

his wife, one Zoram, who had been a servant to a certain man named Laban, was attached to the party which set out from Jerusalem for a land to which the Lord had promised to lead them by His power. A portion of the family was disobedient, stubborn and rebellious, while others were righteous, seeking to carry out the will of God with great fidelity. Conspicuous among the latter was Nephi, a younger son of Lehi, who was a mighty prophet; and forward among the stirrers of strife and rebellion was Laman, the eldest son.

After many vicissitudes and much adversity, together with numerous evidences of the matchless preserving power of God, the party landed upon the western coast of South America.

In course of time the colony became very numerous. The more righteous and well-disposed were constantly harassed by the wicked conduct of a large and unruly faction. In consequence of the goodness of Nephi, and the turbulence of Laman, the people were in two divisions, the peace-loving being known as Nephites and the sinful as Lamanites. The record of the doings of the people was engraved on plates, made by the hand of Nephi.

By commandment of God the plates were handed down from one generation to another, each man to whom they were confided recording whatever was deemed worthy of note during his lifetime, or rather from the time he received his charge until it was handed over to his successor.

About 400 years after the landing of the colony on the western continent, the Nephites migrated more to the northward, where they fell in with a colony of Jews, who left Jerusalem in the same year that the Jews were led from Palestine into Babylonish captivity. This Jewish colony amalgamated with the Nephites and were known from that time forward by the same general title.

At the time of the crucifixion of the Savior at Jerusalem, those ancient inhabitants of America had, generally speaking, fallen into the practice of great wickedness and gross abominations. Among their conspicuous sins was the stoning and killing of the prophets whom the Lord raised up to teach them and reprove them of their evil doings. At the time the King of Heaven was crucified they were visited by judgments, in the shape of great earthquakes and upheavals of the earth, which distorted and changed the face of nature. Whole cities with their inhabitants were swallowed up in the bowels of the earth and otherwise destroyed. There were also thunders and lightnings and terrific noises and three days of darkness. So great was the destruction wrought by this terrible visitation that only the more righteous were spared alive.

Subsequently the Savior appeared to them in His resurrected body. He called Twelve Apostles and established His Church among the people, healed the sick and did many mighty works. The record of His teachings exhibits the perfection of harmony with those given to His disciples at Jerusalem. But the works He performed on the Western Continent were much more marvelous, because of the superior faith of the Nephites. The account of His personal ministry among the latter, though given in the simplest form of language, is powerfully graphic. It can scarcely be read by a believer in the divine origin of the record without the perusal moving the person to tears. He informed the Nephites, among other important facts, that he had received a command-

ment, from the Father, to pay a visit also to the Lost Ten Tribes, that there might be one fold and one shepherd.

The people, subsequent to the glorious visitation of the Redeemer, lived nearly three hundred years in righteousness and peace. Every man dealt justly with his neighbor and there were no poor in the community. Near the end of that period, however, there began to be divisions and once more there were Nephites and Lamanites. Then followed a succession of fierce and bloody wars, the whole people being fearfully wicked, the Nephite faction becoming extinct.

A prophet by the name of Mormon made an abridgement of the records, in accordance with a commandment of God, that it might be hid up and be brought forth, in the latter-days, for a special purpose. Mormon handed over the synopsis account to his son Moroni, with instructions to finish it, which he did. The latter also wrote, from a translation of certain plates which had been found by his people, a brief sketch of a people called Jaredites, a colony which left the Tower of Babel at the time of the confusion of languages and were led, by the hand of God, to America. After they had grown to be very numerous they were, however, totally destroyed by wars, etc., the Lord suffering them to become extinct because of their great wickedness and abominations. This Jaredite history was engraved by Moroni on the plates of Mormon, and called the Book of Ether, which was the name of the prophet by whom the original record was written. One of the prophets among the Jaredites exercised such mighty faith that he saw and recorded many marvelous things pertaining to this creation. The Prophet Joseph Smith was commanded not to break the seal of the part of the record containing the account of these wonderful things, the people not being sufficiently righteous to receive them. A promise was given, however, that they would be brought forth when the people were sufficiently advanced to be worthy of them. They will without doubt be revealed in due time, but this reminds us that it will likely be at a period when that which has already been given is not treated lightly, by persistent inattention.

The latest date given by the Prophet Moroni is A.D. 420, since which time a period of 1460 years has elapsed. On the 22nd of September, 1827, the plates were delivered to the Prophet Joseph Smith, by the Prophet Moroni, and through the former's instrumentality the portion of the record that he had permission to unseal was translated by the power of God. He was a chosen Prophet, Seer and Revelator of the Most High, having had committed to him, together with the ancient record, the Urim and Thummim. Since the original translation into English, the Book of Mormon has been translated into and published in Welsh, Danish, French, German, Italian, the language of the Sandwich Islanders, and Swedish. It has also been translated into and a portion of it published in the Spanish language.

We bear testimony that it is a genuine record of the ancient inhabitants of the American Continent. Want of time and space renders it at present impracticable to enter, in the present writing, upon an elaboration of the object of its being brought to the light in these latter-days. The same reason causes us to refrain from touching upon the voluminous internal and external evidences of its being what it is, by the Latter-day Saints, claimed to be. To

us it is one of the most instructive and interesting histories offered for the perusal and consideration of the people.

WELSH CONFERENCE.—A Conference will be held in the Railway Inn Hall, opposite the Taff Vale Old Station, Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, on Sunday, February 1st, 1880. Services will commence at 11 a.m., and 2 and 6 p.m.

President Budge and a number of other elders from Utah will be present.

ABSTRACT OF CORRESPONDENCE.

NORWICH CONFERENCE.—President H. Walsh informs us, by letter, dated Jan. 5th, that three very interesting meetings were held at Wymondham on the previous day. The sisters of the branch were organized into a society for the delivering of tracts, that the Gospel might, in this way, be offered to the inmates of every house.

In company with Brother Reece, President Walsh visited Higham, where there is a new branch of the Church (mostly composed of new members), organized last Fall. At the close of a meeting held there several persons signified a desire to be baptized, Elder Reece promising to attend to the administration of that ordinance next time he visited that part.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTER FROM SALT LAKE CITY.

Salt Lake City, Utah,
December 21st, 1879.

President Wm. Budge.

Dear Brother,— Since my return home I have enjoyed myself with the Saints of God very much. The Authorities of the Church are moving forward in much power. They have the interest of the Kingdom of God at heart. It is a pleasure to listen to to their fatherly and wise counsels, for they speak like the prophets of old, by the power of God. The Saints are partaking of their influence and are cultivating a greater desire towards using their means, their time and talents for the rolling forth of this great latter-day work, which the Prophet Joseph Smith was the honored instrument, in the hands of God, in inaugurating.

The young people of Zion are also taking an interest by using their talents in a proper way. The Improvement Associations that have been organized have done much towards

their culture. It is a pleasure to visit their meetings and to notice the zeal they manifest in the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is a great number commencing to pay their tithing and donations, towards assisting the completion of these magnificent temples, that are in the course of erection.

I feel thankful to my Creator for His preserving care that has been over me up to the present time, and for the testimony of this work that He has planted within my breast. I know that God is at the helm of His Kingdom, that He has set up here in the valleys of the mountains. I further know that the Gospel that our elders are proclaiming in the different nations of the earth, is the selfsame Gospel that our Savior proclaimed while He was upon the earth, and all who will receive it with a pure heart and contrite spirit, with a desire to do the will of our Heavenly Father, shall know of the doctrine, that it is of Him and not of man. On the other hand, those who hear and reject it will be