainted with topographical and industrial features of Laie, which property consists of nearly 6000 acres of land. This was purchased early in 1865 with a view to making it a gathering place for the Hawaiian Saints. It will be remembered that the natives at that time were forbidden by law to emigrate to other countries; and thus being prevented from gathering to Utah like converts from other parts of the world, it was thought best to provide a local gathering place. The property cost about \$14,000. Laie has a coast line of about three and a half miles; the Laie landing where steamers occasionally call to take on and unload freight is about a mile and a quarter from Lanihuli, the missionary home. The purchase extends inland for a distance of about four miles, or to the top of the mountains which form the boundary line between the districts of Koolanloa (in which Laie is situated) and Waialua. Of the 6000 acres only about five hundred acres can be classed as level and fertile lands; another five hundred acres is grazing land, consisting mostly of low hills and rolling country; then there is about 2,500 acres of timber or forest mountain land, and nearly the same amount of mountain grazing country. Of the 500 acres tillable land, 160 acres are planted this year with sugar cane; 150 acres are rented to Chinamen for rice fields; 18 acres are planted in kalo and ten acres in potatoes; about 75 acres are covered by so-called "kuli-ana's" (small lots) which were owned by natives at the time the purchase was made in 1865. The town site of Laie covers about one hundred acres. The mission home called Lahuli stands on elevated grounds about a quarter of a mile from the centre of the village of Laie and about the same distance inland from the sea-shore (nearest point.) The premises consists of the new and commodious cottage of modern architecture, one of the finest upon the island of Oahu outside of Honolulu—built under the direction of Elder Matthew Noall in 1893. It is a two-story frame building containing nine rooms in the lower story besides hall closets, bath room etc., and seven upper rooms, mostly used as sleeping apartments. About 160 feet to the southeast stands the old mission house, which was there in 1865 when the purchase was made; it is now used as a school house, in which Elder Harmon and Sister Fisher are teaching the English government school. Adjacent to this building is another small cottage occupied by Elders Brown and Birduo and their families, and near the new mission house is a smaller two-room cottage occupied by Brother Fisher and family. Elders Noall, Harmon and Scholes live with their respective families in the new mission house. During my temporary

stay at Laie I will occupy an upper room with a window facing the east from which I have a beautiful view of the coast, the reef and the breakers out in the ocean, also the valley of Laie and the steamboat landing beyond. Only a portion of the native population reside in the village; the remainder live on lots and parcels of land at different points of the plantation, some of them as far as two miles away.

Nearly a quarter of a mile from the mission house stands the beautiful Laie meeting house built in 1882-83 at an expense of nearly \$8,000. It occupies an elevated piece of ground and can be seen to advantage a long distance off. It is known among non-members of the Church as the Mormon Temple—a distinction which it perhaps duly deserves, it being the finest house of worship on the island of Oahu outside of Honolulu. About sixty yards away to the northwest is the old meeting house erected in 1866 soon after the purchase was made; it was used for all public gatherings prior to the erection of the new meeting house. Between the meeting houses and the mission home on one side and the village of Laie on the other, lies an open piece of prairie land covered with a beautiful carpet of fine grass called maniania, which serves as play ground for the children and occasionally for the grown up natives. This extensive natural lawn is the means of keeping everything clean and pleasant around the mission house as there is no dust flying through the air, though the wind blows at Laie almost without cessation. Yes, at Laie wind has often been commented upon. It prevents trees and flowers from growing, and the missionary sisters from wearing bangs. Many attempts have been made in former years to raise fruit and shade trees on the Laie property; but every trial in that direction has proven a failure so far except in places where they are protected from the wind either by hills or buildings, and then they only grow as high as they are protected. A few trees planted on the shielded side of buildings at Laie are proof of this assertion. But while the wind prevents trees from growing on exposed grounds, it is a harbinger of health and vigor to the inhabitants. The air around Laie is always good and pure, as it is constantly blown in from the mighty ocean. To inhale it freely means life and renewed strength of mind and body. While the air at times is awfully hot and oppressive at Honolulu, and at many places on the eastward side of the islands it is always good and pure at Laie; the missionaries, who when visiting the capital, are perspiring and feel uncomfortable under the oppressive heat, are always sure to obtain immediate relief when they return to mission headquarters. The town site of Laie is laid off like most of our town sites in Utah into regular blocks, the streets crossing each other at right angles, but the natives have not built their houses in conformity to the streets; they seem to face every way as if each builder has sought to make his house face different to that of all his neighbors. Most of the houses rests upon stilts. In their erection the upright timbers have been left long enough to raise the floor several feet from the

the ground. In countries where unhealthy vapors constantly arise from the ground, such a mode in building would certainly be a great improvement on the present style of architecture. Another peculiar feature in connection with the dwellings on the Hawaiian islands, is the absence of chimneys. In a country where it is perpetual summer there is no need for that particular commodity which is so very essential in a more northern clime.

There are no continuous living streams on the Laie property, though in times of rain there are a number of riverlets and creeks which find their way from the mountains to the ocean, such water being utilized as much as possible for irrigation purposes. But the surface water thus obtained being inadequate five artisan wells have been sunk on the property, namely three by the plantation company and two by the Chinese, who have rented lands for raising rice. The largest of the plantation wells which is about 300 feet deep, gives forth water at the rate of 469 gallons per minute, through a 7½ inch pipe. Preparations are being made now to sink another well with at least double that capacity. It will cost about \$3,000. One of the wells sunk by the Chinamen gives forth a stream large enough to run their rice mill. From that well also, the mission house obtains its water supply for culinary purposes. After the missionaries had carried the water used at the house up a hill for a distance of nearly 1000 feet during 28 years, Elder Noall got permission from the Chinamen to tap the well, or attach a small pipe, through which the water is conveyed a distance of about 600 feet into a tank built at the base of a perpendicular cliff, on the top of which a wind-mill was built to pump the water up twenty-five feet into an upper tank, from which another line of pipe conducts it into the missionary home 390 feet further on. This very desirable improvement was made in 1892, Elder Noall personally doing all the plumbing, first introducing the water into the old mission house and later into the new building when that was completed. The pipes introduce both hot and cold water into the bathroom, kitchen and wash house.

Considerable stock is kept on the Laie plantation, and of late years the kinds have been greatly improved. There is good grazing during the winter season; but the species of grass growing on the Hawaiian Islands seems to contain so few nutritious properties that cattle and horses who feed in grass knee deep keep poor, the consequence is that even milk is a scarce article on the plantation where they milk sixteen cows. But from all these less than a gallon of milk a day is obtained. I am informed that one good cow properly fed in Utah will give as much or more milk than ten cows on the Hawaiian Islands. Horses and mules on the islands are also poor, except such as are fed on grain and hay imported from California.

To prevent the Laie plantation cattle from straying off on to other people's property a wire fence three miles long was built recently on the north line of Laie, or between that and the Kahuka ranch extending from the sea to the mountains. Four miles more of fence, also built recently, divide the grazing part of Laie into four paddocks, or separate pasture inclosures. Material