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Origin of the Indians

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Abstract: Gives seventeen reasons listed by Lord Kingsborough why the Indians are Israelites.

grown up young ladies, and even women often do not choose the best time and place to ask questions, or make comments.

Well-behaved children, amiable in manner, are just about the nicest, dearest things in the world, unless it is babies; and whoever heard of a little girl who didn't just abound in love for a baby.

Indeed, most small girls are so fond of babies, that to pacify them, one is constrained to tell them that some day or other if they are very good, when they are grown, they shall have a baby of their own.

It is quite right that girls should love babies; it is the mother's instinct which all girls possess in a greater or less degree. Generally dolls are the pets upon which much care and attention are bestowed by those "little women." But it is not of dolls we will talk now, but perhaps we may some other time.

Girls, never forget to be polite to old people. It is very ill-mannered to sit in the best chair, or to take the first or best place anywhere when there are older people present. Reverence for age is always beautiful.

I am sure you like stories. I have never seen a little girl who did not, and I am going to tell you a true one.

I once saw a little girl walk into a room and seat herself in the only easy rocking-chair the apartment contained. Her own mother and aunt came in afterwards, and I fully expected the child would be sent from the room for her ill-behavior. But no; she was not even reproved for it, though there were one or two old ladies in the room sitting on hard, uncomfortable chairs, while this young Miss of ten years occupied the only easy chair.

It was not noticed by the mother apparently, but I saw that she thought her child a beauty, and that the little girl was vain and spoiled with indulgence.

I have no excuse to offer for that mother, but this was a key to that girl's character.

Shall I tell you what kind of a woman she grew up to be? Yes. I will, for it may be a warning to some of you, and show you how wrong it is to be disrespectful and want the best and most of everything.

I have watched that girl from that time until now. She grew up vain and selfish, almost unbearably so. By-and-by, she thought she knew more than either father or mother, and married against the expressed wishes of those who had indulged her all her life.

But this is not all. She was haughty and proud and disrespectful towards the principles she had been taught in her childhood. She despised those who had been her best friends, and treated them with contempt unless they were stylish and well dressed.

She lives solely for pleasure and is intensely selfish. What sort of a mother will she be, and what respect will her children have for one who has no regard for her own parents?

Is not this a sad picture? But, indeed, it is a real one; and if you want to be good and happy, be respectful and gentle to those around you, especially those whose years entitle them to consideration.

There is nothing more beautiful than to see a little girl wait upon papa and mamma, or her grandparents, tenderly and lovingly; not snarl or look sour when she is asked to do anything, but, with a smile, comply readily.

I know there are some little girls who, when they are asked, will say, "O, let Mary do it, or why can't Willie. You always ask me to do everything."

How very disagreeable it makes them appear. If mamma asks you, never bring up any excuse, but do what you are bidden, cheerfully and without grumbling.

Little girls, there are so many things I want to talk to you about that I can scarcely close this letter. I would like to have you all together in a large hall to talk to you, and see your bright eyes and beautiful fresh faces, and hear the music of your sweet, young voices.

Happy childhood! How well I remember mine: so full of joy and delight! Its sweetness has gladdened my whole life. Childish memories! How dear they are still!

I have never forgotten how pleasant it was to be caressed, and praised for doing things well.

I believe in loving children tenderly, but not in allowing them to become disrespectful and disobedient.

Obedience is one of the first lessons they should learn, and learn it well.

"Honor thy father and thy mother" is the first commandment given with a promise.

AUNT EM.

ORIGIN OF THE INDIANS.

IT is believed, I might say known, by the Latter-day Saints, that the Indians are of the house of Israel.

This idea is ridiculed by a great many who are not of our faith, but not by all, for quite a number of the Spanish and Mexican historians have been of that opinion.

I desire to call the attention of the young readers of the INSTRUCTOR to this very important subject, and to set forth a few of the many evidences which caused the historians to arrive at that conclusion, and leave the reader to form his own opinion.

It is generally conceded that no other historian has made greater exertions or exhibited more interest in developing the antiquities of America than has Lord Kingsborough. He has written by far the most complete work on that subject of which we have any knowledge, and has seemingly had every possible opportunity to make himself familiar with the writings of nearly all the historians upon the subject, besides having access to the comparatively few Indian histories which have survived the fanaticism of the Spanish priests.

After all his labors and researches he was convinced that the Indians are Israelites, as will appear in his arguments in support of his convictions. He says:

"The extreme pertinacity which the Indians, both of Peru and Mexico, displayed in adhering to their old religion, frequently laying down their lives in its defense, and affirming, when reasoned with upon the subject, that if Christianity was good for the Castilians, their own religion was no less so for them, is a convincing proof that the signs and wonders which the Mexicans believe that Huitzilopuchthi had wrought in their favor (to which the hand and outstretched arm so often occurring in Mexican paintings probably alludes), and the oracles of Pachacama, revered in Peru, maintained the greatest ascendancy over their minds; and in this obstinacy, and blindly persisting in a persuasion which the Christians told them was false, it must be confessed that the Indians closely resembled the Jews.

"The second reason for believing that Judaism was the religion of the Indians is, that they used circumcision. The third, that they expected a Messiah. The fourth, that many words incorporated in their language and connected with the

celebration of their religious rites, were obviously either of Hebrew or Greek derivation. The fifth, that Las Casas, the bishop of Chiapa, who had the best means of verifying the fact, was of that opinion. The sixth, that the Jews themselves, including some of their most eminent rabbis, such as Menasseh, Ben Israel and Montecino, who though not a rabbi, was a Jew who had visited America, maintained it both by verbal statement and in writing. The seventh is the dilemma in which the most learned Spanish authors, such as Acosta and Torquemada have placed their readers by leaving them no other alternative than to come to the decision whether the Jews had colonized America and established their rites among the Indians, or whether the devil had counterfeited in the New World the rites and ceremonies which God gave to His chosen people. The eighth is the resemblance which many of the Indian rites and ceremonies bore to those of the Jews. The ninth is the similitude which existed between many of the Indian and many of the Hebrew moral laws. The tenth is the knowledge which the Mexican and Peruvian traditions implied that the Indians possessed of the history contained in the Pentateuch. The eleventh is the Mexican tradition of the Teomoxli, or the divine book of the Tultecas. The twelfth is the Mexican history of their famous migration from Aztlan. The thirteenth is the traces of Jewish superstitions, history, traditions, laws, manners and customs which are found in the Mexican paintings. The fourteenth is the frequent sacrifices amongst the Indians, and the religious consecration of the blood and the fat of the victims. The fifteenth is the style of architecture of their temples. The sixteenth is the fringes which the Mexicans wore fastened to their garments. The seventeenth is a similarity in the manners and customs of Indian tribes far removed from the central monarchies of Mexico and Peru (but still within the pale of religious proselytism) to those of the Jews, which writers who were not Spaniards have noticed, such as Sir William Penn, who recognized a probably fanciful likeness between the features of Indian and Jewish children. He says: "When you look upon them you would think yourself in the Jews' quarter in London. Their eyes are little and black like the Jews. Moreover they reckon by moons: they offer the first-fruits: and have a kind of feast of tabernacles. It is said their altar stands on twelve stones. Their mourning lasts a year. The customs of their women are like those of the Jews. Lastly they were to go into a country which was neither planted nor known, and He who imposed this condition upon them, was well able to level their passage thither: for we may go from the eastern extremities of Asia to the western extremities of America." *Kingsborough's Antiquities of America, Vol. 6, Pages 115, 116.*

From the above quotation we see there is good reason for believing the Indians to be Jews or Israelites, and I trust that even these few evidences may be of service in increasing an interest in the minds of the young, in the Book of Mormon, which is the sacred history of that people.

S.

GLASS BLOWING.—Glass blowing is a trade that it takes a long time to learn. Usually a man works as long as ten years before he becomes thoroughly and reliably skilled. It is also laborious, but it pays very well. A good blower averages \$125 per month, a cutter \$110, and a gatherer \$75. The work is all done by the piece, and both cutter and gatherer are dependent on the blower for the amount of work which they do.

OLD BOTTLES AND ELEPHANTS.

BOTTLES are now generally made of glass, china or earthenware; but it was not always so. There was a time when people did not know what glass was. The secret of its manufacture had not been discovered.

But in those days, as now, something had to be used to carry water, wine, milk and other liquids; and if men did not know how to make glass they had to use something else. That something, in very early times, was the prepared skins of animals, in other words, leather; also vessels made of clay.

The manufacture of earthenware from clay is generally one of the first industries undertaken by races rising out of barbarism.

The skins of animals are still used in many places for bottles. Among our southern neighbors, the Mexicans, pig skins are very extensively used.

Nor is this the case on this continent alone. Leathern bottles have been used ever since the flood, in the nations of the far east.

Jesus, when upon the earth, spoke of this kind, when He said, "No man putteth new wine into old bottles."

Why not? For fear the new wine would rend the old bottles, run out and be lost.

Now, if the bottles had been glass or china it would not matter in the least how old the bottles were, if they were not cracked or broken, the new wine would not hurt them, but it was not so with the half-worn-out leather ones. Then, when a man had new wine which he wanted to keep, he put it in a new bottle and the wine and the bottle grew old together.

Some very strangely-shaped old bottles have been dug up on this continent; some like animals, some like grotesque human faces, and some that are not found in the shape of anything known, but simply the products of the fanciful imaginations of the ancient inhabitants of this country. Some of these earthenware or pottery curiosities of the ancients are in the shape of elephants, which shows that the men who made them knew what elephants were, and were used to seeing them.

This is a proof of the truth of the statement in the Book of Mormon that elephants were once plentiful in this country. There are none here now except imported ones, and their babies, but in the days of the Jaredites they were numerous.

For a long time the over-wise people who ridiculed the Book of Mormon, but never read it, said it was all nonsense about elephants being natives of America. But the finding of vessels of pottery in their image, made by the ancients, vindicates the truth of the Book of Mormon and proves how little worldly-wise men know of some things.

But this is not all. Lots of elephants' bones have been dug up in various regions of this vast land, by men digging foundations, or cutting through earth for railroads; so all doubt on this point is dispelled and God's word is sustained.

God's word always will be sustained, for His word is truth.

G.

O, WHAT a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive!