

# Utah and Idaho Party Visits an Ancient City and Pyramids of Sun and Moon



THE SITE OF AN ANCIENT MEXICAN CITY.

ON THE PYRAMID OF THE MOON.

PYRAMID OF GREAT HISTORICAL INTEREST.

On the morning of June 16 last the following company left the City of Mexico for the Mexican railway ("The queen's own") for San Juan Totonacapan, a distance of about 27 miles easterly: Messrs. E. S. Kimball of Blackfoot, Ida.; H. S. Harris, Chihuahua, Mexico; W. B. Trecksen, Murray, Utah; and L. C. Thoresen, Logan, Utah, our object being the inspection of a "City of the Dead" and "The Pyramids of the Sun" and "The Moon."

After passing through a level fertile agricultural section of the great valley of Mexico, and over a low divide, the great Pyramid of the Sun is seen in the distance, and within an hour from the time of starting, we are at the little station, San Juan. Immediately we started out upon the great monument, about three miles north-westerly from the station. However, within less than one mile we ascertained that we were passing through and over an ancient city of vast magnitude, partially buried. In every direction were seen mounds, different sizes, which upon investigation proved to be buildings, once the abode of man, but abandoned for many generations past, and now only a mound, or pile of stone, adobe and mortar, covered with soil and vegetation.

This City of the Dead has evidently been about five miles square, with the

Pyramid of the Sun in the center, the Pyramid of the Moon in the northern part and the great temple in the southern part. The latter was soon reached, and it is a marvel to behold. The temple and annexes cover about 16 or 12 square acres. The walls around it appear to be buildings, facing inward, about 20 feet high, and 200 feet wide, with flat roof, covered with layers of lime mortar, or cement, and now with soil, in the main, and the present occupants the peons are raising maize; thereon, from which pulque is obtained. These cement roofs and stone and concrete walls, however, are exposed in many places. The courses of these walls, and in fact everything about these ruins, were laid out according to the cardinal points of the socket compass we carried. On the north, south, east and west sides of these wall-buildings, are three towers, respectively, built on and rising some 20 feet higher than the flat roof of the walls, with indications of entrances under them. Hence the temple lot, or "ciudadela" (citadel) so called by the natives, has 12 gates and 12 towers, three on each side, and a perfect square, very much after the pattern of the New Jerusalem as described in the Bible. The temple stands in the center of this square, and is much higher than its surroundings, and all covered with soil and vegetation except where some expositions have been made.

To the west of the ciudadela is Calle

de los Muertos (Street of the Dead), running due north and south, 22 meters wide with dwellings on both sides through the city, the entrances, walls and roofs of which are only exposed in a few places, but the mounds of decayed building material are very distinct.

As yet no entrance to the Sun has been discovered, hence its interior and contents are still unknown. It appears, however, that the main entrance is on the west side, toward the Street of the Dead, where some annexes attached to it are being uncovered, which appear to be protections, or guardhouses, to this supposed entrance. (See cut.) Here are two passages along the base of the pyramid, from opposite directions, through these annexes, reaching two large stairs, ascending to the second story of the pyramid, where they meet and are then continued up half way into the second story by a single broad staircase to a large indentation, apparently the main entrance.

There are six terraces, floors or stories of the Sun, including the flat top, leaving a four meter walk, or balcony between the top of the lower story and the base of the next.

We ascended to the top of the Sun. The view was magnificent and the inspiration wonderful. The altar and cross erected here by the Spaniards nearly 400 years ago, appear modern in comparison with its surroundings.

Who built this great Pyramid of the Sun and its companion, the Moon, and for what purposes were they built?

Who built and inhabited that City of the Dead? These are questions that cannot be answered by the science and learning of the age, but the pages of the Book of Mormon give a valuable light upon this subject. Read it and be convinced.

Space will not permit enumerating the inspirations and meditations that came to our minds while resting on the summit of this, the greatest monument, so far discovered erected by the ancient inhabitants of America; but suffice it to say that to a Latter-day Saint, who seeks after this mode of communication, it is an extraordinary location!

We again descended to the Street of the Dead and passed north occasionally, entering the private grounds of these ancients to examine their terraces, stairs and buildings. These were constructed of stone, cut and rough, local and imported, concrete, and adobe, all hand finished inside and outside with a lime, or cement mortar, the same as the covering of the roofs and the streets.

THE PYRAMID OF THE MOON.

Directly in front of "The Moon," the "Calle de los Muertos" opens into a circular "patio" surrounding which are 12 buildings (mounds) with a circular elevation in the center; and by the way, we also found 12 steps in the stairs of the main entrance to the smaller temples or dwelling. Now,

whether these sets of twelve represent the twelve tribes of Israel or the twelve Apostles of the Lamb, both or neither, we leave for the reader to solve; but the twelve are there!

We ascended "The Pyramid of the Moon," which is now 511 feet by 425 feet five inches at the base and 150 feet and 11 inches high, to a flat top 20 feet square. Like its companion, time has reduced it considerably from its original dimensions. Near the center of its southern slope an incline entrance has been made into its interior. This incline first passes through a layer of lava rock laid in lime mortar; secondly, a layer of concrete and lime-stone; and the center is constructed of large adobe or concrete blocks, quite soft, laid in mortar.

In the center of "The Moon" we found a chamber about 12 feet square, extending perpendicularly through the structure. This chamber we could not explore for want of light, ropes, etc., and our government guide could not furnish us any information concerning its depth, height, contents, etc.

We returned to the surface and climbed to the top of "The Moon." Here we also found the Spanish altar and cross, and several Mexican mummies offering to sell us obsidian arrow-spikes, knives, spear heads, pottery, masks, vases, small idols, etc., all genuine ancient relics with which the ground here is literally strewn, and we all made purchases. We took another extended sur-

vey of the Valley of Teotihuacan and especially our immediate vicinity "The City of the Dead" and concluded that the magnitude of this ancient city, its pyramids, temples, buildings, streets, etc., exceed anything yet discovered on this continent, or, perhaps, in the world, of equal antiquity; for it is evident that their foundations were laid long before the advent of the ancient Teotecs, who were followed by the Aztecs, and certainly more than 2,000 years ago.

The number of wars and thousands of human beings slain in battle in and about this "City of the Dead" can only be surmised by the innumerable obsidian spear and arrow heads and other remnants of utensils of war found everywhere in the soil for miles around.

We were informed that in some of the ancient buildings, "cheats of cut stone," had been found, containing human bones and a variety of relics; also that the largest idol in the Mexican national museum was found near the pyramid of "The Moon."

The origin, growth, glory, and final destruction of this ancient race will all be revealed in the Lord's due time, when the unbridged records of the aborigines of this continent, as mentioned in the Book of Mormon, (Chapters 5 and 6) B. of M., are brought forth, which all lovers of truth are anxiously awaiting.

L. C. THORESEN.

## ABOUT GRAND RAPIDS. THE WORLD'S FURNITURE CITY AND ITS ANNUAL FAIRS.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

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GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—Grand Rapids is the furniture center of the world. It picks its lumber from every forest and sends it out all over the United States and to Europe, South America, Africa and Australia, in the shape of beds, tables, chairs and office furniture. There are, at this writing, lumber camps in Mexico and Central America chopping out mahogany for these factories; agents are stationed at Liverpool to buy up the best timber brought in from South America and Africa for Grand Rapids, and there is scarcely a hardwood section noted for its fine lumber which is tributary to this point. During my stay at Panama last year I found that Grand Rapids men had taken out concessions for the best mahogany on the Isthmus. I saw other Grand Rapids buyers in Cuba snapping up the best mahogany in that island, and during a recent foreign tour I discovered an agency for Grand Rapids office furniture in every European capital.

A GREAT FURNITURE FAIR.

Indeed, this is one of the queer commercial centers of the globe and is different from any other in that it seems to have monopolized its specialty. It is more like one of the great fair cities of medieval times, at which the merchants and buyers from all over Europe would come, and also a book fair, which is largely attended. In the middle ages nearly all the trading of England was done at fairs, and the same was true of France, Germany and Italy. The largest commercial fair of the world today is at Nizhny Novgorod, in Russia. It lasts for about a month, or six weeks, and brings together buyers from western Asia and Europe.

The daily attendance at that fair numbers 200,000, and it is estimated that \$200,000,000 change hands in its annual sessions. Everything is at wholesale and the single purchases are large.

The furniture fairs at Grand Rapids are held twice a year, and the sales then run up into the millions. Exposition buildings have been constructed for them, and one of these is so large that its floors cover 15 acres. Practically all the goods sold are from orders given at the fairs, and the factories spend large sums in preparing their exhibits. A single firm may spend \$50,000 upon its samples, and all goods will be sold from the sample thus shown.

BUYERS FROM EVERYWHERE.

The furniture sold here is not confined to Grand Rapids. The factories in other parts of the country rent space and send in samples so that the buyer has the furniture of the United States to choose from.

The buyers come from everywhere, and they number hundreds. Many are representatives of wholesale houses, many purchase for department stores, and a few bring their families with them, making this the vacation town of the year, and at such times the Grand Rapids hotels are full even to the roofs.

How our Furniture is Made and Sold—\$50,000 in Samples—Something About William Alden Smith, who may be Michigan's Next United States Senator—How a Newsboy Came to Congress and Thereby got an Education—His Interview with the Kaiser—Stories of Senator Russel A. Alger, who is About to Retire.

our better class homes throughout the country.

A large part of the work of this establishment was done in mahogany. The wood is brought here in logs and sawed into boards. The boards are put away in kilns and roasted until every bit of moisture has gone out of them. They are then left under cover for a time in order to absorb enough moisture to be easily worked, and are then run through machine after machine to be trimmed and polished for furniture making. A great deal of the manufacture is by hand and many of the laborers receive high wages.

Without attempting to give the process in detail, I will mention one or

two odd things I saw as I went through the works.

FINE FURNITURE VENEERED.

One was that the finest furniture of today is veneered. We like to think that our mahogany is solid and we often talk of our solid mahogany dining tables, sideboards and bed room sets. The truth is there is mighty little such stuff in the markets and the veneered furniture is far more beautiful than any solid article could be. The reason is that in veneering a section of wood which has a beautiful grain can be so cut up into sheets that it will cover a large space. The sheets are just about as thick as one's big toe nail, but one log may make several hundred of them and when they are properly glued to cheaper woods the two are as solid as though they had grown together. The machinery here is such that skins of this fine wood can be fitted to furniture of every shape. It can be passed around a column or follow the curves of an arm chair or the scroll-like roll of a bedstead. The

of Mr. Smith's tour of Europe last year came up, and I asked him as to his audience with the emperor of Germany, saying that it was a strange thing for an ex-newsboy to be talking familiarly with one of the chief rulers of the world. I mentioned an interview which I once had with the late John Sherman in which he told me that when he was presented to French emperor, Louis Napoleon, he wore a pair of velvet-knee breeches and I asked, William Alden how he was dressed.

"I wore the plain black of an American citizen," was the reply, "and my dress was conspicuous only by its simplicity. My audience took place at the palace, and I was the only one of the party present who was not in uniform. All the others were diplomats or army officers, and they wore gold braid and epaulettes. I had no idea that I should be presented, and I suppose I was indebted to Baron Sternberg, whom I knew as German ambassador at Washington, for my audience. I only know that when I arrived in Berlin I received an invitation that the kaiser would be glad to see me."

"Did you have any conversation with his majesty?" I asked.

"Yes. He talked with me for about 20 minutes. In meeting his own people he had used more or less ceremony and he seemed to me rather stiff than otherwise. When my turn came to be presented, however, he greeted me just as any gentleman would have greeted another in our country. He thrust out his hand, I took it and we shook, and his majesty seemed to put himself on the same level with me. In the talk which followed he was animated and interesting. We each said nice things to the other, and his majesty proposed a number of subjects common to the two nations. One of these was the tariff. He referred to our protective duties and said that he did not like them on the ground that they prevented the increase of German trade. I replied that the Americans did not like the German regulations for the same reason. Thereupon his majesty laughed. I wish to say that I was impressed with the force of character which shines out in every act of the kaiser, and also by his evident friendship for the United States."

If William Alden Smith is elected, the United States senate, a place which has long been held by noted men. Zach Chandler kept it in the limelight of publicity for many years. Thomas M. Palmer did likewise, and both McMillan and Alger were senators of national influence.

I understand that Gen. Alger is by

no means well and that he is anxious to rest. He is now over 70 and his work has been continuous for almost 60 years.

FROM LOG CABIN TO THE SENATE

Indeed, I doubt whether there is a man in public life who had as hard a boyhood as that of the senator from Michigan. Alger's father was a half-breed, his mother was the daughter of a half-breed, and he was born in a log cabin. When he was about 11 years of age his father died, and prior to that both father and mother lay sick in the same bed in the log hut, with four little children about and but little to eat. They both died within a short time of each other, and at the age of 12 the future senator was the main prop against the cabin door which kept the wolf of hunger out. He once told me of his struggles at that time. He worked for a neighbor, receiving as wages three teacups of flour a day, and this, mixed with the milk from the family cow, formed the food of himself and sisters. There was a little corn in the house, and one day young Russel shelled a bag of this and carried it on his back to a mill nine miles away and traded it for meat. He walked 18 miles for that meat, and says he cannot remember that he felt especially tired upon his return.

It was shortly after that that young Alger got homes for his younger brother and sister in some neighboring families, and then went out to work as a farmer's hand, taking three months off for schooling each winter. His wages during the first two years ranged from \$4 to \$6 per month, and after he had worked six years he received \$15 a month, which, he says, was big wages for farmers in those days. All this time the senator went to school a part of the year, and studied in the meanwhile. Later on he taught school and

then read law, and later still went to Michigan and got into the lumber business, in which, after some financial disasters, he finally became established and gradually amassed a fortune. He is largely interested in lumber today and has, in addition, other investments which make him one of the wealthiest men of this state.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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year by year. In 1890 Grand Rapids had about 40,000 inhabitants. It has today more than 100,000, and its houses and factories are scattered over seventeen square miles. It has 16 steam railroads and its tramways, operated by electricity, have 50 miles of track. The public works of Grand Rapids are worth almost \$2,000,000, and its clearing house business is more than \$100,000,000 per annum.

Grand Rapids has 532 factories, employing over 20,000 hands, with a daily pay roll of over \$50,000. The most of these are devoted to furniture, and some of them are enormous.

IN A BIG FURNITURE FACTORY.

During my stay I have gone through one of the largest, which makes the finest beds, china closets, dining tables and sideboards. The factory turns out chamber suites which cost as much as \$2,500, and it has made dining tables worth close to \$1,000. The most of the furniture is, of course, much cheaper, but all is of the highest grade, and such as you will find in



WILLIAM ALDER SMITH, From a Photograph Given to Frank G. Carpenter for the Deseret News.

WILLIAM ALDER SMITH, who may be Michigan's next United States Senator, is shown in a photograph given to Frank G. Carpenter for the Deseret News.

WILLIAM ALDEN AND THE KAISER.

As we chatted together, the subject

THE ORIGINAL.

Foley & Co., Chicago, originated Honey and Tar as a throat and lung remedy and on account of the great merit and popularity of Foley's Honey and Tar imitations are offered for the genuine. These worthless imitations have similar sounding names. Beware of them. The genuine Foley's Honey and Tar is in a yellow package. Ask for it and refuse any substitute. It is the best remedy for coughs and colds. For sale by F. J. Hill Drug Co.

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SEPT 15th.

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