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History of Jesus, Chapter XV

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

required by the offer of the directors. The tender, shaped like a wagon, carried the wood in one end and the water in the other.

It was forthwith put on the Killingworth track, fired up, and started off. Robert must have watched its operations with intense anxiety. Nothing could have met his expectations like the new boiler. It, in fact, out did his highest hopes. The steam made rapidly, and in what seemed to him then, marvellous quantities. Away went a letter to Liverpool that very evening.

"The Rocket is all right and ready," wrote the young man, joyfully. That was the engine's name, "Rocket," on account of its speed perhaps. "Puffing Billy" was quite cast into the shade. By looking at our engraving of the first page, you can form an idea of its appearance.

It was shortly shipped to Liverpool in season for the grand trial.

The trial, rapidly approaching, elicited a great and general interest. The public mind was astir. The day fixed was the first of October. Engineers, mechanics, and scientific men, far and near, flocked to Liverpool. The ground where the exhibition was to take place, was a level piece of railroad two miles long, a little out of the city. Each engine was to make twenty trips at a rate of speed not under ten miles an hour, and three competent men were appointed as judges.

Four engines were entered on the list, "THE NOVELTY," "SANS-PAREIL," "THE ROCKET," "PERSEVERANCE."

Several others were built for the occasion in different parts of the kingdom, or rather projected and begun, but were not finished in time.

In order to afford ample opportunity for their owners to get them in good working order, the directors postponed the trial to October 6th. The day arrived, and a glance at the country round showed that an unusual occasion was drawing people together. Multitudes from the neighboring towns assembled on the grounds at an early hour. The road was lined with carriages, and a high staging afforded the ladies an opportunity of witnessing the novel race.

The "Novelty" and "Sans-pareil," though first on the list, were not ready at the hour appointed. What engine was? The Rocket. Stephenson next on the roll, was called for by the judges, and promptly the little Rocket fired up at the call. It performed six trips in about fifty-three minutes.

The Novelty then proclaimed itself ready. It was a light, trim engine, of little more than three tons weight, carrying its wood and water with it. It took no load and ran across the course sometimes at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour. The Sans-pareil also came out.

The Perseverance, not able to go faster than five or six miles an hour, withdrew from the contest. As the day was now far spent, further exhibition was put off until the morrow.

What exciting discussions must have taken place among rival competitors and their friends. What a scrutiny of the merits and demerits, the virtues and defects of opposing engines.

Before the appointed hour the next day, the bellows of the Novelty gave out, and as this was one of its merits—a bellows to increase the draft of the air-blast—its builders were forced to retire from the list.

Soon after a defect was discovered in the boiler of the "Sans-pareil." Mr. Hackworth begged for time to mend it; as there was no time, none could be granted, and he too withdrew his claims.

The Rocket alone stood its ground. The Rocket, therefore, was again called for. Stephenson attached to it a carriage large enough to hold a party of thirty, and drove his locomotive along the line at the rate of twenty-five and thirty miles an hour, to the amazement and delight of every one present.

The next morning it was ordered to be in readiness to answer the various specifications of the offer. It snorted and panted, and steamed over the race-ground in proud trim, drawing about thirteen tons weight. In twenty trips, backward and forward, its greatest speed was twenty-nine miles an hour, three times greater than Nicholas Wood, one of the judges, declared to be possible. Its average rate was fifteen miles, five miles beyond the rate specified for the prize. The performance appeared astonishing. Spectators were filled with wonder. The poor directors began to see fair weather; doubts were solved, disputes settled; the Rocket had cleared the track for them. There could no longer be any question how to run the road. George Cropper, who had steadily countenanced stationary engines, lifted up his hands, exclaiming, "Stephenson has at last delivered himself!"

(To be Continued.)

For the Juvenile Instructor.

HISTORY OF JESUS.

CHAPTER XV.

THE prophets had foretold that at the time of the crucifixion of Jesus, there should be darkness on the Western Continent for three days and nights. Although many great and wonderful miracles had been performed by those that believed and lived in obedience to the words of the prophets, many began to doubt, and say that the prophets had spoken falsely.

On the very day and at the very hour when Jesus, the Son of God was nailed to a cross, there arose a most fearful storm, here in the land of America; although it was not called America then, for at that time it was inhabited by the people called Nephites and Lamanites. That storm was the most fearful one that ever was known. The wind blew in hurricanes and tempests, while the flashes of lightning and the awful peals of thunder were fearfully terrific.

In the midst of the dreadful scene, the great city Zarahemla took fire and was burned to ashes. It was in this same city where, before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Samuel tried to preach, but the people would not suffer him to remain in the city, but drove him out, and he got upon the walls and stood and warned them of the judgments of God that would come upon them if they did not repent.

Very many other cities were destroyed—some were burned—some were sunk and some buried in the depths of the sea—some were taken up by tremendous whirlwinds, while others were shaken by earthquakes until the buildings fell and crushed the inhabitants. In some places the rocks were torn asunder and thrown up in huge mountainous piles, while in other parts they were scattered about in broken fragments.

This awful scene lasted three hours, the same length of time that Jesus hung in agony on the cross—and in the short space of three hours, the whole face of this western continent was fearfully changed. Of the many once flourishing cities, both in the north and south, a few remained, but those few were very much injured by the tempests and earthquakes, and many of the inhabitants perished.

When the storm ceased, the whole land was covered with darkness; and the darkness was so dense, that the people that outlived the storm, could feel the vapor of darkness. It was impossible for them to make any light whatever—they could neither light candles nor kindle very dry wood, so as to make even a glimmer of light; and there was not the least ray to be seen from the sun, moon or stars.

This was a dreadful state for the people to remain in, after the awful calamities which had come upon them. The dark-

ness lasted during the time of three days and nights. And there was great weeping, mourning and lamentation among the people who had been warned of the things that were coming upon the earth, and had been called upon to repent of their sins and turn to the Lord. When it was too late, they saw their folly and bewailed their wretched condition. And in many places they filled the air with their cries and lamentations that they had not forsaken their sins before those calamities overtook them, so that they might have been spared with their sons and daughters, to enjoy their society.

Then the sound of a voice went forth over all the land, and it was heard by all the living that were spared from the awful scourge. The voice was the voice of Jesus, and he spoke to all the inhabitants of the earth. He reproved the people for their sins, and told them how they had persecuted those who had sought to do them good; and that in consequence of their wickedness, all these calamities had come upon them, and those who were the greatest sinners had been utterly destroyed, as the prophets had predicted.

The voice then said, "O all you that are spared because you were more righteous than they; will you not now return unto me, and repent of your sins and be converted, that I may heal you? Yea, verily I say unto you, if ye will come unto me, ye shall have eternal life. Behold my arm of mercy is extended towards you, and whosoever will come, I will receive; and blessed are they that come unto me. Behold, I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God. And as many as have received me, to them have I given power to become the sons of God; and even so will I, to as many as shall believe on my name: for, by me redemption cometh, and in me is the law of Moses fulfilled. I am the light and the life of the world. I have laid down my life and have taken it up again: therefore, repent and come unto me, ye ends of the earth, and be ye saved." E. R. S.

(To be Continued.)

Uncle Gregory's Visits.

For the Juvenile Instructor.

VISIT XX. THE LORD WILL PROVIDE.

[CONTINUED.]

AS they were resting under the elm an aged man dressed in a loose blue coat and brass buttons, blue pants and vest and a three cornered hat came and sat down beside them. "Fine day, sir," said he to papa. "Very," laconically replied papa. "Have you ever seen the hospital sir?" asked the gentleman of the blue coat. "No, sir," replied papa. "I, sir, am a pensioner, a Greenwich pensioner," said the old gentleman, as if it was quite an honor to be a Greenwich pensioner, "and I shall be proud to show you over the house." "Would you not like to see the old gentlemen take their supper, my dear," said he to Mary? "Yes, I should" replied Mary. Papa referred to his watch and found they had plenty of time. They walked round the park, viewed the observatory, from which all kinds of scientific observations are made, and then went to the hospital, which was a large building erected for disabled sailors, in which they might end their days in peace after having devoted most of their lives to the service of their country. The old gentleman showed them the flag room, where the flags that

had been torn and blackened in many a hard fought battle hung around.

They visited the kitchen where they were making tea by the gallon. An old black man, who had been a sailor, gave them some tea to taste, which was not very strong, but very hot and sweet. When they had satisfied their curiosity papa gave the old pensioner a present for his courtesy and received the usual "God bless your honor." They departed well pleased with their visit.

They reached the pier and there was the steam boat ready to take them back to London bridge. The bell was ringing as a signal for them to go on board, and other passengers were hurrying to secure their passage and all was life and bustle. They had only been a few minutes on the steam boat when the bell stopped, and the Captain, walking between the paddle wheels, began to give directions to the man in the engine room, which were echoed by a small boy at the opening of the engine room, for the large paddle wheels made such a noise that the engineer could not hear the Captain. "Start ahead," said the Captain. "Start ahead" echoed the call boy, and the boat began to move.

There are so many boats and so much shipping in the river Thames that great care has to be taken, otherwise the vessels would run into each other and occasion much damage and loss of life. "Ease her," called the Captain. "Ease her" shouted the call boy, that being the instruction to the engineer to slacken the speed. The boat moved slowly out into the river, and the voice of the Captain was again heard, "Go on ahead," which was repeated by the call boy, and away they went up the river. The setting sun was tinging the clouds with a rich golden hue which was reflected in the water of the river. The men from the various factories and ship building yards were wending their way homewards to enjoy the comfort of their families after a hard day's work, and the noise and bustle of the morning scene was quieting down into calmness and peace. Papa pointed out some ships that had come from America laden with cotton and tobacco, and Mary asked him, "shall we have to sail in a ship like this?" "Yes, my dear," replied papa, "only a much larger one, and we shall live upon the water for many weeks without ever seeing land." "Oh, I like being in a ship," said little Ellen. "Perhaps," said papa, "when you are upon the sea and feel sea sick you would not think it so pleasant." "Papa," said Mary, "why do people get sick at sea?" "Because of the motion of the vessel," replied papa, "the sea rocks a large ship about like that small straw you see passing by this boat." The girls saw the straw tossed about in the foam caused by the motion of the paddle wheels, and it seemed impossible to believe it.

They arrived at London bridge about the time of lighting the city and had the opportunity of seeing part of London by night. The city is lighted by gas, which is made by consuming coal, without allowing the vapor, called gas, to escape. This vapor is forced into iron pipes and conveyed under ground to various lamps erected on the side walks. A very easy experiment, and one which will give you some idea how this gas is procured may be made as follows: Obtain a common clay tobacco pipe, fill the bowl with coal dust and stop it over with clay, then put the bowl into the fire and leave the pipe out in the front. When it is heated, the gas, having no escape, will come through the end of the pipe, and by applying a lighted match to the vapor, it will burn with a clear flame until it is all consumed.

To be Continued.

Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.