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## JENSON'S TRAVELS.

### LETTER NO. X.

Tuesday June 4th, I commenced my regular historical labors at my temporary home at Laie by perusing the mission records and examining old documents on file. It reveals the fact that there are no very early records of the Hawaiian mission on hand at headquarters. It records of any kind were ever kept from 1850 to 1874, then present whereabouts are not known to anyone here. The earliest genealogical record—that is a record of baptisms, confirmations, blessings, etc.—dates back only to 1874. There are scraps of history as far back as 1879, but the regular mission record containing minutes of general conferences and statistical matters commences in 1882. Statistical reports are on file since 1886.

Wednesday June 5th.—By a thorough perusal of different documents and records I got an insight into the present status of the Hawaiian Islands and mission.

Thursday June 6th.—This day was observed as a fast day at Laie, and a meeting of the missionaries was held at eleven o'clock at Lanihuli. In the afternoon the officers of the Relief Society met in the prayer room and had a splendid little meeting.

Friday June 7th.—Elder George H. Fisher, president of the Oahu conference assisted me in my historical labors. The Oahu conference embraces all the Saints residing on the island of Oahu outside of Laie and Honolulu. Oahu is the most important island of the Hawaiian group though not the largest. It has an area of 600 square miles. Its extreme length from Makapuu Point on the southeast to the Kahuku Point on the northwest is forty-six miles; its average breadth is twenty-five miles, and its population was 31,194 in 1890. In agricultural importance Oahu stands fourth as compared with the other islands. There are two mountain ranges on the island of which the eastern (the Koolan Range) is the longest and contains a number of deep valleys, one of which, Nuanu, intersects the range giving access from one side of the island to the other. The fertile lands lie in the valleys and along the lower spurs of the mountains and extend almost to the sea. There is very little woodland except high up in the valleys and on the mountains. Honolulu is on the south side of the island; Laie on the northeast or opposite side. The two places are thirty-two miles apart. There are 1438 Saints on Oahu, including children, namely 677 in the Honolulu branch, 364 in the Laie branch and 397 in the Oahu conference, which comprises ten

branches, namely, Kahana with 154 Saints, including children, Kalahea 27, Kailua 32, Waimanalo 21, Kalaekao 23, Halawa 17, Waikale 25, Kawaihapai 20, and Waialua 43.

The Kahana branch embraces the Saints residing in the village of Kahana which is situated in a beautiful little valley extending inland from the Kahana bay. The place is eight miles southeast of Laie. The branch has a lumber meeting house, 38x20 feet, built in 1878; it also has a Sunday school, Relief Society and Mutual Improvement Association for both sexes. J. Paulo is president of the branch.

The Kalaes branch comprises the Saints living in a scattered condition along the shores of Koolan bay, in the district of Koolanpoko, and on the northeast shore of Oahu. The branch has a lumber meeting house (dedicated by Elder Matthew Noall September 24 1893) which has a central location on elevated ground near the sea shore and is about sixteen miles southeast of Laie or nearly midway between that place and Honolulu. Nakapuahi presides over the branch.

The Kaneohe branch consists of the Saints residing in the settlement of that name, situated in the district of Koolanpoko, on the northeast coast of Oahu, at most twenty-two miles southeast of Laie and ten miles north of Honolulu.

The Kailua branch embraces the Saints residing in a native settlement of that name, situated about five miles southeast of Kaneohe, or about eleven miles by road northeast of Honolulu, in the district of Koolanpoko. Holi is president of the branch.

The Waimanalo branch consists of Saints residing in and near the sugar plantation of that name in the district of Koolanpoko, near the southeastern extremity of the island of Oahu, fifteen miles by wagon road northeast of Honolulu and about thirty miles southeast of Laie. The Saints own a lumber meeting house which is situated near the foot hills several miles inland and in the outskirts of the town. There is also a Sunday school, Relief Society, and Mutual Improvement Association. Waialeale presides over the branch.

The Kalaekao branch consists of the Saints residing on the dry, sandy and sultry beach near the Pearl Locks, about eight miles of round-about road northwest of Honolulu. Maukeale is president.

Halawa branch embraces the Saints residing in a little village or creek bed near the main road about eight miles northwest of Honolulu, near Pearl Harbor, in the districts of Ewa and Waianae. Some of the members are addicted to the habit of drinking awa and others are affected with leprosy. Kameka, the former

president of the branch, was taken to Molokai as a leper in March 1895, since which the branch has had no presiding officer.

The Waikale branch consists of the Saints residing in a scattered condition on the south side of Oahu in a district of country extending from Halawa westward for a distance of twelve miles. It includes Kualakai and Honouliuli and a number of very small hamlets situated on the numerous small streams which put into Pearl harbor from the mountains on the north. It is an old branch of the Church dating back to the fifties and has had many presiding officers. Kilanea now presides.

The Kawaihapai branch composes the Saints residing in a stock-raising and rice farming district situated near the western extremity of the island of Oahu in the district of Waialua. The village of Kawaihapai is situated on the sea coast about four miles east of Kaena Point and about twenty miles from Laie. The branch has a small meeting house and a Relief Society. Kaiona is president.

Waialua branch comprises the Saints residing in the town of Waialua, one of the most important seaports of Oahu, situated on the northwest coast of the island, about twenty-eight miles northwest of Honolulu, and sixteen miles by round-about coast road from Laie. The branch which is presided over by Petero Umi, has a meeting house and a Relief Society.

From the foregoing it will be seen that there are five meeting houses, two Sunday schools, four Relief Societies and two Mutual Improvement Associations in the Oahu conference.

In the afternoon (June 7th) I attended the weekly meeting of the Laie Primary Association. Sister Noall presides over the association, assisted by all the other missionary sisters. I addressed the children in English for about half an hour. There are only two Primary associations in the mission; the other one is at Honolulu. In the evening four native sisters and two native brethren visited the missionary home to sing for us. A number of beautiful pieces were rendered, the first one being composed especially for the occasion of Sister Miriama Kekuku.

Saturday June 8th.—I continued my historical labors, and also attended a Relief Society meeting, which I addressed by the assistance of President Noall as interpreter.

Sunday June 9th.—I accompanied Elder Noall and wife to Kahana, a village eight miles distant, where we attended meeting, and had a good time with the Saints. After returning to Laie I delivered a lecture on Church History, according to previous appointment,