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Abstract: This 47-part series provides evidence to confirm the authenticity of the Book of Mormon. It describes the contents of the Book of Mormon and archaeological findings and discoveries, such as ancient cities, temples, altars, tools, and wells. Each part contains several excerpts from other publications that support the Book of Mormon.

Saints. On Sundays, three meetings were held on deck, and fellowship meetings in each ward two nights a week, which was a good preventive against grumbling, as it kept the minds of the people actively engaged in the better things of the kingdom.

The monotony of the voyage was also enlivened with singing, instrumental music, dancing, games, &c.; in which, as a matter of course, the junior portion took a prominent part, while the more sedate enjoyed themselves in seeing and hearing the happifying recreations.

I certainly felt it quite a task in being appointed to take charge of a company composed of people from so many countries, speaking nine different languages, and having different manners, customs, and peculiarities, and thrown together under such close circumstances; but, through the faithfulness and diligence of the Saints, which were universally manifested, I soon found the load far easier than I had anticipated; and on our arrival here, we were pronounced, by doctors and Government officers, to be the best disciplined and most agreeable company that ever arrived at this port.

Of the captain it is not necessary to say anything further than that, just before our arrival, we presented him with the following testimonial, which he is in every respect worthy of:—

"Testimonial to Captain James B. Bell, Commander of the ship William Tapscott."

Sir,—As we are drawing to the conclusion of our voyage, we should not be doing justice to our feelings, were we not to embrace this opportunity, before we separate, of expressing, though briefly, those sentiments of sincere regard and esteem which have been engendered within us towards yourself, during our short intercourse while on our

passage across the Atlantic, and throughout which we have all been so happily blessed and prospered.

We would humbly assure you that the pleasant and interesting time which we have spent on board the *William Tapscott* will be long remembered by us all, and mostly so on account of the many kindnesses and favours which we have received from her worthy captain. The assiduous care and kindly interest which you have universally displayed for our comfort and welfare, your courteous urbanity, and gentlemanly bearing have all combined to win our hearts and call forth the warmest feelings of a grateful people.

And wherever our respective lots may be cast in the future, our minds will often revert to the present voyage and its happy associations; and our heartfelt prayers shall ascend to heaven for the richest blessings of our Father to be bestowed upon you, that your life may be long, prosperous, and happy, and your future, joy and peace.

Signed, in behalf of the seven hundred and twenty-six passengers, and with their unanimous approval,

ROBERT F. NESLEN,	} President of the Company of Emigrants.
HENRY H. HARRIS,	
GEORGE ROWLEY,	} Counsellors.
JAMES BOND,	
	Secretary.

St. George's Banks, May 7, 1859."

We are now lying at anchor, ready for landing at the Castle Gardens to-morrow morning at an early hour; and we expect to start by the Central Railroad on Monday for the West; and as I shall have to write to you again before leaving here, I will close for the present, with warmest love to yourself and Counsellors and all in the Office, in which my brethren, Elders Harris, Rowley, and Bond, join.

Yours truly,

R. F. NESLEN.

AMERICAN ANTIQUITIES,

CORROBORATIVE OF THE BOOK OF MORMON.

(Continued from page 371.)

(From the *London Athenæum*, Dec. 13, 1856.)

"40, Albemarle Street, Dec. 10.

I send to you herewith a translation of a letter which I have received from Don José Antonio Urrutia, Cura of Jutiapa, in the Department of the same name, State of Guatemala, Central America, giving an

account of some ancient monuments found in his parish, not far from the town of Comapa. The existence of these monuments is now, for the first time, made known to the world. . . . I may here observe that in the year 1853 I traversed the State of San Salvador, the ancient Cuscatlan, throughout

its length and breadth, visiting the monuments of its ancient inhabitants; but amongst the ruins I found none corresponding with those described in the accompanying letter. With these desultory observations, I submit to you the letter of the Padre Urrutia, subscribing myself yours,
E. G. SQUIER."

"Jutiapa, Guatemala, Jan. 8.

Sir,—Sharing in those archaeological tastes which, fortunately, are spreading in this country, so rich in monuments of an ancient civilization, I have lately devoted some time to the study of the antiquities falling within the extensive parish under my charge, and of which I propose to give you some brief notices; first, in reference to the fine ruins, hitherto unknown, of the very ancient city called Cinaca-Mecalco. To the southward, and not far from the town of Comapa, are some steep mountains, the bases of which are washed by the large river Paz or Paza, which constitutes the boundary between Guatemala and San Salvador. Upon the highest of these mountains is an extensive plain, drained by a multitude of small streams, the waters of which, uniting in a common channel, are precipitated over a ledge of rocks 15 yards in height, and mingle with those of the river, forming one of the most beautiful cataracts in this department. Upon the highest part of this plain are found the remains of an ancient city of the primitive inhabitants of America, which have successfully resisted the attacks of time, and the heavy walls of which seem ostentatiously to defy the operations of the elements. The very lofty position of these ruins, from which may be traced the majestic course of the river which flows at the base of the mountains even to the sea, and from which the eye traverses the wide plains dotted with villages of the neighbouring State of San Salvador, taking in the volcanoes of Chingo and Izalco, the American Vesuvius, with its plume of smoke rising to mid-heaven, and including the lakes of Huija and Atescatempa,—this position lends additional interest to the ruins, since it indicates a high appreciation of the grand and beautiful on the part of the builders of the ancient city. The place where these ruins are found, as I have said, is known by the name of Cinaca-Mecalco, which, in the mixed idiom of Mam and Mexican now spoken by the people of this district, signifies knotted rope (*cordel anudado*), given perhaps by the primitive inhabitants in consequence of the many vines found in these mountains, and used in binding together the frames of the huts and houses of the people. The walls, or remains of the wall of the city,

describe an oval figure, within which various roads or streets may be traced, various subterranean passages, and many ruined edifices. The materials of construction are principally thin stones, or a species of slate, united by a kind of cement, which, in colour and consistence, resembles melted lead (*plomo derritido*). Amongst the monuments there are three which claim special notice. The first of these is a temple, consecrated to the sun, chiefly excavated in the solid rock, and having its door opening towards the east. On the archway of the entrance, which is formed of slabs united to each other, are found sculptured representations of the sun and moon, and in the interior are found some hieroglyphics. This monument is known amongst the Indians as *Tee-tumal* (stone of the sun). Besides the *bassi rilievi*, these stones bear hieroglyphics painted with a kind of red varnish, which, notwithstanding its long exposure to the weather, remains unimpaired. Many of the stones found in excavating, in all parts of these ruins, are painted with this varnish. Of the subterranean passages found amongst these ruins, there is one which has become celebrated, and is still the subject of many popular stories, as having been the retreat of a celebrated bandit, named Partideno, who was finally captured here by the people of Comapa. Desiring to explore this passage, and in spite of the entreaties of the superstitious Indians not to venture in it, I provided myself with a hatchet and a torch of pine, and entered. After many difficulties, I succeeded in reaching a kind of saloon, where I found various blocks of stone, carved with the arms of the ancient Indians, in all respects similar to others which I had previously found in other parts of the ruins and sent to the President of Guatemala in 1853. The second notable object, and which is no less worthy of attention, is a great slab of stone, covered with inscriptions or hieroglyphics, which, from the little knowledge I have been able to obtain of their meaning, appear to me to convey only representations of the economy of human life (*la pintura de la economia de la vida humana*). The first is a tree, symbol of life; the last a skull, emblem of death. The third object is a wild animal resembling a tiger, sculptured in a stone or rock of great size, and which, I conjecture, was intended as a monument commemorative of some great victory. . . . These, sir, are the most remarkable objects found in this ancient and ruined city. Outside of the walls, and in a little plain not far distant, are a number of mounds which, doubtless, are the burial-places of the dead. The proportions of these rude sepulchres, unshaded by cypresses and unmarked by chiselled stones, nevertheless convey to us the probable position

and influence of the dead whom they cover. It is a custom still preserved amongst the Indians to throw a handful of earth or a stone upon the grave of the distinguished dead, as a tribute to their memory. The more numerous these contributions, the higher the tumulus which is thus gradually accumulated. I have thus given you a few of the notes which I have made upon the

ancient ruins in this department: I hope soon to have the pleasure of sending you others. Meantime, I may mention that I have, agreeably to promise, sent copies of some of the hieroglyphics, which I have alluded to above, to Guatemala, to the care of the Abbé Brasseur de Bourbourg. Your obedient servant, &c.,

JOSE ANTONIO URRUTIA."

(To be continued.)

PASSING EVENTS.

GENERAL.—The whole of the Vateline is in insurrection. The Herzegovine is also reported to be in open revolt. An army of 120,000 men is about to be formed in Bohemia. On the 30th ult., the Piedmontese army, after reconstructing the bridge which the Austrians had destroyed, advanced into the great plain which extends from the Sesia to the Ticino, and found the Austrians entrenched in and behind the villages of Palestro, Casalino, and Venzaglio. The Piedmontese, commanded by the King in person, attacked the Austrian entrenchment boldly, and carried it at the point of the bayonet, after an obstinate defence, taking two pieces of cannon and many small arms and prisoners. Their losses were also great. Early on the 31st, a powerful body of Austrians, 25,000 strong, attacked the Piedmontese in their position at Palestro, which they had won on the previous day; but the Piedmontese, supported by the French division Trochu, not only held their ground, but, after repulsing the Austrians, themselves became the assailants, and drove back the Austrians with great slaughter, capturing 1,000 prisoners and eight guns. The 3rd regiment of Zouaves, which supported the Piedmontese, particularly distinguished itself: it stormed an Austrian position with the bayonet, drove 400 of the Austrian soldiers into the canal, and captured six guns. During the battle at Palestro, another fight took place at Confienza, where the Austrians were repulsed by the division Fauty, after a two hours' conflict. A French imperial message, telegraphed from Novara, reports that a battle was fought at the bridge of Magenta on the 4th instant, the French army killed or wounded 15,000 Austrians and captured 5,000 prisoners.

MEMORABILIA.

LARGEST BIRD.—The largest known bird is the condor.

HABEAS CORPUS.—This is a legal writ for the delivery of a person from false imprisonment, or for the removal of a person from one judicial court to another.

LARGEST FLOWER.—The largest known flower is the *Rafflesia Arnoldi*, (discovered by Dr. Arnold in Sumatra,) the flower of which, when in full expansion, is nine feet in circumference.

COLOSSEUM AT ROME.—The Roman theatre called the Colosseum, was an oval building of magnificent construction, and occupied a space of nearly six acres. It occupied three years only in its erection. It was commenced by Vespasian, and completed by Titus, and cost as much as would have built a whole city. It was framed to seat 80,000 spectators, ranged according to their respective rank. One portion was allotted to the Emperor, senators, foreign ambassadors, and other distinguished persons; another portion, with seats of marble, was for the equestrian order; and the remainder was filled with wooden seats, for the commoner classes of people.

AGE OF SHEEP.—The age of a sheep may be known by examining the front teeth. They are eight in number, and are during the *first* year all of a small size. In the *second* year, the two middle ones fall out, and their places are supplied by two new teeth of a larger size. In the *third* year, two other small teeth, one from each side, drop out and are replaced by two large ones; so that there are now four large teeth in the middle, and two pointed ones on each side. In the *fourth* year, the large teeth are six in number, and only two small ones remain, one at each end of the range. In the *fifth* year, the remaining small teeth are lost, and the whole front teeth are large. In the *sixth* year, the whole begin to be worn; and in the *seventh*, sometimes sooner, some fall out or are broken.