

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE HAWAIIAN MISSION.

We desire to record, in the columns of your paper, an account of one of those highly interesting gatherings which take place here occasionally, bringing comfort and cheer to the hearts of many who are identified with the work of the Lord in the Hawaiian mission.

The semi-annual conference convened at Laie, Oahu, on the afternoon of April 3rd, 1897. The meeting was occupied by the Primary associations, presided over by Sister Ella C. Birdno. The exercises consisted of songs, recitations, dialogues and other lessons on the Gospel, well recited by the children. At the close of the program, the general officers of the Primary associations were presented and sustained.

A meeting was held the same evening, devoted mainly to the hearing of reports of native Elders from different branches on the islands.

On Sunday morning, April 4th, the Elders and Saints met in general conference. There were on the stand twenty-two Elders and five sisters from Zion. The Sacrament was administered by Elders Henry Moss and Wilder T. Hatch.

Elder Edwin C. Dibble was the first speaker, and treated on the nature of the God believed in by the Latter-day Saints. Spoke of the insufficiency of the Bible as a means of salvation for the human family, without the living oracles of God. Elder William H. Mendenhall followed, speaking on the gifts and blessings enjoyed by the Saints in the days of the Savior. This Gospel has been revealed anew in the latter days through the Prophet Joseph Smith, and we have a right to enjoy the same spiritual blessings as did the Saints anciently. If we do not enjoy the blessings promised, it is because we have not kept the commandments; for, it is written, that the Lord's arm is not shortened that He cannot save, etc.

The afternoon and evening sessions were devoted to the Sabbath schools, presided over by Elder Edwin C. Dibble and counselors. The exercises throughout consisted of songs, recitations and Gospel lessons, well prepared and rendered by the schools of Honolulu, Kaulanui, Kahana and Laie, in the order named.

Elder Henry Moss made a few closing remarks. He was pleased to see the interest taken by the different schools in the conference proceedings. It is while the children are young that impressions are most easily made upon their minds; therefore, the parents should be careful to set good examples before them.

On the morning of April 5th, the Relief societies, presided over by Sister Alice R. Woolley, met in conference. The annual statistical report for the islands was read, and showed that much good had been accomplished during the last year. Sister Woolley spoke encouragingly to the native sisters, and said they should strive to keep all the commandments the Lord has given them. Representatives of a number of the different societies, reported the work being done, and this was followed by the reading of some interesting essays, etc. Sister Ella C. Birdno spoke of the value of meeting together, and said we should

worship the Lord in spirit and truth. Sister Tryphena B. Garff referred to the duties of mothers to their children. They should watch and guard the little ones continually.

The Mutual Improvement associations occupied the afternoon and evening sessions, under the direction of Elder William H. Mendenhall and counselors. The exercises were replete with valuable information pertaining to the Gospel. Songs, lectures, dialogues, etc., found a place on the program, and the reports given showed the work to be prospering. Elder John D. Hooper referred to his experiences during the last six months. The speaker pointed out wherein some of the associations were lacking in zeal and good works, and closed by exhorting all to be diligent. Elder Wilder T. Hatch congratulated those engaged in the work on the success which had attended them in the past. They were all young in the work of the Lord and should labor with that zeal which should characterize young people. Exhorted all to continue to study the lessons prepared for the associations.

Our conference was concluded on the 6th. After the usual opening exercises, Elder Lewis R. Jenkins was called upon to speak, during which time he explained why we meet together, and he impressed upon all the necessity of obtaining the Spirit of the Lord, for without its assistance we cannot succeed. Elder George H. Birdno spoke of the necessity of keeping our bodies clean and pure. We should adhere strictly to the commandments of the Lord, that we may escape the judgments which will be poured out upon the wicked. Elders William D. Hill, George P. Garff, James S. Whitaker, Charles W. Hancock, Edwin W. Fifield, Samuel Paget, Thomas A. Waddoups, John A. Ahlstrom, Charles C. Bush, Joseph H. Brinton, each spoke briefly of the magnitude of the work of the Lord and the many blessings we enjoy.

At the beginning of the afternoon session, the statistical reports were read, after which Elder Woolley, our president, spoke of the progress being made in the work. He referred to the goodly number of children growing up among the Latter-day Saints, and pronounced a blessing upon the parents, on condition that they would properly teach them.

The following names were presented to and sustained by the conference: President of the Hawaiian mission, Samuel E. Woolley; as counselors to the president, Edwin C. Dibble, George H. Birdno, Lewis R. Jenkins, John D. Hooper, Joseph H. Brinton, George P. Garff, William D. Hill, Edwin W. Fifield, Samuel Paget, James S. Whitaker, Charles W. Hancock, John A. Ahlstrom, Charles C. Bush, Thomas A. Waddoups, William A. Williams, William B. Davis, Alice R. Woolley, Ella C. Birdno, Tryphena B. Garff, and Elizabeth Williams.

Elders William H. Mendenhall, Henry Moss, Wilder T. Hatch and Will G. Farrell were released to return home per S. S. Miowera, sailing from Honolulu, April 24th.

Appointments for the ensuing term of six months: Temporal.—Samuel E. Woolley, manager of the Laie planta-

tion; Joseph H. Brinton, assistant; Edwin C. Dibble, school teacher and book-keeper; Tryphena P. Garff, assistant school teacher; William A. Williams and William B. Davis will labor on the plantation in setting up machinery, etc. Ecclesiastical.—Honolulu branch, Lewis R. Jenkins and Abraham Fernandez; Kauai, William D. Hill, John A. Ahlstrom and Kanihonui; Oahu, James S. Whitaker and Edwin W. Fifield; South Hawaii, John D. Hooper and Thomas A. Waddoups; North Hawaii, George H. Birdno, Samuel Paget and Keanu Sr.; Hilo, Charles C. Bush and Kaahani; Maui, George P. Garff, Charles W. Hancock and D. Kamaawe; Kahana branch, N. K. Hiapole; clerk of mission, Edwin C. Dibble; assistant, Edwin W. Fifield; president of Sabbath schools for the islands, John D. Hooper, with Geo. P. Garff and William A. Williams as counselors; Charles C. Bush as secretary; Samuel E. Woolley, treasurer; president of the Mutual Improvement associations, Lewis R. Jenkins, with George H. Birdno and Samuel Paget as counselors; Joseph H. Brinton, secretary; Samuel E. Woolley, treasurer.

Elder Will G. Farrell spoke favorably of the exercises rendered during the conference; mentioned the decrease in the Hawaiian population of the islands during the last ten years, and said the Saints should do all in their power to arrest this rapid falling away. Elders William A. Williams and William B. Davis each spoke briefly with words of encouragement to the people.

After the presentation of the general authorities of the Church, the evening and closing session was occupied by Elder Woolley, in giving some practical instructions to the people regarding their duties as Latter-day Saints. He reminded the people of the treatment which should be accorded the Elders when they go out into their fields of labor. The speaker administered a stern rebuke to all those engaged in practices not in accordance with the rules of the Gospel. The correct manner of praying and the order of partaking of the Sacrament were touched upon, as were also the conditions which exist in Utah, which were explained for the benefit of those intending to emigrate. Elder Woolley said the greater part of those who have returned from Zion have wept in sorrow on account of the backward step they have taken. They have repented and are now engaged in the work. The speaker called upon sinners to repent, come in from the byways, and be reconciled to the truth. He admonished the Saints to endeavor to get beyond the power of Satan and obtain the place of rest prepared for the faithful.

This closed an interesting conference, during which the Spirit of the Lord was abundantly poured out upon all present. The annual statistical report shows that the total number of Hawaiians identified with the Church now, reaches 5,570; while the number of baptisms performed in the mission since October, 1896, is 173; number of children blessed, 158.

During the past few months, we have been favored with the presence of Elder William W. Burton, wife and daughter, who came here chiefly to regain the latter's health, which is much improved. As Brother Burton is a veteran missionary in the Church and has a broad experience in business matters, his words of encouragement and advice have been appreciated by all.

We are pleased to state that all our