

considerable amount of country suitable for agricultural purposes.

Western Australia includes all portion of the Australian continent situated to the westward of 129° east longitude, between the parallels of 13 and 35° S. The greatest length of the colony from north to south is 1,100 miles, and breadth about 850 miles. Exclusive of the contiguous islands, it contains an estimated area of about 1,060,000 square miles, being more than eight times the size of Great Britain and Ireland; it is the largest of all the Australian colonies, though containing much the smaller number of inhabitants. By the census returns of 1891 the population, exclusive of aborigines, numbered 49,792, but owing to the discovery of rich gold fields, which has caused a great immigration, the population at present is estimated at about 117,000. Perth, the capital of the colony, is located near the west coast, on the north bank of Swan river, about twelve miles above Fremantle, its seaport and sister town. Perth had 8,447 inhabitants in 1891; but it has grown considerably since that time. The city was first founded August 12th, 1829. During the past few years West Australia has enjoyed a mining boom, gold in paying quantities having been found in different places in the interior, principally in and about Coolgardie. At the present time men are flocking in at the rate of nearly 1,000 a week. The immigration has been principally from the other Australian colonies, but a great many adventurers have also come from Europe, America and other parts of the world to seek their fortunes on the continent island. It is the same old story—an immense excitement. A few lucky men make fortunes quickly, but most meet with bitter disappointment, and leave the fields again with blighted hopes and a sad heart, after being exposed to great peril and in many instances severe suffering; for the West Australia gold fields are situated in a most dreary and desert-like section of country, where, among other things, water at times is sold at a high price. Thus in Kanowne, or the White Feather Mining District, water to be used by both man and beast is relayed at prices varying according to the scarcity of the article from one penny to two and a half shillings a gallon. Of course these figures don't hold good during the rainy season. The water which is sold is generally condensed from the salt water lakes which abound in that region of country. The average miner is paid from £3 to £4 and two gallons of water per week; but thousands of men go unemployed. West Australia was a crown colony until quite recently, when it was given what is known in the British possessions as responsible government, which means a colony regulating its own affairs and having nothing to do with the parent government direct, except in dealing with a single man appointed by the Crown—the governor. All other officers are elected by the colony. Though large portions of Western Australia are and will remain deserts and almost useless tracts, there is sufficient good land to sustain a population many times the number of the present one, if properly cultivated. So far as I have been able to learn none of our missionaries have ever labored in this part of Australia.

ANDREW JENSON.

COLOMBO, Ceylon, East India, May 27th, 1896.

IN ALABAMA AND FLORIDA.

LOANGO, Covington Co., Ala.,
August 24th, 1896

The experiences of a missionary are varied. In some localities he is received and treated kindly, people feeling unable to do enough for him, and in other places he meets with prejudice, which is always the result of ignorance.

The place from which we write might be classed among these prejudiced regions, although the people of course declare to the contrary. When we entered this place they said, "Those fellows who have turned the world upside down have come hither also." They had heard of us and knew that we had been holding many meetings in the southern part of the county.

Although we meet with much opposition, yet we are constantly adding to the "little stone." Owing to the heat we have not been as active as we otherwise would have been, yet we have been "instant in season and out of season," and have tried to make it a point to convert our visit to every house into a meeting.

In the past three weeks we have held forty-eight meetings, blessed sixteen children, and baptized and confirmed fourteen persons, as members of the Church.

Sometimes we get somewhat discouraged and feel that we are not doing our duty, but considering we feel that we are doing fairly well and that the Lord is blessing our efforts and crowning them with success.

Since our conference we have traveled without purse and scrip, and our testimony is that we have had far better success than previous to our entering into this plan. We are trying to fully realize the great importance of obeying this rule. The Lord commands that we carry no money or anything of a kindred nature, and has said, "you shall not go hungry, neither athirst." We have reaped the blessings promised the just in proportion to our obeying this command.

This county is very thinly settled. One travels for five or six miles in some places without passing a house. This renders it impossible to compete with the labors of the brethren of more thickly inhabited places.

On the 23 ult., we visited Pensacola, Florida, the old seaport town. Many interesting sights were to be seen. Among those most worthy of mention were the larger steam and sail vessels. Many were sunken and some washed inland by the terrific storm which occurred on July 7th. We also visited the Navy Yard and lighthouse department. The former is about gone to ruin, there being a few old-fashioned guns left.

While in the old city we met a man who was once an inhabitant of Jackson Co., Missouri. He said he knew many of the Mormons well. Among them was David Whitmer one of the three witnesses of the Book of Mormon. He spoke of him in the highest terms. He added, "Mr. Thomas, I know more about the Mormons than you can tell me," and further said that for their religion etc., they were not expelled, "but for stealing cattle." A little cross-examination, however, proved his information to be somewhat limited, more so than he had realized; and being unable to carry his point he would try to take sides with me.

In the southern part of Escambia County we met some of our "Josephite" brethren who treated us well. We held two meetings in their church and have a standing invitation to preach there whenever we choose. We spent one forenoon in explaining "the succession," that it fell upon the twelve and not the seed of the Prophet, to lead the Church. One man told of an incident which occurred soon after the civil war. There being an organization in this section, some one would speak in tongues and bemean another: someone would give the interpretation and the party addressed dared not offer any refutation or they would charge him with "rejecting the Spirit." He has for five years belonged to this church. I think ere long some of them will see their error and come in at the right door.

Realizing the value of your space we will close, thanking you for paper which reaches us regularly and is always a welcome guest.

D. HADLOND THOMAS,
JOHN H. PACE.

IN FAR OFF TASMANIA.

111 MURRAY STREET,
Hobart, Tasmania,
Tuesday, July 1st, 1896.

In perusing your valuable paper and reading over the remarks made by such noble men as we have for our leaders, my heart swells with gratitude to God, and I find a solace there. Also the great amount of information that is gathered from the four corners of the earth is good for digestion, and proves such to me on this lonely island, ten thousand miles from my grand mountain home. The reason for my terming it lonely is because of my being so far away from home. The island of Tasmania is farther away than others of the Australian group.

I left my home in Salt Lake City August 11th, 1895, arrived at my field of labor the 19th day of the following month. When our boat was fastened to the wharf, I had the privilege of looking over the town of Hobart. I saw many faces, but they all seemed strange to me, and while in this condition many thoughts passed through my mind. Among the most important was, if I was not able to find my companion whom I was to travel with, I would get on some of the street corners and make myself known.

After about half an hour's thought, I went to the chief steward and asked him to recommend me to an hotel. He told me I could stop at his place, as he ran the Ship Hotel. I then repaired to the place, had dinner, and three gentlemen who came on the boat with me took me around town and out to the Botanical Gardens, two miles from my stopping place. I had scarcely returned when Mr. Hughes, the proprietor of the hotel of which I was a guest, called, "Mr. Smith!" "Yes, sir," was the response. "Here is another Mormon from Utah; he would like to see you." My heart was then made glad.

Mr. Hughes being the chief steward at that time did business with Mr. John Turner (the people I have been staying with ever since the first evening after my arrival), and having occasion to call at the above named place, met one of Mr. Turner's daughters, who asked him how he liked the little "Mormon" baby she then held in her arms. "Mormon,"