

short gray bristles on his upper lip in place of a mustache, and wears short, black hair, streaked with gray, which stands out all over his head like the bristles on a shoe brush. He has a jolly face and a merry laugh, and his long tobacco-colored teeth are brought into plain view as he shakes his merry old sides with laughter. On our approach he immediately left off work and escorted us to his little, low, thatched-roof hut, situated in the center of his talo patch, where we were given an old greasy mat to sit on, the best on the premises. Both dogs made their presence known, one by barking viciously and the other by endeavoring to lick our faces, when again my cane was used to good advantage in keeping them at a respectful distance. And there was Moses's farm, consisting of not more than half an acre of talo and probably two dozen hills of sugar cane, surrounded by a jungle of cocoanut, bread fruit, asi or mummy apple and innumerable kinds of unproductive trees and brush.

A few feet from the house in which we sat stands another but much smaller hut of similar construction, called the "umu", or cooking house, and as it is customary with us to expect a feast when we visit a farm our interest naturally center in this. In the center of this "umu" hut stands a pile of volcanic cobble rock, gray in color from having been heated so many times, and on a closer inspection of the pile we found that it rested upon a number of sticks of wood, which latter fill a shallow hole in the earth underneath.

While Moses grated several cocoanuts and rang the milk from the pulp with the assistance of a bunch of cocoanut fibers, Telona lighted the wood under the pile of rocks, and soon prospects looked very bright for securing our expected feast. Cooking utensils consist of the aforementioned butcher knife, one wooden dish holding as much as a small bread pan, and a good supply of banana, and breadfruit leaves. A few well matured breadfruit were placed upon the pile of rock which in the course of a few moments are thoroughly cooked by the flame that went creeping up around them. When done, they are peeled with a small stick in the hands of Moses, and being placed in the wooden pan were thoroughly mashed with a green breadfruit on the end of a stick in very much the same manner that potatoes are mashed. The mixture then resembles a pan of dough. Over this were poured the cocoamilk or juice mixed with a little sea water in which our host plunged his hands, breaking the dough into small eatable pieces, and we held our plates which in this case were small banana leaves and received our portion of "taufolo," the daintiest of Samoan dishes.

As we finished this first course of our meal a young man and his wife of the village appeared on the scene bringing with them a basket of ripe bananas and one of asi, and joined the preparation of the articles to be cooked. While Moses prepared some breadfruit the young man peeled some asi, which he sliced and wrapped in banana leaves, and the woman busied herself by making palusami, which is done by holding half a dozen small talo leaves in such a manner that they will hold liquid, into which she poured a small quantity of cocoanut juice and sea water, wrapped the whole alternately in banana and breadfruit leaves.

By the time the food is prepared the wood is consumed under the new red hot rocks, letting them down so that instead of forming a pile they line the sides of the shallow hole. On these rocks were placed the several articles of food to be cooked, including some chestnuts, an abundance of which are

found at this season. On top of the food is first placed some fresh, clean, banana leaves, the whole being covered with several armful of dried leaves and rubbish. It takes about an hour for our meal to thoroughly cook, which, when done, we sat cross-legged around in the little hut and enjoyed without seasoning other than the little salt found in the palusami.

In conversation with Moses we learned that he is now living with his 25th or 26th wife, he does not remember which; and in all his marriage experiences he has had but two children, boys, both of whom are dead; so we find that Telona, "Moses's boy," is not Moses's boy at all, but some other fellow's "boy."

In years past this man lived in Pago Pago, Tutuila, where is located the best harbor in the South Seas in which the many men of war that tour these waters sometimes lay for weeks and months. It was here while acting as a sort of provision agent that he picked up a number of English words, a few of which are quoted above. He has many letters of recommendation in his possession from the captains of the several vessels, one of which reads as follows:

"Pago Pago, Tutuila, 1896.

"Steamship

"The bearer of this, Moses, having supplied us with many Samoa luxuries for which he has duly received cash in hand, we cheerfully recommend him to all desiring his services as being the greatest lyer in the South Seas. We know not whether to attribute this to his ignorance or to a sheer desire on his part to sin, we only know that the evil is present with him to an alarming extent.

Captain.

But Moses is a much better man nowadays than this represents him as being. N. G. STRINGAM.

#### MORMONISM IN JACKSON COUNTY.

Elder B. F. Duffin of Woodruff, Arizona, writes the News from Leeds, Jackson county, Mo., where in conjunction with Elder T. H. Ingram of Nephi, Utah, he is laboring as a missionary. The first half of his letter is personal or else refers to matters recently published in the News. The following items will, however, be of great interest to Latter-day Saints:

"After our conference was over we took the train for Independence, Mo., our appointed field of labor. We called on the mayor of the city, gave him some tracts, and told him the object of our mission. He said: 'Go right ahead, gentlemen, and I will see that you are protected in your labors.'

"We began our mission in the city by holding meetings in private houses, and by visiting families. Much of our time was devoted to fasting and prayer. Many times we would go on to the beautiful temple lot during the silent hours of the night and ask God's blessings on our labors, and upon friends and families at home.

"We have baptized thirteen honest souls into the true fold, and have organized a branch of the Church including a Sunday school at Independence.

"On the 7th of June I was assigned to labor with Thos. H. Ingram of Nephi, Utah. Since that time we have canvassed the greater part of Jackson county, held a number of meetings and baptized three more into the fold.

"The people as a general rule are very kind to us. We are preaching the Gospel as the Apostle Paul said it should be preached, without money and without price. We are traveling entirely without purse or scrip, and we find it the better plan. By so doing we are better able to get among the people and are doing a greater work

than we possibly could do if we undertook to pay our way.

"We have had money given to us at different times to assist us in our labors. One man, a merchant, gave us two pairs of pants, four white shirts, six pairs of hose, and two ties. He said: 'Gentlemen, I do this for the good of the cause, and may the Lord bless you in your labors.'

"The Lord will provide for his servants if they will be humble and do their duty. The 'News' is ever a welcome visitor. The reports of the Elders are very interesting to us and none of them escape our notice."

#### TOO MUCH EXAGGERATION.

A few years ago a nugget was extracted from a placer claim in Dutch Guiana, the value of which was between \$3,000 and \$4,000, and this is believed to have been the largest specimen of the kind ever obtained. In fiction can be found accounts of larger and richer nuggets, but fiction and fact get a good ways apart sometimes. The average value of native gold being about \$200 a pound of twelve ounces troy, would make the Guiana boulder weigh nearly eighteen pounds, but even then it might find plenty of room in an ordinary pocket.

This incident is mentioned because of the growing recklessness with which golden finds, possessions and shipments are spoken of from the Klondike region and the intervening space. A late dispatch told about a person or a company having a wash-tub full of nuggets, and this was spoken of in as off hand a manner as though it was so many potatoes instead of the more glistening treasure. That amount would mean a sum sufficient to buy and stock a good-sized farm for every family in Utah, yet it comes to us in such a flippant manner that if one were not fortified behind a sufficient guard of incredulity he might easily believe that such things were common in that country—that is, the successful miner literally has money to throw at birds.

Another statement in this morning's dispatches announces without flourish or comment and as coolly as cold tea can make it, that on the wharf at Dawson City is a little consignment of gold amounting to only three and a half tons! The lot is presumably awaiting shipment, and might be conveniently handled by one of the little stern-wheel steamers which ply on the Yukon as ballast.

There is unquestionably a vast amount of gold in the Klondike region, and we are quite willing to believe that all or even the greater part of it has not been found. But there ought to be some sort of moderation employed by those who make up the reports which are wafted this way. The rush there next spring will be quite large enough to satisfy the most exciting desire in that line without any exaggerations; in fact, the rush is going on now and will continue till hope of getting beyond the Alaskan border is shut out and many unfortunates who got across the line too late are shut in never to be seen alive again.

Peter Torliatt, an Italian who lives about ten miles from Santi Rosa, Cal., has secured the necessary papers to allow him to develop a coal mine on the Eliza Cook ranch, near Sonoma mountain. The vein is said to be a very rich one.

An Indian known as Coyote Jim met with an accident at an Austin, Nev., hay ranch the other day, which will probably prove fatal. He fell from a haystack and struck astride of a crowbar, which penetrated his body a distance of twenty inches.