

admonitions. He made particular mention of earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, diseases, and various calamities that should befall the American continent, because of its abominations and rejection of God's counsels; and these prophecies are daily fulfilling before the eyes of the world.

Joseph, like his brethren before him, for teaching righteous principles, suffered every kind of cruelty which his ungodly persecutors could invent, and closed his earthly career in martyrdom. His memory should ever be dear to the people of God, on account of the great good he accomplished. Of that good we daily partake; and it should often be an enquiry with us, whether we fully appreciate his worth and the blessings which his labours have conferred upon us.

To satisfy ourselves of this fact, we need only refer to his counsels and the revelations given through him, and see if our walk, conversation, and actions are in accordance with them. The publications of the Church of Christ, which contain the instructions referred to, are as worthy of our perusal now as they ever were. In fact, the Saint who will ponder over the Book of Covenants and the History of Joseph, &c., will find that many of the prophecies contained therein are being fulfilled daily. This should strengthen the faith of the Saints, and help to assure them that not a jot or tittle

of God's words will fail of being fulfilled in due time.

But whilst we are doing this, it is also necessary that we should give due heed to and faithfully observe the counsels that come through the medium of Joseph's successors. The discourses of Brigham and the Apostles should be carefully studied by the Saints; and we should daily examine ourselves to see if our lives are in accordance with their instructions. If not, we are not in the path of duty, and consequently are in the path of danger. And although it is good to look to a high source for counsel, it is at the same time necessary that all Saints should seek the advice of those more immediately over them. Pastors should follow the counsels of those above them, Conference Presidents their Pastors, and Travelling Elders and Branch Presidents their superiors. The same order should also be observed throughout the Church. This will create unity; and, as a result, the Church will possess strength enough to bind the Devil and overcome his power and influence.

Let the Saints do right, and observe the counsels of their leaders. Then will power and blessings descend upon them from on high. As the effects of disobedience have been evil, the effect of obedience will be good. It will perfect mankind and make the earth a Paradise.

THE LONG-LOST RECORDS.

In a letter lately published in the *Liverpool Daily Post*, written by the Rev. Dr. Baylee, Principal of St. Aidan's College, in reply to a "geological antagonist," who requests his "opinion of an alleged 'antediluvian well' discovered in White-side county, near Chicago," he says:—

"There appears to me no antecedent reason why we should not discover antediluvian architectural remains. . . . With regard, however, to the well referred to, I cannot see any good ground for assigning to it any very remote antiquity. In Ireland, human residences have been discovered many feet under the surface of bogs, which have certainly belonged to historic times. The American well was under a stratum 'of black vegetable soil.' One portion of the wall is broken off, and about an equal quantity of stones found at the bottom of

the well. The well was full of black vegetable soil and remains of cedar. The account is too meagre to afford materials for any decisive opinion; but it appears to me most probable that there was just such an occurrence as so often takes place in Ireland—a mass of soil carried by the force of water from one place to another. There remains, however, the very interesting question—Who dug the well? This is only part of the important inquiry into the aborigines of America. That they were a post-diluvian race is abundantly proved by the Mexican remains. Farther than that is still mere conjecture. Time will probably yet disclose to us her long lost records in that interesting continent."

We agree with the Rev. author of the foregoing, that there is no apparent reason "why we should not discover ante-

diluvian architectural remains;" and, like him, we would say that, "with regard, however, to the well referred to," we "cannot see any good ground for assigning to it any very remote antiquity." The fact of the well and its stone wall having been found "under a stratum of black vegetable soil," and itself "full of" the same kind of soil, is, we think, sufficient evidence to warrant the conclusion that it, like the "human residences" discovered under the bogs of Ireland, "belonged to historic times" of *post-diluvian* date; the presence of such kind of soil in the well as was found above and around it being, of course, easily accounted for upon the supposition of "just such an occurrence" as the one mentioned as "most probable,"—namely, "a mass of soil carried by the force of water from one place to another."

Although, then, "the account" alluded to may in itself be "too meagre to afford materials for any decisive opinion" as to the *particular period* of the construction of the well, it is, we think, sufficiently conclusive upon the point arrived at by the Dr.,—namely, that it was not of *antediluvian* origin. Thus, although "the very interesting question, *Who dug the well?*" cannot be fully settled by any process of reasoning based upon the "meagre" account of the discovery lately made, it appears sufficiently evident that it was "dug" by a *post-diluvian* people of no "very remote antiquity."

This leads to "the important inquiry into the aborigines of America."

The Dr. considers that the fact that "they were a *post-diluvian* race is abundantly proved by the Mexican remains;" but that "farther than that is still mere conjecture."

That the "aborigines" of the present *continent* of so-called "America" (we say "continent" advisedly,) "were a *post-diluvian* race," is not only "abundantly proved by the Mexican remains," but is also fully confirmed by other discoveries and facts which have from time to time been published, and which we purpose laying before our readers in a regular and connected form in future numbers of the *Star*. They will then be in a better position, perhaps, to judge of the correctness or incorrectness of Dr. Baylee's supposition, that "farther than that is still mere conjecture."

The Doctor, however, rounds off his

letter with the following significant hint:—"Time will probably yet disclose to us her LONG-LOST RECORDS in that interesting continent."

We here bear our humble testimony to the fact that those "*long-lost records*" have already been disclosed to us. Dr. Baylee may not be inclined to receive our testimony; but his doubt or rejection of it cannot in the least affect its truth. We tell him in all sober seriousness, and with a full consciousness of the sacred importance and weighty responsibility which such testimony must involve, that the historic records of ancient America—of which the BOOK OF MORMON is an abridged compilation—have in these latter days been brought forth from their long concealment by angelic ministration, and translated into the English tongue by that world-despised but heaven-inspired man of God, Joseph Smith.

From that volume of ancient records we learn that at the period of the building of the Great Tower in the city of Babel, a colony of persons (consisting of Jared and his brother Moriancumer, with their families, and also some of their friends, with their families,) migrated thence to the land now called America, crossing the sea in barges constructed upon a peculiar principle, and taking with them flocks and herds, according to their requirements, and a variety of seeds, &c., for propagation in their new settlement; where, we further learn, they increased and multiplied, and became a great and numerous people. They afterwards, however, degenerated, and at length became extinct.

We likewise learn from this book of ancient records, that at the period of Zedekiah's commencement to reign as king of Judah, another colony (consisting of Lehi and his family, who were Israelites, descendants of Joseph, together with others who accompanied them,) migrated from Jerusalem to the American continent, about six hundred years before Christ, where they multiplied and flourished, and became a mighty people; but were afterwards divided into two great nations—the Nephites and Lamanites,—the latter ultimately overcoming and destroying the former; the present tribes of (miscalled) Indians being the degenerate remnants of the Lamanite race.

The Book of Mormon, then, is an abridged history of the foregoing peoples.

It relates the principal circumstances connected with their migrations, settlement, and progress, their national prosperities and adversities, their troubles, joys, and sorrows, their wars, turmoils, and commotions, and finally, the causes and means of their complete humiliation and downfall.

The fact of the so-called Indians being the direct descendants of the post-diluvian aborigines of America, is corroborated by numerous items of evidence derived from various sources; which, as before stated, we intend shortly to lay before our readers in a regular and connected form; and the fact of the Book of Mormon being a compilation of "the long-lost records" of that ancient people will become more and more confirmed in the mind of every reader of that work, as he examines successively its various pointed and conclusive evidences.

We therefore earnestly recommend all who take an interest in "the important inquiry into the aborigines of America," to study the Book of Mormon with an honest heart and an unbiassed mind; and if, under the sought-for influence of the

Spirit of truth, they do this, they certainly will not fail to acquire clearer conceptions and views of its sacred and inspired character, and to arrive at a conviction of its divine authenticity and truthfulness as a "long-lost" chronicle of the past. They will be, at the same time, at *least* none the *less* prepared to answer the "interesting question, Who dug the well?"

To the fact of the Prophet Joseph's having been in possession of the original hieroglyphic plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated, we have the personal testimony of eleven eye-witnesses, whose certificate signatures, with their declarations, preface the printed volume. These attestations are plain, pointed, and irrefutable; and while we thankfully accept the boon already proffered, and the mass of intelligence thus bestowed, we rejoice in the hope of ere long receiving additional historic treasures; for "*Time will probably yet disclose to us*" still MORE of "*her long-lost records in that interesting continent!*"

PASSING EVENTS.

GENERAL.—The south and west districts of Ireland were visited on the night of Sept. 18th with terrible and fatal floods: the injury and ruin of crops, destruction of various kinds of property, and other disasters, were ominous and appalling in the extreme. A frightful flood occurred on the 10th August in the Upper Indus, by which nearly the whole of the cantonments of Nossher were swept away. Several smart shocks of earthquake have occurred at Simla: they were also felt at Calcutta and Madras. A letter from Candia describes the country to be in a very disturbed state: armed Turks even traverse the capital, shouting "Death to the Christians." A great number of emigrants, provided with artillery, are being sent from Russia to colonise the banks of the Amoor. Fleets are constructing for the troops and sailors who are to form a French establishment on the shores of the Bay of Touraine, in Cochin China. The Gwalior rebels were defeated by General Roberts, with great slaughter, on the 14th August: they numbered 7,000 to 8,000: all their guns and ammunition were captured.

AMERICAN.—Storms passing over Georgia and South Carolina have done serious damage to the rice and cotton crops in those regions. Bad accounts are also received from Alabama. Yellow fever continues to rage fearfully in New Orleans, Charleston, and other places. A disease had broken out among the cattle in Honduras, and great numbers were dying: the deer also were dying off by hundreds. A great fire occurred at St. John's, Newfoundland, on the night of the 17th ult., when numbers of houses and other buildings were totally destroyed. Cholera was still continuing its ravages in Guatemala, the number of deaths averaging 70 per day. A strong party is reported to have been formed at Guatemala to overthrow Carrasa, who has been at the head of affairs there for 15 years. The coloured residents of Nassau have again attempted to fire the town of Belize; but their designs have been frustrated, and a number of the incendiaries captured. Affairs in Mexico are getting worse. Despatches from Fort Defiance state that military companies and a company of spies and guides were ordered to be in readiness in the event of a war with the Indians.