

clouds. The moon was full and ever and anon shed her welcome rays through the rifts in the fast hurrying clouds. Our captain "scented the danger from afar" and as a precaution he ordered the jib sail to be hauled down, and the main and foresail reefed for squalls. The order was promptly executed, and even then with the sails partially reefed we flew over the water at a rapid pace. Towards midnight the wind increased in fury till we fairly flew over the water like a frightened bird trying to elude its pursuer. The side of our boat cut under the water at every gust. Finally a sudden gust struck us and turned the schooner up on one side. Had it not been for the prompt execution of the captain's hurried command "drop the sails" we had been surely swamped.

We were now only about five miles distant from Tutuila and, fearful lest we should be dashed against the rocks, the captain ordered the sails up again, and determined to ride out the storm even though we might be driven far out of our course. A rain set in and partly checked the storm though it still blew a strong gale when the rain had ceased. Long ere the first gray streaks of dawn had appeared, some of us might be seen standing up in the front of the boat clinging to the ropes and straining our sleepless eyes to catch a glimpse of land. Just about daylight we sighted land off to the left, and after sailing in that direction for some time we discovered it to be a point of Tutuila, called Poloa. We rounded this point at about 8:30 or 9 o'clock a. m. On this side of the island we found the sea in a terrible commotion. The huge waves ran mountain high. One moment we would be tossed high, as if on a high mountain peak, and the next buried in a fearful abyss below. Each succeeding wave threatened to bury us into oblivion.

The strain on our mast was very great, and one of the wire guy ropes, stretched beyond its utmost tension, snapped like a whip cord. The foresail was quickly dropped and, with some difficulty, the break was soon spliced. At about 4 o'clock p. m. we succeeded in getting to the south side of the island, but only after several long "tacks."

The wind was now no longer "in our head" but "off the side." Our captain threatened to anchor in Pagopago harbor before dark, if he had to go in with the deck under water. He accordingly ordered the sails "let out" and we dashed along at a frightful rate. The vessel would lean over and cut under the water on one side, rest a moment on the crest of a wave, and then dip under on the other side. Of course everything on deck was wet, we being drenched by the flying waters. Had the vessel not been well loaded in the hold, it had certainly turned clear over. We reached Pagopago harbor shortly after sundown.

One unacquainted with the situation or location of the harbor, might easily sail along and pass it oblivious to its existence. From the sea it appears to be only an indentation in the coast line, but upon investigation the harbor is found to run inland from one side of the indentation. From the outside one can not see in nor from the inside can one see out. The harbor, with the ex-

ception of the entrance, is surrounded by high mountains. Shortly after our arrival, we observed a boat coming towards us. The oarsmen proved to be Brothers Abel, Ricks and Bailey, who had sighted us, and hastened to meet us. We were soon ashore and exchanging greetings with Brothers J. J. Bennett and some of the native Saints. The next day being Sunday, we held the regular Sunday meetings with Brothers Lee and Smoot as speakers in the morning and Brothers Lee, Wood and Ioane in the afternoon.

On the morning of Tuesday, April 28th, we obtained a boat from Mr. Wesley Foster and started out for the east end of Tutuila to hold meeting at that place and also on the Island of Aunuu. The party consisted of President W. O. Lee, E. J. Wood, A. Beesley, B. Smoot, J. J. Bennett, E. A. Bailey, G. E. Able, Jas. Ricks and three natives, Ioane, Ifopo and Viali. The boat leaked badly, and it kept one of us busy the entire time bailing out the water. In some places we had to go between some immense breakers and a rock-bound coast. We reached Auasi harbor about 4 o'clock p. m., having rowed against a headwind the distance of about ten miles.

The harbor here, if harbor it may be called, was quite rough, the reef being not more than forty or fifty feet distant from the shore. The passage is a long and narrow one and very crooked as it winds around between the rocks. On either side the huge breakers curl over and fall with a deafening crash.

We waited for our chance, and at a given signal we pulled with a will. Our native man, Viali, stood up in the nose of the boat and called out to the man at the rudder the directions thus: To the right! to the left! to the right! etc., etc. Viali was armed with a long stick or pole with which he would push on one rock and then on the other, thus guiding us between them. With each receding wave the water would rush out through the opening of the reef, causing a very strong current that would take us back some distance and sometimes hold us stationary despite our efforts to go forward. With unflagging energy we pulled on the oars till we got through and jumped ashore. It was decided that President Lee, Brothers Wood, Smoot, Bennett, Bassett and Ioane walk on a few miles to the village of Alao, while Brothers Beesley, Bailey, Able, Ricks and some natives go over the channel to the Island of Aunuu about a mile distant.

President Lee and party walked along the path a short distance when it led them along the face of a cliff overlooking the sea. From this eminence we waited to see that Brother Beesley and party got out of the reef all right. It required but little effort to propel the boat now as the current carried it out, but it required considerable dexterity and judgment to dodge and avoid the numerous rocks that lie in the passage. As they went out of the opening we could see that they had made a fatal mistake in not turning out enough to the right. One large wave arose before them, but as it did not break, they rode over it. The occupants of the boat now fully realized the extent of their danger. Though Brother Beesley repeatedly shouted—"row, row for your lives," the natives

seemed terrified, refused to row, and made preparations to jump. There was little time for action. A huge breaker arose before them as if by magic power, and bore down upon them in its relentless fury threatening to bury the boat and its living freight into the depths of oblivion.

We were horror-stricken at the sight and stood speechless with terror expecting momentarily to see them dashed to pieces upon the cruel coral rocks. We believe it was only through the direct interposition of the hand of the Lord that they were preserved. With presence of mind Brother Beesley turned the boat a little to the right, too much would have been fatal. As it was, one end of the breakers struck them, they mounted its crest, the boat swerved over on to its side and they were hid from our sight. We were almost afraid to look again lest we should not see them, but they rose again as if from the gaping jaws of death, each of three oarsmen pulling on his oar with that strength that nerves a man when his life is at stake. The vast amount of water that fell upon one of the oars snapped it like a pipe stem. The breaker must have been about fifteen feet high. Another huge wave struck them, but as it had not commenced to break yet, they rode over it. It broke immediately after passing them. A few more vigorous strokes and they were out of the reach of the cruel breakers and rowing towards the island of Aunuu, about a mile distant. We now left our watch tower as it were, and after a walk of about twenty minutes we reached the village of Alao, and spent the night with Lealao, one of our Saints.

Next morning, Wednesday, April 29, we walked a few miles further on to the village of Tula, where we obtained permission to hold meeting in the church. Though the congregation was not a large one those present listened very attentively. The speakers were President W. O. Lee and Brother E. J. Wood. After the meeting we baptized the chief of the village, his wife and his son. Their names are Salanoa, Siuli and Malala.

We have thus obtained a hold in another village. After a good dinner here we all went back to Alao and from there to Auasi harbor, where we were met by our boat from Aunuu. The sea was not so rough this morning, so we got through the reef by watching for a chance and then rushing through. After traveling about a mile we reached Aunuu and exchanged pleasant greetings with the Saints and old friends. After resting awhile we were invited to go over to the meeting house and have a feast. We needed no urging in the matter and soon reached the house. The house had been very beautifully decorated with leaves of various hues, buds, flowers, sprays, etc.

During the spreading of the food we entertained them with some music and some short speeches. The feast was a good one and heartily enjoyed by all who participated. After the feast was over we called on one of our Saints named Manatu. Before we left the house his wife desired to be baptized. She was, accordingly, baptized, Brother A. Beesley officiating in the ordinance. In the evening she and the newly baptized folks from Tula were confirmed.

On the morning of Thursday, April