

dents of today in the vicinity of the mounds, when they want material for plastering or for laying up adobe buildings, go to the mounds for it, claiming that it works up much better than the clay found elsewhere on the plain.

In many of the ruins that have been disturbed, the old walls can be easily traced protruding through the mass of rubbish that has accumulated around them, being preserved by the hardness of the cement from the action of the elements. So hard are they that a blow with a pick makes little impression upon them.

Who are they, and whence came they? are questions asked by every visitor to the ruins, regarding the people who built here. Up to the present no one has been able to answer the questions satisfactorily. A recent writer on the subject says: "The selection of the location of their homes seems to indicate that they were originally a maritime people, from either Asia or Africa, more probably the former, who, landing on the coast of Lower California when that peninsula was more closely connected with the mainland than at present, drifted north and eastward along the Colorado and Gila until they overran and settled the irrigable land contiguous to each of these streams. This seems the most probable theory as the lines of their settlements apparently radiate from near the mouth of the Colorado." Whether this is the correct theory or not I would not venture to say, but from the fact that the old civilization appears to have reached its highest development in this valley; that the ruins north and south indicate plainly that they were only offshoots from this center; that there are wide tracts of land in every direction surrounding them that seem to have been capable of redemption and settlement and on which there are no traces of old cities, I incline to the opinion that this particular family came here by sea. They probably came up the Gulf of California and spread along the river courses. Everything indicates that their development was gradual and their occupancy of the country extended over a long period of time.

It seems to me that the Book of Mormon furnishes a parallel to what was apparently the history of this ancient people. It will be remembered that about fifty-five years before Christ a man named Hagoth built a large ship and launched it into the Pacific ocean somewhere near Panama bay. A large number of Nephites went on board of it and sailed to some point on the west coast of North America, where they made a home. We are not told where they landed, but the country was evidently a desert, so much so that it was necessary for a time to send the new colonists food by ships. There was no timber there and the settlers were obliged to build their houses with cement, in the working of which we are told they became expert. What timber they used was also sent to them by means of shipping. Now we will not say that those ships coasted along the shore of Mexico and landed at the head of the Gulf of California, for we do not know, but it is certain that there is a striking similarity between the old Nephite country and

this one. Another thing about it is how Joseph Smith found out that there were remains of cement houses in Arizona, for without that knowledge it was rather presumptuous on his part to make his ancient people build their cities of that material. Yet we know that at the time he published the Book of Mormon it was impossible for him to have had any such knowledge from actual modern research.

JOEL RICKS.

THE CHOIR RETURNS.

Utah's celebrated Tabernacle choir returned home this morning, arriving at the Rio Grande Western depot at 5:40, an hour so inconvenient and early as to prevent any demonstration of welcome on the part of the temporary musical organization under the efficient leadership of Prof. C. J. Thomas as originally arranged for.

In a remarkably short time the members of the choir had joined their families and friends at home.

STEPHENS INTERVIEWED.

The following interview between a News reporter and Mr. Stephens will be interesting reading, as it gives the conductor's views of all the leading events of the choir's trip, concerts and contests:

"On the whole, it was a glorious trip for all of us. Personally, it was more fraught with labor and anxiety than pleasure for me. But nevertheless I could not but partake of the general joyousness and delight at our almost constant success. Nothing but weariness and a slight ailment from colds was there to worry me. Everywhere I turned the kindly, cheering smile of my slugers greeted me. All the worry of business management with its thousand little annoyances was spared me by the never-tiring Whitney, whose energy and patience have placed him in the estimation of all our party as incomparable to all others, though all did their best to aid in making the trip a success. Yet there was so much left for me to do that outside of choir work the trip was almost a blank to me.

Denver received us with open arms, and we retaliated by singing as we never could have done to an unenthusiastic audience. We will never forget the magnificent church crowded with pleased faces, nor will they soon forget us. Almost every number rendered called for, and many redemanded. It almost made us feel that we were ill-treated at home, as we thought of the many vacant seats at our Tabernacle, and recalled the annoyance of people leaving the building while we rendered the closing choruses (a detestable practice peculiar to Tabernacle audiences.) Our Denver success brought its reaction, notwithstanding our hearty welcome at Independence. We left as though our Kansas City greeting was a cool one at first. At the night concert, however, we repeated our success, some things being rendered even better than at Denver. Yet few of us were really in anything like a pleasant mood while at Kansas. But at St. Louis another great wave struck us. Feasted and honored, treated to a magnificent ride in a steamboat on the great Mississippi, and welcomed at night

with a grand audience of nearly 4000 people, who applauded and cheered to the echo, notwithstanding that our rendition of our choruses was beginning to show the effects of fatigue, and really did not do themselves justice. It was a most useful warning to us to rest up before our important work at the contests. Our Chicago audience was less demonstrative (at Music Hall) yet kind and appreciative on the whole. And our Omaha experience was needed to flush up our experience.

A large audience waited until time for closing before our arrival, the singers hurried from the train without having had anything to eat since eleven o'clock the previous morning. But even here we did our work fairly and I believe both performers and audience left the hall about 11.30 in fairly good spirits. The chief drawbacks to the rendition of our programs were the different arrangements of placing the singers which every different hall necessitated. Indeed when I think of how in some places the entire chorus had to be placed one behind another on a flat floor, accompanied with a piano and organ but indifferently attuned to each other, it is surprising to me that we did so well. Our accompanists, too, were placed in so many new positions that it is a marvel they were able to aid us so effectually with their accompaniments. On three different occasions, in Denver Choral hall (Fair grounds) and Central music hall was Prof. Daynes suddenly, with no opportunity to study the intricate combinations of stops, called upon to manipulate great pipe organs in accompanying us, and each time succeeded beautifully. He and Prof. Pederson as well, Prof. Weiss and the Christensen Bros. have my sincere gratitude for their splendid work.

What have you to say about the contest?

The contest of male choruses was magnificent, the winners from Wales singing as I never before heard mortals sing. Tone so pure, shading so perfect and full of deep meaning, enunciation so broad and yet distinct. It made me more delighted to lose the prize than I could have been to win at our present stage of progress. And the greatest compliment paid us—not excepting the awarding us the second prize in the male contest—was to declare us next to these glorious choruses; this, Adjudicator John Thomas did to me personally at the last night of the contest, saying, "You were third in the male voice competition and first this side the ocean." The report of the adjudicators on this contest was fair and intelligent, giving each part its due praise and censure.

THE MAIN CONTEST.

Though calling for a higher grade mark all around, was not so satisfactory in any respect from the rendering to the adjudication, the former being on a much higher plane than the latter.

While the Pennsylvania choirs are magnificent bodies of singers, under leaders who have a dozen times at least led them to victory or defeat at previous contests, on these and similar choruses, their singing on the whole was disappointing, their shading especially being forced, unnatural and