

and dignity, and become degenerate also. These obvious truths should be regarded while studying, and tracing to their source, the native American dialects.

What the *spoken* language of the Jaredites was cannot now be determined. Its last accents were lost when the lips of Coriantumr closed in death. It would, therefore, be fruitless labor to attempt to find in existing Indian tongues any traces of words spoken by that most ancient people. We must confine investigations for philological concordances with the Book of Mormon to the discoveries of the most primitive relics of engravings, sculptures, hieroglyphics, pictographs and other written symbols.

The Nephite colony had become modernized with respect to the nations of greater antiquity; they did not speak or write according to the, then, ancient style. Nephi, the probable introducer of the second branch of the Semitic family of languages into America, used what was called "Reformed Egyptian" (Book of Mormon, p. 570). He, and the subsequent historians understood Hebrew also, and would have used it in engraving their metallic leaves, but the Reformed Egyptian was briefer and occupied less space. It is true that the Nephite prophet Mosiah copied the Jaredite records, and he wrote in his native tongue; but it must be remembered that, like the modern prophet, he translated the record by the Urim and Tummim.

A vast amount and variety of engraved and inscriptial matter have been brought to light in America during the last fifty years. Some of the hieroglyphical characters, and which have the appearance of the greatest antiquity, show great skill and refined taste in the artist; while specimens of later date, and to which the general name of pictographs is applied, are clumsy and rude, and show lack of culture and skill. This is accounted for on the principle above alluded to; that literature and the fine arts decline with the increase of national and racial degeneracy.

Some of the pictographic work can be consistently attributed to the ancestors of existing Indian tribes, as this rude style of writing has endless variety.

A book was published recently in London by Remy and Benchly, entitled "A Journey to Salt Lake City," in which appears the following:

"The rocks around Salt Lake are

covered with sculptures which remind one of those of Egypt; some of the human figures are life size, incised in blue granite. The height of some of them would suggest that some disturbance of the surrounding country had taken place since the work was done, as they are thirty feet above the present level of the ground beneath them." (Vol. ii, p. 302.)

Another writer describing engraved relics found in Peru and Chili speaks thus:

"These represent men, some of which are thirty feet high; animals, chiefly dogs and llamas; plants, and inanimate objects. One block of granite 12 feet square, near Macaya, known by the name of *La Piedra del Leon*, is loaded with very ancient sculptures. The most important group represents a struggle between a man and a puma. At Pinosodos it is no longer animate objects, but geometrical figures, such as circles or parallelograms that are met with. In the province of Tarapaca, considerable surfaces are covered, not only with figures of men and animals, most of them of remarkable execution, but also with characters which appear to be written vertically. The lines are from 12 to 18 feet high, and each character is several inches in depth. Between Mendoza and La Punta, Chili, is a large pillar, on which are letters; they represent Chinese, or Egyptian characters." (Pre-his. Am., p. 455.)

In the Argentine Republic, Prof. Laberani discovered inscriptions of objects of various combinations, animate and inanimate; geometrical figures, with lines of dots occurring at intervals in different orders and arrangements, and repeated, thus showing a complete system of written language, purely Oriental in character. Ameghino says: "I consider these inscriptions to indicate a complete system of writing, made up partly of figures and symbolical characters; perpetuated far from the district where it first came into existence."

It is certain that in the 16th century, the Peruvians were acquainted with no system of writing. For the ordinary purposes of life they used *quipos*, strings of varying length, on which were knotted a certain number of threads. The color of these threads, their number and distances from each other, had a significance, sometimes historical, and sometimes mathematical.

Philologists claim that the root and inflection of words proclaim their parentage and origin. A cloud of witnesses testify that indubitable features of the language, manner of sculpture and writing, peculiar to Egypt, and countries of still greater antiquity, exist in America; and that these symbols

belong to times coeval with the most ancient inhabitants of these countries.

The Book of Mormon testifies that America was first colonized by representatives of those races at the date of building the "Great Tower." The Book of Mormon is sustained and proven to be a true historical record by scientists; but they are unintentional witnesses, which adds weight and conclusiveness to their unwitting confirmations.

"The poet" sang of "Sermons in stones and good in everything." Surely these stones are preaching most eloquent and impressive discourses, and it may be there is good in the stolid prejudices against the Book of Mormon, and its obscurity; for if its contents were better and more extensively known, perhaps the learned ones might not labor so effectively to establish its truth and divinity.

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[To be continued.]

EUROPEAN TOPICS.

When one, sitting down in Central Europe, reads a German account of French politics or a French account of American politics, one scarcely knows which is the worst; and it is quite refreshing by way of relief to take up Prince Bismarck's organ, *Der Nord Allgemeine Zeitung*, and see that there is a commotion of popular leaders in conservative old Germany. For the first time, perhaps, in the memory of "the oldest inhabitant," the working masses are making themselves heard. Also, from time to time, the British press bemoans the degradation of French and American politics; and in this relation it is positively amusing to see with what glee and unction the *Daily News* makes political capital of Lord Salisbury's blunders.

In Paris, nay in all the capitals of Europe, the success of the Russian loan is the "topic" of the hour. There has been no financial event so notable since the paying of the German indemnity in 1871. Then France was so harried by the Sedan and Commune reverses, that she threatened to be among the bankrupt nations. The result of the subscriptions in 1871 was the glory of France and the remorse of Germany; for it was then shown that so far as patriotism and money are concerned the German demand of five thousand million dollars might as well have been fifty thousand millions. Really, the vitality of the