

freight, and skilfully prepared their vessels to meet the perils and exigencies of a long sea voyage.

They made the voyage successfully; and when they landed, like the later refugees upon Plymouth Rock, "They bowed themselves down upon the face of the land, and did humble themselves before the Lord, because of his tender mercies over them." Book of Mormon, p. 583.

The colony no sooner landed than they commenced a vigorous subjugation of the country; not by hostile strife and carnage, for no enemy appeared to oppose their landing upon the lonely and desolate shore; but by the industrious wielding of implements of construction and husbandry. They began to till the soil, to sow their imported grain and seeds, nourish their live stock, establish homes and develop the mighty resources of the new and rigorous world around them.

Who can limit the possibilities of such a start as this? What is there in all the strange relics and stupendous ruins discovered in the wake of their career, and belonging to their times that might not be attributed to the descendants of such an ancestry?

The landing place of the Jaredites was, probably, what is now known as Mexico. In the opinion of Professor O. Pratt, "It was on the western coast, and probably south of the Gulf of California, and north of the land of Desolation, which was north of the Isthmus." See Book of Mormon, p. 582, note A.

The settlers thence spread north, south and east, over a vast extent of country. They are mentioned by the Nephite writers who succeeded them as having occupied vast tracts of country in both North and South America; and it is said that "they were as numerous as the hosts of Israel." Book of Mormon, p. 156, verses 20-22; p. 180, verses 8-12.

But the earliest settlements of this ancient race were along the sea coast and desert regions of Peru, Ecuador and Columbia on the south of the Isthmus; the narrow Panama steppes, and Central America; and the southern part of Mexico in North America.

The most important settlement in the south was called by the Nepites, Zarahemla. Professor Pratt says: "The land of Zarahemla is supposed to be north of the head waters of the river Magdalena, its northern boundary being a few days' journey south of the Isthmus." Book of Mormon, p. 155, note A.

When the Nephites visited this section they found the land covered with bones of men, and of beasts, etc.; and with ruins of buildings of every kind; having discovered a country which had been peopled with a people who were "as numerous as the hosts of Israel." Page 180.

Another very important settlement in the south in early times was in Ecuador, afterwards called the "Land of Nephi." But the final battles of the Jaredites were fought in and around the locality now known as the State of New York, where the last leaders of the two leading factions, Shiz and Coriantumr gathered the remnants of their armies, together with all the remaining women and children for their final annihilation, after 10 or 15 millions had already perished. Shiz pitched his tents on the southern shore of Lake Ontario; but by the forces of the enemy gaining advantage over them they were driven southward to a place called Ogath in the heart of the present State of New York.

"And it came to pass that the army of Coriantumr did pitch their tents by the hill Ramah, and it was that same hill where my father Mormon did hide up the records."

Ramah was the hill Cumorah. Book of Mormon, pp. 606-608 and notes.

The Marquis 'd Nadaillac says:

"To erect the monuments of Peru of Mexico, and the yet more ancient ones of Central America—the singular resemblance of which to the temples and palaces of Egypt strikes the archaeologist—must have required skilled labor, a numerous population, and an established priesthood such as could have developed only through the lapse of ages." Pre-historic America, p. 14.

The presence of the requisite conditions of "a numerous population, and the lapse of ages" has already been shown from the Book of Mormon, to have characterized the Jaredite race. We will consider, briefly, the requirements of "skilled labor" and an "established priesthood."

Skilled labor is a term commonly applied to dexterity of practice in the general works of art and mechanism, under conditions of established and permanent civilization. But a broader significance attaches to the term when it is considered in connection with civil institutions in their formative period, and the founding of new commonwealths. It is requisite that the brawny pioneer should not only be dextrous in the wielding of tools, but that he should be ever ready with natural

ingenuity to invest expedients, to subdue difficulties, to remove or surmount obstacles, and to appropriate available materials to his needs and uses. All successful colonizing has been due to the presence of these qualities; and these qualities were possessed in an eminent degree by Jared and his band of sturdy pioneers. They were scions of that most clever and mysterious people, who first gave art and science form and voice; who reared the gigantic and indestructible monuments of the remotest antiquity—architecture, before whose very ruins great men stand in deep humility and awful reverence. To corroborate the Book of Mormon record as to the ancestry of the earliest settlers of America, numerous evidences exist of an ancient Asiatic people having lived and left indelible marks of their presence, upon the face of the land.

Their stone, brick and earth structures; their works of art, their language, sculptures, customs, sepulture of their dead; and in fact, all their surroundings bear the impress of their ancient times, and the footprints of that peculiar race. After making due allowance for the weakness and incipient struggles of a small colony, together with climatic novelties and the difficulty of assimilating strange materials, their works bear a striking analogy to those of the country and people from whence they were derived.

There is also another consideration: In estimating the sacred footprints which the Jaredites have left upon American soil, regard should be had to the weighty consideration that we are separated from the period of their tragical disappearance from the land by a lapse of about twenty-three hundred years. The Nephites succeeded them, arriving on the American continent shortly before the time of their last struggles and utter extinction, and introduced a new and different phase of civilization. Further: During the last three centuries those portions of the country they occupied have been peopled by active races of Europeans, introducing the energies and transformations of modern civilization. The axe and the plow, and the ruthless tread of the pale-face invader, as well as the plunder seeking spoilation of the greedy adventurer have done much towards obliterating and demolishing the monuments and mementoes of the hoary past.

We quote again from "Pre-historic America;" in speaking of the land-