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Aztec Recording—1518

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Abstract: A series of brief comments in which the author presents archaeological findings, architectural notes, and myths and legends that deal indirectly with the Book of Mormon. Dibble discusses the wheel, ancient irrigation methods, metals, Mexican and Mayan codices, Quetzalcoatl, ancient buildings, and numerous other related items. The nineteenth part covers an Aztec codex.

Aztec

RECORDING-1518

By DR. CHARLES E. DIBBLE

ALTHOUGH Aztec historians and savants relied chiefly on a form of pictographic or ideographic writing, they were able to record skilfully considerable information and historic detail in a minimum of space.

It is no doubt true that the Indian paintings served to recall the principal happenings and relied upon native oral



THE
YEAR 13
RABBIT
(1518 IN
AZTEC
HISTORY).

tradition to complement and round out the story. However, if and when necessary, the chronicler recorded the names of the principal persons, the names of the towns, and the exact day of the event. (The Mexican calendar system was a variant of a chronological count which existed and functioned at least 162 A. D.)

A recently interpreted Aztec manuscript admirably illustrates how the native scribes recorded history. The accompanying illustration is taken from the "Codice en Cruz," which was written by an Indian historian soon after the conquest. A native scholar, viewing the illustration, would read:

"In the year '13 Rabbit' (1518) an Aztec merchant traveling in the area of the Gulf (Gulf of Mexico) saw a ship-load of Spaniards (Juan de Grijalva). They appeared bearing spears (arms) and the cross."



I CAN see Johnny now, sitting in the seat nudging the throttle. He would be itching for a chance to see how smooth the outfit runs, overhauled and painted up like new.

The tractor was his baby. How that kid could put it through its paces! If he handles a tank half as well . . . it will be curtains for anyone who gets in his way.

He's working in a different kind of field this year, plowing his way across a battleground somewhere over there. It's up to me now to take the wheel at home.

I don't pretend to be a match for the boy, but I know this much. If we fail to keep the farm going full blast, if we neglect to put our machinery in shape *before it's too late* . . . somebody in the world will have that much less to eat. And I don't want it to be my lad or anyone fighting on his side.

Shep, what do you suppose Johnny would think about our A-C equipment now? Think he'd get a kick out of seeing it okayed by the Allis-Chalmers dealer and enlisted in the Farm Commandos? I've got a feeling he would be proud to see it Ready to Roll . . . maybe as proud as he is of that tank he's driving.

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