

English and the native tongue. In the evening we went upon the plantation engaged in racing to amuse ourselves.

Wednesday, 24. We are now waiting for boats, and anxious to return to our various fields of labor.

With best wishes to the NEWS, I am your brother,

L. B. BURNHAM.

LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA.

The following letter from "Sunny Australia," is addressed to the President and Members of the 30th Quorum of Seventies, is kindly furnished the NEWS for publication.

It is with feelings of great respect that I enjoy the privilege of giving you a short account of our missionary work in this beautiful country, and my travels since I left our dear mountain home, the brightest spot on the face of this fair earth.

On the 12th of August 1893 in company with Elders Johnson and Brimley I left Salt Lake City; arriving in San Francisco safely, we spent three days in taking in the sights and scenes of that great and beautiful city. On the 18th we boarded the old Monowai. Here we met three more Elders. We passed through Golden Gate about 5 o'clock, and mounted the waves of the great Pacific and took a farewell look of our dear America, "the land of the free and home of the brave." The weather soon became foggy and we did not see the sun for about three days. Everything was pleasant; the officers were gentlemen, the crew polite, the passengers lively, the water smooth, and the ship perfect, we had concerts and contests for prizes and the Elders were in the front for both.

We arrived in Honolulu August 25th, 10 a. m. We met Brother Fisher of Utah and a number of our native brethren and sisters, all of who were glad to see us and made us welcome. They took us to see their nice little meeting house and the sights of their flowery city. This can well be called the garden of the Pacific, for it is a paradise on the water.

We left two of our brethren here and set sail at two p. m. The voyage continued to be very smooth and pleasant. We arrived in Apla September first at ten a. m. Here we met a number of our brethren who were performing missions on these Islands. They looked fine, and a credit to our people. We took on large quantities of tropical fruit, saw the wrecks of the old war vessels, left one of our brethren here, and set sail again at two p. m.

All went well and we arrived in Auckland September seventh at nine a. m. We stayed here a few hours and then I bid Brother Johnson and Young good bye and turned my face toward Australia, the last one left of our company.

I arrived in Sidney September 11th at nine a. m., a stranger in a strange land. I left Sydney September 13th at six p. m., on the S. S. Barcoo for Brisbane. I labored with Elder Burton here about three months and was called back to Sydney to meet a company of Elders. From this company Elders Ellis P. Pond and Mrs. Pond went to Tasmania, Elder Bodily went to Brisbane, and Elder G. W. Lewis and I set sail for Melbourne, arriving here on Christmas eve in a pouring rain. From here we sailed to Portland; traveled back in the country

about one hundred miles, visited what few Saints there are here, who are very anxious to get to Utah. From here we went back to Melbourne and commenced our labors by holding meetings in Sister Brown's house in Foots cray, and tracting South Melbourne. The people took our tracts and were in a good many instances glad to see us and they said they thought we were right. We have good prospects for doing some baptizing. But our labors were soon curtailed for the want of more tracts. President Gardner requested me to come back to Sydney, and meet a company of Elders, and help them continue their journey. I had always had a great desire to open up the Gospel in Sydney, knowing that my father and mother received the light of truth and went down into the waters of baptism there. And through this baptism stands that great organ in the west end of our beautiful Tabernacle, chiming out anthems of praise to our Father in heaven and filling the hearts of thousands of faithful Latter-day Saints with joy and gratitude for the goodness of God toward them; and it will forever stand a golden monument to the honor of Joseph H. Ridges.

In my travels through Australia I find the people anxious to receive the truth, but they have been priest ridden so long and so well schooled in trash like works that it takes time and labor to show them who has the truth and what it is. There are thousands of people here that never heard the name Latter-day Saints nor knew that they taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its power and purity as it was taught by our Lord and Savior. There are hundreds of cities in Australia that never heard the voice nor saw the foot-print of a man holding the holy Priesthood, so you see what there is to do; and I think there are bright days in the near future for this fair land. There are four millions of people here and eight Elders to preach the Gospel to them. I hope the time is close at hand when this will be a mission to itself including Tasmania, with one of our leading brethren as President and two hundred missionaries at his command. It is a splendid country for young men with their wives, for in many instances they could preach the Gospel better than we can. It is a good climate for women, they all say they have much better health here than in the old country. The rent of good houses is very low, provisions are very cheap, a two pound loaf of bread 2d, good steak 2d pound, pine apples 3d each, bananas 6d dozen, grapes 1d pound, oranges 1d a dozen, sugar 16s a cwt, and the best of clothing for men and women for half the price they are in Salt Lake City. These are retail prices. The schools here are crowded with beautiful children, which speaks volume for the people. This country is full of good men and women and eager to receive the truth, but their minds are so bitterly poisoned and full of prejudice through priestcraft that it will take the Spirit and power of God to convince them that the Gospel is restored to the earth through the Prophet Joseph Smith. This power rests with the Priesthood of God and wherever they go it is felt, and I am sure with their united efforts they can burst the bands of religious tyranny, and bring down the light of the new and everlasting covenant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ upon this fair land. Therefore said He unto them, "The harvest truly

is great but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." This country has the greatest religious freedom; life and property are protected with a rigid law, we find some people here that have heard the Gospel in the old country and have read the Book of Mormon. We found one man that had a Book of Mormon, first edition with Joseph Smith's hand writing in it; we could not buy it of him. We also find some whose parents belonged to the Church. It may be interesting to our brethren who have labored in Australia and borne the heat and burden of the day, and have many times been disheartened and discouraged because they could see no results from their efforts, to know that their labors have been like bread cast upon the waters, seen and taken up after many days, and that ten persons have accepted the truth and been led down into the waters of baptism in Brisbane.

We have a splendid time tracting. The people in most instances are glad to read our church works. Little do we know when we are tracting from house to house and with reluctance and fear walk, through these beautiful parks filled with every flower that grows underneath the sun, and would put your Golden Gate Park in the shade, and with hesitating hand touch the electric bell on the door of a fine mansion, whom we are going to meet; for we are often asked to call on them again and teach them the Gospel.

Yesterday, Sunday, we dined with Captain Gipps, nominee for parliament, and were invited to come to his house whenever we wished. We blessed and named a fine baby, and have two more to bless and prospects for baptisms are very favorable. The principal way we can preach the Gospel to this people and remove the prejudice from their hearts, is to live among and associate with them and show them that we are in every way their peers so you see an Elder with his family would have a splendid opportunity in this way. The Elders should load themselves down with Church works and tracts (and don't bring clothing to this country,) such as Spencer's letters, Orson Pratt's works, Roberts's last edition of the Gospel, Voice of Warning, the little Latter-day Saints etc. The City of the Saints is the best book the Elders has to introduce himself with, but it should be enlarged, more, history of the Church, more views more photos of the Priesthood.

Good bye, brethren, God bless you all. Your brother in the Gospel of Peace.

A. J. RIDGES.

THE GRAND JURY REPORT.

At 10:30 Monday morning the grand jury of the Third district court presented its anxiously awaited final report—one of unusual interest—and received its discharge at the hands of Judge Bartch. With the discharge of the grand jurors comes also the release of Chas. Pratt and his two subordinates from the penitentiary.

There was an immense crowd in the court room when the grand jury came in, and everybody present stood at close attention as

Judge Bartch asked—Gentlemen, have you any report to make?

Foreman Hill answered that they had, and the court directed that it be