

## IN BOOK OF MORMON LANDS.

The Great Terraces of an Ancient People and How They Look Today—  
Cordial Reception from Government Officials—On the Temple Grounds

Tanja, April 22.—There is an old Spanish saying, somewhere like this: "If you go out of your house and see crows flying never mind the crows but look where you put your feet." That saying is true of Tanja as well as Bogota, although I must say they sweep and clean the streets in Tanja every day.

I think I stated in my last letter that Tanja lies at the head of the valley of the Rio Chichimecho. Properly speaking there is no valley here but gentle hills upon which the town is built. Here again on every side are terraced hills as if in the olden times a great city had been built here, in every direction for miles and miles they can be traced along the hill sides. The day after my arrival I crossed over to the eastern slopes to examine the terraces carefully. At this point the country is badly cut up with gullies and I wanted to see how the ground looked where the gullies had cut through the terraces. The soil on top is a rich black loam, down two or three feet it is red and yellow clay. Looking at the section of the terraces where cut out by the gullies one can plainly see that they have been made by man. There are no houses of any kind on these slopes, now, nor is there any traces of any having been built there in recent times, yet all over the sides of the gullies and slopes that have been worn away by

old city is just over the divide north from the headquarters of the Rio Chichimecho, which drains off to the eastern plains, while the old city mentioned in my last letter is just over the divide on the south. The two cities are 40 miles apart. One forming the connecting link between the plains and the rich valleys to the south and west and the other between the plains and the rich valleys to the north and east. In the olden days both were places of importance.

Tanja is a typical old Spanish town. It was founded in 1535, 80 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth. The old houses, churches, bridges, etc., are exceedingly well preserved. I have seen a great many Catholic churches, but the little old church here that adjoins the government building has the chief Indian decorations I ever saw. The entire inside of the church is of gilt and gold, and the images and altars are decorated with precious stones, the value of which probably no one knows. The town is a great educational center, probably the best in the country at the present time, and you see on all sides students with their books, walking and sitting, engaged in study. There are two very large schools for boys and one for girls. They are well attended. The boys you see everywhere, the girls only when paraded out of a morning for exercise. All the schools are in charge of the different orders of the Catholic church, I might add that nowhere have I seen public schools. Here there are large public schools, buildings, but they are now barracks

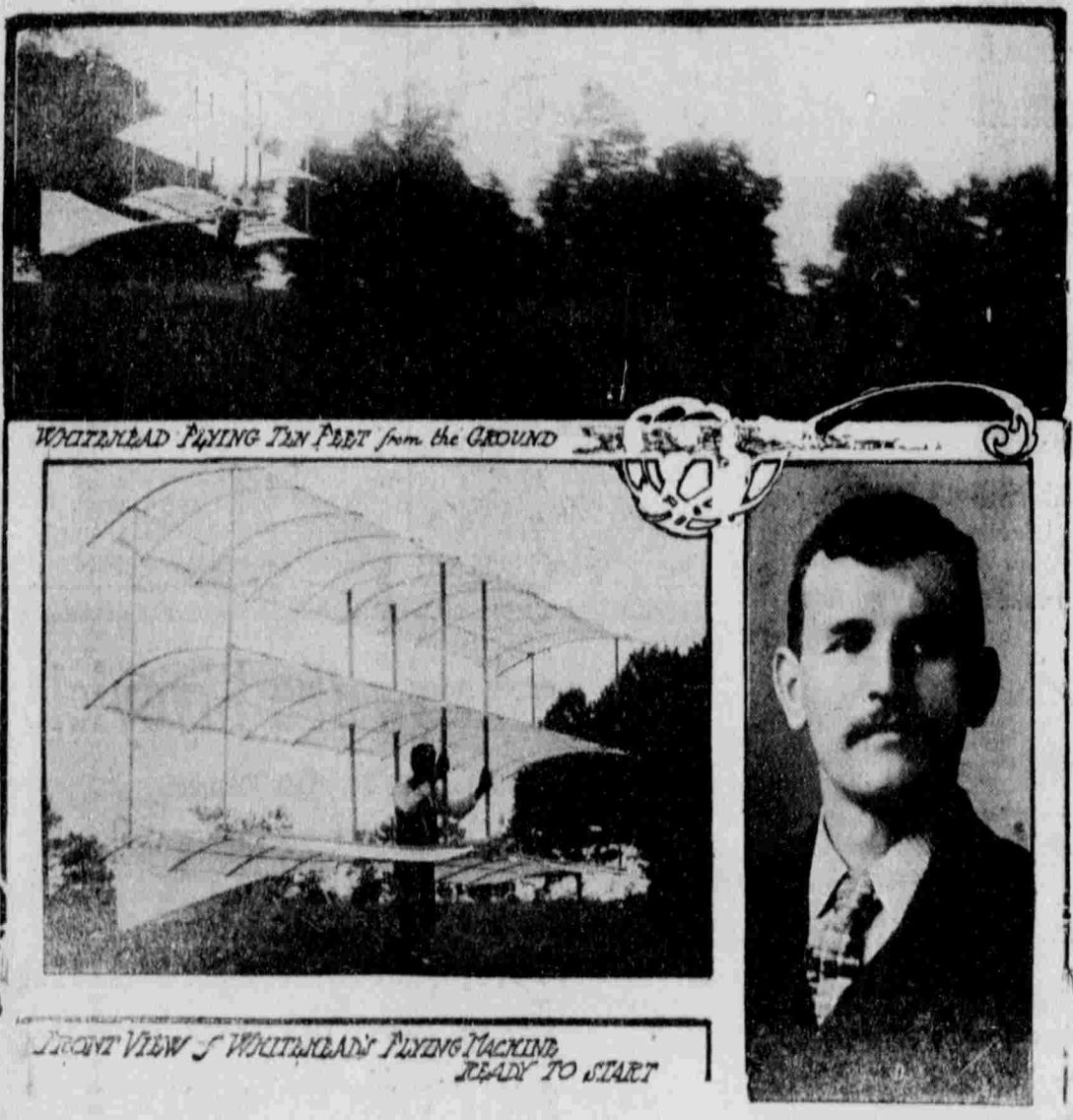
has its assembly that looks after them in its department. The departments are divided into provinces. The president of Bogota appoints nearly all of the officers in the country. They call the government here a centralized republic and I guess that expresses just about what it is.

Tanja is about 120 miles north of Bogota and is connected with it by one of the best roads I ever saw. Nearly the entire distance it is a regular boulevard with fine cut stone bridges. Yet I will never that not once in a month if at all is there a coach, bus or even a horse and wagon. A four-wheeled wagon would be a great curiosity here. There is not one in the entire country. This road has been built by the Bogota government and it would have been worth millions to the country as it is in practically useless and will remain so until the other road is built and modern methods of transportation introduced.

### FAIR ABOVE THE SEA.

Chiquila, Colombia, May 4, 1933.—In order that your readers may better understand what I shall be writing in my letter I wish them to bear in mind that the eastern coast of Colombia is the Magdalena river spread out into what we might call a table land or system of valleys perched up on top of the mountains, 5,500 to 10,000 feet above the sea. This system begins 25 miles southward of Bogota and continues northeast for over 200 miles. Its width is about 30 miles. The south half of it is called

AMERICA'S SANTOS DUMONT.



GUSTAV WHITEHEAD

America has a Santos Dumont. It is named Gustav Whitehead, and he has constructed an airship that is pronounced a success. Tests have already been made and the device has demonstrated its ability to soar. The machine resembles a big three-decker kite and is entirely different to the Dumont device.

time are scattered broken pieces of pottery, earthenware, etc. There is no possible doubt that the terraces formerly were sites of houses, i. e., the larger ones were the smaller were divisions between the cultivated fields where trees and brush grew and these held the earth until terraces were formed. The different terraces were easily distinguished. As to the time when these terraces were occupied one can hardly guess. The houses were no doubt built much as they are built here now, of bamboo and sticks plastered over inside and out with a thick coat of mud, and some of them were built on stilts. The houses would disappear entirely in 50 or 100 years, so would the trees and hedges, but it would take longer to cut out the gullies and the old roads, and which were not here when the slopes were occupied. The whole surface of the country for miles is cut up and destroyed by them. In places they are 40 feet or more deep and have cut through three or four layers of hard pan a foot or two in thickness. When the Spaniards came here, 300 years ago, they bridged some of these gullies and, judging from these and the old roads over them, I do not think the lower slopes have changed much in that time. This would place the time when these lands were deserted back to a very remote period, to say nothing of the time they were occupied before the washing out began. Another thing, dense populations are of much denser growth. Generations passed from the time the first settlers entered these valleys until the land became filled up with people as the terraces indicate. The scraps of pottery, Lagatheria, etc., of the same make and bore the same evidences of age as did those I found at Guadalupe. I searched everywhere for flint implements, but could find none, nor could I find any stone implements except the stone grinders.

### AN OLD CITY.

It should be borne in mind that this

for soldiers. The war has been over for nearly a year, but the army has not been disbanded. The truth is, there is another revolution brewing and I think the government means to be prepared for it.

### PASSPORTS FROM HOME.

The state senate is in session and as I had been recommended to a gentleman and learning he was secretary of the assembly I called there as I wished some information from him. I showed him my passport and a letter from Secretary of State Hammond, with the great seal of the state blazoned out on a large red water. His face was a study while he looked at them. After awhile he said, "They are very nice, May I show them to the president?" They were handed up to the chief and he and his two assistants put their heads together and studied the great red water. The president of the assembly members was now aroused, and they began to flip up two and three at a time to see what the excitement was. The house was in session, but all business was suspended for half an hour. At the end of that time my papers came back to me and this is what came with them, written on a small letter paper, with a black border.

"Asamblea del Departamento, Presidente—Privado, J. R. Escribano."

"Sir—As an honorable visitor of this town, I have the pleasure of greeting you with the respect you are worth."

"I wish you a good residence in the bosom of this society, and after kissing your hands I repeat your admirer and humble servant."

"LEONARDO RAMIREZ MAIGUEL."

RECEPTION WAS CORDIAL.

I felt very grateful for the respect shown me, for I certainly did not expect it. It was the red water that did it.

Before closing I might add that Colombia has nine states or departments. Each department

the Sabana and is a level plain 8,000 feet above the sea, drained by the Rio Bogota which flows through the valley from northeast to southwest and empties its way through the rim of the basin empties into the Magdalena. The northern half of the table land is drained by the two rivers that run in parallel valleys and empty into the Magdalena way down near Banco. These latter valleys are of irregular elevations ranging from 9,000 to 10,000 feet above the sea and possessing every variety of climate known. Nearly all of these valleys have been the beds of old lakes and are usually very level and beautiful. Some of them have been covered with water down to a comparatively recent period and in fact two of them are still partially covered with water. Most of them though I think have been free from water for the last 2,000 years. As to the Sabana I am not so sure. While I think the northern part was free from water 2,000 years ago, the southern part may still have been a lake. One thing is certain, though, that if there was no lake here 2,000 years ago, almost the entire Sabana was an immense swamp, or swamp.

We left Tanja on the morning of April 23, and passing up through the narrow winding streets began to climb the point of the hill to the northwest, passing which we would reach the summit of the Sabana. The road is a broad valley floor hollow in which are situated a number of fine haciendas. After a while we crossed the hill and climbed a gentle slope on which I noticed traces of old terraces, originally painted with red paint, but now faded and almost unrecognizable.

### LIKE PRICE, UTAH.

After several hours we reached the summit or divide between the two branches of the Sabana. The road looks down into an awful gorge of our feet, which widens into a pretty wide valley, three or four miles across. The desert into this gorge is the worst I have ever seen, and sometimes the path is so steep and narrow that you lean against the bank and creep along the trail slowly to avoid a possible fall into the deep abyss below you. After a time we reached the bottom of the gorge. It is one of the most barren spots I ever saw. The soil and hills are very much as they are about Price, Utah. Not a shrub grows in the valley and nothing but a few of the coarsest weeds grow on the hillsides. There is a small little Indian town in the gorge. All of the people are in the street as we pass. The road is about a pass and they have erected an arch of building and hung our horses of the Sabana. The arch is made of stones where in the house of the Sabana. They are now looking about ready to fall on their knees when we appear. We obtained a drink of chicha at a house, and crossing the narrow arm of the valley commenced to climb a very steep hill. And now I witness such a sight as I never saw before. The country is so high and broken that the extreme, it looks like it had been raised

### "He builded better than he knew"

—Emerson

When in his modest workshop in Providence three generations ago the founder of the

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produced work that is to-day sought after by the collector, he build-

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ship, sterling material have ever been associated with the Gorham

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ed and then turned over to earthquakes to double up and fold over. One place we passed for some distance through a place where the rock strata had been rent asunder. In another place the mountain had been broken in two. We passed through the gap which is 300 feet wide and hundreds of feet deep. It is difficult to believe that such a barren, desolate region could be found here in South America in a land that we have always associated with tropical vegetation. Yet it is here, although we have more properly belong in Arizona or Sonora.

### AN INDIAN CARNIVAL.

On the top of the mountain we found an Indian cabin and obtained a guard of milk and some brown wheat bread. There is a green meadow here of 50 or 100 acres extent and on one edge of it is a little terrace. I noticed the ruins of an old stone house. The outline of the walls could be easily traced by the fallen stones, although most of them are now buried beneath the accumulations of the centuries. The afternoon was wearing away when we commenced to descend again. Down, down we go for hours until we reach the bed of the creek, then up again and through the mountain rent mentioned above, and we come in sight of a beautiful little valley, with extensive hill slopes beyond. This is the valley of Leiva, and I have come here to verify a report that I have heard of the existence here of an old stone temple. We found around a steep mountain slope and down into the valley. It threatens rain and we hurry. It is five o'clock when we reach the town, footsore and weary. In the porch of the house I see a large number of slabs of stone that have been brought here from a distance. They have picked out on one end of all of them in which was inserted the rope to drag them. These stones measure 15 to 18 feet long and four and a half to five and a half in diameter. It would seem from the position of the stones that it was the purpose of the builders to erect another edifice, three or four hundred feet to the north of the old temple, as most of the large blocks are identical with those scattered about the field at the ruins. The Indians whom the Spaniards found in the country didn't erect any stone buildings. When they were here they were acquainted with the art of dressing stone, and were quite expert in the business. After sketching and photographing the stones and old ruins we returned to the town and commenced our return trip to Bogota. Our course is a little west of south but we keep to our compass, making a wide detour to the south and descending the ridge near this valley that I saw in the road a large block of stone identical with those I saw at Leiva. It was undoubtedly being dragged to some temple site in the valley near by. I might add that the two we have traveled today is the old Indian trail and has been traveled for many centuries. In many places for miles it is worn down from hard feet and deer and goat hoofs. This little valley is a beautiful example of the old lake system. A ridge runs down across the north end of the valley that held back the waters and formed a lake. Everything indicates the erosion was comparatively recent.

Crossing a little ridge we now enter the valley of Utahe. In the distance we see the lakes and town. The valley is rich and the pasture covered with herds of cattle. We stay at Utahe all night and next morning, May 3, cross the ridge, but, disheartened, Sagomono from the Sabana. This was the old Indian trail from north to south and all along the road they have left their ethnographic writings on the rocks. I photographed some of them.

It threatened rain all the afternoon and we had hardly reached Chiquila at 6 p. m. when it began to rain and almost all night and nearly all the following day. The rain takes me to Bogota, so I am glad to see it rain.

JOEL RICKS.

### The Foundation of Health.

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### SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

Electric sparks are always obtained from kites reaching a height of a quarter of a mile, and increase as the kites go higher.

A pains-taking survey of the fishes of the Nile, extended far up both Blue and White Niles, has just been completed. It adds 14 new species to about 80 known before, and gives much other valuable information.

Earthquakes are due to discharges of electricity between strata of good conductivity and insulating strata, like granite and silica, in the view of Prof. Phocaed. The discharges generate noise, to which the observed effects are mainly due.

The curious habit of carrying a live sea-anemone in each of its two claws is ascribed to the Mollie, a genus of small crabs of the Maldiver Archipelago. M. Horradale states that the crab's claws are too frail for use in defense, and it is not clear whether the anemones are held as a means of protection or as a trap for food.

Some time ago B. Walter showed that in electric spark fields its way from the positive pole to the negative in a rapid succession of preliminary sparks of increasing length. By some excellent photographs with a moving camera, he has now proven that lightning similarly established a conducting path through the air by a series of minor discharges, and that as a rule the lightning passes from the cloud to the earth in a series of continuous discharges.

The horse-sickness of Cape Colony resembles human malaria, and attacks sometimes exposed in low-lying swamps or left out at night. Horses were safely through affected districts during the day. The government bacteriologist of Natal suggests that mosquitoes carry the infection, and he has shown that horses protected by wire gauze or muslin may remain unharmed in the midst of the disease while the unprotected succumb.

The X-ray stereoscope of M. T. Gulliver uses a single tube so mounted that it can be rapidly oscillated between two positions. The oscillation is given by a cam making 30 revolutions per minute, and so arranged that only a tenth of the time of rotation is taken in moving from one position of rest to the other. Two distinct radiographic images are thus formed with displacements varying with the degree of the tube's oscillation and its distance from the subject. Two shutters, electrically controlled by the oscillation, allow the right eye to view one image and the left the other, vision being entirely cut off during the change of the tube's position. The combination of these images gives an apparently solid reproduction of the object, and the effect is claimed to be superior to that obtained with two tubes or with a tube having two anti-cathodes.

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