

## ANCIENT AMERICAN RELICS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *West Shore* gives an interesting description of some striking relics of a civilization of what he calls the "prehistoric past," in the Cœur d'Alenes, in Idaho. He makes special mention of what appears to be sacred altars, which he presumes were constructed for purposes of worship. He says:

"Of these sacred altars there are six in number, builded of basalt rock taken from some point beyond a hundred miles from this point, as there is no rock of this character in the vicinity, and of a peculiar masonry unknown and unrecorded in the history of the craft. They are seven feet in height and a careful measurement of the entire six shows the remarkable fact that there is not a hair's difference in the structure of them all. They are of the same height and width, of solid masonry, with the exception of a deflection or sort of sink on the square top of each. On the front of each, facing the rising sun, are crude hieroglyphics, and a chiseled crescent. The hieroglyphics are of the picture language instead of the written language of a race, and point to a moon worship rather than the devotion to the sun. Within the distance of an arrow's flight of these altars is a square amphitheatre, which seems to have been hewn in the solid rock and worn almost as smooth as polished marble. Numerous narrow trails lead from this amphitheatre to the mountains, but outside of the immediate surroundings there is no sign of man in the gloom, canyons and mountains of this vicinity."

The correspondent states that he has spent hours in speculation in attempting to fathom the mystery surrounding these remains of a great people and to gain some key to the secrets of the inscriptions. He concludes that these relics "are not of the Indian race, for the architecture of these monuments shows the master hand of the artisan and leaves the beholder to believe that some time in the dim past a race of people existed here who communed with the gods of high art and enjoyed a civilization equal, if not superior, to our own."

When people shall read the Book of Mormon with a view to honestly ascertaining the evidences of its authenticity, instead of repudiating that genuine history of ancient America, the relics of past races found all over this continent will no longer be to them an impenetrable mystery. The religion, political and social institutions, arts and manufactures, modes of warfare and the general civilization of those peoples of the past will be largely understood. The proofs which substantiate the claims of that record to being genuine are constantly accumulating, and will ultimately become so potential that it will, in course of time, take as strong an effort to avoid believing in it as it does now to accept of it for what it purports to be.

## THE FEDERAL ELECTION BILL.

Is THE Force bill after all to become a law? This is the question politicians are now asking each other. In parliamentary language, the Force bill would be known as the Federal Elections bill. And under it the Congressional State elections would be placed under control of United States soldiers and officials. In other words it would be the turning over of elections, for instance, in the State of Illinois, to a band of political heelers, such as now tyrannizes over Utah.

The Force bill has for its object the protection of the negro voter in the Southern States. But its provisions, it is well known, can be applied to New Hampshire or Nebraska, as well as to Georgia or South Carolina. In the eyes of a man hungry for office there is little difference of color between the blackest Senegambian and the whitest Caucasian. And the proposed enactments of the Force bill provide for its application to any State or municipality in which a limited number of citizens may apply for its enforcement. Under this clause of it, a conscienceless clique of politicians could, with the aid of a dominant party in control of the United States Government, apply the law to Springfield, Illinois, the old home of Abraham Lincoln.

This proposed law was not inappropriately denominated the Force bill, though the average intellect would understand better what it meant if denominated the "Bayonet bill," for such it would really become in the hands of corrupt officials.

In the United States Senate about two weeks ago eight Republican Senators voted with the Democrats to shelve this Force bill and give priority to the Finance bill. There are also a number of good Republican Senators and Congressmen opposed to this bill and would gladly see it relegated to oblivion. It cannot be denied that abuses prevail in the South; and that the colored citizen's situation there is not an enviable one. But is the North entirely free from election abuses? Certainly not. Ballotbox stuffing and other evils are practiced in the North, of which politicians do not scruple to avail themselves to crawl into office by dishonorable means. But a force bill for these abuses is not the remedy. First of all honesty and patriotism in a judiciary are the prime essentials. Next to these come a public spirited press and party vigilance, the whole capped by a healthy, honest public opinion which fears not to denounce fraud and violence, irrespective of party.

Look at the condition of a dozen of our State Legislatures today! If we had such a measure as the Force bill on our statute books can any one say that it would be left to fall into desuetude. Not, by any means. Such a bill might be the means of producing the worst kind of a civil war. The situation in New Hampshire fully illustrates this theory. It is the same in Connecticut, Colorado, Nebraska, Idaho, Montana, and several other States. The moment that such a measure as the Force bill becomes law in this country then this will no longer be a democratic republic.

## THE CIVIL LAW OF MOSES.

No subject of antiquity furnishes more interesting features to the student than the laws given to the children of Israel through Moses. They were framed for a people who were under the direct care of God, and for the purpose of educating that race and, in a certain degree, the whole world to that state of morality and intelligence necessary preparatory to the acceptance of the principles of the succeeding dispensations. The laws of Moses were the needful preliminaries of the laws of the Gospel.

It has sometimes been stated that those ancient laws cannot be of divine origin, because some of their provisions are contrary to what in our age is considered the standard of perfection. This assertion is based upon an erroneous view of their aim. They were not given as a *last* or finished lesson of morality and intelligence to mankind. On the contrary, the lawgiver clearly states that another prophet should be raised up, whom the people should obey, thereby intimating that those initiatory laws would be perfected by another inspired servant of God. When a child commences to learn, it cannot receive the same kind of instructions nor the same rules as it can and will receive when it reaches a more advanced age. But the first rudiments of instructions are as essential to advancement as are those which follow. The laws of Moses must be considered in this light.

When God led Israel out of bondage, He had a people disposed to idolatry. He had to teach them His own perfections and induce them to worship Him with pure hearts and reverence. They had to learn that they were His people by covenant with their fathers, and that they should, consequently, love Him and love each other, keeping themselves free from the contamination of surrounding peoples. They were to be taught to implicitly trust in Him as well as to render Him that