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## The Indians - Death of Lehi-Nephi Separates from His Brethren

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**Abstract:** Believes that “all the Indians in North and South America, and the inhabitants of some of the islands in the Pacific Ocean, are descendants of [the Lehite] family, who came away from Jerusalem about 2,400 years” ago.

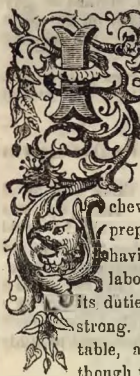
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## The Juvenile Instructor.

GEORGE Q. CANNON,.....EDITOR.

JUNE 1, 1860.

## READING AND EATING.



It is with reading as it is with eating; it is not so much the quantity of food that we eat that does us good, as it is the quantity we digest; and it is not the amount that we read but that which we remember that is of benefit to us. By eating slowly, and thoroughly chewing that which we eat, our food is prepared for our stomachs; our teeth having performed their share of the labor, the stomach easily attends to its duties, and the body is healthy and strong. We have seen children go to table, and gobble down their food as though they were taking pills. They do not know that their teeth are placed in their mouths for them to break up their food with and grind it fine; but they cram their food into their mouths, and then, to get it swallowed quickly, they wash it down their throats with large drinks of water. This practice is very hurtful, and if continued, is sure to produce weakness and disease.

Our little readers should learn, when they are young, to eat slowly and chew their food well. Make this a habit. When it has become a habit, you may take a dry crust, or a dry cracker, and you will find, by chewing it well, that it will be moist enough to swallow without drinking; but if you do not chew it well, you will be apt to want something to drink to wash it down.

We have said so much about eating, now we will say a little about reading.

Suppose, children, you were to read every book and paper that you could find, and could not remember what you did read, of what benefit would your reading be to you? We have known boys and girls who would read books with much interest apparently; but afterwards, if you were to ask them about what they had read, they would not be able to tell you. There would be nothing clear or well arranged in their minds on the subjects of which they had read. Now, time used in this manner is not well spent, and does not profit those who take this course. Haste and carelessness in reading have the same effect upon the mind, that hurry in eating has upon the body.

Children, both habits are injurious, and you ought to avoid both. Far better for you to read but little, and recollect what you read, than to read a great deal, and forget it, or to have it so confused and in such a jumble in your mind that you can not use it.

(For the Juvenile Instructor.)

## Voices from Nature.

## THE SLEEPING CHILD.

IN the year 1813, during the great war which then raged in Europe, when the Russians came into Germany they brought with them thousands of Cossacks, a barbarous people, who subjected the inhabitants of the land to numberless annoyances and sufferings. My native place had been visited in turns by the French, Prussians, and now also by those savages. The people had been stripped of everything, being scarcely able to sustain their own lives. The chief magistrate of one of the towns, after having satisfied the endless demands of the

wild conquerors, almost to his last mouthful, found himself unable to give any more. One day a whole band of Cossacks entered his house tumultuously, and their leader, failing to obtain what he wanted, took the owner by the throat, threatening to kill him and burn down his house. In the scuffle, they approached a cradle in which a little child was sleeping. Suddenly the Cossack released his hold upon the man, looked upon the child, and bursting into tears, lifted it up in his arms, kissed it and handed it around to his comrades, who all kissed it and danced with it around the room. Their whole nature seemed to have changed all at once, and while some played tenderly with the child, others hurried off soon to return with fowls, bread and provisions of all kinds, which they forced upon the astonished parents, who had been saved from death, perhaps, by their sleeping child, whose innocent face had called to the minds of those wild men the picture of their own little huts on the far-off banks of the river Don and the Black Sea, where their own little ones were perhaps peacefully sleeping and dreaming of their fathers on the distant battle fields. That little child, however, that by the voice of nature changed in a moment bloodthirsty savages into gentle beings, has told me the story herself in later years, for it was my own mother.

Look upon your little brother or baby sister, my young readers, sleeping in its cradle or little bed: the peace of heaven, the beauty of angels and the smile of innocence are beaming from that tiny form, and calling on you for your love, for your patience, for your assistance. Learn to look upon that little one with your whole soul, and thoughts and feelings will steal and creep into your heart and make it swell and warm, that I have felt a thousand times, but cannot give utterance to. So you have slept, when you were babies; so we all have. Why should innocence, beauty and gentleness, which are stronger than iron and the sword, flee from us with the years of childhood? Sorrow and care may wrinkle our face, age may dim our eye, and the storms of life cause our steps to falter, but if virtue, faith and hope have kept the heart young and fresh, when our last hour arrives, our Father in heaven will gather to his bosom again his sleeping child.

K. G. M.

(For the Juvenile Instructor.)

## The Indians.

## DEATH OF LEHI—NEPHI SEPARATES FROM HIS BRETHREN.

As soon as possible after Lehi and his family had landed on the shores of America, they put into the ground the seeds of grain and fruit they had brought with them from Jerusalem which grew rapidly, yielding them an abundant harvest. They found nearly all kinds of animals in the country, including those most useful to man, such as the horse, the ass, the cow, goat, etc., also abundance of gold, silver, copper, iron and other minerals. Nephi, by the Lord's command, made plates out of ore, or metal, on which to keep an account of his father's family and their posterity. These plates were preserved, and handed down from one generation to another, each person who had them in his possession writing something on them until they were full. People in those days did not know how to make paper, so that they did not have books such as we have, but used to engrave anything they wished to preserve upon plates of gold, or some other metal, or write upon the skins of animals. Of course, this made their books very expensive, and they could write very few letters to each other. How thankful we should be that we have so many facilities

now for writing to our friends and of hearing from those we love.

A few years after this, Lehi died. Previous to his death he called all his children and their families around him, including the sons of Ishmael and Zoram, gave them his blessing, and exhorted them to be united, to obey the commandments of God, and to listen to the counsels of their brother Nephi. But no sooner was the good old man dead than Laman and Lemuel began again to rebel against and persecute Nephi, finally making up their minds that they would kill him. The Lord, knowing what was in their hearts, warned Nephi to take his family and go into a distant part of the country, which he did, accompanied by Zoram and his family, his elder brother Sam and his family, his younger brothers, Jacob and Joseph, his sisters, and also some others who preferred to go with Nephi and be subject to the guidance of the Lord through him, to remaining with Laman, Lemuel, and the sons of Ishmael, who had become very wicked. Nephi also took with him the brass plates they had brought from Jerusalem as well as the plates he had made, the ball of brass that directed them through the wilderness, the sword of Laban, together with seeds and animals of different kinds. After having traveled into the wilderness for many days, they stopped and again put their seeds into the ground, built houses, and prospered exceedingly. From this time, all those who were with Nephi, with their descendants, were called Nephites, and all those who remained with Laman, with their children, were known as Lamanites, and it is by these names we shall refer to them in the future.

Laman and Lemuel taught their children that Nephi had grossly wronged and robbed them, and had endeavored to make himself a ruler and king over them, so they grew up hating the Nephites, and took advantage of every opportunity to injure and murder them. As they became more numerous their hatred towards the Nephites increased, and for a thousand years they waged almost continual wars upon one another. The Nephites, however, for several hundred years, always fought in self-defense, to protect their wives and families, their homes and their cities from the outrages and the ravages of the Lamanites, who became a very cruel, degraded, filthy and bloodthirsty set of people, very much like the Indians now. They soon began to paint themselves and wear the skins of animals, which made them look very frightful and hideous, and they lived more by hunting and stealing than by cultivating the ground.

The Nephites, on the contrary, were a very industrious, peaceable people, who made fine farms, reared comfortable and solid houses, built large cities, and were governed and taught by wise and good men who enjoyed revelation from the Lord. They were also a very white and beautiful and highly intellectual and cultivated people. But after a time they, too, forgot God, fell into great wickedness, and, about four-hundred years after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, they were utterly destroyed by the Lamanites, after a series of the most dreadful battles we have any account of in the history of the world. After this there were none but Lamanites left, and the present American Indians are their descendants.

[The above article, being the last of the series on The Indians, should have appeared in No. 10 of the INSTRUCTOR instead of the first of a series of articles entitled Sketches from the Book of Mormon. But it was accidentally mislaid; which is the reason of its being published now instead of then.—ED. J. I.]

NEVER want a thing you cannot get, and then you will have all you want.