

new, were found associated with ruins and mementoes superior to their own abilities and social status. The puzzle will continue as long as the effort to reconcile false science with existing facts is continued.

It is an established fact that, in individual cases, man has degenerated and become degraded to the condition of a brutish savage, during the period of his mortal life. How far it is possible for large communities to lapse into barbarism during short periods, history furnishes many examples. The Jews' awful and rapid decadence is one. But a degenerate state of society is not the normal condition of man; nor is it appropriate to the high qualities and demands of his nature; it is not a primitive state of man, but a fallen state. In such a condition the abject human, is utterly helpless; all the beginnings of improvement and amelioration must commence with extraneous and superior agencies.

There are some very curious traditions cherished among the native races of America; a few of which we will notice in this place, as they are strikingly corroborative of statements contained in the Book of Mormon, and which have been already brought to the notice of the reader. Brasseur's History of the Nations of Mexico, Vol. I, p. 105, speaks of a tradition among the Anahuacs, an ancient Mexican race, "That after the dispersion of the human race, immediately succeeding the building of the Tower of Babel, seven Toltecs (one of the earliest races of Central America), reached America, and became the parents of a numerous race upon this continent."

The tradition concerning these wanderers from the early tribes who built the Great Tower, is a remarkable legendary confirmative of some of the important averments of the Book of Mormon; especially when taken in connection with the story of Jared's exodus. That the Mexican legend is inaccurate as to numbers, is rather in favor of, than against the sacred narrative, as perfect agreement might suggest copying.

In Averdano's Sermons we read the following:

"The Peruvians say that a White Man, with a long, flowing beard, visited their forefathers, and instructed them in the arts of agriculture and architecture. He told them he should live in retreat for two thousand years, and then appear on the earth again." Sermon 9, p. 100.

In addition to this Peruvian tra-

dition respecting the visit of this venerable Nephite, the present Indian tribes testify to receiving many similar visits, even in the present day; and relate traditional stories of others of remote date.

The Book of Mormon relates that the Nephites were an enlightened, and during several centuries, a God-fearing people. During this period of religious regardfulness, they were highly favored of the Lord, who raised up many prophets among them. They enjoyed the privilege of seeing visions, and receiving the administration of holy angels. Finally they were blessed with a personal visit of the Savior, after His resurrection, who established His Church among them; called and ordained twelve apostles. Just before leaving them, He assembled His disciples to impart unto them His last admonitions and benediction.

"And it came to pass when Jesus had said these words, He spake unto His disciples one by one, saying unto them, What is it that ye desire of me, after that I am gone to the Father? And they all spake save it were three, We desire that after we have lived to the age of man, that our ministry, wherein thou hast called us, may have an end, that we may speedily come unto thee, in thy kingdom. And he said unto them, Blessed are ye, because ye desired this thing of me; therefore after that ye are seventy and two years old, ye shall come unto me in my kingdom, and with me ye shall find rest. And when he had spoken unto them, he turned himself unto the three, and said unto them, What will ye that I should do unto you, when I am gone unto the Father? And they sorrowed in their hearts, for they durst not speak unto him the thing which they desired. And he said unto them, Behold, I know your thoughts, and ye have desired the thing which John, my beloved, who was with me in my ministry, before that I was lifted up by the Jews, desired of me. Therefore more blessed are ye, for ye shall never taste of death, but ye shall live to behold all the doings of the Father, unto the children of men, even until all things shall be fulfilled, according to the will of the Father, when I shall come in my glory, with the powers of heaven. And ye shall never endure the pains of death; but when I come in my glory, ye shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye from mortality to immortality." Book of Mormon, page 539.

These are the characters who were given power to remain in this sphere, blessed with an enduring vitality; and who are believed to have, from time to time, during the rolling centuries, paid their visits to their people, instructing and counseling them; and will, doubtless, in

the near future, be a great assistance in ameliorating their fallen condition, and restoring them to enlightenment and civilization.

Another writer, D. Elchtal, alludes to traditions among the American Indians, relating to convulsions of the earth; profound disturbances; terrible deluges; in the midst of which mountains arose and volcanoes belched forth fire and smoke; and of numerous cities being overthrown and swallowed up.

Diego de Landa, a monk, and one of the first Christian missionaries to the Indians, quoted in Pre-Historic America, pages 527-8, relates the following legend which he heard from the natives:

"The waters became swollen, and there was a great inundation which reached to the tops of the heads of the inhabitants; and a thick, resin-like substance came down from the sky. The face of the earth was darkened, and a black rain fell upon them; and there was a great voice above their heads. The frightened inhabitants ran about in terror, and pushed each other; filled with despair, they climbed into trees; they fled to the rocks and caves, but the caves fell in before them."

There is a great deal more of similar import in De Landa's reports; and the reader who will compare these Indian legends with historical data, recorded in the Book of Mormon, cannot fail to be impressed with the striking analogy between the substantial facts, and the legendary shadows of those facts. The eighth chapter of III Nephi, gives a full history of the tragic and stupendous events referred to.

"And there was also a great and terrible tempest; and there was terrible thunder, insomuch that it did shake the whole earth as if it was about to divide asunder. And there were exceeding sharp lightnings, such as had never been known in all the land. And the city of Zarahemla did take fire; and the city of Moroni did sink into the depths of the sea, and the inhabitants were drowned. And the earth was carried up upon the city of Moronihah, that in place of the city thereof, there became a great mountain. * * * And the highways were broken up, and the level roads were spoiled, and many smooth places became rough, and many great and notable cities were sunk, and many were burned, and many were shook till the buildings thereof had fallen to the earth, and the inhabitants thereof were slain, and the places were left desolate; * * * And it came to pass that there was thick darkness upon all the face of the land, insomuch, that the inhabitants thereof, who had not fallen, could feel the vapor of darkness." Chapter 9. "And it came to pass that there was a voice heard among all the inhabitants of the earth, upon all the face of thi