

"I permitted some one else to make a fool of me, so what is the difference?"

"Well, it does not matter now as you are mine."

As Leland was bidding Ivy good night, after having persuaded her to set the date for their wedding, he asked roughly: "Who was April Fooled?"

MISTLETOE.

MORMON CHURCHES IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Kenly, N. C., March 9, 1898.

During the last six months and a little upwards there has been a decided effort put forth in North Carolina to foster the little branches and Sunday schools of the Church here by the erection of neat, substantial meeting houses. Something over a year ago the first one was erected at Colon, Chatham county, at which place we have a flourishing little branch and Sunday school.

Nothing more of importance was done in this direction until sometime last July, when Elders Henry W. Stahle and Joseph A. Williams, in connection with the Saints at Cameron, Moore county, went to work with their own hands and contributed from their own pockets and in a very short time a neat frame building was erected, wherein a Sunday school meets every Sunday. Some fifty members are enrolled in the school. The first baptisms were made at Cameron, a little over a year ago, and last June the above-named Elders baptized some thirty souls. The fire thus kindled spread throughout the conference. Elders J. D. Kilpack Jr. and W. C. Hunter went to work in Rockingham county, and soon a church building was the result.

During the last three weeks we have dedicated three church buildings. One at Valma, Wake county, we named Nauvoo, has a membership of some twenty to thirty souls. Just lately Elders J. D. Kilpack Jr. and W. M. Woolley have made an opening on the coast and baptized over fifteen souls, and two Sunday schools were organized and a church building erected. The first Elders entered that part last December, three months ago.

Elders Ira Barker and A. E. Hulsh, in connection with Saints, erected our beautiful little church at Valma which we dedicated on Tuesday, March 1st, President Woodruff's birthday. We now have seven church buildings or meeting houses, and some twenty-five Sunday schools in the conference. Last year by the blessings of the Lord we organized fifteen Sunday schools and baptized one hundred and ninety-three souls.

As expected, the enemy is on the alert, ever ready to retard the progress of the Lord's work. To show the alarm with which some of the ministers are viewing the startling success the Mormon Elders are meeting with, I append extracts from an article from the pen of a Presbyterian minister:

"Two thousand Mormon missionaries, we are told, are making their headquarters at Chattanooga, and from this place as a center they are sent throughout Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Virginia, North and South Carolina."

It is a known fact that we have not had Elders in Georgia for twelve or fifteen years, but as though foreshadowing unconsciously the purposes of God, Elders are now being sent into Georgia and a conference will soon be organized in that state. He goes on to say: "It is useless to deny that we are confronted in these facts by a crisis in the home mission work of our church. Already they have made startling gains, and it is success that has enabled them to storm the very centers of Christian culture in our state. In Franklin, Wilkes, Surry and Randolph, they have organized strong churches

and have erected substantial church buildings. They have come to stay."

"While our church is neglecting the sections off the railroads, these zealous missionaries of a false creed are walking like genuine Apostles and visiting from house to house, going out into the highways and hedges which, alas! no other church is successfully doing."

A fear is taking hold of many that Mormonism, so called, will yet take this country. They already hear the grinding sound of that little stone cut out of the mountain as it rolls forth in its destined course to fill the earth.

Respectfully,

EZRA C. ROBINSON.

RUINED CITY OF MEXICO.

Carthage, Tenn., March 14, 1898.

Is the Book of Mormon a divine history of the ancient inhabitants of America? This question has long been settled in the minds of thousands of Latter-day Saints, who can testify to its divinity. And ere long scientific explorers will prove it beyond all doubt to the world, and also prove that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God and an Instrument in His hands in bringing to light this all-important record.

Some time ago I, in company with Elder Ray V. Wentz, visited a number of mounds, about eleven miles southeast of Jackson City, in Madison county, Tenn., the surroundings of which, evidently, have been a great battle field, about two by three miles square. The southside of this battle field was protected by the Forke Deer river, on the east, north and west by heavy breast works, which are now plainly visible. The east side is in a good state of preservation, six or seven feet high and about twenty feet wide. There are five mounds in all, ranging from 15 to 90 feet high, all built after the same plan in the form of a pyramid, each covering an area of about 100 square rods. Their sides are very steep, almost impossible to climb, but at the north corner the incline is more gradual, showing that from this point the dirt was conveyed to the top. Two of the largest of these mounds are covered with large oak trees, three or four feet through.

Farmers have found many ancient war relics while plowing around these mounds and through the battle field, in the center of which these mounds are standing.

A few days ago a friend who is interested in the Book of Mormon handed us a clipping from the New York Weekly Tribune, of Nov. 4th, 1896, which also goes to prove the divinity of the Book of Mormon. It is as follows:

"The Ruined City in Mexico. Something About William Niven, Its Discoverer."

"William Niven, the New York mineralogist, whose discovery of a ruined city with temples, pyramids and the remains of dwellings of a great population in the mountains of the state of Guerrero, Mexico, has been announced, is well known in the scientific world. The story of his finds of rare and valuable minerals on Manhattan Island and at West Paterson, N. J., in 1895 and 1896 has been told in the Tribune."

"Mr. Niven is a native of Glasgow, Scotland, and prospected from 1879 to 1884 in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Mexico. He was assistant commissioner of Arizona at the World's Fair at New Orleans in 1884. He discovered the minerals thoro-gummitte, yttridite and nivenite in Llanos county, Texas, in 1889, and agallurite at Gaunaguato, Mexico, in 1891, all of which were new to science, and is a life member of the American Museum of Natural History and a member of the New York Academy of Science and of the Brooklyn Institute."

"A letter from Mr. Niven dated September 4th, Chilpancingo, State of Guerrero, and received here October 2, says: 'I have taken 300 photographs of the ruins of Quechomictlan, which cover a much wider area than I had at first supposed—something like 1,000 square miles, and instead of three temples there are more than twenty. I have photographs of them and of objects which I found in the ruins. In fact my trip has been highly successful.'"

"The discovery of the ruined city was made by Mr. Niven in the summer of 1894, although at that time he did not know that it covered so wide an area as his letters now say. The discovery has been known to a few persons for some time, but was not made widely known pending negotiations with the Mexican government for the right of exploration."

"This concession to archaeologists was granted last summer, as was published in the Tribune of July 12."

"In the course of a prospecting tour through the state of Guerrero in the fall of 1891, Mr. Niven visited the state museum at Chilpancingo, the capital. The display of archaeological objects, particularly of jade trachyte, was remarkable, and he was surprised to learn that the locality where they had been discovered was an unknown field to the explorers. In 1894 Mr. Niven interested Morris K. Jesup, president of the American Museum of Natural History, in the matter, and was engaged by him to make a trip of about fifty days on horseback through the territory. As a result of the trip, Mr. Niven got more than 600 archaeological objects, which are now on exhibition at the museum."

"On May 23, 1894, Mr. Niven left the town of Cuautla and forded the Las Balsas river into the state Guerrero, with a servant and five riding and pack animals. In the following three weeks every town visited had some prehistoric ruins, mostly mounds."

"Xochipala was reached on June 29, and the next day at Yerbabuena were found evidences of prehistoric structures, among them what must have been a great temple, covering a space of 300 by 200 feet. An altar of solid masonry was in the center. It was ten feet square, well preserved and twenty feet high. The foundations and part of the walls of circular towers, six feet thick, at each corner were plainly visible. For ten miles Mr. Niven rode among the ruins of what he was convinced must have been a great city. The houses of stone and lime had been from eight to fifty feet square."

"Many of their walls were standing, and were from three to eight feet high, their thickness varying from two to five feet. The next day the party went to the north on another foothill of the Sierra Madre mountains, and after a rough journey found themselves riding over the ruins of prehistoric dwellings. The use of the pick showed that they were the foundations of houses which had been substantially built of stone and lime. Another temple was found similar to the one at Yerbabuena, with a larger altar and part of the stairs still remaining. About 800 yards further on was another building nearly as large as the first, and on its corners were circular towers, the walls about four feet high. There were quantities of broken pottery found around it enough to load a dozen mules. From this point until the party reached a place where the ridge abruptly terminated in a perpendicular wall to the canyon 1,500 feet below, the ruins were scattered every hundred yards."

"Altogether Mr. Niven found the ruins to three temples, about 300 by 200 feet each within a radius of five miles, with alters standing in two of them twenty feet high, and ruins."