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History of Jesus, Chapter XIII

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Abstract: Chronicles Jesus' visit to the Lehites after the cataclysm.

Could the directors accept a project without consulting him? Again they met. What had he to say concerning it? Fight it he did. He dwelt upon its complicated nature, the liability of the ropes and tackling to get out of order, the failure of one engine retarding and damaging and stopping the whole line—a phase of the matter which did not fail to make an impression. The directors were moved. The rich quaker Cropper, however, heeded the stationary-engine party, and insisted upon adopting it. "But," answered the others, "ought we to make such an outlay of money without first giving the locomotive a fair trial?" And Stephenson pleaded powerfully, as you may suppose, in its behalf. "Try it, try it," he urged; "for speed and safety there is nothing like it." And the words of a man with strong faith are strong words. "Besides," he said, "the locomotive is capable of great improvements. It is young yet; its capacities have never been thoroughly tested. When proper inducements are held out, a superior article will be offered to the public."

Never were directors in a greater strait. There was no withstanding Stephenson; for he knew what he was talking about. All the rest were schemers. At last one of the directors said, "Wait; let us offer a prize for a new locomotive, built to answer certain conditions, and see what sort of engine we can get."

That was fair. It was right his engine should be properly tested. All agreed; and in a few days proposals were issued for the building of one. There was eight conditions, two of which were, that if the engine were of six tons weight, it should be able to draw twenty tons at a speed as high as ten miles an hour. The prize was five hundred pounds.

The offer excited a great deal of attention, and many people made themselves merry at its expense. The conditions were absurd, they said; nobody but a set of fools would have made them. It had already been proved impossible to make a locomotive engine to go at ten miles an hour, and one gentleman in his heat even went so far as to say, that if it ever were done, he would undertake to eat a stewed engine wheel for his breakfast. As that condition was answered, it is to be hoped he was generously relieved from his rash and indigestible dish.

More candid minds turned with interest to the development of this new force struggling into notice. Stephenson felt how much depended on the issue. And the public generally concluded to suspend its verdict upon the proper working of railways, until time and talent gave them better means of judging.

To be Continued.

HISTORY OF JESUS.

CHAPTER XIII.

WHEN instructing his followers, Jesus frequently called himself the shepherd and those who received his teachings, the sheep. At one time, he said to his disciples "Other sheep I have who are not of this fold." Jesus was alluding to a people who at that very time, was living on this western continent, but his disciples did not know what he meant, for they were entirely ignorant of any people except those on what we call the Eastern Hemisphere. If they had asked Jesus, he probably would have told them; but they did not ask.

The last words of Jesus in praying to his Father, were, as he hung upon the cross, "Receive my spirit;" and after his spirit left the body, he went immediately to his Father. His Father did receive him to His bosom, and no human heart, in this state of mortality is capable of fully appreciating the transcendent joy of that glorious meeting of Father and Son. The Son had done the work that was given him to do, and the Father was satisfied.

During the three days that the body of Jesus lay in the tomb, he was not idle. Then it was that he went and preached to the spirits in prison, the spirits of people who had lived on the earth—who had been rebellious, and had died without obeying the gospel. Jesus went and preached the gospel to them, and those that received it could, according to the order of the gospel, be baptized for by some of the Saints who were then living in the flesh. It is on the same principle that some of the Latter-day Saints have been baptized for the dead. The Apostle Paul, in writing to some of the ancient Saints who got into darkness and doubted whether there would be any resurrection, said, "Then why are we baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not?"

At the period of time when Jesus lived and died and was resurrected on the eastern continent, the people of that country had no knowledge of the Western Hemisphere containing the continent of America.

Although on this portion of the earth the garden of Eden was planted, where Adam and Eve, our first parents, were placed when they came to colonize the world in the morning of its creation; through the many changes that had taken place, the earth had been divided—the two continents had been separated, and a mighty ocean was flowing between them.

We read in the Bible that the earth was divided in the days of Peleg, which was several generations before the day of Abraham. But we have no knowledge of the circumstances which occasioned the separation. We learn from the ancient prophets, as recorded in the Bible, that in the last days, these continents will be again united, and the water which now separates them will be turned back into the north.

The Book of Mormon gives us histories of people at different periods inhabiting this country, who, while they lived in the fear of the Lord and worked righteousness, were greatly blessed, and when they turned away from Him and went into iniquity were punished with wars and pestilences, and in some instances utterly destroyed. The descendants of Lehi, who came from Jerusalem six hundred years before the birth of Jesus, were the inhabitants of this western country at the time of his birth. They brought the records of their fathers, containing the words of the ancient prophets who foretold the coming of Jesus to die for the redemption of the world; and when they kept the commandments of God, He spoke to them and instructed them through prophets and inspired men in their midst. These prophets, who were greatly beloved and respected by the good, were hated, persecuted and held in derision by the wicked, and when they boldly declared the truths of God and called on the people to repent, the wicked were so enraged that they were often obliged to flee from place to place for the preservation of their lives.

As the time drew near when Jesus was to be born, it seemed that Satan exerted all his power to stir up the hearts of the people to madness against the prophets whom God inspired to testify of it, and against all those who believed their words. There was one prophet by the name of Samuel, a Lamanite, who was commanded to warn the inhabitants of the city Zarahemla of the awful judgments that would be poured out upon them if they did not speedily repent. E. R. S.

"O PAPA!" said a little chap, the other day, as he came home from school, "I am next to head!" "Ah! and how many are there in the class, Freddy?" "Tico!"

"SWEAR not at all." Lay aside all by-words which seem harmless in themselves. Such words not only savor of profanity, but they are always ungrammatical and inelegant. A true gentleman, or a true lady, uses no such by-words.