

derstood that the body of the building is not open to visitors. It is only the tower that can be inspected. People who go there will save themselves from disappointment, and the janitors the disagreeable necessity of refusing them, by abstaining from requests to go into the Temple interior.

It is intended to push the work to completion within the time specified, so that it may be ready for dedication at the April Conference. The workmen, therefore, must not be hindered and all who wish to see the House, finished as intended, will not only refrain from anything that would retard the labor upon it, but will gladly help by all means in their power to furnish the necessary funds for its perfection. It will be indeed a glorious day when this House of the Lord is dedicated to the service of the Most High!

DAHOMY'S WOMEN WARRIORS.

DAHOMY is situated in western Africa on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea, and adjoining Ashanta, a British possession. Its population is variously estimated at from 150,000 to 800,000.

As far back as 1850 trouble between France and Dahomey began. Two years ago there was also serious misunderstanding between both countries, but they were finally arranged by a treaty which permitted the French to occupy the harbor of Kotonu, and to extend a protectorate as far as Porto Novo. The king who negotiated this treaty claims that the French are not abiding by its provisions. Hence he has proclaimed war, and is now marching his army towards Porto Novo. The peculiar feature of this war is that many of the King of Dahomey's soldiers are women. He is now at the head of 7,000 Amazonian warriors, and sent his ultimatum to the French General saying he was ready for a fight.

One of the dispatches from Paris relating to the situation after the king had completed his army corps says: "All Dahomey is filled with the lamentations of parents and husbands whose daughters and wives have been torn away from them by the king."

"It is reported that Behanzin, the king, before starting out on his march against the French, made over a hundred human sacrifices. His Amazons, it is said, will fight fiercely and to the death. In 1891 he had several of them beheaded for cowardice, and this sort of discipline has had the effect of making his women soldiers quite ferocious. There are only 700 French in Porto now, and it is feared that they will all be massacred. What an effect this will have on the gallant Gaul at home! Fancy his ejaculations when he learns that his countrymen were vanquished by women!

Minnesota will supplement its World's Fair appropriation of \$50,000 by \$100,000 raised by subscription.

The Methodists have decided to hold an international camp meeting of a month's duration at the time of the Exposition.

THE WORK OF PREPARATION.

RECENT events naturally conduce to a thoughtful condition among the Latter-day Saints. The ceremonies connected with the laying of the capstone of the Temple in this city were so impressive and significant that they had the effect of causing all intelligent, faithful members of the Church to contemplate their present situation, with a view to their preparation for still more striking and important events of our history which will, in all probability, occur in the near future. The laying of the capstone upon the Temple itself suggests the near approach of the completion of that noble structure, and the still more advanced ceremonies connected with its full dedication as a holy house unto the Most High.

The interest taken by the Saints in the erection of temples and the work for the living and the dead, connected with those sacred edifices, is so intense that there can be but little doubt entertained as to the necessary means being forthcoming with which to put the finishing touches upon the building. Everybody having the faith of the Gospel at heart will rejoice at an opportunity being afforded of contributing to aid a cause so noble and far-reaching. The contribution of funds is, however, but a part of the preparation for the notable event which is evidently so near. There are other considerations associated with the question that are more difficult to comply with, and which are equally if not more important. We refer to the needed spiritual preparation. God is manifesting unmistakably that He sustains by His power the ecclesiastical leaders of the people; but it is not only necessary that those who shall officiate in the final dedication ceremonies connected with the Temple should be in accord with the heavens, but so likewise should all the people who shall be present to witness them. This can only be attained by personal purification. Each individual ought to, so live as to be possessed of the Holy Spirit. This condition is attained by a chaste, honest, upright and prayerful, unselfish life, including a devotion to the cause of God and truth that will subdue every personal interest.

Too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the necessity for personal righteousness. Those who do not divest themselves, so far as possible, of everything that is opposed to the will of the Holy Spirit, must necessarily detract from the harmony that should exist on sacred occasions, and tend to lessen the manifestations of God's pleasure. Hence each individual, being a part of the aggregate, can contribute to or detract from the power exhibited at such times, according to his personal condition. Great promises were made by the Lord in the Kirtland Temple, premised on the condition that the people would purify their hearts. The promise, we presume, hold good whenever the requirements upon which they are predicated are complied with.

It ought to be unnecessary to state, that in order to be prepared for future events that are evidently near, there should be no divisions among the Saints by reason of unkindly feelings towards each other. That fraternal

spirit that belongs to the Gospel should pervade the whole. The people ought to be a unit in sentiment toward each other. The Saints have been frequently warned for instance, of forming themselves into aristocratic classes on the basis of wealth. This is contrary to the genius of the Gospel. As wealth increases among the people the danger in this direction enlarges. President George Q. Cannon has, in the past, occasionally stated, in his public discourse, that he was apprehensive of more danger to the Saints when many of them should become rich, than when they were in more moderate circumstances. His views in this respect were based on the liability of humanity in general to separate from each other in classes on the basis of earthly possessions. Some recent features presented in the community have exhibited the fact that he read the signs aright. There have been symptoms of class division of this character, but they have not gone, with people within the fold of the Church, so far that a salutary change may not set in. In fact the spirit that was leading off in the direction referred to appears to have moderated to a considerable extent of late, and it is to be hoped the good work will go on.

Doubtless the Lord foresaw a time when riches would endanger the religious health of some of the Saints, and therefore, in a revelation given through Joseph the Seer, at Kirtland, in January 2nd, 1831, warned the Church as follows:

"And if ye seek riches which is the will of the Father to give unto you, ye shall be the richest of all people, for ye shall have the riches of eternity; it must needs be that the riches of the earth are mine to give; but beware of pride, lest ye become as the Nephites of old."

The condition into which the ancient people of this continent fell was such as led to the most disastrous consequences, and is clearly defined in the following passage from the sixth chapter of III Nephi:

"And it came to pass that there were many cities built anew, and there were many old cities repaired; and there were many highways cast up, and many roads made, which led from city to city, and from land to land, and from place to place. And thus passed away the twenty and eighth year, and the people had continual peace."

"But it came to pass in the twenty and ninth year, there began to be some disputings among the people; and some were lifted up unto pride and boastings, because of their exceeding great riches, yea, even unto great persecutions; for there were many merchants in the land, and also many lawyers, and many officers."

"And the people began to be distinguished by ranks; according to their riches, and their chances for learning; yea, some were ignorant because of their poverty, and others did receive great learning because of their riches; some were lifted up in pride, and others were exceeding humble; some did return railing for railing, while others would receive railing and persecution, and all manner of afflictions, and would not turn and revile again, but were humble and penitent before God."

"And thus there became a great inequality in all the land, insomuch that the church began to be broken up; yea, insomuch that in the thirtieth year the church was broken up in all the land,