

quietly and safely the fury of the thunder storm.

We have dealt tonight with but one corner of the great field of electricity—the part known as *static* or *frictional* electricity. The demonstration of these simple principles will do much to assist us in the study of *dynamic* electricity; to the treatment of which it is proposed to devote an evening in the near future.

UNWITTING WITNESSES.

X.

Isaiah is made to say:

"Woe to Ariel to Ariel, the city where David dwelt." xxix: 1.

By the explanatory notes in the margin we learn that the above is the language and construction of the translators, not a literal, nor even an approximately correct meaning of the words and sentiments of the Prophet. According to the annotator's corrections, the words should read:

"O Ariel, the lion of God, of the city where David dwelt."

The context, which is of the nature of prophecy, does not portray the subsequent history of the Jewish capital only in a very limited degree; but it does describe, with great clearness, the destiny of that branch of the House of Israel which was transplanted under divine guidance and took root upon American soil.

Balam, speaking under inspiration from God, said, concerning Israel:

"God brought him forth out of Egypt. * * * He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion; who shall stir him up?" Num. xxiv: 8, 9.

"Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up; he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?" Gen. xlix: 9.

The term Ariel, or lion of God, is consistently applied to the whole, or a part of the house of Israel; but it is altogether inappropriate to Jerusalem or any other city.

The Prophet Isaiah evidently had his prophetic vision directed to the descendants of Lehi and his fellow colonists; and the sweep of his divine faculty embraced the events of many centuries.

"I will camp against thee round about, and will lay siege against thee with a mount; and I will raise forts against thee." Is. xxix: 3.

The Book of Mormon gives accounts of these military camps, sieges, mounts and forts; and their remains exist upon the face of the land as standing witnesses.

"And thou shalt be brought down and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust." Isaiah xxix: 4.

There is no people known to whom these prophetic utterances will apply except those of whom the Book of Mormon speaks, whose history furnishes their literal fulfillment. Mouldering relics are brought to light daily. Fragments of stone and metallic tablets, inscribed with strange glyphics, are exhumed from dark and mysterious libraries beneath the surface of the ground. Gruesome skulls and clammy skeletons gape and protrude from the ground, and strike with grave wonderment the sage explorer.

The following foretells, to the word, some of the fearful visitations of the judgments of the Almighty upon the people of Lehi, which we have already given from the Book of Mormon record:

"Thou shalt be visited of the Lord of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and with great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire." Isaiah xxix: 6.

The significance of the 11th and 12th verses of the same chapter is so remarkably clear and pointed that it seems no one can separate Isaiah's prophetic book from the plates containing the "words" of the Book of Mormon after the identity has been pointed out:

"And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver unto one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee; and he saith, I cannot, for it is sealed:

"And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee; and he saith, I am not learned."

The word *men*, in the translation, is not in the original, as is indicated by the italics.

The words of the book, or a portion of the characters upon the plates, were taken to one who was learned, and he used almost the same words quoted above. He said, "I cannot read a sealed book."

We have already considered several classes of earth-works found upon the face of the American continent, such as those constructed for defense, sepulchre and the irregular tumultuous heaps thrown up, probably, in some instances, in the mining operations carried on so extensively in many parts of the country; we are about to refer to elevations and structures of a different character to those already noticed.

On page 484 of the Book of Mormon we read:

"And the people who were in the land northward did dwell in tents and in houses of cement; and they did suffer whatsoever tree should spring up upon the face of the land that it should grow up, that in time that they might have timber to build their houses, yea, their cities, and their temples, and their synagogues, and their sanctuaries, and all manner of their buildings.

"And it came to pass, as timber was exceeding scarce in the land northward, they did send forth much by the way of shipping. * * *

"But, behold, a hundredth part of the proceedings of this people, yea, the account of the Lamanites and of the Nephites, and their wars and contentions, and dissensions, and their preaching, and their prophecies, and their shipping, and their building of ships, and their building of temples, and of synagogues, and their sanctuaries, * * * cannot be contained in this work."

Again on page 282:

"And Alma and Amulek went forth preaching repentance to the people in their temples and in their sanctuaries and also in their synagogues, which were built after the manner of the Jews."

On page 313 Alma says:

"And we have entered into their houses and taught them, and we have taught them in their streets, yea, and we have taught them upon their hills; and we have also entered into their temples and their synagogues and taught them; and we have been cast out, and mocked, and spit upon, and smote upon our cheeks; and we have been stoned, and taken and bound with strong cords, and cast into prison; and through the power and wisdom of God we have been delivered again."

The reference to timber shows that this material must have been used very plentifully in the construction of their numerous buildings. That so little of materials of this character should be found in existing ruins is attributable to the perishable nature of these substances; still many proofs exist in the discoveries that have been made of the accuracy of Helaman's record. Some of these have already been noticed as stockades, timber breast-works, etc.

Prof. Swallow describes a mound at New Madeira 900 feet in circumference at its base, and 570 feet at its summit. The interior of this mound was a large chamber with timber employed for its support. Immense trees of elm and cypress were set as rafters in the roof of the building, and thus supported the superincumbent materials. The spaces between the rafters were filled in with reeds; the whole was then plastered with mud and carefully smoothed and colored with red ochre. Report to Peabody Institute, 1875, page 17.