

ESTABLISHED
JUNE, 1850.

DESERET EVENING NEWS. 9 to 12

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1861, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TERRITORY.

A SONG OF THE THANKFUL TIME.

The shock of Thanksgiving, as nothing else, can bring us back to our homes. We have the taste of waters and leaves of sea nymphs on the earth's surface being over.

We dream of the horrors, of field and camp, and destruction fall, threatening them.

We dream of thankfulness to strong men.

In the face of flames, and the smoke of gun.

With training, with grace, and with events like

these, the dream of hope is a bright vision.

These trials make room for the thankful

time.

We thank God for Thanksgiving.

—*Brook Haven Society.*

ANCIENT FORTIFICATIONS.

A Testimony to the Truth of the Book of Mormon.

Now as the Jaredites were not fort builders, we can understand why no few structures of this character are to be found in North America, the part of the country chiefly occupied by them.

The race of people that succeeded them upon the American continent arrived about the time of the total extinction of the former inhabitants, and settled throughout the western parts of the land. They came from the very center of warlike nations, numerous families with walled cities, and all manner of stone, earth, and other military defensive works; and the fort, earthworks, observation towers, and metal enclosures found in America occur in the localities occupied by them, and this testify to their military training, and at the same time establish the consistency and genuineness of the history given, emanating their origin and purpose.

The Sepulchre spread over a large extent of territory in Central and North America as well as in South America, while the Jaredites occupied the country further north where mountains designed for military defenses are scarce, not with. M. D. Whipple says their number diminished as the Atlantic Ocean is approached. Far beyond the Rocky Mountains, they are still to be found in British America. —*Providence.*

But there are remains of a different character found in the localities which will prove a most interesting study to the Book of Mormon student. It is conceded on all hands in the scientific world that there are among the discoveries made in the Western Hemisphere numerous monoliths which bear witness to a more remote antiquity than the ancestors of the present Indian tribes can claim. Against and Lyell, both are of the opinion that when Europe was inhabited by wandering savages, whose only weapons were rough bows of stone, America was already peopled by men who built cities, raised monuments, and had attained to a high degree of civilization.

In a work entitled "Types of Man," p. 50, mention is made of many curious human remains found upon this continent bearing marks of great antiquity. Lyell is one who speaks of numerous skeletons found by him in a cave excavated in the limestone rocks on the borders of a lake in the province of Minas Gerais, Brazil. He dug out the bones of more than thirty individuals of both sexes and every age, from those of the infant to the old man.

The skeletons were mixed together in such great confusion as to baffle the idea of their having been buried, and were lying upon the original bed of the cave, as if thrown there under excitement or in haste.

Several skulls were pierced with holes, either with weapons, probably of steel. There are many mounds or heaps of dirt discovered which upon examination, proved to be male sepulchres of a peculiar character. They are nearly immobile heaps of skeletons, with the soil adjacent thereto, covering them, indicating that the skeletons are the remains of those who fell in battle, and were hastily gathered up, together with their weapons as the slain in war might have on them, and piled upon the bare ground, and the earth thrown over them. In some cases the skeletons were arranged in layers one above the other. The first stratum was on a level with the surface, the second about a foot above it. W. P. Parker in writing in the St. Louis Anatomy of Science, 1858, mentions remains of this character at Sandy Woods, Missouri. The layers continued from one to two hundred feet apart. Some of them had been doubled up, others were in a squatting posture, but the greater number lay stretched on their backs or stomachs, or lay on their sides.

These bodies were deposited without any regard to the signs of burial, and paid to the dead. Whether the remains in the mounds mentioned by Parker were those of Jaredites or Nephites, it is evident that they are the ghosts

of slaves gathered from distant fields.

There were pauses in the warfare, sometimes for days or weeks, and during these intervals of actual fighting the dead bodies were gathered into heaps and covered out of sight. In some cases, however, the bodies were scattered, and the earth was thrown over the spot that there was no need to bury the dead.

In the book of Mormon, Chap. 10, v. 10, we read that a party of Nephite explorers were lost in the wilderness, and in their wandering came upon one of the ancient Jaredite battle grounds. This ancient discoverer a man who was covered with the bones of many of his people.

For the reasons given in the foregoing, we may safely attribute the military inferiority of ancient America to the cause that initiated the land dispute between the Jaredites.

The history of the Nephites were furnished every condition, requirement and opportunity for the existence of all the debatable remains which have been discovered upon the face of the earth.

The founders of the nation, Lehi, very

by no means an ordinary character, he was educated in "the learning of the Jews and the language of the Egyptian." His name shone upon the sacred records among Kings, Priests, and Patriarchs. He died in the midst of his illustrious family as High Priest, Prophet, Seer, Herald, and Teacher.

The Jaredites were the people of the earth, and every condition, requirement and opportunity for the existence of all the debatable remains which have been discovered upon the face of the earth.

Successive waves of plant species, the woodwork of the earth, blended at edge with the deepest earth, and half a century of English and French had all gone to the bottom of the ocean.

I come to the final conclusion, placing in its simplest beauty and splendor. This is a simple design in art, three, or four, golden and blue feathers rising from a central point, and meeting in a pointed tip, forming a crest, and supporting a shield.

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