

additions to the history of Tuamotu discoveries. More exact observations were afterwards made by Otto Von Kotzebue, a Russian explorer (1816,) Bellinghausen (1819,) Duperry (1823,) Captain Fred W. Beechey, a Britisher (1816;) Captain Robert Fitz Roy, British, (1835;) and Lieutenant Charles Wilkes, commander of the only United States Pacific exploring expedition ever sent out (1841.) All those gave the world very valuable and interesting details of the Tuamotu islands. Since that time the French have made many observations as to their exact position and character. The westernmost members of the group were first minutely surveyed in 1850, by Captains De La Marche and Gizollne. A later examination was made by Lieutenant Callet, under the orders of Contre-amiral Page in 1853.

ANDREW JENSON.

POINT VENUS, Tahiti, Society Islands, March 23rd, 1896

DOWN IN FLORIDA.

WOODRUFF, Suwannee county, Florida, June 23rd 1896.

We herewith present the following report of the Florida conference, which convened on Saturday and Sunday May 30th and 31st. The vivid memories of the joys of the past still occupy our thoughts and unite our interests in the upbuilding of the mighty monument of faith. Words at times are strong, actions oft excel the tongue, but inadequate are they to portray the hallowed influence of the Holy Spirit enjoyed on this occasion.

In an arbor erected by the people on land purchased by the Saints, a large congregation assembled. There were present President Elias S. Kimball of the Southern States Mission, together with the twenty-four Elders traveling in this conference.

Elder Joseph A. West, president of the conference called the assembly to order at 10 o'clock. Prayer was offered by Elder W. G. Fisher.

In a few chosen words President West made a short speech of welcome.

Elder Wiley Nebeker opened with a discourse on faith.

Elder Frank Cutler in his usual logical style dwelt upon faith and works.

The subject of repentance was then advocated, by Elder Chris J. Brown followed by Elder Thomas F. Wasden on baptism.

Elder W. F. Tanner spoke on the Holy Ghost.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder John Watts.

The Saints and friends having prepared a sumptuous spread, no small effort on our part was made to show our appreciation. The intervening time was spent in friendly greetings and singing hymns.

The afternoon session was called at 2 p. m. After the opening exercises with prayer by Elder Samuel Isom, Elder W. G. Fisher dwelt upon the history of the Church.

The organization of the Church was then handled by Elder Joseph A. West. Benediction by President Elias S. Kimball.

Sunday meeting opened by the choir singing "The day dawn is breaking." Prayer was offered by Elder T. Brown.

Elder Elias Kimball then addressed the conference. He explained the mission and nature of the work of the

Prophet Joseph Smith by laying before the people the principles of the everlasting Gospel as portrayed in the scriptures and established in these last days.

Benediction by Elder John Watts.

The southern hospitality was again exemplified by a sumptuous repast.

The afternoon meeting was called with usual opening exercises and prayer by Elder Wasden.

Elder Isom, in a convincing way, spoke on the principles of baptism.

Elder G. W. Rogers contrasted the reverses of the past with the prospective successes of the future and discoursed on the Holy Ghost.

Elder Cutler established from the Scriptures the personality of God.

Elder Watts bore a faithful testimony of the truth of the Gospel. He was gratified to see the good results accruing from the labors of the Elders.

Elder West gave a brief summary of the principles of the Gospel, asked the people to study them well. He then thanked all who had in any way contributed to the success of the conference, making particular mention of Mr. Whitfield, editor and music dealer of Live Oak, who so kindly announced our conference in "The Banner," and furnished the organ.

Conference then closed by singing "Do what is right." Benediction by President Kimball.

The Elders assembled in a series of council and fast meetings, which were concluded after administering the Sacrament on Tuesday.

The Elders were appointed to their various fields of labor as follow:

Joseph A. West, president of conference and Chris J. Brown visiting Elders in their various fields. Postoffice Live Oak Suwannee county, Fla.

Frank Cutler and Joseph Godfrey, Coe's Mills, Liberty county, Fla.

W. F. Tanner and W. H. Cazier, Carryville, Washington county, Fla.

G. W. Rogers and Brigham Haslam, Quincy, Gasden Co.

Joseph Larsen and E. L. Black, Molino, Escambia Co.

T. F. Wasden and William Criddle, Monticello, Jefferson Co.

H. C. Blood and L. W. Lund, Jasper, Hamilton Co.

Samuel Isom and L. W. Robbins, Lake City, Columbia Co.

John Watts and Sidney Beckstead, Madison, Madison Co.

Wiley Nebeker and Jabez Faux Jr., Perry, Taylor Co.

W. G. Fisher and W. H. Summerhays, Live Oak, Suwannee Co.

C. H. Gibson and Frank Smith, Sanderson, Baker Co.

In behalf of the Elders we thank you for your valuable paper which reaches us weekly.

JOSEPH A. WEST President.

C. J. BROWN Clerk.

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE NOTES.

DAWSON, Virginia, June 22nd 1896.

Again I am pleased to furnish you the addresses of Virginia's Elders. Since my last communication to you, Elder Orson S. Taylor has been transferred to the Kentucky conference to continue his labors in a genealogical line. Elder Taylor has performed a faithful mission and it was with that sorrowful joy which only an Elder can feel that we bade him Godspeed upon his journey on leaving us.

We have received from Utah, Elders John S. Blain of Spring City, San Pete county; Joseph Osguthorpe of East Mill Creek Salt Lake county, and Ernest Duce of Hyde Park, Cache county. We can also report fifteen baptisms for the past month.

Our Sunday schools are progressing nicely, and the conference generally is in good condition.

Summer is upon us in real earnest, although we have been favored of late with plenty of "weather" (rain).

Richmond, the capital city is preparing for the great reunion of Confederate camps to be held June 30th and July 1st and 2nd, at which time will be laid with what proposes to be very imposing ceremonies, the corner stone of the Jefferson Davis monument. The remains of the late President of the Confederacy lie in a beautiful mound in Hollywood, overlooking the historic James and within sight of Belle Isle, made famous during the late war. A drooping tree and the inscription "Our President" is all that marks the grave of the champion of the Lost Cause. The reunion will be attended by nearly all the Confederate veteran camps, and it will perhaps be the largest gathering of Confederate soldiers since the days of 1865. There will be three days of hilarity and good old war times.

Richmond has already had two reunions of note, one when the monument of "Ole Mar's Bob" Lee was unveiled in the extreme western portion of Richmond city; the other was at the unveiling of the soldiers' and sailors' monument, on the famous Libby hill, in the eastern end of the city, not far from the St. John's (Episcopal) Church where Patrick Henry made his speech closing with "Give me liberty or give me death." This last unveiling was on May 30th, 1894, which we had the pleasure of witnessing. A number of war notables were in line, among them the Governor of Virginia, Colonel Charles T. O. Ferrall; ex-Governor General Fitzhugh Lee, now Consul-General to Cuba; Bradley Johnson of Md; Wade Hampton of South Carolina, and Major Daniel, Virginia's senior senator. It was upon this occasion that the Reverend Cabe of Missouri delivered his famous address which stirred the fiery wrath of the G. A. R.

The Jefferson Davis monument is to be erected in the Monroe Park, a beautiful spot in the west central portion of Richmond. Thousands of veterans will be in line, and the pride and beauty of the south will be presented in the lovely women who will stand as sponsors for their respective states. Then will the "stars and bars" float side by side with "Old Glory," and the grey jackets touch the blue.

What a wonderful country is ours! What other nation could have stood such a test!

Again I give the addresses of the Elders:

M. Thomas and E. F. Amussen, box 527, Petersburg, Va.

Ezra Bingham and W. Flfe, Lovingston, Nelson county, Va.

R. G. Bischoff and F. J. Adams, Manchester, Va.

H. M. Bohny Jr. and J. A. Mabey, Lexington, Rockbridge county, Va.

Samuel Jackson and J. G. Linford, Rustburg, Campbell county, Va.

W. W. Huffaker and H. A. Hollingsworth, Courtland, Southampton county, Va.