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## NOBLESSE OBLIGE.

If I am weak and you are strong,  
Why then, why then,  
To you the braver deeds belong;  
And so, again  
If you have gifts and I have none,  
If I have shade and you have sun,  
'Tis yours with freer hand to give,  
'Tis yours with truer grace to live,  
Than I, who giftless, sunless, stand  
With barren life and hand.

'Tis wisdom's law, the perfect code,  
By love inspired;  
Of him on whom much is bestowed  
Is much required.

The tuneful throat is bid to sing,  
The oak must reign the forest's king;  
The rustling stream the wheel must move,  
The beaten steel its strength must prove.  
'Tis given unto the eagle's eyes  
To face the midday skies.

—Carlotta Perry.

## ANCIENT FORTIFICATIONS.

### A TESTIMONY TO THE TRUTH OF THE BOOK OF MORMON.

There would be, of necessity, a marked difference between the military defense of ancient times and the systematic array of almost impregnable strongholds of these days of skilled topographers and prodigious artillery.

The origin of the art of fortification is involved in obscurity. The earliest records of the most ancient cities represent them as encircled by walls and forts. The ancient city of Nineveh, built by Ninus, was sixty miles in circumference, "an exceeding great city, of three days' journey." (Jon. iii. 3.) It was surrounded by a wall one hundred feet high, and of so great breadth that three chariots could go abreast upon it. The wall was adorned with 1500 towers two-hundred feet high.

The walls of Babylon were still more prodigious. They were in thickness eighty-seven feet, and three hundred and fifty feet high with a compass of four hundred and eighty furlongs. These walls were surrounded on the outside with a vast moat full of water and lined with bricks on both sides.

The design and purpose of these elaborate walls, probably went further than the needs of mere defense required. Diodorus says the design of the founder of Ninevah was to make that city the largest and noblest city in the world. Self-glorification was the principal motive of the builders of Babylon. Nebuchednezzar was eager to immortalize his name, and after adorning his capital city with pompous edifices and sumptuous ornamentations he burst forth in the pride of his heart: "Is not this the great Babylon that I have built for the house of the kingdom, by the might of my power and for the honor of my majesty." (Dan. iv: 30.)

As time passed and rival powers were arrayed against each other, it became necessary to defend important cities and harbors by high walls and strong fortifications. In this manner the ancient Greek cities were defended.

Jerusalem, at the time Vespasian sent his army to besiege it, was encompassed with walls and towers of vast strength. The art of war, and the powerful engines of destruction at that early day had made these large defenses necessary. The art of defense has, in general, made progress with that of attack. The weapons of primitive warfare were rude and simple, and the schemes of defense were correspondingly light and unskillful.

The main object of the defender being to prevent the near approach of the enemy to his position, the simplest means is the obstruction called in military parlance the parapet. This may be a wooden stockade, of mound of earth, or a wall of solid masonry. The simplest, most convenient and inexpensive form of parapet is the earth mound. The ground adjoining it is dug up for its formation, and the ditch or fosse thus left by the excavation forms, by its depth and breadth, additional obstacles to the enemy's approach. Starting from this primitive parapet, with its inevitable

ditch, as the elementary forms of defense, which were commonly a sufficient protection from the arrows, slings, clubs and hatchets of wild barbarian tribes, the scientific systems of modern defensive works have been developed.

It is now pretty generally known to the reading public that a vast area of the American continent is covered with artificial mounds of varying shape, size and constituents; being round, oval, square, occasionally triangular, and polygonal. Their height varies from a few inches to more than ninety feet, and their diameter from three to about a thousand feet.

Noted travelers, who have made these artificial hillocks objects of special study, have been astonished at their vast number and complexity of character.

They were first mentioned in 1776 by Carver, and the next writer who interested himself in this research was Harte, who visited those in the valleys of the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Missouri rivers in 1791. Breckenridge in his "Views of Louisiana" wrote of them in 1814. Later Messrs. Squier and Davis visited and excavated over two hundred of the mounds; and their descriptions, published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1845 and 1847 were the best guide with regard to these remarkable remains of a past race up to quite recent times, when these silent but profound witnesses of the lives and customs of those long lost races have been made the theme of many distinguished writers.

Besides the localities already mentioned tumuli have been discovered in the Wyoming Valley, and on the banks of the Yazoo and Tennessee rivers; on the shores of Lake Ontario as far as the St. Lawrence; in the western districts of the State of New York; in the States of Missouri and Mississippi, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska and Louisiana; the valleys of the Arkansas and Red rivers.