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Who are the Indians?

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Abstract: Cannon 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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VOL. I.

Poetry.

[For the Juvenile Instructor.]
LITTLE BIRDS.

The earth is covered deep with snow,
The streams are frozen fast;
The mountain raven circling low,
With measured wing glides past.

The little birds that hop around
Through all the bitter cold,
Are near our dwelling-places found;—
Hunger hath made them bold.

God gives those little birds His care;
He fashioned them with skill,
E'en as He made all things that are
To serve His holy will.

He says, not even sparrows fall
Unnoticed to the ground;
And that our hairs are numbered all,
His love does so abound.

Then do not hurt the little birds,
Even in simple play;
They cannot speak their thanks in words,
But in sweet chirps they may.

Arts.

Biography.

[For the Juvenile Instructor.]
JOSEPH SMITH, THE PROPHET.

AMONG other subjects which we wish to lay before our young readers is that of Biography, or the history of men and their lives and characters. We feel sure that every boy and girl in this Territory will take pleasure in reading about men and women who have made themselves famous in the world through their virtue and goodness. By reading Biography they can see the steps which men have taken to make themselves useful and great, and obtain many lessons by which they can profit.

In the list of great and distinguished men who have lived in our times, stands the name of JOSEPH SMITH. We expect our little readers have all heard of him, and know something respecting his life. He was born at Sharon, Windsor county, in the State of Vermont, on the 23d of December, 1805. Had he lived until the present time he would have been about sixty years of age. He would not have been a very old man even now, for you know many men and women who are smart and active who are much more than sixty years old. He was the fourth child of his parents, he having two brothers and a sister older than himself. When he was about ten years of age his parents moved from Vermont to the town of Palmyra, in the State of New York. They were not wealthy, and were not able to give their children more than an ordinary common-school education. But they taught them to be moral, truthful and industrious, and brought them up, to the best of their ability, in the fear of the Lord.

Some little time after the death of his father and family to Palmyra the people in that neighbor-

hood became excited upon the subject of religion. They felt that they were sinners and that they ought to do something to get forgiveness and to please God. There were a great many churches in that country, and all these churches had preachers. These churches were called Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists, and others were known by other names. Though all these churches professed to believe in Jesus Christ and in the Bible, they were divided one against the other. Their preachers told the people that they were the followers of Jesus and his Apostles; at the same time they, themselves, quarrelled one with another about the doctrine of Jesus. One said that his church was right; and another said, not that church is not right; but my church is; and thus they contended, each preacher trying to get everybody to leave other churches and to join his. Of course this produced great confusion and strife. For when the preachers disputed, the people could not agree. Our readers who have been born and brought up in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have never seen anything of this kind. They have never seen two or more preachers quarreling about their churches; one saying that his church was right, and another contradicting him and saying that his church was wrong. In this Territory the people do not contend about religion and about which is the right church. The truth which the Lord has revealed from heaven, by sending his angels to speak with man, has stopped all contention, and united those who have obeyed it and made them one. But Joseph Smith did not have the privileges and advantages when he was a boy that the little boys who live here have. His parents did not know what your parents know, and they could not tell him what your parents can tell you.

During this time of great excitement Joseph thought deeply on the subject of religion, and he became somewhat uneasy respecting the course which he should take. His father's family believed the Presbyterian faith, and his mother and three of his brothers and one sister joined that Church. But he could not tell what to do. The confusion and strife which he saw among these preachers and their churches puzzled him. This is not to be wondered at, for he was very young, and did not have much experience. But he believed the Bible, and knew that it contained more of the words of God than any other book that he could get. So he paid attention to that, and one day, while reading in the epistle of James, he met with the following words in the first chapter and fifth verse: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth unto all men liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." This passage of scripture came with great power to his heart. He knew that if any person needed wisdom from God, he did; for he could find no one who could tell him what he wanted to know. After thinking upon the subject, he came to the conclusion that he would do as James directs and ask of God. On a beautiful morning, early in the Spring of the year eighteen hundred and twenty, when he was in his fifteenth year, he went into the woods alone to ask God for the wisdom which he wanted. In this quiet and lonely place this humble boy, who wanted

to know how to please his Heavenly Father, knelt down to call upon Him. It was the first time in his life that he had ever tried to pray with his voice. Soon after he began, a power took hold of him which bound his tongue so that he could not speak, and made him feel as though he was about to be destroyed. It was the power of Satan which was there to fight with him, and prevent him, if possible, from getting the knowledge which he wanted. Of course Joseph was much frightened, for he did not know what it was; he could not see his enemy; he could only feel him. He did not know as much about the power and wickedness of Satan then as he did afterwards. But he did not give up; he exerted all his powers, and he called upon God to deliver him out of the power of this enemy which had hold of him.

At this moment of great alarm, he saw a pillar of light exactly over his head. It was much brighter than the sun, and it gradually came down until it rested upon him. When it appeared, he found himself free from the enemy which had held him bound. You can all think how happy he must have felt when that wicked power was driven away. As soon as the light rested upon him he saw two personages standing above him in the air. They had the form of men, yet their brightness and glory were far beyond that of the sun or anything that we can see around us in this world. No man, therefore, can tell another how beautiful and glorious they looked; to understand this he must see their glory for himself. One of them called Joseph by name, and pointed to the other and said: "This is my beloved Son, hear him." Joseph had asked God for wisdom, and his prayer had been heard and was now answered. He had the glorious privilege of beholding the Father and the Son and of being taught respecting the gospel by its great Author.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

[For the Juvenile Instructor.]
WHO ARE THE INDIANS?



All of our little readers have seen more or less of the Indians, as they go about begging from house to house and from town to town. Many of them have doubtless often wondered where these Indians came from, who their fathers and mothers were, and what they were like. Now that is a very interesting subject,

and we see the Indians around us every day, we propose to tell our little readers something about them and their history.

All the Indians in North and South America, and the inhabitants of some of the islands in the Pacific Ocean, are the descendants of a family who came away from Jerusalem about 2,400 years since. "What a long time ago," exclaim the little ones. Yes, it was a long while ago, and they had a long way to come, and we design to give a short, but plain account of their origin and travels, how they crossed the ocean to America, and why their children

have become so filthy, dark and degraded. In order to properly understand our story and to make it interesting to them, our little readers should ask their parents or teachers to show them where Jerusalem is on the map, and then trace the course which we shall indicate to them from that place to the western coast of America.

About six hundred years before Jesus Christ was born, there lived in Jerusalem a very good man, named Lehi, who feared God, prayed constantly to Him, and not only strove to keep His commandments himself, but taught his family to keep them also.

This man went out by himself one day into the fields and woods near Jerusalem to pray. While praying very earnestly, the Lord appeared to him in a pillar of fire, which came and stood upon a rock before him. The Lord spoke to him out of this pillar of fire, and told him many things which made him fear and tremble exceedingly. Lehi then went home to his house in Jerusalem, and, feeling weak in body because of the things he had seen and heard, he threw himself upon his bed to rest. While lying down, the Spirit of the Lord rested upon him and he saw the heavens opened and God sitting upon His throne, surrounded by thousands of angels. One of these angels descended from heaven and came and talked with Lehi, telling him that, in consequence of the great wickedness of the Jews, the Lord was about to suffer the King of Babylon to come and destroy Jerusalem, kill a great many of the inhabitants and take the rest as captives to Babylon. This was just before, what is called in history, the Babylonish captivity took place.

Many of our little readers would, doubtless, like to know who the Jews were, where Babylon was situated and who its King was, also when and how the City of Jerusalem was built. All these, and a great many other subjects, are connected with the history of the Indians, and we design giving a short account of each, separately.

[For the Juvenile Instructor.]

BAD WORDS.

NEVER use bad words; because it is very foolish as well as very wicked. Some boys think if they swear, use slang phrases or big and ugly words, are insulting to their sisters, overbearing to their brothers and playfellows and disrespectful to their mothers, that people will think they are manly and brave; but it is not so, nobody likes such boys, and they are nearly always mean and cowardly. Good boys always use good language, and are respectful and kind to their mothers and their sisters and courteous to everybody; the consequence is every one believes them, all good people love them, and they grow up useful, happy and respected by all their friends and acquaintances. But when little boys learn to swear and swagger and talk vulgarly, they soon become so bad that no one has any confidence in them, they lose all their friends, become bad and unhappy men, and sometimes end their lives in a very sad and disgraceful manner.

Little boys and girls, as well as men and women, should remember that Jesus says we shall have to give an account for every idle, naughty word that we speak. It is to be feared that many of us will have a great many foolish and wicked words and speeches to answer for that we shall be very much ashamed of and very sorry that we ever uttered. If you should ever feel tempted to use bad words just think for a moment that God hears you, and, though you cannot see Him now, yet, one day, you will have to stand before Him and give an account of all you have done and said in this life.

Do not, then, use any evil words, and do not associate with any boys or girls who do. If any

of your playmates indulge in naughty words, you had better shun them and not play with them until they leave off their wicked habits. Try to associate with those who are good to their mothers and fathers, kind to their brothers and sisters and courteous and respectful to everybody. Then you will learn to be good, and God will love you, and your parents and friends will love you, and you will become happy and useful men and women.

[For the Juvenile Instructor.]

DEATH BY CRUCIFYING.



DEATH by crucifixion, represented here, was very terrible to suffer. It was a very ancient kind of punishment, and was usually inflicted upon great criminals. The cross was a gibbet formed of two pieces of wood, placed across each other, either in the shape of the letter X or in the form of this illustration, and is supposed to have been suggested by the shape which the branches of trees often take, as hanging on a tree was a manner of putting people to death, who had committed crimes, which was used even a longer time ago. When the persons who were being put to death were fastened on the cross, which was usually done by driving nails through their feet and hands, they were in some places left to lie on the ground till they died, and stakes, or sticks sharpened at the ends, were driven through their bodies; in other places the cross was raised up and the bottom end driven violently into a hole made in the earth, which often dislocated, or drove out of their places, the joints of the persons nailed to it. This form of punishment was in use among many ancient nations. The Romans crucified only their slaves who were guilty of crimes, citizens who were guilty of crimes considered worthy of death having the privilege of dying by some other means, death by the cross being thought too degrading. Hence it is said that Paul, one of the Saints of former days, had the privilege of being beheaded, or having his head cut off, which was a speedy kind of death compared with that of the cross, and not near so painful; while Peter, the President of the Twelve Apostles chosen by the Lord Jesus Christ before He suffered death himself, was crucified; Paul was a Roman citizen, although a Jew, but Peter was not a Roman citizen. The only crime which these ancient Saints was guilty of was their keeping the commandments of God, and for this they were put to death, with many others, by the wicked, just as some of the Latter-day Saints have been killed for keeping the commandments which God has given them.

The Savior suffered this terrible and shameful death, being crucified between two thieves. And a great many who call themselves Christians, or followers of Christ, pay a great deal of reverence to the cross, more, indeed, to the symbol or sign of the manner in which Christ died than to doing what He told them to do.

It is not a pleasant subject to talk about, but there are many painful things to suffer and to be talked of in life; and if my little readers can learn knowledge that will keep them from suffering much that they otherwise might have to endure, it will be well for them.

[For the Juvenile Instructor.]

THE JEWS.

Every child who reads this has no doubt heard of the Jews. They are to be met with in many countries, and though they live like other people they are different from them in a great many things. They profess to believe in God and in the old Testament part of the Bible, but they do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. They expect to be all gathered to a place called Palestine, where their fathers lived many hundreds of years ago, and to build again the city of Jerusalem, when they believe the Messiah, or the Son of God, will come to them from heaven and save them from their enemies. They believe many other things, too, that we may tell you of again; but now we are going to tell you who they are, where they come from, and who their fathers were.

They are called Jews, and Israelites, and Hebrews. They are called Jews because one of their fore-fathers was named Judah, and that part of Palestine, or the Holy Land, where his children lived was called Judea, and sometimes Jewry, for the Jews or children of Judah lived there; Judah's father was named Jacob, but he wrestled with an angel of the Lord who did not overcome him, and the angel named him Israel, which means a prince; and therefore they are called Israelites, or the children of Israel. One of Jacob's fore-fathers was named Eber, or Heber, who was the great-grandson of Shem, one of Noah's sons, and from him, it is said, they came to be called Hebrews.

Now, though the Jews are called Israelites, you must not imagine that all Israelites are Jews, for Jacob or Israel had twelve sons, and all their descendants are equally entitled to the name of Israelites. The Indians in these valleys are really Israelites, as well as the Jews, for they are descended from Joseph, another of the sons of Israel; and so are the descendants of the other ten sons of Jacob, who are called the ten tribes of Israel; though it is not known now exactly where they dwell, but it is somewhere in the north country and the Lord will make known to us in His own time where the place is, and reveal many other things concerning them.

By referring to the book of Genesis, in the bible, our little readers will learn of Abraham, a very good man, with whom the Lord talked at many times, and to whom He made promises concerning his posterity. He was so good a man and so faithful to righteousness that he was called the friend of God. He had a son in his old age named Isaac, who was called the child of promise, and who was the father of Jacob; thus all the Israelites were the descendants of Abraham, and the heirs of the promises made to him, which were that they should become very numerous, like the stars in the heavens, and that through them all nations should be blessed.

BEAR WITH US.—It will most likely be another month before the second number of the INSTRUCTOR can be issued. Our stock of paper is on the way, but not yet here; and illustrations which are ordered can hardly reach in less than a month. After that we will endeavor to issue to date. The full numbers of papers, however, to make it a semi-monthly, will be printed and supplied to subscribers in the year. Those wishing the present number, who have not yet subscribed, can obtain it by ordering through the agents or applying to the Editor.