

"Near one of the corners of the great fort was found a reservoir or well, twenty-five feet in diameter and seventy-five in circumference, with its sides raised above the common level of the adjoining surface by an embankment of earth three or four feet high.

"It was undoubtedly at first very deep, as, since its discovery by the first settlers, they have thrust poles into it to the depth of thirty feet. It appears to run to a point, like an inverted cone or funnel, and was that kind of well used by the inhabitants of the old world, which were so large at their top as to afford an easy descent down to the fountain, and up again with its water in a vessel borne upon the shoulder."

In Genesis we read of a well which seems to have been of similar construction. It belonged to Bethnel the Assyrian, the father of Rebecca. In describing the method of getting water from this well, it says that Rebecca "went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up." (Gen. xxiv: 16.)

According to the Book of Mormon, all the battles fought within the period of its own record upon the American continent were of the character of domestic or civil wars. If the struggles had been against foreign foes, the sea coast would have borne testimony thereof, by being defended with suitable forts. But the sea-board on both the east and west are entirely free from any aboriginal military works. At present the sea coast is studded with fortifications of a modern complex form, but they disappear as the interior of the country is penetrated. They have been built by recent settlers, in view of possible invasions by foreign enemies. The aboriginal races had no such apprehensions of outside trouble; consequently there does not exist any guards of this nature. The inland lakes, however, and junction of rivers, are thick set with the huge monuments of human strife and gory conflicts.

The Jews, from whom the Lehiite colony was derived, were a war-like race, and very skilful in topography. Jerusalem contained a world-famed citadel. Zion was renowned for her towns. Jotham built castles and towers. (II Chron. xxvii: 4.) They have watch-towers in the wilderness. (Chron. xx: 24.)

At the time that Lehi departed out of Jerusalem the country was upon the point of being involved in a struggle with the powerful armies of the King of Babylon, who "erected towers upon great banks of earth, and from them he repelled those who stood upon the walls. He also made a great number of such banks round about the whole

city." (Josephus Ant. of the Jews, Book 101, chap. 8.)

Lehi and his whole band carried with them to the New World a most vivid recollection of the troubles and woful times of his people, and when they were encompassed with savage and blood-thirsty armies, their knowledge and experience in military affairs were used to good advantage.

JOHN H. KELSON.

(To be continued.)

EAST TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.

This conference was held in the Briggs school house on September 26th, convening at 10 a. m., President C. B. Cooley presiding. Elders present: J. G. Kimball, of the Southern States Mission; M. W. Taylor, clerk of the Mission; C. B. Cooley, president of Conference; Albert A. Allen, James Walker, Thomas Crowther, Samuel N. Alger, Lewis Adams, Jon Koyle and Alma H. West.

Elder West was appointed clerk of conference.

Elder Cooley addressed the conference and thanked the Lord for His goodness towards the Saints.

Elders Thomas Crowther, M. W. Taylor and S. N. Alger also spoke and the last named dwelt at some length on the first principles of the Gospel.

On the afternoon of the first day Elder Walker occupied the stand.

In Sunday conference convened at 10 a. m. Elder A. H. West first addressed the meeting. Elder A. A. Allen took up the subject of the authenticity of the Book of Mormon and the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Elder M. W. Taylor spoke of some of the reformers and their works. Elder J. Koyle said a man must have faith in God before he could begin to understand the plan of salvation. He spoke at some length on the first principles of the Gospel. President O. B. Cooley was the next speaker, and then came President Kimball, who dilated upon the subject of faith and works.

President O. B. Cooley thanked the people for their kindness towards the Elders and then adjourned the Conference, during the holding of which much good instructions and counsel were given.

Presidents Kimball and Cooley apportioned the Elders to their respective fields of labor as follows: Elders S. N. Alger and Thomas Crather to labor in Ash county, N. C., Johnstone and Sullivan, Tenn., and visit the Saints in Conte and Mitchem; Elders J. Walker and A. H. West to labor in Henderson, N. C., and counties west; Elders A. A. Allen and L. Adams to labor in Madison, N. C., Green Cocks and Jefferson, Tenn.; President Cooley until relieved by another Elder to labor in connection with Elder Koyle in Unicos Yancey, east part of Madison and north east part of Buncomb.

A. H. WEST, Clerk.

Mexico sent \$90,000 worth of wool to the United States in 1889, and only \$30 worth in 1890-91. Were it not for protection Mexico would send here \$4,000,000 worth of wool yearly.

ORPHANS' HOME ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the above association held on October 12th, the finance committee made the following report:

Today opens the eighth year of our organization. The seventh year just closed is in many respects the most eventful year in the life of this institution. More money has been raised and expended, more children have been entered and cared for, more provided with homes, and a larger number are now in the Home—thirty-seven—than at any time since its organization.

In June we moved into our new Home. Out of the 100 beds, we asked endowments for, seventeen have been endowed.

The sum of \$4600 was expended upon the building alone; \$500 more upon walks, fences, putting the grounds into shape and a few articles of furniture.

We are now fitted for the accommodation of seventy-five children.

We are at present in debt about \$1200 for the laundry, the furnace, the water-tank, and about \$300 on small miscellaneous bills.

The monthly expenses are at this date as follows: Matron \$25, house-keeper \$20, wash woman \$6.

No money is paid for living expenses. As we are non-sectarian, we draw upon all classes, sects and races, and it is wonderful how cheerfully and generously all respond when called upon.

The meat markets in this city donate all the meat consumed, the grocery firms, all the groceries, the drug stores all drugs and goods in their line; the vinegar, salt, broom and soap factories, the oil companies, the flour and feed stores, the Cracker factory have given a weekly donation for seven years. The Titling house has given \$10 per month in supplies. Generous donations have been made by dry goods houses, hook and stationers, knitting factory, wagon companies, the bakeries, the insurance companies. Two cows were donated by Bishop Preston. A horse and three cows were kept last winter, for which lucern was purchased. No bills for living expenses were paid during the past year, with the single exception of coal and potatoes purchased last November.

The Home has enjoyed the past summer an excellent garden. Over 125 bushels of potatoes were raised and consumed and over 300 bushels of apples.

We told you a year ago that the outgoing board of directors had been the most inefficient. We tell you today that the board which dissolved this morning has been the most efficient this association ever had. They have rendered more aid, devoted more time, raised more money, looked more carefully after the interests of these unfortunate children, have been more patient and self-sacrificing than any former board. They have stood thirteen shoulder to shoulder and in perfect unity. The officers have been tireless in vigilance and attention—the result, no doubt, of the awakening and renewed interest, the association has the last year been better represented at the monthly meetings, been more keenly alive to the wants and needs of the institution, have taken many burdens of the directors,