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NEPHITE REMAINS—INTERESTING PICTURE.

Scientific antiquarians seek in the ancient hieroglyphics of the eastern hemisphere, to find testimony corroborative of the historic records of times and ages long since buried with the past. They have been very successful in their labors, and those silent remnants of ancient greatness and power speak in language that is well understood, and reveal many secrets that would otherwise be hidden from man.

But this continent, which furnishes subjects for the antiquarian's labor and skill, equalling if not exceeding anything to be found in the old world, is measurably unnoticed by them. The remains of mighty nations, destroyed many centuries ago, whose history is contained in the Book of Mormon, still exist in massive grandeur at least a thousand years after those whose art and science gave them form and finish have passed away, as if preserved by the protecting hand of Deity, to stand forth corroborative of the authenticity of the history of this continent revealed by Him through Joseph the Prophet in this dispensation. A few travelers have penetrated the fastnesses and wilds of Yucatan and other places where most of these monumental remains have as yet been found, and have presented sketches and descriptions of them to the world; yet but little comparatively is known concerning them.

The subject is one of much interest to the Latter-day Saints, these remains being strong collateral evidence in favor of the Book of Mormon, as eastern hieroglyphics and monumental ruins confirm the written history of the countries in which they are found. The account of the discovery of ancient ruins in Central America was not given to the world until about 1839, some ten years after the Book of Mormon was published; and where that ancient history speaks of great cities standing at one time, these ruins were discovered.

We were much gratified the other day, while in the gallery of Savage & Ottinger, to see a picture illustrative of and embodying many of these ancient ruins, painted by Geo. M. Ottinger, and which is on exhibition, for sale, in the gallery. As a work of art the picture is entitled to take high rank, and considerable time has been occupied in producing it; yet while the subject gives ample room for the warm and vigorous fancy of the artist to display itself, that fancy is confined to the grouping together in an artistic manner several highly interesting and impressive monumental remains, in their surroundings, and in the air of grandeur and reality thrown around the scene. The objects themselves are reproduced with fidelity to truth, and mathematical accuracy, so that the student of ancient American history, as he peruses the Book of Mormon, can see in the picture, not the imaginative creation of the artist, but a faithful representation of works of art erected centuries ago by the people whose miraculous travels, increasing greatness and sudden destruction he finds therein chronicled.

As a description of the picture will, we think, be interesting, we give it,

premising that it is named "The Last of the Aztecs," though it seems The Last of the Nephites would be more historically correct.

To the left centre of the picture, away in the distance, a pyramid of eight platforms is seen. This pyramid is situated about three leagues west of the site of old Tepexco, Tehuantepec, in Mexico. M. Dupaix says concerning it:—"The space which this building covers is immense, but its situation precludes the possibility of accurate measurement. The walls are constructed of square stones, cemented with a durable mortar of lime and sand. It stands on the projecting angle of a rock, surrounded by vast precipices; while innumerable serpents, fostered by a climate so intensely hot as that of Lower Misteca, lurk in its recesses and guard its mouldering walls from intrusion."

Cutting the base of the pyramid is seen the wood-covered mound of the ancient "Mound builders," throwing out in fine relief, in the centre of the picture, the "Castello" of Tuloom, which has been happily described by Stephens in his incidents of travel in Yucatan. This building, including the wings, measures a hundred feet in length. The grand stair case is thirty feet wide, with twenty-four steps, and has a substantial stone balustrade on each side, still in good preservation, giving it an unusually imposing character. In the doorway of the top building are two columns, making three entrances, the recesses of all of which once contained ornaments, and in the centre are fragments of a statue still remaining.

To the right of the picture rises the remarkable tower at Palenque, in Chiapas, Mexico. M. Dupaix, describing it, says it is a square pyramidal tower, four stories of which are still remaining. To every story there are four windows, one on each side. The circumference of the base is a hundred and twenty feet, each side being thirty feet. He adds:—"the tower is remarkable for symmetry, and the elegance of its construction, the whole exterior having an air of simple grandeur."

In front of the tower, and in the right foreground of the picture, is an angle of the celebrated Palace of Palenque, which is amply described by Stephens. Its base is oblong, and about three hundred yards in circumference, gradually decreasing towards the summit. The existence of such buildings, outrivalling many of the medieval structures of the old world, tells of a people among whom architecture must have made considerable progress, while their massive remains indicate a period when terrible strife between contending powers demanded great strength in all important buildings. The wars of the Nephites and Lamanites, related in the Book of Mormon, and the immense hosts of men engaged in those wars, afford a key to understand why such structures should have been erected, as the ancient castles and massive abbeys of Europe point to the times of feudal warfare, when might was right and the strong arm and keen sword exercised most powerful rule.

On the left foreground of the picture in deep shadow, is the Casa de Mongas, so named by the Spaniards, of Uxmal. This beautiful building has been very interestingly described by Stephens, whose entire work would well repay perusal. At the foot of this building is seen a staircase found at Chi Chen, Itza, Yucatan, by Stephens. Leaning against the Palace of Palenque is the figure of a Mexican idol, now in the British Museum. Further to the left is another idol, which was in the possession of M. Latour Allard, of Paris, before which, reclining in despondency, is the solitary figure of a lone priest, "The last of the Aztecs."

The ideality of the picture indicates

the thought and execution of an artist. The time of the year chosen is evidently immediately after the rainy season, shown by the water collected at the foot of the staircase; and in a summer's afternoon, with the ever-recurring bloom of nature springing up all around, decking the ruined walls with vegetation's lovely hues, and flinging an air of life over the crumbling stones, the lonely man leans forward in silence and sorrow, the monumental remains of his nation's greatness above and around him. Tropical plants grow luxuriantly at his feet as if mocking his despair; beside him are the idols his people worshipped after their fathers left the worship of the true God; fragments and ruins of the past surround him; his race is gone; the sun of their power and greatness has set in a long night of darkness; the sombre shadow of their ruined temples seem scarcely as gloomy as his own thoughts, while the cloud of death is slowly creeping over him, as he sits there, the last living representative of a once mighty people. The tone of the picture is warm and glowing, and the artistic blendings and groupings which it displays led us to hope for another of a more extensive character from the same hand, for which, we understand, Mr. Ottinger has ample materials in several hundred notes and sketches of ancient Nephite remains.

Among other authorities from which he has extracted, and to which reference may be made for particulars, we may name the Book of Mormon; Lord Kingsbury's Mexican Antiquities, a rare work only two copies of which we understand are in the United States; Stephens and Catherwood's travels in Central America and Yucatan; Norman's rambles in Yucatan; Clavigero's History of Mexico, &c., &c., &c.

We do not know, of course, who will become the possessor of the picture, nor the price demanded for it; but we will venture to say that it will be the attraction of the gallery while it remains on exhibition. It is well calculated to give a good conception, with very brief study, of the power, greatness and works of the once mighty Nephite people, long since destroyed for their wickedness.

PLAIN HINTS TO FARMERS AND OTHERS.

The indications for the coming harvest are thus far very favorable. Cheering reports continue to reach us from all parts of the Territory. The abundance of rain which has fallen has rendered irrigation almost needless, in many places, up to the present; and the small grain and other crops are growing rapidly in great abundance. This is the nature of the information which we have been receiving, and certain thoughts have been induced by it, which, thrown before the public, may have an influence, however limited, in directing attention to a subject of much importance that is closely connected with the present flattering prospects for heavy crops at harvest.

Mankind are prone to trade upon eventualities and probabilities. Many men of moderate incomes with a good prospect of those incomes becoming larger, will increase their expenses, some in one way, some in another, whether to adopt a different style of living which they think they can see a way to afford, to make improvements, or in something else that involves increased outlay. Wiser men will wait until they have the surety of possession; and then they will move with caution. This is a trait of human nature so generally known that it is needless to expatiate on it. With a prospective abundant harvest before us, many people will be apt to reason that a large yield of grain will be sure to reduce the price to a low figure, lower even than it is now, and that it will be as well, if not better, for them to dispose of any

they may have to spare before the market becomes glutted. This is where error begins to work in the matter, and that error involves not only a financial mistake, but manifests a lack of appreciation of the bounties of Providence.

Few if any men work harder for their living than those who till the soil. Are the prices which they now receive for their surplus produce fairly remunerative, when compared with the prices received for other kinds of labor? We think not. How much less so, then, would they be if the price of produce was still lower than it is at present? A little calculation may help to elucidate this plainer. Ten acres would likely be as much as one man could cultivate. We will take a wheat crop as the standard of comparison and calculation, because that is one of the principal products of exportation, on which much of our Territorial trade is based. Let us suppose a crop to average forty bushels to the acre, which all will admit would be a most unusual and excessively large average. His ten acres would thus produce four hundred bushels of wheat. Sell this at two dollars a bushel, and he has eight hundred dollars for his labor. But seed grain has to be taken from this, and feed for team, which will reduce the gross total. It is even supposed at this rate that he does all the work, harvests the grain himself, thrashes it out, takes it to market and receives the pay. The supposition, if at all unfair, is so to the agriculturist, who has to keep up the wear and tear of farming implements, to meet losses of various kinds, and whose average crop in the most favorable times would not near approach the quantity assumed; perhaps twenty-five bushels to the acre would be nearer an average, in a good season.

But it may be urged that other crops pay better than wheat. If so, the demand for them, through a variety of circumstances, is measurably low, and the breadth of land planted with better paying crops must be proportionately limited. Wheat has been named for the reason stated, and may be fairly taken as the most correct basis of comparison that could be assumed here.

Further, in what part of the Territory will any average ten acres of land yield an income of eight hundred dollars? Nowhere. Yet this is not merely the pay for the labor of one man, but of a team as well, which must be employed in the cultivation, at least part of the time; and if otherwise used involves other expense. If more land is cultivated, help must be hired and paid for. On this calculation the labor of a man and his team is worth some two and a half dollars a day. True, there are some other ways by which he can increase his property:—by keeping cows, pigs, poultry, &c., and raising stock. But this involves other labor, of wife and children, which is worth a certain amount in dollars and cents; there is an outlay also of capital in the first purchase of these sources of income which claims a percentage as interest on invested principal. Now, compare the hours of labor of the farmer and amount of pay he actually receives for his produce, with the hours of labor employed and the amount of wages received by those who are engaged in other occupations, and the query is immediately answered, whether the agriculturist receives as fair a remuneration for his labor at present prices as he ought to do under the circumstances.

If the coming harvest should be only half an average crop instead of more than a full average, would the price of produce increase or decrease? Were anything to occur to the growing crops that would lead to such a result, the price of flour and grain would quickly run up. Would it not be policy on the part of producers to act as though their harvest would not be, and, when it