

THE DESERT WEEKLY

PIONEER PUBLICATION

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

ESTABLISHED

TRUTH AND LIBERTY

JUNE, 1850.

NO. 19.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1889.

VOL. XXXVIII.

A FUNERAL HYMN.

[Written by request for the next Liverpool edition of the L. D. S. Hymn Book, by J. N.]

The bodies of our dead are laid
In earth's inviting crust,
Confirming what the Lord hath said:
They must return to dust.

Not so the beaming spirits bright;
They go not 'neath the sod,
But upward take their glorious flight,
To Paradise of God.

They there, in active, peaceful state,
Await the final hour,
When Christ to them will open the gate,
By His redeeming power.

The dead shall spring forth from the earth,
Redeemed, immortal souls,
No more again to taste of death,
While time eternal rolls,

With them we'll meet in realms of love,
And everlasting joy;
In mansions, of the Lord above,
Where peace hath no alloy.

UNWITTING WITNESSES.

XI.

There is frequent mention made in the Book of Mormon, of temples, synagogues and sanctuaries, and also of other places used for religious purposes; and, were there not a strange and unreasonable prejudice existing against it, this unique production would be esteemed the most valuable literary treasure of the age. But this injurious bias is not new to the book. Previous to its translation, it passed through centuries of hatred, and had to be protected by its friends, from the fury of vandal enemies, long before it was committed to the faithful custody of the earth. But notwithstanding its unpopularity, it is a profound and wonderful problem solver.

Many of the writers on American antiquities, mention the existence of numerous remains of sacrificial altars. Some are found entire, and their shape and dimensions are given minutely; while burnt bones,

fragments of altar vessels, and other debris, and signs of votive immolation, have been discovered, and even the ashes, and marks of fire upon the stones have, in some instances, been made out.

Nadaillac speaks of these altars, and says they frequently consist of horizontal layers of gravel, earth and sand.

"These materials always cover an altar always on a level with the soil, made of flat stones, or of clay, hardened in the sun or by fire. In some cases, troughs or coffins of stone are arranged around the altar. The size of these altars varies; some are only a few inches square, ranging up to fifty feet long, and fifteen wide. All bear traces upon their surface, of exposure to violent heat." Pre-historic America, page 107.

These troughs and water coffins, or cisterns, recall the lavers appended to the Mosaic altars, and were used for washings, purifications, etc. The deposits found under and in close proximity to the altars, deserve the close attention of the interested reader.

Sanier, quoted in Pre-historic America, page 107, says:

"Under one of these altars have been found thousands of specimens of hyaline, quartz, obsidian, and manganese, arrow points of admirable workmanship, six hundred hatchets, presenting a certain analogy with the European hatchets of St. Acheul. These hatchets averaged seven inches long, by four inches wide."

Lucien Carr, in his report to the Peabody Museum, vol. 2, page 90, speaks of whole magazines of spearheads, arrow points, hatchets, axes, daggers, knives, etc., having been found buried in the earth.

It is well known that the custom of burying weapons and other insignia of rank or occupation, with the dead body, was practiced among the ancient races of the new world; but that many thousands of weapons

should be found in a single vault, and large magazines of the ghastly instruments of deadly warfare should be stowed away in the bosom of the earth, is remarkably strange and uncommon, and cannot be accounted for by comparisons with the known custom of any people or of any age. As a few of such inhumations of weapons have been disclosed by accident. It is but reasonable to conclude that other, and, possibly, more abundant deposits of this character might be revealed, if a search were made for them. This circumstance is the more inexplicable by the incongruity it presents of a voluntary weakening of the means of defense, and opposition; while all the surroundings indicate the presence of danger, from a numerous and powerful enemy.

The whole country around abounds with military forts and defensive earth-works, apparently of an age corresponding with that of the style of the buried weapons. And even if a temporary lull in hostilities should be conceived, such conduct is inconsistent with the practice of all nations and tribes, and contrary to the popular maxim, "In time of peace, prepare for war." But anomalous as this prodigal waste of property was, the act itself, and the motives which prompted it, are clearly recorded and explained in the Book of Mormon.

The account is thus given: The Lamanites had been making vigorous and wrathful preparations of hostility and war against a portion of their brethren, called Anti-Nephi-Lehis. Page 305. Hatred towards the Deity, or religious persecution, was the animus of this violent opposition. During a few years previous, a great reformation had been effected among the people, through the preaching and ministry of several prophets, who had come among them. A large