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Editorial Thoughts

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Abstract: Cannon reports that a German scholar, Professor Rudolph, noted striking resemblances between the leading Semitic languages (Arabic and Hebrew) and the Aymara language, belonging to the Incas in Peru. Cannon suggests that a reading of the Book of Mormon would enlighten the professor.

The Juvenile Instructor.

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

SALT LAKE CITY, OCTOBER 1, 1879.

EDITORIAL THOUGHTS.

THERE has been a vast amount of speculation upon the origin of the American Indians. Theories have been advanced and books have been written almost without number upon the subject, by men who have investigated it, and many valuable discoveries have been made that tend to throw light upon it; yet scientific men still grope in the dark. If we except the record contained in the Book of Mormon, there is nothing definitely known concerning the subject. It is a remarkable fact that scientific men will spend years investigating the relics of the early inhabitants, and puzzling their brains for theories concerning them, and yet ignore the Book of Mormon, the only reasonable and authentic record of this people in existence. This would not seem so strange if the facts elicited in their investigations disproved the statements made in that book; but, on the contrary, they tend invariably to corroborate those statements. We have called the attention of our readers many times in the past to many of these discoveries and investigations. We wish now to note another.

Professor Rudolph, a German, has studied the Aymara tongue, a language in vogue before the Spanish conquest, and which was spoken by the Incas and their subjects in Peru. This Aymara language is spoken now by 8,000,000 of the aboriginal stock. This gentleman has discovered that there is an unmistakable affinity in the language of the present races and the Semitic languages, in which the radical form of every verb had three consonants. He shows that the Arabic and the Hebrew are the leading languages of this class (the Semitic tongue), and that the relationship of the Aymara is strong and unquestionable throughout. That the principle words, such as father, mother, brother, daughter, horse, ox, fire, sun, sky, light, dark, come, go, see, hear, eye, ear, hand, mouth, and similar primitive words, are the same in the Aymara and in the Semitic tongues.

The professor has also translated some of the hieroglyphic characters or figures on the ruins of an Aymara temple in Bolivia, where he finds a memorial of a great flood. Masonic signs are also found, signifying light, the thought, the word, the beginning, and many other signs which, after being lost for thousands of years, are now being brought within the general comprehension.

The learned will be astonished at all this, as we may find by the inquiries now being made "whether Asia or America was the original seat of the Aymara or Semitic tongue as a language of a common race?" "Was the high plateau of South America the cradle of the Semitic, as that of Asia was of the Aryan kindred?" or how was there a connection made by the peoples of the two continents without some evidences existing of the transit? The Book of Mormon might be read

with advantage by the learned professor. It would enlighten him upon the subject.

"MY FIRST MISSION."

THIS is the title of a little work of 66 pages just issued from the press at this office. It is a narrative of the personal experience of the editor of the JUVENILE INSTRUCTOR, while upon a mission to the Sandwich Islands. It is the first book of a series to be issued, called the "Faith-Promoting Series." The following extract from the preface of "MY FIRST MISSION" will explain its object:

"When a youth, it was my good fortune to live in the family of President John Taylor. It was my chief delight in those days, to listen to him and other Elders relate their experience as missionaries. Such conversations were very fascinating to me. They made a deep impression upon me. The days of which they spoke, were the days of poverty, when Elders traveled without purse and scrip, among strange people who were ignorant of our principles, and too many of whom were ready to mob and persecute. They traveled by faith, and were pioneers for the Lord in strange lands, and He was their only reliance. Their missions were rich in instances of His power exhibited in their behalf. What I heard strengthened my faith and increased the desire in my heart to be a missionary. No calling was so noble in my eyes as that of a standard-bearer of the gospel.

"The thought which prompts me to publish 'MY FIRST MISSION' is that perhaps it may have the effect upon some of the youth of Zion that the recitals of faithful Elders had upon me. I hope that this will soon be followed by other little volumes of this, the 'Faith-Promoting Series.' I have thought that the missionary spirit did not burn as brightly in some of our young men as it should—that they did not understand the value of human souls in the sight of the Lord and the precious rewards which he bestows upon those who seek, in the proper way, to save them. And yet there never was greater need of faithful men as missionaries than there is to-day. 'The field is white already to harvest,' and there is no limit in the field to the opportunities of those who desire to labor.

"If this little work shall have the effect to awaken and strengthen the missionary spirit, if the remembrance of its incidents, shall comfort the heart and promote the faith of any when they go upon missions, the utmost desire will be gratified of
THE AUTHOR."

The work will be very suitable for use in Sunday schools, as a reader, or text book, and equally well adapted for members of Mutual Improvement Associations. It will be substantially bound, and sold at retail at twenty-five cents per copy.

We commend "MY FIRST MISSION" to the consideration of all our readers.

A GOOD WIFE.—Jeremy Taylor says: "A good wife is heaven's last best gift to man; his angel and minister of graces innumerable; his gem of many virtues; his casket of jewels. Her voice his sweetest music; her smiles, his brightest day; her kiss, the guardian of his innocence; her arms, the pale of his safety, the balm of his health, the balsam of his life; her industry his surest wealth; her economy, his safest steward; her lips, his faithful counselors; her bosom, the softest pillow of his cares; and her prayers, the ablest advocate of heaven's blessing on his head."