

# ANCIENT VIRGINIA GRAVES.

Other Evidence of the Civilization Spoken of in the Book of Mormon.

RED BANK, Halifax Co., Va., Jan. 25th, 1896.  
To the Editor:

No snow as yet here. The weather warm and delightful.

That there are still great American antiquities to be discovered, is made manifest in a pleasant conversation with Colonel Webster, of South Boston, of this country, who is an old veteran and one of Virginia's highest honor. On the evening of the 21st of December 1895, Elder N. W. Kimball and myself called on the Colonel and entered into a conversation regarding the graves. Mainmuck, Kentucky, Murray, Virginia, and the colonies of the National Park, etc. "Well," said Colonel Webster, "there is a strange thing to me right here in our country on the Dan River. I had walked over the ground hundreds of times, when trees of large size were growing there, and after this the land was cleared and became a corn field. Scattered about there and a half mile from South Boston and one half mile from Wolf Trap depot, on the north side of Dan river, was a saw mill that I built myself. The man who owned the mill and land on which it stood built a slide on the side of the river to keep the water from overflowing his land and destroying the crops, which it had done several times. But one day after a heavy rain storm the river rose beyond its bounds, overflowed the slide, and cut a large channel from twelve to twenty feet deep. At the bottom of the wash, after the water had subsided, could be seen graves of hundreds of bodies that were buried, hundreds, perhaps thousands of years ago, and covered deeper and deeper by the sediment of the river till they were from twelve to twenty feet deep. The river was lined with houses for miles, and what is still more curious is that there were pieces of cut glass which show to me that there must have been a civil and people here some time. I have searched the history of Virginia through and through and can find no history of a battle along the Dan river."

I observed, "That is another evidence or proof in favor of a book we have called the Book of Mormon, which purports to be a history of a people who left Jerusalem six hundred years B. C., and came to this land by the direction of the Lord."

"I know nothing of that," said the Colonel, "but I know what I have told you, and I have several relics from the site now, but most of them have been carried away by the people."

"Yes," said the wife, "I have been there several times myself and many of the people went to see the same pieces of glass showed that spectacles were used by the people, also pieces of crockery etc."

"How long since that happened?"

"About twenty-eight or thirty years ago," said the Colonel. "There used to be a tradition among the Indians that a treasure of gold was buried near the Dan river. An Indian that lived here for some time called me to one side and told me the reason he was older. He said his father sent him here to find a treasure, which was buried in a hill just south of this river between Housat and the big creek, now called Aaron's arc."

This again shows ancient civilization on this continent. The hill spoken of is a very high one, on which there are many diggings which go to prove that much searching has been done. There are among the many evidences which can be produced to show from history that there once was a highly civilized people that inhabited this continent before its discovery by Columbus. The account of cities, the ruins which can be found in Spain and Central America, the mounds and ruins of old, all go to prove a former civilization met by an advanced, but a degenerate and highly civilized people, in digging a well in Cincinnati (Ohio), a gentleman found the stump of a tree three feet across the top some eighty or ninety feet below the surface of the ground. The stump had visible marks of an axe, and showed that on iron tool had cut away on the top of the same, thus demonstrating that civilization had once existed here. In the southern part of North America just north of the isthmus of Panama, are found the ruins of a city which at one time was of vast magnificence, the most notable building being placed on an eminence in the central part of the city. Parley P. Pratt in his Voice of Warning calls this city "Ocotlan," (see page 195) All this has come to light since the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and here it is out in all its statements, of a people who once lived here and were destroyed by their enemies. The Book of Mormon teaches us that a people left Jerusalem six hundred years B. C., being led by the power of God to a land promised to Jacob when he said to Joseph, "The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills." (Gen. 49:25) There they received the blessings of God until they became a mighty people. They were divided into two classes, the Nephites and Lamanites, the former the followers of Nephi, a Prophet of God, and the latter the followers of Laman who rebelled against God and His people. As long as the Nephites were obedient, their enemies, the Lamanites, had no power over them. But there came a time when they were disobedient and the enemy swept them from the land, and only the Lamanites remained to tell the story when Columbus discovered America in 1492.

When the glorious light of truth broke forth, and the history of this nation was brought to light by the wisdom of the Lord, we find that Satan and all his hosts set to work to overthrow what would be in later years a blessing to the people of God. Now in a way unknown to man's wisdom, which is foolishness in the sight of God, (1 Cor. 1:19) man is

from time to time, a graving with the teachings of that "unstable production of Joseph Smith," as they call it the Book of Mormon. Its teachings are being spread through the nations of the earth, and accepted by some as being one of the most scientific productions ever known, others of course pass a different judgment upon it, but God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the wisdom of the wise, as it is again written, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast Thou, O Lord, created strength because of thine enemies, that their mightiest will the enemy and the avenger." (Psalm 124)

Our labor as missionaries of truth in proclaiming the revealed Gospel unto the people of this nation of the Lord's vineyard, gives us much pleasure and much good is being done. Of late we have been laboring in Halifax Co., where we are visiting from house to house that we may aid in building the Kingdom of Christ. "And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations and they shall be saved." (Mark 16:15) For a river, which many times the teachings of the word of the Lord, as it is brought to their doors by the servants of God, those who are honest in heart are the ones who know the voice of the Gospel and heed its teachings, and they are being gathered in. "Sow of a city and two of a family," as has the Lord in His wisdom seen fit. We are working diligently for the spread of truth. And though we are persecuted and reviled for Christ's name's sake, we will reap our reward at some future time.

Yours respectfully,  
N. W. KIMBALL, JR.

## A ROMANTIC GIRL.

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by the people. The Priesthood and all other meetings are well sustained by old and young and eagerly sought after.

A few weeks concerning our winter snow covered the ground on the 15th of December last and there has been sleighing since we have seen snow. Since the 15th of December last we have seen two feet of snow. About the 15th of January it began to thaw for several days, which diminished the sleighing somewhat.

January has been a lovely month here, with snow now and then clear days.

On the 15th and 16th will be our quarterly conference.

Ever praying for the welfare of Zion and all her inhabitants, I remain yours in the Gospel of peace.

WILLIAM FEAD

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and "what else will bring this to his notice. You know, Helen, I don't object to the boy, if you love him, though I am not sure why you are marrying a pauper, and I'm not going to let you do it without my consent. If you'll persuade him to be sensible now."

"You do not know your daughter, etc," said Helen, her hands trembling with the great emotion that was in her heart. "I am not going to let you do it without my consent. If you'll persuade him to be sensible now."

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