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## Discovery of an American Mastodon

Editor(s): Brigham Young

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**Abstract:** This article reports the discovery of bones of a mastodon 83 feet below the surface, about 100 feet from the Mohawk river at a village of Cohoes, near Troy, New York. The Book of Mormon is not mentioned but this and the article following it, “The Mastodon of the Book of Ether” are used to support the Book of Mormon.

Priests' Quorum ; William Carmichael and Robert Rice, his Counsellors.

Adam Spiers, President of the Teachers' Quorum ; Henry I. Doremus and Martin Lenzi, his Counsellors.

James Leach, President of the Deacons' Quorum ; Warren Hardie, his Counsellor.

Brigham Young, Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Daniel H. Wells, Superintendent of Public Works ; John Sharp, his Assistant.

William H. Folsom, Architect for the Church.

Brigham Young, President of the Perpetual Emigration Fund to gather the poor ; Heber C. Kimball, Daniel H. Wells, and Edward Hunter, his Assistants and Agents for said Fund.

George A. Smith, Historian and General Recorder, and Wilford Woodruff, his Assistant.

President Joseph Young spoke in a fatherly manner on the importance of embodying in our lives the principles of the Gospel, and having the Spirit of God with us, so as to be prepared for every change and every emergency. He alluded to the labors of the early settlers, and to the fact that all the grain, fruits, and other products of the earth that are produced in this Territory, are the results of the labors of the "Mormons;" and asked why men should want to cut down the fruit trees, destroy our cities, and exterminate the very people by whose labors they obtain bread to eat. He spoke of his first visit to the Prophet Joseph ; bore testimony to the truth, and blessed all who desire to do right;

inculcating charity and kindness upon all men, and urging the Elders, especially the Seventies over whom he presides, to be temperate in all things and sober.

Elder Charles C. Goodman sang a song.

Elder Levi W. Hancock bore his testimony to the work of God, and to his confidence in the constituted Authorities of the Church.

The Ogden choir sang. Elders John D. T. McAllister, Henry C. Fowler and Samuel L. Adams, sang several songs. The Tabernacle choir finished with an anthem.

President John Young expressed his strong faith in the work of God, and said if any person wanted to find out those who were recognized of the Lord with power to build up his kingdom, they could find them in the men who were hunted by the agents of the adversary, and hated with the most intense bitterness for the truth's sake. This was the case with Joseph and Hyrum, and others of the Priesthood, who have gone behind the veil, while they were in the flesh ; and it has been the case with brother Brigham, brother Heber, brother Daniel, and those who stand by them all the time, and with all the Saints of God. He testified that the work of God would endure forever and continually increase ; blessed the people in the name of Jesus by virtue of his Patriarchal Priesthood, and dismissed the congregation, adjourning the Conference until the 6th of April, 1867, at 10 a.m.

EDWARD L. SLOAN,  
Clerk of Conference.

## DISCOVERY OF AN AMERICAN MASTODON.

A New York paper states that on the 8th of November, workmen excavating a foundation for a mill at the manufacturing village of Cohoes, near Troy, found the remains of a complete skeleton of a huge mastodon 83 feet below the surface, and about 100 feet from the Mohawk River. It is believed that the frame can be made quite per-

fect. The remains were carefully gathered together, cleaned, and oiled, and it was expected that Professor Agassiz would arrive to inspect them. The jaw is 4 feet 9 inches in length from the mouth to the cranium, to which a portion of the backbone and jaw are still connected. The cranium rises very much like that of an ele-

phant. The two tusks each measure 8 feet in length, and their true position is well marked on the upper jaw. The hip bone is 5 feet long, and weighs 100 lbs., while the shoulder blades measure 10 feet 9 inches, and weigh about 50 lbs. each. The under jaw, found some weeks since, precisely fits the upper jaw now exhumed, and the ribs are found to be  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length. The measurements show that the animal must have stood at least 15 feet in height, and have been a little upwards of 20 feet in length, independent of the tusks, already stated to be each 8 feet

in length. Professor Marsh, of the Yale College Scientific School, gives it as his opinion that the remains discovered are those of a great North American mastodon, comparing in all its parts fully with the description of the animal given in the scientific works as follows:—The animal has the vaulted and cellular skull of the elephant, with large tusks in the upper jaw and heavy form. From the character of the nasal bones and the shortness of the head and neck, it has been concluded it had a trunk.”

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## THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1866.

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### THE MASTODON OF THE BOOK OF ETHER.

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THE Book of Ether is a condensed Sacred History of the great nation of the Jaredites, who colonized North America from the Tower of Babel; and after dwelling therein about sixteen centuries were destroyed. The name of their last Prophet was Ether, who wrote his book about six centuries before Christ upon TWENTY-FOUR PLATES OF GOLD. Moroni, who was the last Prophet of the Nephites, abridged the Jaredite History. Moroni's abridgement was written, in the beginning of the fifth century of the Christian era, after the destruction of the Nephites, and was compiled as the Book of Ether, among other Sacred Books, in the collection of the Prophet Mormon.

The Jaredites, after being 344 days upon the water, landed upon the western coast of North America. In the days of Omer, who was a descendant of the fourth generation from Jared, a branch of the Jaredites founded a colony upon the sea-shore, east from the State of New York. Moroni gives a description of their journey, and of the locality of the colony, as follows:—

“And the Lord warned Omer in a dream that he should depart out of the land; wherefore Omer departed out of the land, with his family, and travelled many days, and came over by the place where the Nephites were destroyed, and from thence eastward, and came to a place which was called Ablom, by the sea-shore, and there he pitched his tent, and also his sons and his daughters, and all his household.” (See Book of Mormon, p. 532.)