

water." Page 385. "And they did travel to an exceeding great distance, inasmuch that they came to large bodies of water and many rivers. Yea and even they did spread forth into all parts of the land." Page 433. "And it came to pass that they did multiply and spread, and did go forth from the land southward to the land northward, and did spread inasmuch that they began to cover the face of the whole earth, from the sea south (Atlantic, south of Cape Horu) to the sea north (Arctic, north of North America), from the sea west (Pacific) to the sea east (Atlantic). Page 434.

They not only traveled by land, but they also used ships in their migrating.

"And it came to pass that Hagoth, he being an exceeding curious man, therefore he went forth and built an exceeding large ship on the borders of the land Bountiful, by the land Desolation, and launched it forth into the west sea, by the narrow neck which led into the land northward (North America).

"And behold, there were many of the Nephites who did enter therein and did sail forth with much provisions, and also many women and children; and they took their course northward. And in the thirty and eighth year this man built other ships. And the first ship did return, and many more people did enter into it." Page 427.

The lands first inhabited by the Nephites as permanent settlements were near the Isthmus of Panama. This locality is often referred to as "a narrow neck of land." From thence they spread into all parts along the coasts and also inland. The river Sidon, which "ran by the land Zarahemla," has been recognized by Prof. Pratt, as the Magdalena.

Frequent mention is made also of their location in the vicinity of rivers, and large bodies of water, forming another identification of analogies between the geography of the country and the record. Alma 1: 29; etc.

In their southern settlements they would meet with the copious hydrography of the Andes in Chili and Peru. The great rivers Amazon, Orinoco, and Rio de la Plata alone, with their numerous tributaries would be sufficient to justify the reference as to rivers; while the large bodies of water referred to by Alma as being met with on the North American coast will be explained by the great gulfs, bays and arms of the Pacific which indent it. Mormon, when he spake of "A land of many waters, rivers, and fountains" (page 560) referred to the

present State of New York—"the land of Cumorah"—one of the most noted localities for lakes, rivers, waterfalls, etc.

The cities of Zarahemla and Nephi were capitals of the countries bearing, respectively, these names. Pages 375, 495. "And the land of Nephi did run in a straight course from the east sea to the west." Page 383. These cities were about twenty-two day's journey apart. See note 6, page 218. A good part of this space was a desert; the scene of numerous sanguinary conflicts, and other events of great interest and historical importance.

South America was called Lehi; because Lehi landed there. North America was called Mulek, because that was the country he first landed upon. Page 445. Mulek was an ancestor of Zarahemla, and probably the founder of that numerous people; for we read:

"The land north was called Mulek, which was after the son of Zedekiah; for the Lord did bring Mulek into the land north and Lehi into the land south." Page 445.

Another section of country north of the Isthmus, occupied by the Nephites, was called Desolation. Page 582, note *h*. A large city of that name was its capital. Page 553, verses 5, 7. This is the locality where the people of Zarahemla discovered the ruins and remains of the extinct Jaredites. Page 303, verse 30. It was also the place where the Mulek colony, afterwards called the people of Zarahemla, first landed.

The Nephites took advantage of their position on this narrow neck of land, by spreading out, from the east sea to the west, and fortifying the passes; thereby preventing their mortal enemies, the Lamanites, from penetrating into the country northward.

Thus in the races which are declared by the Book of Mormon writers to have inhabited the western coast of America, in the earliest and subsequent periods, we discover those characteristics, circumstances, and doings, whose signs and mementoes still remain upon the face of the land. We are told of races, sufficiently mixed, to account for the strange variety and incongruity of the remains; and at the same time, so distinct in their origin and peculiar nationalities as to be easily separated, and their derivation assigned.

Thus, the Jaredites, the most ancient settlers, have attested their presence by the most perfect and

indelible marks, both of their great antiquity, and of their oriental derivation.

Then the presence of more modern peoples is incontestably established. The inspired records declare they were Israelites, from Jerusalem. A thousand signs and symbols remain upon the face of the land, and exist in collections of scientific and archaeological curiosities, proving the registers to be true.

The only people inhabiting those regions now, and whose history has been written, are the Incas; and their history dates no further back than the incursion and conquest by the Spanish, in the early part of the 16th century. Nothing has been written of their ancestors; and all that is known relating to pre-Incarial times is derived from the outrageously fabulous traditions of the Indians.

The social economy and national government of the Incas, or ancient Peruvians, was decidedly theocratic and Mosiac in character. This is clear, by their uniting under one and the same head, both their secular and religious affairs. The Inca—the representative of the Deity, or sun, as the name implies—was at the head of the Priesthood, and presided at all the principal religious festivals. He made laws for the social government of his subjects, and imposed taxes; he was the source of all dignity, authority and power. Great respect was shown for heirs, and ancestral branches of the royal line; all of whom shared, with the ruling monarch, the sacred name of Inca. Blasphemy against the sun was punished with death; as were also theft, adultery and murder.

The empire was divided, like the tribes of Israel, into equal divisions and subdivisions. First, into four grand divisions; then into departments of 10,000 inhabitants; then into various numbers, the least of which was ten. The revenue and apportionment of the land was decidedly Israelitish. There was no money used among them. They were a race of workers; but they wrought as the members of one family.

The soil was divided among the people; the apportionment being regulated according to the numbers in the family. The division was revised every year. The territory was separated into three parts, and was cultivated by the common people. Religion, or the sun, embracing the costly ceremonial, and a numerous and illustrious Priesthood, were first provided for. The pro-