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The Hill Cumorah

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Abstract: This article is comprised of a few notes on the Hill Cumorah. It was the site of the final battles of both Nephite and Jaredite nations, and contains a repository of plates and records.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

"For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving and the voice of melody."—ISAIAH.

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THE HILL CUMORAH;

OR THE SACRED DEPOSITORY OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING.

The Hill Cumorah is situated in western New York, between the villages of Palmyra and Canandaigua, about four miles from the former. It is celebrated as the ancient depository of the sacred gold plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated. Cumorah was the name by which the hill was designated in the days of the Prophet Moroni, who deposited the plates about four hundred and twenty years after the birth of Christ. The Prophet Mormon, the father of Moroni, had been entrusted with all the sacred records of his forefathers, engraved on metallic plates. New plates were made by Mormon on which he wrote, from the more ancient books, an abridged history of the nation, incorporating therewith many revelations, prophecies, the Gospel, &c. These new plates were given to Moroni to finish the history. And all the ancient plates, Mormon deposited in Cumorah, about three hundred and eighty-four years after Christ. When Moroni, about thirty-six years after, made the deposit of the book entrusted to him, he was, without doubt, inspired to

select a department of the hill separate from the great sacred depository of the numerous volumes hid up by his father. The particular place in the hill, where Moroni secreted the book, was revealed, by the angel, to the Prophet Joseph Smith, to whom the volume was delivered in September, A.D. 1827. But the grand repository of all the numerous records of the ancient nations of the western continent, was located in another department of the hill, and its contents under the charge of holy angels, until the day should come for them to be transferred to the sacred temple of Zion. The hill Cumorah, with the surrounding vicinity, is distinguished as the great battle-field on which, and near which, two powerful nations were concentrated with all their forces, men, women, and children, and fought till hundreds of thousands on both sides were hewn down, and left to moulder upon the ground. Both armies were Israelites; both had become awfully corrupt, having apostatized from God: the Nephites, as a nation, became extinct: the Laman-

ites alone were left. This happened, according to their faithful records, near the close of the fourth century of the Christian era. The American Indians are the remnants of the once powerful nation of Lamanites.

The hill Cumorah is remarkable also as being the hill on which, and around which, a still more ancient nation perished, called Jaredites: this unparalleled destruction is recorded in the Book of Ether; and happened about six centuries before Christ. The Jaredites colonised America from the Tower of Babel. After about sixteen centuries, during which they became exceedingly numerous, they, through their terrible wars, destroyed themselves. The hill Cumorah, by them, was called Ramah. Millions fought against millions, until the hill Ramah, and the land round about, was soaked with blood, and their carcasses left in countless numbers unburied, to moulder back to mother earth.

There is no spot on this wide world of ours, which is calculated to excite more vivid reflections, than the wonderful hill of Cumorah. There the history of one-half of our globe, reposed, for fourteen centuries, in profound unbroken silence: there, "the everlasting Gospel," engraved, not on tablets of stone, but on plates of gold, awaited the voice of the heavenly angel to reveal the priceless treasure: there, buried in the holy archives of Cumorah's sacred hill, are plates of brass, plates of gold, undimmed by time; sacredly guarded as the temple of heaven: there shines the Urim and Thummim, the stones of light, the gems of immortality: there, reposes in words of light, the hidden knowledge of ages past, the prophetic history of ages to come: there wisdom has selected her palace, and understanding her dwelling place, until "the spirit is poured out from on high," and "the skies pour down righteousness;" then, "the earth opens and brings forth salvation."

Well did the inspired Patriarch, Job, inquire, "Where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?" (28: 12.) "The place" cannot be sought out by man; "neither is it found in the land of the living. The depth saith, It is not in

me: and the sea saith, It is not with me." If neither the depths of the sea, nor the generations of the living, know the holy hidden place, where shall it be sought? Is it in some sequestered wild? In some uninhabited desert or wilderness, where roams the beasts of prey? Is it on the surface of the earth, exposed to the vultures gaze, or to the keen eye of the lofty eagle? It is in "a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen: the lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it." "It is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air." If neither man, nor beast, nor fowl hath seen it; if it has been withheld from mortal gaze; where shall we turn to renew our researches? The Patriarch exclaims, "Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears." How truthful is this saying! The countless millions, whose dust and ashes enrich the soil of Cumorah's hill, "have heard the fame thereof." Let the nations of the dead speak from their lonely sepulchres, and "whisper from the dust," the doings of bye-gone ages! Let the faithful records of the ancient dead, declare the holy dwelling place of wisdom, the sacred depository of understanding! Though hidden from the gaze of covetous man, and protected from the polluted touch of unholy beings, yet, "God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof. For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven; to make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure. When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of thunder; then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out." From days of old, he ordained it; on the land that is afar off, He selected for it a habitation; "on the sides of the north," in a land of fountains, rivers, and lakes, he constructed for wisdom a house, and said unto knowledge, here shalt thou dwell, until the heavens shall reveal thy hiding place, and thy presence is sought again among the sons of men; then shalt thou teach mortals in "the fear of the Lord," and light the candle of understanding in their

hearts ; then shalt thou dwell in Zion, and light up the habitations thereof with thy glory.

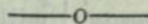
These holy treasures, these sacred archives are too precious to be bought with the riches of this world. Hence, Job says, "It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. The gold and the crystal cannot equal it : and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls : for the price of wisdom is above rubies. The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold." All the wealth of ages is valueless, compared with the records of eternal wisdom, the inexhaustible fountain of understanding, hidden in the secret recesses of the wonderful—the beautiful—the lovely hill Cumorah ! O, Cumorah ! the hill of ancient Seers and Prophets ! the hill of God ! Sanctified by holy angels' feet ! From thy bowels is heard a voice, low, sweet, mild, of heavenly tones ! yet it thrills through every fibre of the heart ! It speaks of man—of God—of earth—of

heaven—of hell ! It speaks of the past—of the future—of the destiny of nations—the reign of Messiah—the resurrection—the final judgment ! O holy, lovely mount ! the sacred resting place of Zion's law ! In thy chambers dwell eternal riches ! In thy lovely bosom are fountains that never dry ! Speak ! O speak again ! Let Zion hear thy voice ! for thy voice is not the voice of feeble helpless man ! but the voice of the Eternal One, speaking from the ground. Let Zion sing for joy ! let the heavens be full of praise ; for thou, O Lord, makest the earth to disclose its wonders ; thou bringest forth truth from the bowels thereof ! thou openest the gates of wisdom, and showest thy word unto the sons of men ! Hidden things are brought to light—things most precious to the soul ! let the hills and mountains break forth into singing ! let the earth itself utter songs of everlasting joy ! let glory, honor, and everlasting power, be unto Him who sitteth upon the throne, who holdeth the keys of Creation and Redemption forever more.

O. PRATT.

NECESSITY OF SELF-CONTROL.

BY ELDER FRANCIS L. GIBBONS.



The people of God are privileged to enjoy many blessings in their present state of existence, and have, moreover, the promise of a great reward in a future state. In the event of their continuing faithful in keeping the commandments of God unto the end, they are destined ultimately to be crowned with eternal lives, and to become kings and priests unto God, and to reign with king Jesus throughout the countless ages of eternity. There is, then, a great and glorious future awaiting the faithful sons and daughters of God, the thought of which should stimulate and stir them up to increased diligence in faith and good works. The Saints of the Most High love to hear the servants of God speak of, and dwell upon those things ; they

delight to read of them, and to sing of them ; they are present in their waking thoughts and slumbering hours, when sweet and balmy sleep has crept over their wearied frames ; even then ministering angels whisper words of comfort and encouragement to their drooping spirits, and cause the beautiful and pleasing panorama of the promised reward for continued faithfulness, to pass before their minds' eye, so that when they awaken, they arise and go forth refreshed, invigorated, and encouraged to continue the struggle until the battle is fought and the prize is won, when they shall be enabled to exclaim with the great Apostle to the Gentiles,—I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course I have kept the faith : henceforth ther