

The very many reports which have reached the United States as regards the sufferings of the inhabitants of these Islands have not been at all exaggerated; although at present there are no deaths on this Island, in consequence of the relief which has been extended to them by the citizens of the United States; yet the many walking skeletons and objects of misery which continually present themselves to your view while on shore, but too plainly assure you what recently has been the dreadful situation on the Islands; on St. Antonio, from a population of 24, only 11,000 are remaining; on the small Island of Fogo 4,000 now remain from a population of 14, and several of the other Islands have suffered equally, and what is still more painful, their sad sufferings are by no means at an end. Another year they must exist, if they exist at all, from the charity of others; for these three years previous to the present, scarcely a drop of rain fell from the heavens; although they have had abundance during the present year, it has been so unseasonable as rather to be an injury than an advantage to cultivation. I have been astonished, however, while witnessing the misery of the inhabitants, to view the hills covered with cattle of various kinds, and have asked in vain for an explanation of the fact or what law could restrain starving thousands from supplying, partially at all events, their necessities. I have the honor to be most respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES MCINTOSH,
Lieut. Commanding.

HON. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Navy.

OCEAN PHENOMENA.

A naval friend, of high respectability and intelligence, who has seen in a recent number of the Journal, an account of a singular ball of fire, which fell on board the ship Sir Edward Hamilton, has given us the annexed extract from the Journal of a passenger on board the ship Poctolus, capt. Geo. Wilson, while on a passage from Valparaiso to Marblehead, Massachusetts:—

After a succession of heavy gales from Valparaiso, till we were nearly up with Cape Horn, in which we lost our boat, &c. &c., and while in the act of taking in a close reefed foresail having scudded her under that sail as long as a due regard for the safety of the ship would allow—at about 11 o'clock A. M. we were enveloped for a few seconds in almost total darkness by a large black cloud from which came wind and hail, either of which were sufficient to take a person off his feet, provided he had hold of nothing: out of this cloud came a ball of fire, about the size of a 32 lb. shot. It descended to within three or four feet of the long boat, where it was seen by every person on board, previous to its explosion which was several seconds after its first appearance. The report of this non-descript thing was as loud as that of four or five sharp muskets fired together. It had the effect to knock down nearly every man on deck—without, however, injuring any of them, if I except the injury received from the fright, which was almost death. The air was sulphurous for some time after the bursting of the ball. The chief mate was the first who came to his senses and observing that

the men were, from fear, unable to attend to the duty of the ship, he called out, 'Come on! 'tis only a Cape Horn snow ball!'

I cannot describe the effect it had upon me, better than by comparing it with a severe shock of an electric machine—to which it was very similar. Its effect upon the chief mate was, he said, as if an immense weight was pressing him down, and I think he remarked at the same time, that he had once been struck with lightning and that the sensation was similar. No person on board (and we had some old, very old 'salts,') had ever witnessed any thing of the kind before. It left no trace of its having come on board, except upon our memories, and from mine I am certain it will never be erased.—Providence Journal.

FROM THE BOOK OF ETHER.

It is our intention to give extracts from the book of Mormon, occasionally for the benefit of the world, or such as have not this book in their possession. And it came to pass that Jared, and his brother, and their families, and also the friends of Jared and his brother, and their families, went down into the valley which was northward, (and the name of the valley was Nimrod, being called after the mighty hunter,) with their flocks which they had gathered together, male and female, of every kind. And they did also lay snares and catch fowls of the air; and they did also prepare a vessel, in the which they did carry with them the fish of the waters; and they did also carry with them deseret, which by interpretation, is a honey bee; and thus they did carry with them swarms of bees, and all manner of that which was upon the land, seeds of every kind. And it came to pass, that when they had come down into the valley of Nimrod, the Lord came down and talked with the brother of Jared; and he was in a cloud, and the brother of Jared saw him not.

And it came to pass that the Lord commanded them that they should go forth into the wilderness, yea, in that quarter where there never had man been; and it came to pass that the Lord did go before them, and did talk with them as he stood in a cloud, and gave directions whither they should travel.—And it came to pass that they did travel in the wilderness, and did build barges, in the which they did cross many waters, being directed continually by the hand of the Lord. And the Lord would not suffer that they should stop beyond the sea in the wilderness but he would that they should come forth even unto the land of promise, which was choice above all other lands, which the Lord God had preserved for a righteous people; and he had sworn in his wrath unto the brother of Jared, that whoso should possess this land of promise, from that time henceforth and forever, should serve him, the true and only God, or they should be swept off when the fulness of his wrath should come upon them.

And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fulness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fulness of his wrath com-

eth upon them when they are ripened in iniquity: for behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decrees of God.

And it is not until the fulness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off. And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent and not continue in your iniquities until the fulness be come, that ye may not bring down the fulness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land hath hitherto done. Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, which is Jesus Christ, which hath been manifested by the things which we have written. And now I proceed with my record: for behold it came to pass that the Lord did bring Jared and his brethren forth even to that great sea which divideth the lands.— And as they came to the sea, they pitched their tents; and they called the name of the place Moriancumer; and they dwelt in tents; and dwelt in tents upon the sea shore for the space of four years. And it came to pass at the end of the four years, that the Lord came again unto the brother of Jared, and stood in a cloud and talked with him. And for the space of three hours did the Lord talk with the brother of Jared, and chastened him because he remembered not to call upon the name of the Lord.

And the brother of Jared repented him of the evil which he had done, and did call upon the name of the Lord for his brethren which were with him. And the Lord said unto him, I will forgive thee and thy brethren of their sins; but thou shalt not sin any more, for ye shall remember that my spirit will not always strive with man; wherefore if ye will sin until ye are fully ripe, ye shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord.

And this is my thoughts upon the land which I shall give you for your inheritance; for it shall be a land choice above all other lands.

And the Lord said, Go to work and build, after the manner of barges which ye have hitherto built. And it came to pass that the brother of Jared did go to work and also his brethren, and built barges after the manner which they had built according to the instructions of the Lord.

And they were small, and they were light upon the water, even like unto the lightness of a fowl upon the water; and they were built after a manner that they were exceeding tight, even that they would water like unto a dish; and the bottom thereof was tight like unto a dish; and the sides thereof was tight like unto a dish; and the ends thereof were peaked; and the top thereof was tight like unto a dish; and the length thereof was the length of a tree; and the door thereof, when it was shut, was tight like unto a dish.

And it came to pass that the brother of Jared cried unto the Lord, saying: O Lord, I have performed the work which thou hast commanded me, and I have made the barges according as thou hast directed me. And

behold, O Lord, in them there is no light, whither shall we steer. And also we shall perish, for in them we cannot breathe, save it is the air which is in them; therefore we shall perish.

And the Lord said unto the brother of Jared, Behold, thou shalt make a hole in the top thereof, and also in the bottom thereof; and when thou shalt suffer for air, thou shalt unstop the hole thereof, and receive air.

And if it so be that the water come in upon thee, behold ye shall stop the hole thereof, that ye may not perish in the flood.

And it came to pass that the brother of Jared did so, according as the Lord had commanded. And he cried again unto the Lord, saying, O Lord, behold I have done even as thou hast commanded me; and I have prepared the vessels for my people, and behold, there is no light in them.

Behold, O Lord, wilt thou suffer that we shall cross this great water in darkness? And the Lord said unto the brother of Jared, What will ye that I should do that ye may have light in your vessels?

For behold, ye cannot have windows, for they will be dashed in pieces; neither shall ye take fire with you, for ye shall not go by the light of fire: for behold, ye shall be as a whale in the midst of the sea; for the mountain waves shall dash upon you. Nevertheless, I will bring you up again out of the depths of the sea: for the winds have gone forth out of my mouth, and also the rains and the floods have I sent forth.

And behold, I prepare you against these things: for howbeit, ye cannot cross this great deep, save I prepare you against the waves of the sea, and the winds which have gone forth, and the floods which shall come. Therefore what will ye that I should prepare for you, that ye may have light when swallowed up in the depths of the sea?

BAPTISM, &c.

In order to keep our minds in a proper channel, and that all men that would be saved, may have a full knowledge of the mode, and requisites of baptism, we make an extract from the book of Mormon. Before we commence it, it seems necessary, as it speaks of meeting together oft for fasting and prayer and partaking the sacrament, to refer the readers to the commandment for keeping the Sabbath, published on the first page of the second number of the Star; where they will observe, that it is a duty to meet every Sabbath to pay their devotions, &c. to the Most High. It will be seen by reading this commandment, that by offering their oblations and their sacraments, unto the Most High, confessing their sins unto their brethren and before the Lord, is fasting and prayer, or in other words rejoicing and prayer. The Extract:

And now I speak concerning baptism.— Behold, elders, priests, and teachers were baptized; and they were not baptized, save they brought forth fruit meet that they were worthy of it; neither did they receive any unto baptism, save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, and witnessed unto the church that they truly repented of all their sins. And none were received unto baptism, save they took upon