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The Mounds and Their Builders

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Abstract: Sees mounds near St. Louis, Missouri, as evidence for the Book of Mormon and speculates that the mounds are the remains of the cement houses spoken of in Helaman 3.

been carried out fully in Weber Stake; this was a notable exception to the other reports, for although there is an improvement in this respect, a great need was expressed for efficient male teachers who would attend regularly and feel the importance of this noble calling.

Elder Moses Thatcher, when giving, by request, a general report of the cause in Cache Stake, observed that faithful Sunday school work is as good and important as foreign missionary labor. He encouraged parents to visit our Sunday schools, and depreciated the practice of some in sending their children to schools taught by those outside of the Church. Said the JUVENILE INSTRUCTOR was the best periodical published.

Prest. Joseph F. Smith endorsed the Sunday school movement. It was a pleasure to him to visit our Sunday schools whenever opportunity offered; though he had not visited in this Stake very much. This work is of such importance that it should take no argument to convince the parents of their duty to get their children ready in time and send them to Sunday school. He referred to the need of teachers and felt that the example of mothers, who, having a family to care for, take them to Sunday school and act as teachers was most praiseworthy. He admonished teachers to be patient and kind to the younger children and draw them by the power of affection.

Apostle Erastus Snow suggested that Ward Teachers look after the children in their visits to the families of the Saints, and urge their attendance at Sunday school. Also suggested that teachers for Sunday schools be sought after, whose occupations would not interfere with their regular attendance. He felt pleased and encouraged at the reports given. He blessed those engaged in Sunday schools with all the authority he had and invoked the blessings of God upon them, for they had an important mission.

Asst. Gen. Supt. Goddard briefly reviewed the reports that had been given. He commended the INSTRUCTOR, and urged all to aid in sustaining and extending its circulation. It was expected that by Christmas a new music book of about one hundred pieces would be issued by the Union. He said that Elder C. H. Bliss was going to travel through the territory in the interests of the INSTRUCTOR, and proposed that he be appointed a missionary at large to our Sunday schools, which, on motion, was done by unanimous vote.

Gen. Supt. George Q. Cannon suggested, where there is a lack of teachers it would be good for presidents of Stakes and Bishops to call sufficient competent brethren to act in that capacity. There is no labor that will exceed, if there be one that equals it. Faithful teachers will be greatly blessed. He felt thankful for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that had led to the organization of our Sunday schools and the establishing of the Deseret Sunday School Union.

Closed with singing the doxology by the choir and congregation and benediction by Apostle H. J. Grant.

GRATITUDE should mark all our conduct, for we are surrounded by the mercies of God.

WOULD you learn to judge kindly an offending brother, place yourself in the position of the culprit.

THE fairest fruit is not always the most palatable. The fairest woman is not always the most faultless.

THE MOUNDS AND THEIR BUILDERS.

BY HAGOTH.

SINCE the Book of Mormon was first published to the world in the year 1829, many things have come to light that are evidences of its truthfulness. Among these are the numerous ruins and mounds that have been discovered since that time, as well as other evidences that go to prove that this land was inhabited by a more civilized race than Columbus found here. Among the mounds that I have seen I think the most important are to be found a few miles east of St. Louis, on the American Bottom. As you proceed eastward on the Ohio and Mississippi or Vandalia railroads you will notice numerous mounds of various sizes covering the plain on either side of the track. One in particular—off to the left—attracts the attention from its great height and size and because a farm house stands on its summit.

Within ten square miles of alluvion bottom there are more than one hundred mounds of considerable dimensions. The largest of these are on the bank of Cahokia creek five or six miles from East St. Louis.

This group contains seventy-two mounds the majority of which are situated on a square mile. The largest mound is in the center of the group and is known as the Cahokia or Monk's Mound, deriving its latter name from the fact that in the early history of the country some monks occupied the mound for a short time. The form of the mound is a parallelogram with straight sides the longer of which are north and south. It is about one hundred feet in height. On the southern end thirty feet, above the base, is a terrace or apron containing nearly two acres of ground. On the western side and some thirty feet above the first terrace is a second one of somewhat less extent. The top of the mound is flat and divided into two parts the northern end being four or five feet higher than the southern portion. The summit contains about an acre and a half. Near the middle of the first terrace at the base of the mound, is a projecting point, apparently the remains of a graded pathway to ascend from the plain to the terrace. The west side of the mound below the second terrace is very irregular and forms projecting knobs separated by deep ravines, probably the result of rain storms. The remaining sides of the structure are quite straight and but little defaced by the hand of time. About the sides of the mound are still growing several forest trees one of which an elm is several centuries old. The base of the mound covers sixteen acres of ground.

A well has been dug on the lower terrace and pieces of pottery, sea shells etc., were found. In another mound near by bones were found, also some copper awls and needles, some of the latter were about eighteen inches long. Stone images, pottery and many small relics have been found in mounds in the vicinity.

All this goes to show a degree of civilization in advance of the Indian race, and how do we know but what these mounds are the remains of the cement houses spoken of in the third chapter of Helaman?

There is every appearance that a great city stood here, for the bottom seventy-five miles long and five to ten wide is literally covered with mounds and even the present site of St. Louis was dotted here and there with these remains of past greatness.