

and yet his own book contains numerous passages that to a Latter-day Saints are strongly confirmatory of the truth of that sacred record. The learned writers, explorers and antiquarians of the age, resolutely shut their eyes against the light which the Book of Mormon throws on the things that they acknowledge are shrouded in mystery, and refuse to consider the explanation it gives of the very points that puzzle them. But while they grope in the dark for an answer to questions that their science gives no definite reply to, the believer in the Book of Mormon rejoices in the discoveries and developments which confirm his faith, and give him further insight into the history of the remote past and of the people who once flourished upon this choice land, and the causes of whose whilom prosperity and ultimate fall are chronicled in the book translated by the Prophet Joseph.

Although Mr. Short's work contains many theories of the origin of the ancient inhabitants of America, and the author appears to have no personal bias to either of them, but quotes voluminously from the various expounders thereof, yet there are numerous expressions and narrations which arrest the attention of the Book of Mormon student, and are in remarkable harmony with its revelations. We have not space to refer to many of them, but will make a few extracts. The first chapter of the work is devoted principally to the mound builders of North America, and contains graphic accounts of authentic discoveries of pottery, arrow and spear heads, skeletons, craniums, copper and stone implements, inscribed tablets, etc. The dimensions of these earthworks, many of them immense, are also given with a desire for correctness which is evident and admirable. Of the antiquity and extent of the works of the mound builders, the author says, p. 27:

"The Neolithic and Bronze ages preceded the Paleolithic, at least in the Mississippi basin, not that the last inhabitants deteriorated and lost the higher arts, which are well known to have been cultivated upon the same soil occupied by them, but that they were preceded by a race possessed of no inferior civilization, who were not their ancestors, but a distinct people with a capacity for progress, for the exercise of government, for the erection of magnificent architectural monuments and possessed a respectable knowledge of geometrical principles. The remains of this mysterious people known as the mound builders are spread over thousands of square miles of the United States, and it is a question whether the antiquarian is more surprised at the greatness of their number than in many instances at the immensity of their proportions."

On page 49:

"The discovery of these geometrical combinations—executed with such precision—in many parts of the country lead to the belief that the mound builders were one people spread over a large territory, possessed of the same institutions, religion, and perhaps one government."

After giving several quotations from eminent writers, the author says the following conclusions may be safely accepted, pp. 97-100:

"That they came into the country in comparatively small numbers at first, and during their residence in the United States they became extremely populous. The magnitude of their works, some of which approximate the proportions of Egyptian pyramids, testify to the architectural talent of the people."

* * * They were an agricultural people. * * * Their manufactures afford proof that they had attained a respectable degree of advancement. * * * Their domestic utensils, the cloth of which they made their clothing, and the artistic vessels met with everywhere in the mounds, point to the development of home culture and domestic industry. * * * They mined copper, which they wrought into implements of war, into ornaments and articles of domestic use. They quarried mica for mirrors and other purposes. They furthermore worked flint and salt mines. Their trade was widespread, extending probably from Lake Superior to the Gulf and possibly to Mexico. They constructed canals. * * * Their defenses were numerous and constructed with reference to strategic principles. * * * There reli-

gion seems to have been attended with the same ceremonies in all parts of their domain."

Quoting from Foster's "Pre-Historic Races" he speaks of a shell bank which "yielded unique specimens of axes of hematite iron ore and glazed pottery." In the second and third chapters, which treat of the antiquity and of the different opinions as to the origin of the ancient Americans, there are a number of striking passages, among them the following. pp 135-165:

"The natives had no definite knowledge of their origin * * * but all admit that they had come from other lands. * * * Echevarria Y. Veitia cites their creation and flood myths, their account of the building of the Tower of Babel and the confusion of tongues, their dispersion upon the face of the earth and the passage of seven families to the new world (to Hue hue Tlapalan) by means of balsas, with which they crossed rivers and arms of the sea. * * * Strong arguments have been used to show that the architecture and sculpture of Central America and Mexico have been influenced from Egypt. * * * There is no evidence furnished by the measurement of crania that an American race, as unique in itself and distinct from the rest of mankind ever existed."

To show that the ancient inhabitants of the land were not Indians, he cites a discovery described by Haywood, of three mummies in a cave on the south side of Cumberland river in Tennessee.

"They were buried in baskets, as Humboldt described some of the Peruvians to bury, and the color of their skin was said to be fair and white and their hair auburn and of a fine texture."

The tradition of Votan among the natives of Chiapas in Central America, is also given as related by Clavigero:

"Votan came from the East from Valum Chivin by the way of Valum Votan from across the sea, by divine command, to apportion the land of the new continent to seven families which he brought with him."

The full account of Votan's doings was kept for many generations, but was discovered by Francisco Nunez de la Vega, Roman Catholic Bishop of Chiapas, who, on the excuse of desiring to keep the people from the idolatry described in the record, burnt it in 1691 with several other relics of the past. But the bigoted Bishop, in a work he published, speaks of Votan's having "seen the Tower of Babel at which each people was given a new language."

The traditions, discoveries, ruins, &c., in Central America, are given with considerable detail, illustrated with many engravings, and references to works in different languages are made. Here is a quotation from Las Casas *Hist. Apologética*. Speaking of the Yucatecos:

"The belief was in a Trinity consisting of Izona, the Father; Bacab the Son, and Echuah the Holy Ghost. The son was born of the Virgin Chibirias and was rejected of men, was scourged and crucified on a tree with cross arms; he descended into the regions of the dead, but rose again on the third day, and finally ascended to heaven."

Mr. Short says, "This story ought to be repudiated without question," but gives no reason why. He translates from Spanish a narrative of the native Mexican writer Ixtlilxochitl,

which he considers the most reliable yet brought to light, and it gives particulars of the origin of the Toltecs, relating particulars of the flood which covered the highest mountains for fifteen cubits, from which certain ones escaped "in a close chest," and after they had multiplied, built a high tower to escape another flood, but their languages were confused and they scattered; the Toltecs—seven men and their wives, who understood the same language—came to this country after enduring great hardships by land and sea, having lived in caves and wandering 104 years before reaching Hue Hue Tlapalan, 520 years after the flood. The "caves" are considered to be the vessels in which they crossed the sea, and Sahagun, in his *Historia General* says that all the natives declare that they came from "seven caves" which he understands to be "the seven ships or galleys in which the first populators of the land came," pp. 238-42.

We would like to make further extracts from this interesting work, but space forbids. However, we will note that tablets of hieroglyphics

are given, with cuts of remarkable inscribed monuments and altars in Mexico, and that it is explained that the ancient inhabitants had books as well as stone records, with leaves written on both sides and "joined together so that when opened two pages were exposed to view." Also that "baptism was considered the means of regeneration in Yucatan, and was practised by the Mexicans as a religious ceremony;" and that they believed in the resurrection of the body and the immortality of the soul, with other doctrines analogous to the Mosiac code.

This work takes up the subjects of crania measurements, word analogies, chronologies, calendar systems, etc., all bearing on the origin of the ancient Americans and all interesting to those who desire reliable information.

Now let the citations we have made be compared with the Book of Mormon, and it will be readily perceived how strongly the traditions of the natives, the discoveries of explorers and the silent but expressive monumental, architectural, human and other remains testify to and bear out the revelations contained in the sacred records of Ether and Moroni. The two grand epochs of ancient American history are the Jaredite colonization and the Nephite. The first came in eight barges, shortly after the dispersion at Babel, and spread over the whole land northward, and after several centuries of prosperity, became extinct through wickedness and civil strife. Their civilization, religion, rise and decline are given in the book of Ether, in which we read that "they did cast up mighty heaps of earth to get ore." The Nephite colony came from Palestine in the days of King Zedekiah, and crossed the sea in a vessel which they built. Their history is given with greater detail than that of the Jaredites with their division into two peoples, their travels, religion, the visit of the Savior after his resurrection, and the final destruction of the white Nephites by the dark skinned Lamanites, whose descendants are the present American Indians. The ruined cities and the remains of the early civilization described in works like that from which we have quoted, are all corroborative of the Book of Mormon, and that precious record, brought forth from the dust by the power of God, is the only key by which the mystery of American antiquities can be unlocked. It is true and simple, and while unfolding the curtain of the past, is a guide for the present and a prophecy of the future, and contains the word of the Lord to Jew and Gentile. "Whoso readeth let him understand."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Hundreds per day of the peasantry in some of the Russian provinces are dying for want of food. The granaries in many districts are empty, and pestilence as usual follows the famine.

A noted astrologer in New York has cast the horoscope of the presidential candidates and conventions, and gives the nomination to John Sherman. He didn't consider it necessary to name the democratic nominee. According to astral guesswork, John Sherman will be the next President of the United States.

Some people's idea of communism in this country are the same as the French farmer's. A friend explained to him that, "If all the money owned in France were to be put together and equally divided your share would only be 505 francs, 35 centimes." "Well," says the farmer, "that with what I have already wouldn't be so bad."

It is said that the exports of grain from Russia to other European countries during the months of January and February, this year, were over 8,802,000 bushels less than in the corresponding months last year, showing quite clearly that England, who has heretofore drawn a large amount of her supplies from the Russian provinces, must in the future, as now, look to this country for her supply of breadstuffs.

Here is the condensed history of nine-tenths of the poor creatures who, led astray from virtue's path, join the ranks of fallen women in "Christian" cities; it is penned by a leading physician: "Four or five years of high living, luxury and dissipation: two or three years of abject poverty and intemperance; a year or two of agony and suffering in the charity wards of the City Hospital,

and a final resting place on the dissecting table of a medical college."

The destructive cyclones which have recently caused so much devastation in the East were very terrible in their effects but are mere squalls when compared with Indian wind storms. The most destructive known in history was in Bengal, in October, 1876, when 215,000 persons were killed by the wind or drowned in a wave which submerged three islands. In the same country in 1864 a cyclone caused the death of 50,000 people. The cyclone at Richmond, Missouri, in June, 1878, killed 100 persons, and is believed to be the most destructive that has swept the United States.

The United States Patent Office on March 1st abolished the rule requiring models of inventions to accompany applications for Letters Patent. The examiners will hereafter depend solely on the drawings in making up their decision. Where they are unable, owing to the intricacy of the invention, to decide a knotty point, they are empowered to call upon the inventor for a model, but, it is estimated, this will not be necessary oftener than once in a thousand cases. This will be a great saving to the inventor, and is satisfactory to patent attorneys, but we question whether model makers will be so well satisfied.

Considerable quantities of vinegar are made from artificial sugar, or glucose, made from refuse starch, sawdust, cotton rags. Vinegar thus made contains considerable quantities of sulphuric acid, and hence it may be detected by the same test given for that which has been directly adulterated with the acid, which is as follows: "Purchase at the drug store a dram of chloride of barium, or muriate of baryta, as it is commonly called. Dissolve in as small a quantity of water as will completely dissolve it. If the solution is not perfectly clear allow it to settle. Put a tablespoonful of the vinegar in a wine glass, and add one or two teaspoonfuls of the clear solution. If there is any sulphuric acid present, a white powder will soon make its appearance at the bottom and on the sides of the glass."

Correspondence.

MINERSVILLE, April 26, 1880.

Editors Deseret News:

Last Saturday night, our School Literary Class held a very interesting public meeting in the meeting-house. A synopsis of the exercises may not be without interest to some of your readers.

After the audience was called to order, prayer, roll call, which was answered by sentiment, and reading of previous minutes, Brother A. B. Thompson opened the programme with an instructive and spirited address on the "power and effect of education." Then followed essays, songs, recitations, concluding with "Our Student's Guide," a manuscript paper devoted to the interests of the school, local news, etc. It was read by the editors, Misses Mary E. Stoddard and Ida M. Rollins.

Our County School Superintendent and Brother Wm. Baker, both of the Stake Presidency of the Y. M. M. I. Associations, were present, and addressed the meeting a short time. The following is from the editorial in the "Guide."

"It seems that we are destined to have only three months' schooling a year. We think that people who have been deprived of educational advantages as this community has, when they have a good school teacher would try to keep him. Now we have a teacher who takes an interest in the education of the young, desires to do everything in his power for their welfare—more than any we have previously had. Our teacher leaves town next week. We (the pupils) are sorry to be deprived of his association, but join in bidding him farewell, wishing him prosperity, success, and may the blessing of God attend him, is our humble prayer."

Preparations are being made here for the celebration of May Day. The weather is now beginning to look as though we will soon have spring. Sister McKnight, our Bishop's wife, who has for six months past been confined to her bed with dropsy, is now slowly on the improve. Willie Goodman, who, it will be remembered, was shot on St. Patrick's Day, is progressing nicely. The Co-op. is moving into a new store.

Respectfully yours,

PUPIL.

Missionary Work in Australia.

WALKER STREET,
Bedfern, Sidney,
March 20, 1880.

Editors Deseret News:

Since last writing you, I have traveled in various directions in the colony of New South Wales preaching the gospel wherever opportunity presented itself. The people of this colony are not very liberal in offering places to preach in I have done most of my preaching out of doors and often I have found it hard work to get a congregation. I generally go from house to house distributing tracts and inviting the people to come out and I would tell them of the principles of life and salvation. I find it hard work traveling on foot in this semi-tropical climate in the best of weather and in the summer, it is next to impossible; in some portions of the country districts the heat ranges from 105° to 120° in the shade; which is almost too warm to travel.

Elder I. F. Speight, the President of the Sydney branch, and myself, visited Bathurst 150 miles from Sydney by railroad. The railroad traveling in this country is not so pleasant and comfortable as in America. The railroads all belong to the government; the charges are much lower than in America (two and three cents a mile). We arrived there in the morning nearly frozen, having crossed over the Blue Mountains, which have derived their name from a blue mist that is always on the mountains. We viewed one of the finest pieces of railroad engineering we ever saw; it is called the zig zag, the only way the road could be taken over the mountains. There is some beautiful scenery on this route, it extends as far as Orange, 192 miles from Sydney.

Bathurst contains somewhere about 10,000 inhabitants. We had to walk through the town till the people stirred about. We found a Mr. Morrison, who kindly entertained us and introduced us to his employer, a Mr. Hill, who showed us considerable kindness and referred us to the mayor of the town, who let us have the Town Hall by paying five shillings for it. You cannot get a place to preach in here without paying for it; they are all for money, money. We advertised our meeting in the morning papers and had a good attendance. Brother Speight discoursed for an hour and fifteen minutes upon the first principles of the gospel, in a very plain and lucid manner. I followed bearing testimony that Joseph Smith was a prophet called of God, that his kingdom was established on the earth never more to be thrown down or given to another people. They listened very attentively to us till we were through talking, when they commenced asking questions on every hand. I never felt better in my life, and seemed able to answer any question they might put, but they became very clamorous and we had to quit. A Mr. Bags kindly took us to his house and entertained us, gave us money to pay our hotel bill. We staid in Bathurst nearly a week, made a few friends, and two gentlemen paid our fare to Sidney.

I have since that visited the south coast towns of the colony, Campbelltown, Apping, Bulli, Womona, Wolongong, Shellharborne and Kiama, and preached in these towns out of doors, and in making a second trip on this round I baptized a man and his wife and blessed their two children; and they have the spirit of gathering. I was treated very kindly and my way opened up before me. My feet were badly blistered. Since then I have confined my labors to Sidney and surrounding suburbs, but with no apparent results. The convict element is greatly mixed up with the people, with a good percentage of apostate "Mormons" from the old country, and the spirit of lust in all its varied forms is rampant in these towns to an awful extent. The chief diet of the people, more especially in the country districts, is meat, tea and damper. The Chinese raise nearly all the vegetables.

I remain yours in Christ,

F. J. MAY.

FARM FOR SALE.

ONE FARM OF 160 ACRES IN DEWEYVILLE, Box Elder Co., Utah, on U. N. R. R., for sale very cheap. For terms, apply to S. Peterson of said place.

AT THE FRONT

KING BAKING POWDER. NONE BETTER. None Stronger. Consumers practice economy by using it. Ask your grocery men for it. Merchant Mills Spices are strictly pure. Manufactured by JEWETT & SHERMAN CO., wily Milwaukee