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## Indian Relics

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**Abstract:** Claims that archaeological finds of a Dr. Van Patten verify the Book of Mormon.

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[For the *Juvenile Instructor*,

## INDIAN RELICS.

A GREAT deal of attention is being given to the study of the early history of this continent, with a view to determine who and what the inhabitants were. One of the means adopted to effect this object is to exhume the remains of pottery, war implements and other relics of the past found in the earth. Much may be learned about a people by careful examination of the works of art that were made by them, especially in relation to their habits and pursuits. Thus spear heads and arrow heads are silent testimonies of warlike habits, and the chase. Obsidian, chert and flint implements are proofs of ability to make such things; pottery gives evidence of still further advancement in the arts, and habits of comparative refinement. Now we are not obliged to resort to these modes of obtaining correct information respecting the aborigines, as the primitive inhabitants of this country are called; we have records translated with unerring certainty by the power of God respecting them. But it is not the less interesting that modern researches are continually verifying the truth of the Book of Mormon on these subjects, nor should we be insensible to the importance of these researches in a scientific point of view. Although the Prophet Nephi tells us "there were beasts of the forest of every kind" in his day, and that "there were both the cow, and the horse, and the goat, and the wild goat, &c.," it is truly interesting to know that the bones of these animals are found. When he informs us that "all manner of ore, both of gold, and of silver and of copper were found," it is pleasing to know that modern explorations reveal the fact that the ancients were workers in these metals. When he says that "plates were made from the ore, to engrave records on," it is gratifying to know that plates with engravings on are constantly being found.

Dr. Van Patten, who for years has been exploring in Central America with a view to elucidate the early history of the inhabitants of that part of this continent, exhibits evidences of advanced civilization and confirmatory of the accounts given by the Nephite writers. He found ornaments of gold, engraved with devices, made to wear as broaches, or for personal adornment. The knowledge of metallurgy must have been very great, "cored" castings of the most intricate character, were made. The forms of embellishment were eminently artistic, and gave proof of thorough acquaintance with working in metals. The pottery exhibited by the Doctor, even more strikingly tells the tale of great taste in design and wonderful skill in execution. Who would doubt the fact of the makers of some of the vases shown in our Museum being an enlightened people, examine the legs of the "tripods" made by them, adorned in every possible way consistent with strength, lightness and elegance.

Now what do we read about that part of this continent, Central America. Ether says: "The whole face of the land was covered with inhabitants; they were exceedingly industrious; they worked in all manner of ore; they made gold and silver, and iron, and brass, and all manner of metals; they had silks and fine twined linen; they worked all manner of cloth; they made tools to till the earth, for ploughing, sowing, reaping, hoeing and thrashing; tools to work their beasts with; they made weapons of war, and work of exceedingly curious workmanship."

All these things and much more mentioned incidentally in the Book of Mormon, are proved to be true by modern researches. To come right home to this Territory, we read that among other animals, there were elephants on this continent; the fossil remains of one of those animals may be seen in our Museum, of another in Boise city, Idaho, fossil remains not found among the rocks, but recent bones found near the surface.

Fossil teeth of horses and of other domestic animals are found mingled with fragments of pottery, tools, such as bodkins, serapers, &c, and vases, water-jugs and bowls, some of which show much skill in manufacturing. It is with a desire to further the interests of science that the writer asks as a favor that Indian relics should be preserved carefully, and that plates with engravings, or anything in fact, that will aid in attaining to further knowledge of the aborigines, should be deposited safely in our Museum.

## MISSIONARY SKETCHES.

TWO years had now passed away since we arrived on the Island of Australia, and we had visited and preached the gospel in twenty-three cities, and had organized seven branches of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The way was opening fast to do a great work in the ministry; hundreds were believing the truth of the work, and we were traveling on a circuit of two hundred and fifty miles, had become acquainted with many people, and had a prospect of doing much good. At this time the news arrived from California, that the United States had sent an army to Utah, and would destroy all of the "Mormons" root and branch. The Australian papers teemed with the news, ten-fold exaggerated, and the opening to preach the gospel, seemed to close up at once, and we were accosted on every hand to know why we did not answer those reports in the papers if they were not true. They said that we had preached to them that the God of heaven had spoken in these last days, and had sent an holy angel, had restored the holy priesthood and the keys to build up the Church and Kingdom of God on the earth, and now, said they, the next ship that arrives from America will bring the news of the destruction of all the "Mormons" in Utah. We told them that we had the same testimony to bear now as before, and that God would bring his people safely through every trial, and all the power that the United States would have over the Saints in Utah would only be to chasten the people, and purge from their midst the ungodly.

We then proceeded to Sidney, and visited all of the editors in that city, and tried to insert our answers to the evil reports that were going the rounds in the papers, but all refused us but one. The Sidney Tribune inserted our answers to Judge Drummond's official reports of Utah, in which we gave his character and doings in Utah. This gave us more influence than all of the preaching that we could do.

At this time we received news that we were called home, and, having a quantity of books and tracts on hand, we concluded to stay a few months on the Island and sell our works, if possible, to the rich families of the colony of New South Wales; for up to this time we had not had any success with that class of the people.

Our experience soon taught us that if we wanted access to a gentleman's mansion, we must not go to the servants with our message, or try to get access by the back way, nor let our message be known to gentlemen until we had got admission to the parlor.

But how did we get admitted? We would go to the gentleman's gate, pull the knob and ring the bell that was on the inside of the wall; a servant or footman would come and unlock the gate, and ask for our card or name and business, and if we told him our business, the gate would be shut against us. But our course was to tell him that we had an important message for the master or mistress of the mansion. He would invariably let us in, then go about his business, and we would proceed to the house. At the front door we would find another bell, which we would ring, and a servant would come to the door and ask for our card as before; if we had not any card, she would ask our name, which we would sometimes tell, but