

the Ober-Ammergau performance, and because the infidels of Paris and other European countries engage in such proceedings, is no reason why it should look with approval upon such a production for purely speculative purposes, or, in fact, as relates to any other place than that first named, for any purpose whatever. Even the mere suggestion of such a thing should be sternly frowned down and the authors of it be made to understand that others have reverence if they have not.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC SEAS.

TETAMANN, FAKARAVA, TUAMOTU ISLANDS, South Pacific Seas, January 15th, 1893.—In my missive to you dated in October last, it was intimated that during an absence of forty years without foreign missionaries the branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, that was established on these islands had become entirely annihilated. This I desire to rectify, by giving the following account of our latest experience. On the 15th of September, 1892, President James S. Brown accompanied by Elder W. A. Seegmiller left Tahiti for the Tupual Islands. After a disagreeable voyage of five days they reached their destination only to learn that all Church members—(save one 17-year-old girl) on that land, had recently been misled from the true Church by a reorganized protelyter. For two weeks the elders were treated with great indifference and were in need of a friendly hand to provide food sufficient to appease their appetite. Meeting houses were closed against them, and the powers of Satan raged against their every effort. Yet, "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform." After endurance, perseverance and prayer the tables turned. Several natives who had been acquainted with Pres. Brown while on his former mission to these islands, came to him and expressed their doubts of the reorganized faith, and after being convinced of their error, by him who brought them the truth over 40 years ago, they demanded baptism. This opened the doors for others and in a short time the Elders baptized sixty-five persons, which included the majority of proper subjects for baptism. Many were refused the privilege on account of not having prepared themselves for the reception of the Gospel.

After a sojourn of two months on Tupual, leaving Elder Seegmiller in charge of the renewed branch, Pres. Brown returned to Tahiti. Aged and crippled as he is, his only chance for passage was on the deck of a small schooner loaded heavily with coconuts. In a space of 2x3 feet he sat in a cramped condition for seven days and nights in sunshine and rain. The spray of the briny ocean would then envelope his form from over the coconuts that were heaped up on either side of him. In sight of land they were five days and nights in alternating storms and clouds, patiently waiting for the wind to wait them onward to the desired land, Tahiti.

While President Brown was visiting Tupual, Elders J. W. Damron and T. Jones met with a Mr. Mapuhi from the Tuamotu Islands. He being the

owner of several schooners, offered free passage to those islands. His kindness and hospitality were thankfully accepted. On November 1st the Elders landed on the island of Tukaroa and were escorted by Mapuhi to his own neatly arranged home, where they received every attention possible for their comfort. On this island we found a branch of over 100 church members, who, after a consultation, concluded to receive us as missionaries from the correct Church of Christ. We began our labors in earnest and baptized thirty-three new members on the island of Tukaroa.

Learning that there were branches of the Church on several different islands and on finding that a conference had been appointed to convene January 6th on the island of Faite, President James S. Brown and son Elando, were notified by letter and speedily joined the brethren at Tukaroa. All started for the conference together and landed on Faite December 31st, 1892. The number of boats anchored in the lagoon was proof that many had gathered before we arrived.

Not many minutes after landing we were visited by a delegation headed by an aged and blind veteran called Waihea, who has for a long time acted as president over the Church members on the different islands of this group. His first question to President Brown was this: "Are you the real Iakobo (James) that brought us the Gospel forty years ago? Second, Are you now representing the same Gospel as before?" Various was the questions propounded, and finally to satisfy himself that it was the real "Iakobo" he asked the location of different villages on Ana, the island where Elder Brown labored while on his former mission. Being convinced, he said with unspeakable joy: "We receive you as our father and leader, but had you not come back personally we would have refused to receive any foreign missionaries, as so many false teachers have been in our midst and deceived many from the Gospel of Christ." He then related how they had prayed to God to again send them missionaries as of yore, and to give them His Holy Spirit to keep them in the light and truth of the Gospel.

CONFERENCE AT FAITE.

Jan. 6th, 1893. Congregation called to order by Pres. Jas. S. Brown. Singing by the Saints. Prayer by Elder Elando Brown.

Pres. Jas. Brown addressed the Saints, imparting good instructions. He explained the possibility of Satan and his servants being transformed into angels of light, and warned the Saints to shun all evil powers that will lead into darkness. The speaker having been a missionary to the islands over 40 years ago, suggested that all persons in the congregation who had seen and known him formerly would arise to their feet. The response was that 17 gray haired veterans immediately protruded above the seated assemblage.

The following report of Church members was given from the islands as follows: Number of Saints on Ana, 25; Faite, 36; Fakarava, 50; Tukarva, 160; Kavuehi, 11; Raraka, 27; Aratika, 21; Katin, 20; Tupual, 65; Tahiti, 10; total, 425.

Elder J. W. Damron spoke briefly

and the meeting closed by singing, "Beautiful Zion," translated and taught to the native Saints by Elder Damron. Benediction by Elder T. Jones.

The afternoon session was called to order by President Brown. Singing. Prayer by Elder Terogomaituti. Singing.

Remarks were made by Elder J. W. Damron, who spoke on the mission of Christ to the spirits in prison. The speaker also read and explained the parable of Christ comparing the wise man to him who built his house upon a rock.

President Brown then spoke of the importance of a vicarious work being done for the dead.

Singing. Benediction by Elder Maihea.

Conference continued January 7th, 1893. Elder James A. Brown explained the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar and the interpretation given by the Prophet Daniel.

Elder Damron exhorted the Saints to be diligent and to heed the signs of the times occurring in the latter days, as predicted by the Prophet of God.

Brother Tehina, of Ana, was ordained an Elder, as was also Brother Karere, of Katu.

Benediction by Elder Elando Brown.

Afternoon Session, January 7th.—Called to order by president of mission. Elder Tafanan, of Ana, addressed the Conference, and was followed by Elder Damron, who dwelt principally on the personality of God.

Elder J. S. Brown spoke encouragingly for a short time and closed the Conference, to assemble again at Ana on the 6th of April, 1893.

Singing "The Spirit of God like a fire is burning" (translated).

Benediction by Elder James S. Brown.

JAS. S. DAMRON,
Clerk of Conference.

DIED IN FLORIDA.

BIG COTTONWOOD, April 17, 1893.

Editor Deseret News:

A funeral of rather unusual circumstances took place here on Sunday morning. It was that of a young, promising lad of less than eighteen years of age, who died April 1, 1893, in Florida. The deceased, Karl J. Larson, had listened to reading room advertisements, and selected Lady Lake, Lake county, Florida, as the place of his future fortune. On his arrival he obtained a "free" lot by paying for it, or by paying expenses, etc., which was equal to a purchase price. His habits were exemplary, and he possessed such energy that at seventeen years of age he had \$500 cash in a Salt Lake bank. This amount he had earned by industry and economy. He was beloved and respected and had a very good outlook before him here, but he was captivated by the flowery tales of Florida. There he purchased fifteen acres of land, cleared three acres and planted it in orange trees. He opened a bank account, hired men, and was clearing up more land. The hot weather and poor water in exchange for the balmy air and pure mountain streams of Utah, soon reduced him