

number of the people were converted, and, in consequence, became a sober and industrious community. They desired peace, and, in the face of the terrible danger which threatened them, they yielded to the softening influences which they had accepted, and resolved not to fight with their brethren. Pages 304-5. A council of war, or of peace, rather, was called by their leaders, to determine what they should do to defend themselves against the danger that menaced them.

"Now there was not one soul among all the people who had been converted unto the Lord, that would take up arms against their brethren; nay, they would not even make any preparations for war; yea, and also their king commanded them that they should not. Now, these are the words which he said unto the people concerning the matter; * * * I thank my great God that he has given us a portion of his Spirit to soften our hearts. * * * Now, my best beloved brethren, since God hath taken away our stains, and our swords have become bright, then let us stain our swords no more with the blood of our brethren. * * * And now, my brethren, if our brethren seek to destroy us, behold, we will hide away our swords, yea, even we will bury them deep in the earth. * * * And now it came to pass that when the king had made an end of these sayings, and all the people were assembled together, they took their swords, and all the weapons which were used for the shedding of man's blood, and they did bury them deep in the earth. And this they did, it being in their view a testimony to God, and also to men, that they never would use weapons again for the shedding of man's blood; and this they did, vouching and covenanting with God, that rather than shed the blood of their brethren, they would give up their own lives." Pages 306-7.

Further references are made to this voluntary interment of the instruments of human slaughter, by the Anti-Nephi-Lehies, on pages 310, 313, 396.

The translator of the Book of Mormon was not an explorer, an antiquarian, nor a reader of archaeological literature, previous to or at the time of his inspired labor; neither had the strange discoveries of the buried weapons been published at that time. Joseph Smith could not have known, until he read the account given by Alma upon the plates, that any such mementoes of the mellowing influences of the Gospel were reposing in the bosom of the earth. The motive which prompted this remarkable sacrifice was the noblest that ever warmed the human heart. The peaceful determination was fixed by the seal of an oath, and bound the

devotees throughout their whole lives. Traditions of this memorable transaction linger among the Lamanite redmen today. And it is customary with some of the tribes, at the conclusion of a treaty of peace, to bind the covenant by the ceremony of "Burying the hatchet deep in the earth."

Undoubtedly the oaths were taken at the sacred altars; and the religious complexion which is given to this interesting episode harmonizes with the association of the relics found around the native shrines with the pious interment of the weapons.

The Hebraic character of the altars, troughs, etc., has already been mentioned, but there are still other analogous features stamped upon these remains of Jewish worship.

Squier mentions engraved scroll-work, cut out of very thin plates of mica, and pierced with holes so that they could be suspended upon certain parts of the clothing or person, calling to mind, again, the Israelitish custom of wearing phylacteries. But the reader should not conclude from what has been said of the Mosalcal character of numerous religious structures found upon the land of America, that all the sacred ruins discovered have this distinctive character. There existed, at least, two other classes of buildings devoted to religious purposes.

There were bodies of apostates called dissenters; and a numerous class of idolaters among the descendants of the colony from Jerusalem, and they also built their peculiar temples and sacred places.

On page 546 of the Book of Mormon we read:

"And now in this two hundred and first year (after Christ), there began to be among them those who were lifted up in pride, such as the wearing of costly apparel, and all manner of fine pearls, and of the fine things of the world. And from that time forth they did have their goods and their substance no more common among them. And they began to be divided into classes, and they began to build up churches unto themselves, to get gain, and began to deny the true church of Christ. * * * There were many churches in the land; yea, there were many churches which professed to know the Christ, and yet they did deny the more parts of his gospel, inasmuch that they did receive all manner of wickedness, and did administer that which was sacred unto him to whom it had been forbidden, because of unworthiness. And this church did multiply exceedingly, because of iniquity, and because of the power of satan who did get hold of their hearts." Page 546.

"For this people shall be scattered, and shall become a dark, a filthy, and a loathsome people, beyond the description of that which ever hath been amongst us; yea, even that which hath been among the Lamanites; and this because of their unbelief and idolatry." Page 558.

"And they did also march forward against the city Teancum, and did drive the inhabitants forth out of her, and did take many prisoners both women and children, and did offer them up as sacrifices unto their idol gods." Page 556.

"And when they had come the second time, the Nephites were driven and slaughtered with an exceeding great slaughter; their women and their children were again sacrificed unto idols." Page 557. See also page 447.

From the foregoing we learn that false and perverted systems of religion, with all the errors and atrocities of paganism, existed upon the continent of America, in very early times. It would, therefore, be quite consistent to find remains of heathen temples, and other tokens of the worship of false gods.

But to preserve congruity, and that harmony which we have shown to exist between the Book of Mormon record and the remains left upon the face of the land, the signs of American paganism should be of the ancient oriental types.

A great deal has been written upon this subject, and much speculation has been indulged in as to how the heathenish customs of the old world were introduced upon this continent. The most fruitful field for exploration, has been Peru, where some most magnificent temples have been discovered.

On page 413 of Pre-historic America, we read:

"A hill near the Sacsahuaman, is covered with granite blocks, richly sculptured, and converted into seats, galleries ornamented with steps, terraces and niches. The temple, now converted into a Dominican convent, occupies one side of a vast court, which preserves its ancient name, Juliampa—the field of the sun. The inner and outer walls, it is said, were covered with sheets of gold."

This last remark is attested by Squier, who testifies to having seen, in various houses in Cuzco, sheets of gold, preserved as relics, which came from the temple. He says:

"These plates, were scarcely as thick as a sheet of paper. In the midst of other symbols of objects, animate and inanimate, were visible manifestations of the Supreme Being. In the center was a granite fountain of considerable size and great beauty. The stone, according to Garcilasso, was, like the temple walls, covered with gold, and the water flowed into it through golden pipes. We will not leave the valley