

[From the New Orleans Picayune.]

Ancient American Cities.

An interesting article has recently been published by the Fort Smith Times, in regard to the ancient remains of the City Quivera, situated in a level plain some ninety miles north east of Fort Stanton, New Mexico, and about seventy from the high isolated peak which the Mexicans call "The Captain," that we take the liberty of condensing for our antiquarian readers.

The plain upon which lie the massive relics of once gorgeous temples and magnificent halls slopes gradually eastward towards the River Pecos, and is very fertile, crossed by a gurgling stream of the purest water, that not only sustains a rich vegetation, but perhaps furnished with this necessary element the thousands who once inhabited this present wilderness.

The city was probably built by a warlike race, as it is quadrangular and arranged with skill to afford the highest protection against an exterior foe, many of the buildings on the outer line being pierced with loopholes, as though calculated for the use of weapons.

Several of the buildings are of vast size, and built of massive blocks of a dark granite rock which could only have been wrought to their present condition by a vast amount of labor. At the present time, the best tempered tools, in the hands of the most skillful workmen, could scarcely produce an impression on the surface. In one place, a pile of ruins appears to have been intended for three separate buildings, each about three hundred feet front, with the intervals between them occupying one thousand feet.

The middle building is constructed with great neatness and care, of ponderous blocks of the material before mentioned, of a nearly cubical form, which, allowing 1,500 ounces as the weight of a cubic foot, would be found to weigh more than three tons each, and could have been transported from the distant quarry and placed in their present elevated position with prodigious labor. The walls of this building are, at the present time from 30 to 35 feet in height, while the surface of the ground is strown with huge masses of fallen blocks, which have probably been displaced from their former position by the action of some great disturbing agency, such as a volcanic eruption, which would lead to the conclusion that they once rose to a great altitude. This temple (as it may properly be termed) is entirely destitute of any partitions or the appearance of their former existence and appears to have been designed by its architects as a vast hall to be used for the performance of solemn religious rites, or the celebration of feasts.

The pavement is hid from view by a confused mass of fallen building materials, among which are to be found fragments of carving in bas-relief, and fresco work of superior design and execution, which would justify the conclusion that these silent ruins could once boast of halls as gorgeously decorated by the artist's hand as those of Thebes or Palmyra.

This series of buildings are all loopholed in each side, much resembling that found in the old feudal castles of Europe designed for the use of archers.

The blocks of which these buildings are composed are cemented together by a species of mortar of a bituminous character, which has such tenacity that vast masses of wall have fallen down without the blocks being detached by the shock. The slight examination which has been made by officers of the United States army indicate the presence here of objects of rare curiosity.

It is impossible, in looking upon the evidences of the residence in North America, in ages that are past, of a powerful and civilized race, to regret that they utter no voice to tell us of the causes that made it prosperous, and finally swept it away into utter oblivion. Whence came the builders of cities now dumb ruins, awakening our admiration of the art and power of a lost race, yet thwarting all efforts to penetrate the dark veil that shrouds their history?

When Thebes and Palmyra were in their glory, we cannot but believe that in the depths of this American continent, a people—brave in arms and skillful in arts—spread in mighty numbers from the neighborhood of the northern lakes to the Isthmus of Panama. Should any fortunate accident lift the obscurity that overwhelms this ancient race, America will doubtless be found as rich in the antique as Egypt or India.

Has the editor of the N. O. Picayune ever seen, heard of, or read the Book of Mormon? If not, the perusal of it might probably throw light on the subject and answer his anxious and reasonable inquiries.

The Wealth of the Ancients.

In all ages, the East has poured its riches into the laps of those nations that lie towards the setting sun. From one commercial voyage, Solomon realized \$15,000,555. Pliny also informs us of one Mathias, of Bythnia, who entertained one day, in the most splendid manner, the whole army of Xerxes, consisting of 1,700,000 men. To this large army he offered five months' pay and provisions for the whole campaign.

At the present time, such liberalities would not only ruin the fortune of private persons, but would weaken the commercial interest of the most powerful government.

Esopus, the contemporary of Roscius, at an entertainment, produced a dish made of sing-

ing birds, which alone cost \$24,445. Julius Caesar was captured by the Cilician pirates, who demanded of him \$25,833. 30. Caesar laughed at them, and gave them \$43,055. 50. Before he enjoyed any public office he was in debt to the amount of \$1,119,443.

When the government of Spain was allotted to Caesar, he was so overwhelmed with debt that he could not depart to take charge of his position. He called upon Crassus the Rich, who stood security for him in the sum of \$714,720. He rewarded the bravery of Cassius Cæva by a donation of seven thousand dollars. He paid off the vast debt of the tribune Curio, and presented the consul Paulus with \$1,291,665, which was employed in constructing a new wall near the Forum. He commenced a new building, the ground plot of which was to have cost him above an hundred million of sesterces. In memory of his daughter, he gave a most extravagant feast to the people; doubled the pay of the legions for ever; granted the people corn without measure, and gave each soldier a slave, a piece of land, or a house. He presented an actor for a mimic piece of his own, \$17,500. For his mistress, Servilia, mother of M. Brutus, he purchased a pearl that cost him \$210,000. During his reign, gold and silver became so abundant that it was exchanged throughout Italy at three thousand sesterces per pound. He also decorated the arms of his soldiers with gold and silver, so that they should be the more unwilling to part with them from their great value. Yet, with all his extravagance, he bequeathed to each Roman citizen nine dollars.

In many respects, Caligula was as great a tyrant as Nero. He was reckless in the profusion with which he scattered money. He bathed in a bath of precious unguents; drank priceless pearls dissolved in vinegar, and ate of golden bread. At an auction he made his salesman knock off twelve gladiators to Saturnus, who was so unfortunate as to nod. They amounted to three hundred and fifteen thousand dollars. In less than one year he lavished a magnificent estate and all the treasures amassed by Tiberius, amounting to twenty seven hundred million dollars.

The funeral pageant of Alexander has never been surpassed. In many respects, it equalled the festive train of Ptolemy Philadelphus. The monarch died at Babylon, and was buried in the mosque of St. Athanasius at Alexandria. The grandees and governors appointed Aridaeus to prepare for this august funeral. Two years were consumed in the preparation, and every splendor that wealth could buy was lavished with profusion.

At length the day arrived for this solemn and magnificent procession to begin its march. Hills were leveled, all uneven places were made smooth, and every obstacle that could impede the funeral train was removed by a vast number of workmen. The chariot that contained the coffin of the monarch was adorned with such wealth of jewels and diadems, that it is said to have emitted brilliant flashes like those of lightning. The spokes of this chariot were covered with gold. It was drawn by sixty-four mules of the largest size, and each was adorned with a crown of gold and a collar, enriched with precious stones and golden bells. On this chariot was erected a pavilion of solid gold, twelve feet wide and eighteen in length. The inside surpassed the outside in splendor and brilliancy, being one blaze of jewels, arranged in the shape of shells. Golden network beautified the circumference, and the golden threads were an inch in thickness, to each of which were fastened large bells, which could be heard at a great distance. It would only worry the reader to mention all the jewels and golden crowns than were borne in this procession. Enough has been said to show the great amount of gold that was displayed on that occasion.

MASON AND DIXON'S LINE.—On the 4th of August, 1763, Thomas and Richard Penn, and Lord Baltimore, being together in London, agreed with Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, two mathematicians or surveyors to mark, run out, settle and fix the boundary line between Maryland on the one hand, and Delaware and Pennsylvania on the other. Mason and Dixon landed in Philadelphia on the 15th of November following, and began their work at once. They adopted the peninsular lines, and the radius and tangent point of the circular of their predecessors. They next ascertained the north-eastern coast of Maryland, and proceeded to run the dividing parallel of latitude. They pursued this parallel a distance of 23 miles, 18 chains, and 21 links from the place of the beginning, at the N. E. corner of Maryland to the bottom of a valley on Dunkard creek, where an Indian war path crossed their route, and here, on the 19th of November, 1767, their Indian escort told them it was the will of the Sioux Nation that the surveys should cease, and they terminated accordingly, leaving 36 miles, 6 chains and 50 links, as the exact distance remaining to be run west to the southwest angle of Pennsylvania, not far from the Board Tree Tunnel, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Dixon died at Durham, Eng., 1777; Mason died in Pennsylvania, 1787.—[N. Y. Sun.

THE NIGGERS AND CONGRESS.—The "niggers" who do the "menial" work at the Capitol are a shrewd set of fellows. Tuesday one of them was standing by one of the doors of the House, looking in at the members.

The doorkeeper said: "Jim, they're talking about niggers in there." "Well," was the response, "dat's der business. Lor bless you, if it wasn't for de niggers, dere wouldn't be no Congress."

Our Country--Now and Then.

Eighty-three years ago, says an exchange, when the fifty-two signers of the Declaration of Independence, "appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of their intentions," declared "that these United Colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent States," but few of the most sanguine of that day dreamed of the extent and greatness which their country would attain in the comparatively brief space of three-fourths of a century. Then there were thirteen sparsely populated colonies; now we have thirty-three powerful States and several large Territories on the threshold of membership. The following statistics, showing the means and degrees by which the great empire of the West has been reared, will be read with thrilling interest by every American citizen:

NEW STATES AND TERRITORIES—WHEN ADMITTED.

Under General Washington's administration the following new States were admitted:

Vermont, in 1791.
Kentucky, in 1792.
Tennessee, in 1796.

Under Thomas Jefferson's administration, the following new States and Territories were added to the Union:

Ohio, in 1802.
Louisiana, purchased in 1804.

Each contained space enough for fifteen States. This purchase gave to the United States the entire control of the Mississippi, the south of which had hitherto been in the hands of a foreign power. Territorial governments were organized in Mississippi, Indiana, and Louisiana.

Under James Madison's administration, the following addition was made to the confederacy:

Indiana, in 1816.

During the Presidency of James Monroe, the following new States were admitted into the Union:

Mississippi, in 1817.
Illinois, in 1819.
Missouri, in 1820.
Maine, in 1820.
Florida, purchased in 1821.

Under the Presidency of General Andrew Jackson, the following States were admitted:

Michigan, in 1836.
Arkansas, in 1838.

During the Presidency of James K. Polk, the following new States were admitted:

Texas, in 1845.
Iowa, in 1845.
Florida, in 1845.
Wisconsin, in 1845.
California was bought.
New Mexico and Utah bought.

Under the administration of Taylor and Fillmore the following State was admitted:

California, in 1850.

The following Territories were organized:—
New Mexico.
Utah and Washington.

Under General Pierce's administration, the following Territories were organized:

Nebraska and Kansas.
Arizona purchased.

Under James Buchanan's administration, the following States have been admitted:

Minnesota, in 1858.
Oregon, in 1859.

A Negro Minstrel Sold into Slavery.

An affidavit was yesterday made before Justice W. P. Griffiths, by Deputy Sheriff Hudgins, that a free negro had come into this State, contrary to our laws, calling himself Joseph Vincent Suarez, and passing himself for a white man. Thereupon said Suarez was brought before Justice Griffiths, assisted by Justice Truehart and, upon examination by Doctors Friedmont and Banks, they stated on oath, as medical men, that said Suarez was a person of color, and had over one-eighth African blood. It being proven to the satisfaction of the court that he was such a person of color as is prohibited by our laws from coming within the limits of the State, it was therefore ordered that the Sheriff take the said Suarez in charge, and hire him for the term of six months to the highest bidder, at the Court House of the county, giving notice of the hiring by advertisement, posted up at two or more public places in the county. The law says that the proceeds of the hire of a free person of color thus coming into our State, as proven in this case, shall be collected by the Sheriff, and after deducting expenses, the remainder shall be paid over to said person of color to enable him to leave the State and that the Sheriff shall notify him to leave within thirty days. Should he fail to leave the State as required, the Sheriff is directed to arrest him again to be hired again at public outcry for cash, for a term of five years, &c. It is proper to remark that this Suarez came to our city as a negro minstrel, and he has, therefore the merit of passing himself off in his professional character for precisely what he is.—Galveston (Texas) News, Jan'y 19.

—The Missouri Legislature has passed a bill appropriating \$2,500 to erect a monument over the remains of Col. Benton.

A Stone from Napoleon's Tomb.

By correspondence from St. Helena, also from the St. Helena Herald of Dec. 29th, says the N. Y. Journal of Commerce, we have interesting accounts of the ceremonies attending the removal of a stone from the Tomb of Napoleon I, which had been granted by the Emperor Napoleon III, to the U. S. Consul, to be placed in the national monument in course of erection at Washington City. This ceremony took place Dec. 20th. The U. S. Consul, G. W. Kimball, Esq., met the French Commandant Rougemant and other officers of Longwood, in the presence of the French Vice Consul. The U. S. Consul having been duly received, and a dispatch read from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, he descended into the tomb with Commandant Rougemant, Capt. Musselin, of the Engineers, and the French Vice Consul, when the ceremony of removal was begun by Capt. M. first using the pick. After the stone was released, it was drawn up by a rope in the hands of the gentlemen themselves, and deposited at the entrance of the Tomb. The following address of presentation was then made by M. de Rougemant:

"I am happy, Monsieur le Consul, in having been able to contribute to the negotiations which have brought about the delivery which I have the honor to make to you to-day; and in being able to deliver up to you, in the name of the Emperor, a Stone which shall testify to all those who shall visit the Monument where it will be placed, that France still preserves towards the United States the same sentiments as at the time when Washington obtained his place in history."

To the above address, Mr. Kimball, U. S. Consul, made a fitting reply, commencing as follows:

"Monsieur le Commandant, the occasion which has summoned us to this sacred spot fills me with profound feelings. Before me lays the consecrated tomb of the illustrious captive wherein his body found repose beneath the shade of these drooping willows after a life fraught with glory; but who now sleepeth on the banks of his loved Seine. By the gracious permission of His Imperial Majesty Napoleon III, I am here to receive at your hand, M. le Commandant, a sacred memento, one of the stones on which rested for many long years the body of him who filled the world with his fame, as a contribution to a monumental column now growing heavenward in the Capital of my own nation to the memory of one of the most illustrious and best of those whom heaven hath sent on earth."

The French Commandant was begged to convey to His Imperial Majesty, in behalf of the National Monument Association and the people of the United States, "the deep sentiment of veneration" with which he accepted this stone, "to be placed in a niche of that structure growing by the commemorative gifts of many nations to the memory of the great Washington."

This stone is about two feet broad by eighteen inches in thickness, with the flags of the two nations enveloping it.

We learn from a private letter that the stone was put on board the U. S. steamer Mystic, which left St. Helena, Jan'y 4h, for the coast of Africa, and would probably be transferred to the U. S. store-ship 'Relief,' bound home. It is inclosed under the seals of the United States, and accompanied by papers of identification. At Washington City it will receive a fitting inscription.

—A mammoth lump of silver ore, from the Washoe mines, in Carson Valley, has been forwarded by Morrison, Walsh & Co., to the Washington Monument. It is two feet six inches long, ten inches wide, and eight inches thick, weighs one hundred and sixty-three pounds and is valued at \$600.

—The ice boat so much talked of for winter navigation on the upper Mississippi, was put into successful operation at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, on the 11th Jan'y, and made a trial trip to Lafayette, thirty-two miles, in two hours and ten minutes, returning in two hours and carrying twenty passengers.

—The manufacturers in Troy have for some time been experimenting on mixtures of different irons in the puddling furnace, and have succeeded in making bars that sustain a tensile strain of over 100,000 pounds per square inch of section.

—Rosa Bonheur, the distinguished Parisian artiste, it is said, is about to come to this country, commissioned by an opulent French gentleman, an enthusiast in art, to proceed to the great prairies of the far West, and paint from life, a herd of wild buffalos. She is to take her own time, accomplish it in her own way and fix her own price.