

on the part of the sons of Judah to redeem the land of their forefathers, in fulfillment of the predictions of their ancient seers. This feeling is far more intense and extended than some Hebrew teachers admit, and we think they will shortly have to change their opinion, while the world will see that Judah is destined to dwell on the sacred soil set apart by divine decree for the seed of Abraham.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Governor Fremont seems well disposed towards the Arizona Indians. He finds some of them on the verge of starvation, but friendly and tractable, and he intends to appeal to the government on their behalf.

We have received a few advance sheets of a new edition of Spencer's Letters, now being published at the Millennial Star office, Liverpool. It is in clear, long primer type, on excellent paper, and will soon be issued from the press.

We are indebted to Jno. D. De-frees, Esq., Public Printer, Washington, D. C., for a copy of his Annual Report for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1878. We cannot recommend it to lovers of light literature, but those who are fond of figures would find in it much food for reflection.

The terrible tragedy of the slaughter of the Cheyennes related in our dispatches is another barbarous chapter in the history of the nation's treatment of its Indian subjects. To starve the savages on a reservation and then shoot them down because they will not stay upon it, is a mode of treatment reserved for a "Christian" people, no "heathenism" is equal to it.

Benjamin Hunter, the murderer of Armstrong, was hung for his crime yesterday at Camden, New Jersey. Particulars of this extraordinary case have already appeared in this paper. The most strenuous efforts were made to save him from the gallows, in the courts, by technical subtleties and through appeals to the Governor, but in vain. Justice has claimed its own, and the culprit richly deserved his fate.

The use of steel plates for ship armor, instead of iron, has revolutionized the manufacture of steel projectiles. Trials at Shoeburyness, England, with a new Whitworth shot made of compressed steel, have been eminently successful. A steel plate will repel the ordinary chilled shot, which will pass through a 22-inch iron plate. If steel-clads supersede iron-clads, the size of the navies of the great Powers will be reduced, in consequence of the large expense of the new ship armor.

The Colored Cadet is the title of a handsome volume of 322 pages, published by Homer Lee & Co., New York. It is written by Lieut. Henry O. Flipper, U. S. A., the first colored graduate from the U. S. military academy. It gives an account of his life and particulars of the course of study at the academy, and contains two fine steel portraits of the author. It is an evidence of the capabilities of the colored race when placed under favorable conditions.

The members of the Methodist Church in Providence, Rhode Island, according to the Journal had a general fight the other evening. But they did not strike a single physical blow. They prayed at each other. As each combatant claimed the floor, under pretence of addressing the throne of grace, he launched devout darts of sharp malice against his adversaries. We are at liberty to guess what spirit was the presiding genius at that meeting.

The Beaver Chronicle is now under a new, old management. It has changed hands again, but is placed in the control of men who held it a portion of the time when it appeared as the Enterprise. We notice a great improvement in the Chronicle, editorially and mechanically, and hope it will soon be able to enlarge, or obtain an entire new dress which would render it vastly more attractive. We are pleased to note that the present editor is sound on the money question, and repudiates the notions advanced in two articles that appeared in that paper advocating paper currency without basis and without redemption. Success to the Chronicle.

The sensation-loving public will make a "lion" of strange bipeds. Just now London is rushing to see a Tonga islander, with the sweet name of Mr. Mpop-om-ha-ha, who is a mild and prepossessing old gentleman of 50 years, said to be an "exemplary Christian." His chief claim on public favor is the fact of his having in former times made a meal of a New York missionary. He offers part of his receipts as a lecturer, to the family of the de-voured, but no one steps forward as yet for the money.

The inhuman monsters who burned and mutilated Messrs. Ketchum and Mitchell, near Plum Creek, Nebraska, have all been captured. There are seven of them, and the ringleader is a man named Olive, whose brother, known by the name of Stevens, was shot by Mitchell in self-defence. They were caught by stratagem, under the management of an ex-U. P. R. agent named "Billy" Nichols. He was assisted by Ketchum's three brothers, Mitchell's son-in-law and three other men. Olive and his "cow boys" were in the habit of making periodical calls at Plum Creek postoffice for letters, when they would "get on a tear" and run the town. Nichols and his men, well armed, laid wait at the postoffice, and as the ruffians approached, one by one, made them "throw up their hands." It is to be hoped that the authorities will be able to hold them, and that the law will avenge the fate of their victims.

THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM.

Its Genuineness Established.

BY ELDER GEORGE REYNOLDS.

CHAP. VII.—The chronology of the Ancients, a Key to its mysteries—The ante-diluvian monarchs—Josephus and Chinese chronology.

In the seventh paragraph of the Book of Abraham we find the following: "Now the first government of Egypt was established by Pharaoh, the eldest son of Egyptus, the daughter of Ham, and it was after the manner of the government of Ham, which was patriarchal, Pharaoh being a righteous man, established his kingdom and judged his people wisely and justly all his days, seeking earnestly to imitate that order established by the fathers in the first generations, in the days of the first patriarchal reign, even in the reign of Adam, and also of Noah, his father, who blessed him with the blessings of the earth, and with the blessings of wisdom, but cursed him as pertaining to the priesthood." The next paragraph is as follows: "Now Pharaoh being of that lineage by which he could not have the Priesthood, notwithstanding the Pharaohs would fain claim it from Noah, through Ham, therefore my father was led away by their idolatry; but I shall endeavor, hereafter, to delineate the chronology, running back from myself to the beginning of the creation, for the records have come into my hands, which I hold unto this present time."

We desire to draw attention to several ideas advanced in the above quotations.

- 1st. That the early Egyptians were acquainted with events that occurred before the flood.
2nd. That the antediluvian patriarchs reigned in the midst of their descendants as kings.
3rd. That this form of government was the prevailing one, in the days immediately succeeding the deluge.
4th. That the Egyptians established in their midst an imitation or bogus priesthood that rapidly carried the people into idolatry.
5th. That Abraham and probably many others possessed records running back to the beginning of time.

Modern research has amply vindicated the statements of Abraham's record with regard to the condition of society amongst the early dwellers on the banks of the Nile. Listen to what Mr. Osborn states on this subject, and though in different wording, note how fully he bears out the patriarch's assertions. Mr. O. remarks in his "Religions of the World" that "Egyptian remains prove clearly that while at all appearance the first settlers in Egypt carried along with them some germinal forms

of very malignant religious error, they carried with them, in addition to the mere ancestral or genealogical and historical knowledge, a most deep experimental knowledge and conviction of the reality of divine being and agency, and a knowledge also of that form in which, from the time of the Fall the revelation of the most important elements of religion appears to have been imparted to mankind."

We shall not attempt to establish the ideas from the Book of Abraham, above noticed, in the order in which they are placed, but before leaving this branch of the subject, we believe that we shall be able to adduce sufficient evidence to convince all who are willing to learn the truth, that Abraham's statements as given by the Prophet Joseph are historically correct.

The fact of Abraham coming in possession of certain genealogical records may seem somewhat incredible to those who have not studied the subject. Many are too apt to consider the people of those early ages as but one step removed from barbarians, being, if we sense their idea correctly, very much on a par with the modern Tartar or Bedouin Arab; and the thought of such a people possessing a literature, seems to be inconceivable to the minds of many otherwise intelligent people. But have such ever noticed that the Bible, in one of its very first chapters actually speaks of "the book of generations of Adam." (Gen. chap. v, ver. 1.) and it is from that book apparently that Moses' genealogical record of the Antediluvians was transcribed. In confirmation of the existence of such a book, Josephus states that those who lived before the flood, "noted down with great accuracy, both the births and deaths of illustrious men." (Jos. book 1, chap. 3.) which record would undoubtedly be preserved among the royal archives, and as such, being deemed of the utmost value as giving the genealogy of the kings he saved by Noah in the ark, he, according to Abraham and Josephus also, being the reigning sovereign at the time of the deluge. Josephus specifically states that that "calamity happened in the six hundredth year of Noah's government." (The book 1, chap. 3.) In fact Josephus gives a list of the antediluvian monarchs, or patriarchs as they are termed in the Bible, but the fact that he recognized them as the sovereigns of the antediluvian world is very strong corroborative testimony of the statement of Abraham that Adam and Noah reigned as kings over their fellow men. The following is Josephus' statement with regard to this matter. (Jos. book 1, chap. 3.)

"Seth was born when Adam was in his 230th year, who lived 930 years. Seth begat Enoch in his 205th year, who when he lived 912 years, delivered the government to Canaan his son, whom he had at his 119th year. He lived 905 years. Canaan when he had lived 910 years, had his son Malaleel, who was born in his 170th year. This Malaleel having lived 895 years, died, leaving his son Jared, whom he begat when he was at his 165th year. He lived 962 years and then his son Enoch succeeded him, who was born when his father was 162 years old. Now he, when he had lived 365 years, departed and went to God, whence it is that they have not written down his death. Now Methuselah, the son of Enoch, who was born to him when he was 165 years old, had Lamech for his son, when he was 187 years of age, to whom he delivered the government, when he had retained it 969 years. Now Lamech, when he had governed 777 years, appointed Noah his son to be the ruler of the people, who was born to Lamech when he was 182 years old, and retained the government 950 years."

We here draw attention to a somewhat remarkable coincidence. It is that the length of the reigns of these Patriarchs, as given by Josephus, agrees, with one exception we believe, with the length of their lives according to Bible chronology, but what makes this feature more remarkable is that Josephus does exactly the same thing as the Chinese do in their antediluvian chronology. "The Chinese account speaks of ten dynasties of superior beings, who ruled in their country 1,000 years each, before the sky fell on the earth (i.e. the flood). It is not hard to see that this is only a different and a singular manner of relating the same facts. \* \* Moses informs us that each of these

ten generations did extend near a thousand years, but he let us know that a son and his father walked much of their earthly race together. The journey of each was long but it was a simultaneous travel."

Now we think that the statement of Abraham turns a key, by which a flood of light is thrown on the early history of the first nations that came into being after the flood, for instance the Egyptian, the Chaldean and the Chinese. Scientists and religionists have been wrangling for scores of years with regard to the chronology of these nations, both parties, as a rule seeming to take it for granted that these chronological records should stop at the flood, presumably for the reason that all mankind but one family of eight were then destroyed. As there is incontrovertible evidence that the ancients were acquainted with facts and events relating to the earth and the heavens long anterior to the generally accepted date of the deluge, sceptics have loudly expressed their doubts as to the flood having occurred at all. But when we take into consideration the fact that those who were saved were the royal family—the king and queen with their three sons and the princesses, their wives—and that this king (Noah) ruled after as well as before the flood, it remains no longer a wonder how these nations traced their existence to years long anterior to that dire calamity. To them it was a terrible disaster in the history of their nation, nothing more, there was no break in the royal descent, the same king reigned before and after it took place, the same dynasty remained in power, his son succeeded him to the throne; the royal records were preserved, and the Egyptians, the Chaldeans, and the Chinese alike with natural national pride all claimed the sovereigns who ruled from Adam to Noah as the kings of their peculiar nation. Their records were like three converging lines, centering at Noah, and from him continuing backward in one and the same straight line to Adam. To illustrate; let us suppose a case. We will imagine that a vast desolation sweeps over the empire of Germany. The king and the three princes with their families are saved, and these three princes establish thrones of their own, say, one in Prussia, one in Pomerania and one in Hanover. Would the national historians of future ages, when these three kingdoms had become great and populous, stop in their respective national histories at the date that this overwhelming catastrophe occurred? Would it not be much more reasonable to conclude that they would accumulate the histories of this and former epochs and continue their accounts through this calamity to the earliest days their records would reach. We think so, and in this way we discover an easy and reasonable solution to the difficulties that beset Chinese and Egyptian chronology, and are able to account for the interminable lists of kings that grace their annals. In fact so far as Egypt is concerned it had no consecutive chronology. This truth is now admitted by the most learned in that branch of science. But they undoubtedly carried their records, in a jumbled up way, back beyond the flood (probably obtaining some information thereon from the records in the possession of Abraham) and in post diluvian days they, in vanity, inserted the names of scores of princes who reigned contemporaneously in various parts of the Valley of the Nile. Admit these two facts and the solution is found to the mysteries of Egyptian chronology, what they had of it. Again why should we permit the descendants of Shem as in the case of the Hebrews, to monopolize their antediluvian progenitors. These men were the fathers of all mankind and all had equal rights to claim them as their own.

\* Nelson's "Infidelity, its Cause and Cure."

To be continued.

Correspondence.

SPANISH FORK, January 2d, 1879.

Editors Deseret News:

Sirs:—Christmas day passed off in a very quiet and pleasant man-

ner; everybody seemed well supplied with the bounties of life, and Santa Claus was unusually generous in his distribution of his gifts to the "wee ones," judging by the bright happy faces, and the variety of musical performances that took place during the day.

Service was held in the meeting house in the forenoon, when appropriate discourses were delivered; in the afternoon a conjoint meeting of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Societies was held, both societies being fairly represented, speeches, songs and recitations combined made a very interesting meeting. The day finished with a ball in Morrison's hall, which was conducted in an orderly manner, enabling all to enjoy themselves to the utmost.

On the evening of the 24th the members of the Primary Society, numbering 344, assembled in the meeting house, where a magnificent Christmas tree was prepared for their especial benefit, loaded with toys and dazzling with the lights from many colored candles. It was very pleasant to see so many happy little faces, as they came forward to receive their present from the president of the Society, Miss M. A. McLain, who may justly feel proud of her mission to cultivate Utah's best crop.

New Year's day seemed to be a time of renewing old friendships, and the interchange of kindly feelings, and was marked by the absence of rowdyism; the weather was delightful, almost spring-like, no snow.

In the afternoon the funeral of an interesting ten year old daughter of Bro. E. Kelund, a respected citizen, took place. A touchingly interesting feature of the ceremony was the four young brothers of the deceased acting as pall-bearers.

The day finished as usual with a ball. Considerable sickness prevails here at this time in the shape of severe colds and lung fever.

GRANTSVILLE, January 4, 1879.

Editors Deseret News:

Grantsville does not often "rush into poverty" but it exists nevertheless, and prospers notwithstanding. Its self-sustaining institutions flourish equal to those of many other places, and they are expected to grow into notoriety through merit. As contracting winter gives place to expanding spring and summer, they will probably receive additional succor, and exhibit increased vitality and usefulness.

Our young people avail themselves of opportunities, respect good advice, and try to improve; and, though there is plenty of "sea room" in this regard, gratifying signs of improvement appear. The educational and saving institutions of Zion are gradually but surely doing their heaven-appointed work.

Apostle J. F. Smith was at our monthly priesthood meeting, today, and, in connection with Pres. Lyman, imparted excellent instructions, which, if practised, will save temporally, spiritually, and eternally. They are expected to again minister for our benefit on Monday evening next.

The general health of the people is comparatively good. The destroyer has made some breaches which nothing but the resurrection of the just can repair, but yet we feel that we are favored and blessed above many of our fellows. The peace of heaven dwells in the hearts of all who strive to keep the commandments of God; and "Zion prospers: all is well."

W. J.

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