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IN THE RAIN.

I stand in the old gray weather,
In the white and silvery rain;
The great trees huddle together
And sway with the windy strain.
I dream of the purple glory
Of the roseate mountain height,
Of the sweet-to-remember story
Of a distant and dear delight.

The rain keeps constantly raining,
And the sky is cold and gray,
And the wind in the trees keeps complaining
That summer has passed away;
But the gray and the cold are haunted
By a heavy akin to pain—
By the sense of a something wanted
That never will come again.

WM. WETMORE STORY.

GREAT MEN OF ANCIENT AMERICA.

NEPHI.

"And it came to pass that after we had sailed for the space of many days, we did arrive at the promised land; and we went forth upon the land and did pitch our tents, and we did call it the promised land."—I Nephi xviii: 23.

This is the only history we have of one of the remarkable voyages of discovery on record. It is disappointingly brief, so also is the account given of the extraordinary adventure of the ark in which Noah, and a remnant of all flesh were preserved, when the "Windows of heaven were opened, and the fountains of the great deep were broken up." It would seem that both Noah and Nephi modestly forbore keeping the "log" of a voyage with which the Lord had so much to do and they had so little. Both vessels were unique in that the Almighty was the contriver and director of their construction and navigation. Nephi did not build his ship after the pattern of any vessel he had seen.

"But I did build it after the manner which the Lord had shown unto me: wherefore, it was not after the manner of men."—I Nephi, xviii: 2.

Under such a teacher Nephi's

work was superior to ordinary human ingenuity. The craft was perfect in design, and faultless in the adaptation of every part; and, like every creature of Divine emanation, it was instinctive; it skimmed the smooth surface of the water like a thing of life, and rode the stormy billows as safely as the dauntless petrel, carrying her living freight as a mother her young, with seeming care and solicitude. She carried that wonderful compass whose inspired finger pointed out, through darkness and the fog, the safe and sure way; and upon whose shining disc the unseen hand wrote warning words and wise directions. So strange a craft required a peculiar shipmaster, and Nephi filled the place. He alone possessed the requisite faith to animate the consecrated guide, and to read its sacred runes.

The band of refugees landed on that part of the South American coast now known as Chilli. See note 7. Book of Mormon, page 47. The land of America is described in the Book of Mormon as—

"A land of promise, a land which is choice above all other lands."—I Nephi ii: 20. Ether i: 44 2: viii: 12; Jacob v: 43, and note 2j.

For those from whose minds the fogs of superstition have passed away, and the imaginary phantoms of an immaterial heaven no longer delude, there is a peculiar significance in the gathering of Israel upon the land of America—the land which is choice above all other lands—in the latter days.

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory.

And before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another (i.e. the nations) as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. And he shall set the sheep on the right hand, but

the goats on the left."—Matthew xxv: 31-33.

The term "right hand" is translated from the Greek word which implies plentiful, salubrious, fertile, while the left hand signifies that which is unlucky, of bad, amiss, or opposite conditions to those on the right hand. As the heaven of the righteous and the abode of the wicked will always be located upon this globe, there is no doubt that climate and other physical conditions will materially affect all who dwell upon it; and when the King of Kings shall rule the kingdoms of this world, He will "fix the bounds of their habitation"

Nephi was eminently practical as well as spiritual in his character, and in the happy blending of faith and works that character presents the highest ideal of manhood. When he had safely landed his people and the scanty but precious stores they brought with them, he says:

"And it came to pass that we did begin to plant seeds; yea, we did put all our seeds into the earth, which we had brought from the land of Jerusalem.

And it came to pass that they did grow exceedingly; wherefore we were blessed with abundance."—I Nephi xviii: 24.

The Jerusalem pilgrims had been led by the hand of the Lord to America, and it was a promised land, a land choice above all other lands; but they did not find cultivated farms, gorgeous pastures and fair cities ready waiting their occupancy and free enjoyment. They found the soil, the sparkling stream and the pure air, elements out of which they might create a paradise. In the economy of God's government there are no free seats of honor; no gratuitous positions of wealth and power; no crowns and scepters given to unworthy favorites, but all honors must be won before they can be worn.