

ye-terday; trees were uprooted, fields of wheat leveled to the ground, and corn fields severely injured.

At Bonetouche, since the last report, information has been received that the destruction is much more extensive than was at first supposed. Very few houses have escaped injury. Beside that done to the roof and spire of the Roman Catholic chapel, the outbuildings, storehouse and barns of Rev. Mr. Michaud are a mass of ruins. Miss Julia Michaud, niece of the priest, is seriously injured. The convent is somewhat rickety, but still standing. Several cords of bark awaiting shipment, with several rafts of deals were driven to sea. Irving's warehouse is utterly destroyed. A large school building with furniture and library is a total loss. Timbers a ton in weight were raised and carried several hundred feet with the violence of the tempest. An old moulding shop and other buildings and a ship yard are swept away. Fences are levelled in all directions. The ruins of farm houses and barns defy description. In many cases they are strewn for miles along the highway. Crops and forest lands are completely destroyed. New deaths are continually reported. In one instance a mother was crushed to death while her child in her arms was unharmed. Several children in Dallard settlement are missing. They had been picking berries, and are supposed to be killed. Visitors are arriving from all parts, and subscriptions to the starving country folk are rarely made.

THE DIVINE AUTHENTICITY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON.

BY ELDER W. H. H. SHARP.

NO. VI.

The antiquities of South America extend over that portion of the country reaching from Chili to the narrow neck of land, the Isthmus of Darien. During the conquest of Peru by Pizarro, the geography of the country included the present States of Ecuador, Bolivia, and a large part of Chili. That the antiquities of this region of country are the work of a people educated in a different school of architectural skill and civilization, has been conceded by all who have examined into, and written upon the more remarkable monuments that are still standing, being the relics of those who possessed the land previous to the reign of the first Incas. Peruvian ancient ruins consist of cities, temples, palaces, and edifices of various kinds, fortresses, aqueducts and roadways being laid with hewn and cut stone, in a cement unknown to the inhabitants occupying the country in the 15th century, and previous to the Spanish discovery and conquest.

The most remarkable memorial left that mark the footprints of the ancient people of Peru, are found in their roadways, and no ancient people have left mementoes more astonishing than the celebrated road way, over 200 miles long, reaching from Quito to the lower part of Chili. This roadway is 25 feet wide, paved with cut stone. On each side of the roadway was a wall 10 feet thick, this road traversed the mountain sides, passing over rivers, marshes and wide chasms of the sierras, and through rocky precipices. Great ravines were filled up with solid masonry, and no obstruction was encountered but what these ancient builders overcome. One of these magnificent roads—laid in cement and being of cut stone—is larger than the two Pacific railroads, and its route along the mountains, over rivers and deep chasms, made it far more difficult to construct.

Humboldt speaks of this road as follows: "This road was marvelous. None of the Roman roads I have seen in Italy, in the south of France or in Spain, appeared to me more imposing than this work of the ancient Peruvians." The ancient Peruvians were the Nephites, and the greater portion of these celebrated and stupendous pieces of engineering skill were built in the first century of the Christian era. The following is the history in part of the time and place and people who constructed not only these extensive roadways, but the ancient cities found in ruins along its path.

The people who first inhabited and spread over South America after the flood, came from Jerusalem about 600 years B. C., consisting (as I stated in a previous chapter) of two colonies. They occupied

the land cotemporary and unknown to each other about 350 years. The colony of Father Lehi first landed in Chili, and soon after the death of the aged Lehi, the family divided. Nephi and his brother, Sam Jacob and Joseph and the servant of Laban, named Zoram, with their families, by the command of the Lord, travelled northward, and after many days, pitched their tents and commenced the building of a city, and erected a beautiful Temple after the pattern of the temple of Solomon. They named the city and land Nephi, after Nephi, the son of Lehi, who became the first king by the unanimous consent of the people, and by the direct appointment of the Almighty, prophet, seer and revelator. The other part of the family, consisting of Laman and Lemuel, the sons of Lehi and the sons of Ishmael (who died in the wilderness of Arabia during the journey from Jerusalem), commenced to reign under Laman. These two divisions were ever afterwards known as Nephites and Lamanites.

These two factions commenced to reign 580 years, or thereabout, B. C. The Nephites were an industrious and highly civilized people, working in all kinds of metals—tin, gold, silver, brass and copper, and wood and stone. They prospered exceedingly and multiplied in the land, remaining in the land of Nephi about 330 years, when the Lord commanded them to leave their cities and land and journey still further north. Their people were ruled over at this time by Mosiah, who also possessed the keys of priesthood; and the Urim and Thummim, or as they were called, "Interpreters." This journey culminated in the meeting of the people of Zarahemla, who descended from Mulek, the head of the other colony. According to the Book of Mormon the division of the land of South America at the time of this union of the Nephites and Zarahemlites comprised three grand divisions, as follows: The land of Zarahemla was separated from the land of Nephi by a line drawn from the west sea to the east sea, which corresponds with the equator, the land Nephi was separated from the land of Nephi-Lehi, where the Lamanites dwelt by a line somewhere in the north part of Chili. Ancient Peru, according to the information obtained from works upon the subject, circumscribed the land of Nephi, hence many of the ancient ruins found in Peru are the remains also of the Nephites. During the three hundred and odd years previous to the journey of Mosiah, the Zarahemlites occupied the northern part of South America, the Nephites the middle portion, and the Lamanites the southern. The curse which fell upon the rebellious, or Lamanitish divisions of the families of Lehi and Ishmael, caused their posterity to become indolent, ferocious and warlike, dwelling in tents, living upon wild animals, and the fruits of the land, and preying upon the labors of the Nephites, robbing them of their cattle and fruits of the field.

Tradition, in the history of the line of descent of the Incas of Peru confirms the history of the Book of Mormon. In the possession of the land first by a white and bearded people who built extensive cities, erected imposing temples, and were highly civilized, being educated in the arts, sciences, and the manufacture of all kinds of implements of war. Soon after the union of the people of Nephi and Zarahemla, the land of South America was divided and subdivided into many States or Territories, and three years previous to the birth of the Messiah, the people divided into tribes, each tribe appointing a chief and naming the land after their leaders; a custom peculiar to the inhabitants, from the time of their landing. The land of Nephi, or Ancient Peru, has been supposed by some antiquarians and historians to be the Land of Opher, where Solomon obtained much gold. Spanish history furnishes a field for speculation if not authenticity, as regards the immense amount of gold produced from the mines of Peru during the Spanish conquest, and from the natives as resources.

Pizarro, the Spanish general, by the most atrocious and barbarous treachery, seized the Inca Atahualpa and imprisoned him. The Inca caused a room to be filled with golden vessels, amounting to millions of dollars, as his ransom. Pizarro took the gold and put the Inca to death. This act threw the whole empire into confusion; treas-

ures of gold, silver and precious stones were buried in immense quantities, and the land was deluged in a bloody war; and from that time to the present has Peru, the ancient land of Nephi, become a field of antiquarian research, which has brought to light many evidences corroborative of the Divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon. Large quantities of gold have been taken in these modern times from the "huacas," where, no doubt, it was placed during the conquest of Peru, to preserve it from the conquerors; also many implements and ornaments of gold, silver, copper, stone, bone and wood, many of which are the relics of a people dating their inheritance in the land long anterior to the reigning Incas. From the ancient mounds used for burial, and from the ancient hewn sepulchres, mummies wrapped in cloth, well preserved, have been, through this research for gold, brought to light.

The art of embalming was well understood by the Nephites, they being educated in the Jewish and Egyptian school of learning. The preservation of the dead in this way was common amongst the Israelites, and no doubt practised by the Nephites, but in no instance has it been developed that the Lamanites or their descendants, through the reign of the Incas, resorted to this system of preserving their dead. The traditional fear which then, and still is entertained by the Indians, or Lamanites, as regards the resting place of their dead, induced many of the subjects of the Inca Atahualpa, to select these ancient tombs, or at least many of them to deposit their treasures, during the conquest of the country under Pizarro. From one tomb was obtained gold to the amount of a million dollars. (See Baldwin's Ancient America for Peruvian ruins, Native Races, and Humboldt's researches under the head of Peruvian Antiquities.)

The Book of Mormon informs us that the land of Nephi contained much gold and silver, iron and copper, and during the reign of Nephi, he informs us, page 65, that he taught his people to build buildings, to work in all manner of wood, iron, copper, brass, steel, gold and silver and precious ore which were in great abundance in the land. Brass ornaments and trinkets have been found in many of the ancient tombs, the manufacture of which was unknown amongst the Lamanites or the Incas of Peru. During the reign of King Benjamin, the son of Mosiah, there was a goodly number desired to again possess the land of Nephi, and took this journey south for that purpose. By a treaty formed with the Lamanites, this company again took possession of the land, dwelt in the cities formerly occupied by the Nephites, and became numerous and wealthy.

Under the reign of King Noah many elegant and spacious buildings were erected, and ornamented with gold and silver, iron, brass, zinc and copper. King Noah also erected for himself a spacious palace, and a throne in the midst thereof, overlaid with fine gold, silver and precious things. Within the walls of the temple built by Nephi, several centuries before he caused his workmen to execute in wood, copper and brass, fine ornamentation seats, which were set apart for the especial use of his high priests, were covered with fine gold. Near the temple he erected a very high tower, and throughout the land during his reign, splendid palaces were built, vineyards cultivated on an extensive scale, and wine manufactured in abundance.

In the province of Chichapoyas, Peru, near the village of Cenap, in 1842 and 1843 the ruins of the largest building in the world was surveyed and measured. This imposing edifice measures 3 600 feet long, 560 feet wide and 150 feet high. And upon the top of this first immense mass of hewn stone is another massive building 600 feet long, 500 feet wide and 150 feet high, being 300,000 feet in circumference, the whole mass being more than 300 feet from base to top of building. In this stupendous building are rooms 18 feet by 15 feet. A lengthy description of these important and ancient ruins, will be found in the "National Intelligencer," November, 1844, and partially copied into the Times and Seasons, vol. 5, page 733, and Baldwin's Ancient America. These ruins also contained ingenious and highly executed specimens of workmanship, in ornaments of gold,

silver, copper and stone, proving their workmen to have been highly civilized and of refined taste, in design and work. A careful study of these ruins and others in Peru demonstrates the following conclusion, that they are the remains and relics of the Nephites, who inhabited the land during the time intervening between the year 35 of the Christian era and the year 326. In this year a war commenced between the Nephites and Lamanites, and continued until the whole of South America was obtained and ruled over by the Lamanites. The Book of Mormon, page 500, says that in the 350th year, after the birth of the Savior, a treaty took place between the Nephites and Lamanites, in the which the whole of North America was occupied by the Nephites, and the entire land of South America by the Lamanites. In the fearful war which begun 10 years after the treaty, the Nephites were entirely destroyed, but the horrors of war did not cease, and for 15 years after the great struggle at Cumorah, the Lamanites waged war amongst themselves. Moroni, on page 510, informs us that "the whole face of the land was one continued scene of bloodshed and murder. Twenty years afterward the records of the Book of Mormon and Ether were hid up in the hill Cumorah.

For further information concerning the remnants which were left, we must look into the Histories of the Toltes, who date the beginning of their imperial dynasty in the year 596 of the Christian era, being 176 years after the history closes in the Book of Mormon. About this time the Incas of Peru began their reign. These histories, in many respects, corroborate one another as regards the inhabitants who built the extensive cities in South and North America, which were in ruins in their days, and some of which they repaired and lived in, and were found in possession of during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Very ancient ruins near Chavinda, Huanta and the town of Huacanga, show remains of large and remarkable edifices. Native tradition ascribes the building of these cities to "bearded white men, who came there long before the time of the Incas, and established a settlement." (Baldwin's Ancient America, page 243).

Prominent among the memorials left by the Nephites, the ancient inhabitants of Peru, are the ruins of skillfully built aqueducts, hewn stone laid in cement, being used in their construction; one of these aqueducts is 450 miles long, north and south, extending over sierras and rivers, chasms and along the mountain sides. These extensive works of man's ingenuity and skill, consisting of highways, aqueducts, and splendid and imposing edifices, were the results of the enlightenment of the first, second and third centuries of the Christian era, beginning with the 35th year. The Book of Mormon informs us that at the crucifixion of the Savior there was darkness upon this American continent for the space of three days and nights, that during this time a fearful scene took place, during the agonies of the Savior on the cross—fire from heaven consumed many people and their cities, many cities were sunk in the sea, others buried out of sight, and great mountains taking the place thereof, others swept away with their inhabitants by whirlwinds, others shaken to pieces and many of their inhabitants slain by earthquakes, and that the whole face of north and south America was changed. The great chain of mountains which reaches from Patagonia to Alaska was upheaved, volcanos were formed and the solid and unbroken belt of rock reaching from north to south was broken up, and the evidences of that fearful commotion are before us to-day; which is portrayed in the Book of Mormon, pages 450 and 451. At the close of the 34th year the people who were preserved from the great calamity which had befallen them, were blessed with the personal visit of the crucified Savior; a knowledge of the gospel was revealed, and in the 38th year the people in North and South America became converted, and were a one great family—united in all things. Prosperity was with them, and soon their cities were repaired, and the highest order of civilization and intellectual fraternity existed among them. This state of affairs continued 167 years, when factions arose, and then began again to be

Lamanites and other ites, amongst the people, and when 231 years had passed from the birth of Christ, the people again divided under the titles of Nephites and Lamanites. The tide of progress and the building of cities ceased, war commenced and this great covenant of gospel peace was first broken by the shedding of blood on the borders of the land of Zarahemla, near the waters of the river Sidon. (Book of Mormon, page 497)

To be continued.

THE "CONTRIBUTOR."

THE Mutual Improvement Associations form a very important organization. The young men and young ladies holding membership therein number over twenty thousand. They make a powerful auxiliary to the quorums of the priesthood, to some of which most of the members belong, and a vast amount of good has already been effected through their meetings and influence.

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