

TEMPLES AND TEMPLE BUILDING.

A Lecture, delivered in Logan Temple, March 5th, 1887, by Elder J. E. Carlisle

The works of the early races who dwelt in Egypt, Assyria and Babylon, furnish an interesting study to people now. Among the most conspicuous of these may be mentioned the pyramids and temples. The pyramids of late years have been carefully studied, and some remarkable facts have been found regarding them. Pyramids stand in the eastern world, solid monuments of a former glory, and point with the finger of science and prophecy to the future. Temples are closely allied to pyramids in their marvelous nature and mission. The ruins of temples have contributed much to the knowledge the world has of the history, science and arts of the ancient races. The very word "temple" implies something noble, elevating and educational in its nature.

It is not my purpose to enter into details regarding the uses to which temples have been put and the objects for which they were erected, at different periods of time.

THEY FILLED MISSIONS,

varying with change of rulers over the people and according to the knowledge possessed by them. The heathen nations would not make the same use of temples that more enlightened people would. People living under the teachings of inspiration, made use of them differently to those who were dependent upon tradition for their knowledge. Temples occupied and filled in former ages, the place of higher institutions of learning. They were held in a sacred light according to the Bible record. David was not permitted to build one of those sacred edifices because he was a man of blood. The Lord commanded the building of a temple, and the work devolved upon Solomon, the son of David. The building erected by him was a masterpiece of architecture. It was seven years from the time of the commencement to the completion of the building. Its dedication was attended with great manifestations of the

POWER AND GLORY

of the Lord. It was finely ornamented with gold, and its furnishings were of the best.

An English writer says: "Its very name is conjoined in our minds with ideas of vastness, of splendor, and of riches, which the imagination even will not venture to indulge in, and which our reason refuses to reason upon. We read of such wonders concerning it—of ten thousand men employed continually in cutting down cedars in Lebanon; of eighty thousand men hewing stones in the mountains; of seventy thousand men bearing burdens; of three thousand six hundred men as overseers merely of the work; and yet that the unceasing labors of this great multitude of work people could not accomplish the building of the temple in less than seven years. What an idea does this convey of the temple's spaciousness and magnificence! And again we read that, before a stone of it was laid, David had provided means for it, to which the world can find no parallel—means that would annihilate our national debt in a moment; for he laid for it in the first instance a hundred thousand talents of gold."

THE TOTAL AMOUNT EXPENDED

is estimated at 907,782,156 pounds. This was contributed by David and various princes and others. This temple was holy and sacred unto the children of Israel for many years, so much so that when they prayed they turned their faces toward it. Even when Titus and his army broke into the city of Jerusalem, the inhabitants crowded into the temple, doubtless believing that they would be safe; but the blood of the Savior and holy men was against them and they perished with the destruction of that marvelous building.

When built by Solomon it was artistically furnished. A Phoenician artist was selected to do the most important work, the costly decorations and the beautiful things in gold and brass. It was destroyed by Herod, and afterwards rebuilt and furnished on a grand scale. But we will not enter into the details of its history. Through the generations it has been an object of much thought, study and admiration. Much has been written concerning it in the Bible and secular works.

Egypt may properly be termed a

LAND OF TEMPLES.

The ruins of her former cities give evidence that many temples dotted them, and they have left remnants of their former glory. Hieroglyphics mark stones which have stood for ages, and give to intelligent men many peculiar points of history. In the zenith of its temple building glory Egypt was known as a great seat of intelligence and culture. Travelers visiting her cities, returned to their homes with a valuable fund of information. They introduced new ideas into their own country.

It will be seen that temple building was a characteristic of a very early race. Ruins exist of temples in ancient Chaldean cities, and the Chaldean priests were famous for their knowledge of astronomy. Temples, among other purposes, were used as observatories. A historian says: "Elevated on their stages above the mists of the plain below, the priest tracked across the heavens the mysterious

ous movements of the heavenly bodies which he served. Their wandering course, now high, now low, then hid, progressive, retrograde or standing still."

THERE WAS A GLORY

attached to temple building in Babylon which is worthy of note. In the changes of rulers occasioned by conflicts, temples would be demolished. Succeeding rulers would rebuild them, yet they have retained features by which students can become acquainted with their strange history. The Egyptian, Assyrian, and Babylonian temples had each its peculiar features, yet in all are found traces of a similarity. A description of one of the early temples may not be uninteresting as given by Phillip Smith: "We have seen the Babylonian kings boasting their piety as restorers of temples; and we have found the last king of Babylon expressly stating that he renovated the very edifice which is still the most perfect, and is supposed to be the oldest example of the ancient temples, that of the Moon at Mugheir. This building is raised on a platform about twenty feet above the plain, and consists at present of two stories; the Arabs told the explorer, Mr. Taylor, that the remains existed half a century ago of a third story, in the form of a chamber, which appears to have been the

SHRINE OF A GOD.

A number of bricks or tiles glazed with blue enamel, and many of the large copper nails that fastened them to the walls, were found about the ruins at such a distance that they might very well have fallen from the chapel on the summit. The plan of the building is not a square, but a rectangle of 198 feet by 133 feet, the longer side (or front) facing the S. E.; and the upper story a rectangle of 119 feet by 75 feet, is so placed upon the lower that its S. E. face recedes 47 feet, and the opposite, (N. W.) face, only 30 feet; the recess of the two other sides being about equal, namely 28 feet. The lower story is a mass of crude bricks, faced with a wall of burnt bricks ten feet thick, against which are built a number of shallow buttresses, about 8 feet wide, and one foot in projection, nine on the longer faces and six on the shorter, counting in those at the angles.

The effect is curiously like a medieval keep or donjon. Both walls and buttresses have an inward slope of about nine degrees, giving the same stable pyramidal appearance which characterizes Egyptian architecture. On the northeastern side, there is an external staircase, nine feet wide, with sides or balustrades three feet wide; but it is conjectured that the grand staircase was on the S. E. face, and equal in width to the whole of the upper story. The brick work of this story is laid entirely in bitumen; and the whole mass is ventilated by a number of narrow air holes, pierced from side to side, through walls and buttresses. The upper story is similarly constructed, except that the bricks of the inner mass are partly burnt, of a light red color, and laid in a cement of lime and ashes, and burnt bricks of the facing are laid in excellent lime mortar. Except on the N. W. face, bitumen is used. This story had no buttresses. The height of the lower story, at present only 27 feet, is calculated to have been forty feet; the upper story evidently much exceeded its present height, of 19 feet." E. H. Gillet describes a

REMARKABLE TEMPLE

found in the city of Petra, in the land of the Edomites. The approach to it from one direction is described as on a grand scale of savage yet magnificent sublimity. "But all at once, as the traveler approaches the angle, the front of the Khuzneh, in the western precipice, bursts upon his view. He beholds a temple hewn out of rock, and set in a niche of rock, its material a rose-colored stone, which is shown off most delicately by the dark shrubs which grow before it. Its height is between sixty and seventy feet, while of its six columns five are still standing. Its position is wonderfully fine, while its elaborate carvings of garlands, its bas-reliefs (somewhat defaced), and the suddenness with which this admirably preserved structure strikes the eye of the traveler emerging from the dim avenue by which it is approached, deepen the impression." Buckhardt calls the temple "one of the most elegant remains of antiquity in Syria." Stanley says that to one coming upon it unexpectedly from the east, "he cannot conceive of anything

MORE STRIKING."

Stevens speaks of it as "the pride and beauty of Petra." His companion, in beholding it, involuntarily cried out, clapped his hands and shouted in ecstasy. Long afterward, the traveler declared that neither the Coliseum at Rome, nor the ruins of the Acropolis at Athens, nor the pyramids nor the mighty temples of the Nile, were so often present to his memory. Dr. Robinson speaks of the delicacy of its fine chiseling, and the freshness and beauty of its soft coloring. "I had seen," he adds, "various engravings of it, and read all the descriptions, but this was one of the rare instances where the truth of the reality out-passed the ideal anticipation. It is indeed most exquisitely beautiful; and nothing I have seen of architectural effect on Rome or Thebes, or even Athens, comes up to it in the first impression." In spite of its debased style of architecture, its position, its wonderful state of preservation, the framework of cliffs several hundred feet high, in which it is set, the glow and

tints of the stone and the wild scenery around, are enough to justify the traveler's confession, I was perfectly fascinated with this splendid work of ancient art in this wild spot."

The foregoing descriptions show different styles of architecture, and serve to illustrate two

TYPES OF EARLY TEMPLES.

The latter was built evidently at a period of time when culture and art thrived in a land which is now desolate. It proves that the people of Petra possessed a high education and were well skilled in the art of building. The fact that ruins of temples are found in many of the ancient cities is an evidence that they filled an important niche in the religious and educational affairs of this people. Some of them were highly ornamented with the work of the artist. Embellishments, and historical facts were aimed at, and the success achieved is evidenced in the fruits of the researches of the present day.

Rome is also noted for her temples.

THE CAPITOLINE TEMPLE

figures prominently in her history. It was a marvel of architectural beauty. It is said that nearly three quarters of a century were consumed in preparing its foundations. At this temple the Romans for a thousand years continued to worship the king of the Gods. The original building was burned at the time of Sylla and strange to say at the same time that the temple of Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans. It was rebuilt with new splendor and the gilding alone is said to have cost over \$12,000,000. This ancient temple is now said to be totally destroyed. There were other famous temples in that noted city but we have not time to refer to them.

A remarkable temple standing in the city of Arva, the capital of the Burmese Empire is described as follows: "The foundations of this temple are of solid masonry, composed of bricks of the best materials. It is two thousand feet square, the walls being eight feet thick and seventy feet high. On the top of the walls rest two rows of massive pillars. At each corner of the walls rises a beautiful spire. On the tops of each spire is placed a huge bar of iron, surmounting which is an iron network ten feet in diameter in the shape of a spread umbrella. On the bottom edge of this are suspended bells of every size and tone. A piece of copper is attached to every clapper, so arranged that when the wind is strong, every bell is set to ringing." On the tops of this temple is a second one smaller in size, and on the top of that is a third, and on top of the third is a fourth. From the top of the last ascends a

MAGNIFICENT SPIRE

with net work, having bells suspended. The sensations produced by these bells are wonderful when the winds blow. The feeling of those listening at such a time can be better imagined than described. This quaint building was erected at a great cost and shows a union and devotion which are laudable.

It is certain that the people of the eastern world greatly excelled in the arts and sciences. They were advanced in scientific discovery, but their knowledge was applied differently in those days to what the knowledge of the world is to-day.

The temple building spirit of the past did not confine itself to the Eastern Hemisphere. Upon the soil of America there are ruins of numerous temples of former days and that sacred record, the Book of Mormon, contains the following paragraph about the

ERECTION OF A TEMPLE

after the manner of Solomon's upon this continent: "And I, Nephi, did build a temple, and I did construct it after the manner of the temple of Solomon, save it were not built of so many precious things; for they were not to be found upon the land; wherefore, it could not be built like unto Solomon's temple. But the manner of the construction was like unto the temple of Solomon; and the workmanship thereof was exceedingly fine." It is evident that the people who lived upon this land after the days of Nephi and before the discovery of America by Columbus, appreciated temples and devoted their energies to the building of them.

The ruins of a temple are found at Viracocha, Peru, which indicate that the building was a wonder of architectural beauty. The Temple of the Sun, at Cuzco, Peru, was a magnificent and costly building. The outer cornice of the walls was coated or plated with gold. The inside cornice was also plated with gold as was the inner walls. The cornice is said to have been a yard wide. Accounts of this wonderful structure represent it to have been 400 paces in circuit. It was considered the principal edifice in all Peru. One writer says that he never saw but two edifices in Spain comparable with it in workmanship and another states that all he could write himself would not give a just idea of its greatness.

The ruins of these magnificent buildings show that the Indians were at one time a

PEOPLE OF CULTURE,

devoted to the arts and imbued with a strong religious influence. Many of their works prove them to have been skilled in the mechanical arts, and doubtless the idea of temple building came to them through tradition imparted to them by their fathers.

Their temples mark them as an enterprising people of commendable works.

It will be seen that temple building has received proper attention from the early inhabitants of our globe. The nearer we approach the days of inspiration—the days when Prophets were upon the earth—the clearer we note in the history of the people the temple building spirit. In this age when the Gospel has been restored and men again are taught the will of God as revealed from heaven, we see that temple building distinctively characterizes the people who receive the divine injunctions.

THE BENEFIT

to be derived from temples was recognized early in the establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The noted Prophet and respected founder, through God and of the church in this day, Joseph Smith, made known the purposes for which temples should be erected and during his life arranged for the building of four of them. The Church was organized in the year 1830 and as early as August 3, 1831, ground was dedicated for the erection of a temple in Independence, Missouri. The building, however, owing to circumstances beyond the control of the Saints, has not yet been built. The ground is now in the hands of a stranger, but our belief is that it will again come into the hands of the Saints and a magnificent temple be erected upon it. The corner stones of a temple were laid July 23, 1833 at Kirtland, Ohio, and the temple was so far completed as to be dedicated on the 27th day of March, 1836. The building, which was 60 by 80 feet, was erected under peculiar and trying circumstances.

THE HEROIC COURAGE

devoted faith, surprising energy, and and laudable perseverance shown in the building of this temple command our highest admiration and speak in glowing terms of the sterling virtue of the builders. With their enemies upon their heels and while in want of many of the comforts of life men worked with sword in one hand and trowel in the other in order to complete the building. The Church numbered comparatively few souls who were poor in purse but rich in spirit. The task was a herculean one, but with an indomitable will they accomplished it to their everlasting honor. The Prophet Joseph labored with his own hands in the rock quarry, and thus by example as well as precept he held his place as a respected leader in good works. Others of the leading men in the Church were also diligent and the Lord crowned their efforts with success. The dedication of the Temple was an important event in the history of the Church. It was the first which had been built by the command of God in this generation. The dedicatory prayer was offered by the Prophet Joseph Smith. It was a joyful occasion for the influence of the Holy Spirit was manifested in a high degree. In this temple proper religious services were introduced by the Prophet, and

CLASSES WERE FORMED

for the pursuit of knowledge. Hebrew, Greek and various branches of literature and science were taught. The school commenced in November, 1836, and numbered from 130 to 140 members. President Smith and other leading men were students. Some who have since figured prominently in Church history laid the foundation of their career in that school. Many of the truths which are embraced by us were made known in that noted building. The Saints were not long permitted to reap advantages from the Kirtland Temple. Their enemies succeeded in depriving them of that privilege. They were obliged to seek homes in other places and Kirtland was deserted by them. The Temple fell into the hands of wicked men and was desecrated. It remains standing to this day and for some reason, it has, through the courts, fallen into the hands of the Josephites.

On the 4th of July, 1838, many citizens of this great nation, belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, assembled at Far West, Missouri. With true patriotic pride the stars and stripes were unfurled, and under the waving folds of the American flag,

THE CORNER STONE

of a temple was laid. The ground which was dedicated on that memorable occasion for the erection of a temple is now in the hands of a stranger. The exterminating proclamation of the notorious governor, Lillburn W. Boggs, caused the Saints to commence to leave Far West in 1839. But at the risk of their lives and in fulfillment of a commandment given of God, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Orson Pratt, John E. Page and John Taylor, of the Twelve Apostles, on the morning of the 24th of April of that year, appeared on the Far West temple ground. Wilford Woodruff and Geo. A. Smith were ordained to the Apostleship and sustained as members of the council of the Twelve. Upon this occasion the southeast corner stone of that temple was laid.

Again the enemies of the Church prevented its members from performing a noble work. The city of Far West was left in the wake of the Church and the ground upon which the corner stone of that temple was laid is held by an outsider. The Saints

SOUGHT REFUGE

in Illinois. In this state their energy, thrill, perseverance and faith soon manifested themselves in the city of Nauvoo. In this beautiful and enterprising city a temple was erected which was about 125 feet long by 80 feet wide. On the 6th of April, 1841, the corner stones of this temple were laid.

Comparative peace and prosperity were enjoyed at this time. A very large concourse of people witnessed the ceremonies of this occasion. The prophet Joseph officiated in laying the chief corner stone. The best of ungodly order and happy feelings were manifested. The Saints took hold of the works of building this temple with the zeal, energy and faith which marked their labors on the Kirtland temple. Presidents Joseph and Hyrum Smith were conspicuously active in urging the Saints to diligence in the erection of the building. The latter, in speaking about it,

UPON ONE OCCASION SAID:

"I cannot make a comparison between the house of God and anything now in existence. Great things are to come out of that house. There is a great and mighty power to grow out of it. There is an endowment. Knowledge is power. We want knowledge." The importance of pushing the work ahead to completion rested heavily upon the minds of these great men. To them it was to be a sacred place of instruction, a place for the reception and promulgation of knowledge. They labored indefatigably and earnestly; but they were not permitted to witness the completion of the Nauvoo Temple. In the year 1844 Joseph and Hyrum Smith were martyred for the cause of truth. Although the great founder of the Church in this age was ruthlessly cut down in the prime of manhood by a cruel and heartless enemy and the Church in its infancy was left without its respected President, yet the Saints under the leadership of the Twelve Apostles carried on the work which had been begun. In the midst of trials of various kinds, the

SCHEMES OF TRAITORS,

contentions of the weak in faith, ambitions of worldly and aspiring men, as well as the opposition of former enemies, the work on the Nauvoo temple was continued and its upper rooms were dedicated on the 7th of December, 1845. The lower part of the building was dedicated on the 29th and 3d of May, 1846. The first meeting held in this building was on the 6th of October, 1846. President Young presided. The occasion was of unusual interest, owing to the place of meeting and also to the fact that a General Conference of the Church convened on the following day for the first time in three years. They were present on the 6th of October of the leading authorities, President Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Parley P. Pratt, Willard Richards, John Taylor, George A. Smith and Amasa Lyman, of the Council of the Apostles; Patriarchs John Smith and Isaac Morley, and Presiding Bishops Newel K. Whitney and George Miller. Strange to say, in these meetings the Elders spoke of the contemplated exodus. With the true spirit of sacrifice they were ready to

LEAVE THEIR HOMES

and their temple and depart into the wilderness. They desired to make sacrifice which would be worthy of the people of God. Elder P. P. Pratt speaking on the occasion said among other things; "We do not want to leave a desolate place, to be a reproach to us, but something that will be a monument of our industry and virtue. Our houses, our farms, our temple and all we have will be a monument to those who may visit the place, of our industry, diligence and virtue. The Lord designs to let us to a wider field of action, where there will be more room for the Saints to grow and increase, and where there will be no one to say we crowd them and when we can enjoy the pure principles of liberty and equal rights."

At this conference committees were appointed to dispose of houses, farms, lots, etc. While making these preparations the work on the temple continued until the dedications to which we have referred took place. The time of the exodus came and the Saints pressed by their enemies, left the beautiful city of Nauvoo. They sought refuge and found it in the valleys of the mountains.

A WEARY BAND

of determined, faithful, courageous pilgrims, located under the leadership of President Brigham Young, on the desert soil of Utah near the great Salt Lake in the month of July 1847. A thousand miles from civilization and in a barren mountainous country they planted their feet, laid out a city, and guided by the inspiration of heaven true to a purpose of their faith a future was prepared for by the selection of a site for a temple in what is widely known now as Salt Lake City. The trying experiences which they had passed through, enough to discourage mortals actuated by ordinary motives, did not crush in the hearts of the Latter-day Saints a desire to be true to their mission. They prepared the foundation for the future education of themselves and posterity. The corner stone of a magnificent Temple, 125 by 80 feet, greater than any they had built, was laid in that