

Promise, they separated into two parties, called Nephites and Lamanites, respectively, after their leaders. They grew to be great nations and colonized North America also. Religious strife sprang up between the two nations because of the wickedness of the Lamanites; the Nephites, however, adhered to their religious traditions and the worship of the true God. Christ appeared in the New World and by his administrations converted many of both peoples to Him. But towards the close of the fourth century of our era, both Nephites and Lamanites backslid in faith and became involved in war with each other which resulted in extermination of the former people. The numerous tumuli scattered over the face of the country cover the remains of the hundreds of thousands of warriors who fell in their deadly strife. Mormon and his son Moroni, the last of the Nephites who escaped by concealment, deposited by divine command the annals of their ancestors, the Book of Mormon written on tablets, in the hill of Cumorah, Ontario County, New York, in the vicinity of which the last battles of these relentless enemies took place."

This is the account which John T. Short, without giving any reason therefor, pronounces a pretentious fraud. But why this account of the early settlement of America is not worthy of an equal amount of respectful attention and investigation with the score and upwards of other theories of pre-historic origin of American races cited by him is inconceivable.

After an interesting description of the military defenses, mounds, citadels, weapons, etc., Mr. Preist makes a pen picture of an ancient American battle.

"Nothing" he says "of a warlike character could exceed the grandeur of a fight maintained from the base to the summit of one of the tremendous teocalis, or pyramids. We may suppose then gathered from their more scattered work of ruin, and circling, with yells of fury, the immediate precincts of the mound, while the rushing multitude fly from their burning habitations toward their last resort. The goal is gained; the first who reach it ascend to its top; rank after rank succeed, till in frightful circles of ferocious warriors, the whole pyramid is but one living mass of fury. Now the enemy come pouring round as a deluge, and begirt this final refuge of the waiting populace, while warrior facing warrior each moment falls his thousands, by the noiseless death-slab of the dirk of copper; while from the ranks above, the silent but vengeful arrow does its work of death. Here, from the strong arm and well practiced sling-stones with furious whizzing through the air cover in showers the distant squadron with dismay. Circle after circle, at the base, both of invader and invaded,

fall together in glorious ruin. Now the top, where waved such signals of defiance as rude nations could invent, becomes thinned of its defenders, who pressing downward, as the lower ranges are cut in pieces, renew their fight. Now the farthest circle of the enemy near the fatal centre. Now the destinies of conflicting nations draw nigh; those of the pyramid have thrown their last stone, the quiver is emptied of its arrows; the last spear of flint and battle-axe have fled, with well directed aim, amid the throng. Surrender, captivity, slavery and death, wind up the account, a tribe become extinct, whose bones, when heaped together, make a new pyramid. Such, doubtless, is the origin of many of the frightful heaps of human bones found scattered over all the West."

JOHN H. KELSON.

REMARKS

Made by President Wilford Woodruff, at Cache Stake Conference, held at Logan, Sunday Afternoon, November 1st, 1891.

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I would like to talk a little to the Latter-day Saints who have assembled here this afternoon, if I can get the faith of the Saints and the Spirit of the Lord to assist me.

This morning, before coming to meeting, I studied with a good deal of interest some paintings at Brother Moses Thatcher's — "Christ before Pilate," and "Christ on Calvary." I thought to myself, in looking at the m, that the Savior, as Brother Joseph F. Smith had said, certainly descended below all things. He came down here to earth, was born of woman, in a dispensation appointed of the Father, and tabernacled in the flesh. See him travel from the manger to the cross, onward through blood to the throne of grace appointed unto Him, in poverty and in affliction, never handling any money that we have any account of. Think for a few moments the short time that He labored in the flesh after His appointment by the Father—three years and a half. Look at the suffering that He went through, the labor He performed—the organization of the Church of God, the appointing of Twelve Apostles, of seventy Apostles, and a few disciples, who followed Him during that period. Then reflect that not only He himself was condemned and crucified, shedding His blood for the redemption of the world, but every one of His Apostles was put to death for the word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ, excepting John the Revelator. They could not kill him, the Lord having appointed him to live; otherwise, he would have been slain with the rest. While looking at the Savior nailed to the cross—a Jew, through the loins of Abraham and David, condemned by the Jews as well as the Gentiles, I thought of our own condition in these mountains. We have passed through sixty years as a people, and why have you got the Presidency with you today? Why have you

Apostles living in your midst, walking your streets in freedom, after sixty years? Why do you have upwards of two hundred thousand Latter-day Saints gathered together in these valleys of the mountains, in the midst of a generation of sixty millions of people? These are questions which should be answered in the minds of the Latter-day Saints. There is a meaning, brethren and sisters, to all these things. We live in a different dispensation, and under a different order of things, in one sense, to what the Savior and the Apostles did. That was a day of sacrifice. Those holy men who bore the Apostleship in that day were ready to lay down their lives with the Savior, and their lives were short compared with the history of the Church of God in our day. They were all slain, with one exception, and God took them to Himself. He also took the Priesthood from the earth, and it remained in the hands of God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ until 1829. Long centuries passed away. Millions of human beings were born, dwelt on the earth, died, and went into the spirit world, and not one soul of them, so far as we have any knowledge, had power to go forth among mankind and administer in the ordinances of the Gospel of life and salvation. There were, doubtless, millions of good men, who acted up to the best light that they had. There were such men as John Wesley, Martin Luther, Wickliffe, Zwingli, Melancthon, and thousands of others, who came forth in their day and preached the Gospel according to the light which they possessed. But they did not have the power to administer in one ordinance which had any force after death. They did not hold the holy Priesthood.

Now, in our day and generation, we have arrived at a point in the history of the world when this Priesthood is restored. The Lord raised up Joseph Smith. He came forth in the proper time. He organized a Church. Who was Joseph Smith? Was he a lawyer? Was he a doctor of divinity? Was he what is called a great man, a learned man? No, he was but a youth; the world would say an illiterate, ignorant youth. He was an unlearned youth in the things of the world. But he was a pure man. He came forth through the lineage of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He was prophesied of by the ancient patriarchs and prophets. The Book of Mormon gives his name. Joseph Smith was moved upon by the Holy Ghost, and he was administered unto, in answer to his prayers, by the Father and the Son; and the Father said to him, "This is my beloved Son, hear ye Him." He listened strictly to the words of Jesus Christ, and continued to do so until he, like the Savior, was put to death, though he was not crucified, because it was not the custom of the day. I may say that it seemed strange to me at that time why the Prophet and his brother Hyrum were permitted to be taken out of our midst. But Joseph Smith, by commandment of God and by the power and revelations of heaven, was ordained and laid the foundation of this great dispensation and fullness of times. He was brought into the world and ordained to organize this Church of Christ for the last time upon this earth, to prepare it for the coming of the Son of Man. After his death, on