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Theories on the Origins of Man

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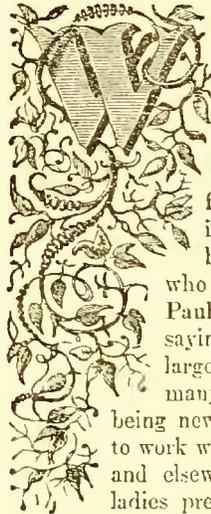
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The Juvenile Instructor.

GEORGE Q. CANNON, : EDITOR.

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EDITORIAL THOUGHTS.



We had the pleasure last Sunday of visiting the Sunday school in the 20th Ward, and we had much satisfaction in what we saw there. There were upwards of two hundred and twenty scholars present, as many as the school-room would comfortably hold. We noticed that this school differed from the other Sunday schools we had visited in the City—there were but very few large boys present, probably not half-a-dozen who were over fourteen years old. Brother Paul, the superintendent, explained this by saying that there is a smaller proportion of large boys in that Ward than in the others, many of the people who have settled there being newly married. All the boys who were able to work were away from their homes on the railroad and elsewhere. There were a number of young ladies present, and in visiting the various Sunday schools we have noticed that young ladies, as a rule, are more punctual and attend the schools in greater numbers than the young men.

After the scholars had finished their reading in classes, the school was called to order and we spoke to them in simple style for a few minutes, and then proceeded to ask them questions. Our questions were of a nature to test their knowledge of Jesus and the work of God in ancient days and of Joseph and the history of the Church in these latter days. Their replies were satisfactory, and considering the age of the children, their progress speaks well for the care which the superintendent, his assistants and the teachers have bestowed upon them.

There are many people who are very anxious to fill some very important mission. They would like to go and preach to the nations, and they feel as though they have no opportunity of showing their talents or of doing good, because they are not called to go abroad. This is a great mistake. There is a very large field for the employment of talent all around us. Laborers are wanted. We have multitudes of intelligent children who need teaching. Not like the world, few of whom receive the truth, their minds are prepared to receive every pure principle. Time spent in imparting these to them is well spent, and the fruits are most gratifying. Young men and women who devote their time on Sundays to teaching are doing a greater work for themselves and for Zion than if they were laboring in the ministry abroad the same number of hours per week. This is one of the most important and interesting missions any person could desire.

NAPOLEON once entered a cathedral and saw twelve silver statues.

"What are those?" said the Emperor.

"The twelve apostles," was the reply.

"Well," said he, "take them down, melt them, coin them into money, and let them go about doing good, as their Master did."

For the Juvenile Instructor.

Man and his Varieties,

THEORIES ON THE ORIGIN OF MAN.

WHEN our little readers from the various settlements visit Salt Lake City to attend Conference, they see thousands of Saints who have been gathered together from almost every part of the world. While sitting in meeting and looking upon the vast congregation, they have, no doubt, noticed how different the Saints gathered from one nation look, to those brought from other nations. Yet it is hard for them to tell exactly where the difference lies; still, they often fancy they can tell by looking at a brother or sister, if he or she comes from England, Scotland, Denmark, Switzerland or Germany. After meeting, should they walk down Main Street, they may perchance meet a Negro, a Chinaman, a Mexican, or an Indian. How different these appear to the Saints they have been looking at in meeting; yet they all have two eyes, two ears, a nose, mouth, chin, cheeks, forehead, head, neck, body, arms and legs. All are made about the same. Then where is the difference, and what has caused it? Do our little friends ever think of these things, and wonder why all men are not alike? either all white, or all black, or all copper colored. We have no doubt they do think of these things, and we will now try to tell them through the pages of the JUVENILE INSTRUCTOR, some of the reasons that have caused this great diversity of appearance in the different races of the human family. In doing this, we shall have to refer to many different countries, and as we shall not always have time to tell where they lie, we must beg our little friends to get their maps and look where they are to be found, or to ask their parents or teachers about them.

First, however, we must say something about a few strange ideas that learned men entertain, regarding the origin of mankind. Some believe that when God placed Adam and Eve on the earth, he created quite a number of other families of men and women, and brought them to the earth at the same time. Some of these, they fancy, were more degraded, less intelligent and less capable of improvement than others and from these different families sprung the different races of men now on the earth. The European having sprung, according to their ideas, from the most intelligent family God then made, the Negro from the most degraded. Some, however, suppose that there are only three distinct races of men, others five, others many more. The most popular idea is that there are five races of men, whom they call the CAUCASIAN, the MONGOLIAN, the NEGRO, the MALAYAN and the AMERICAN races. We will tell you about these presently. There is another set of learned men who believe in what is called the development theory. Their idea is a very strange one. They say that men and women are merely an improved race of monkeys, or what amounts to the same thing. The monkeys, they say, have arisen by what they term natural selection from animals less intelligent than they are, and so on they trace the origin of man back until they come to the lowest orders of living things. Why they reason this way is because, they say, the gorilla and other finely developed species of monkeys live in or near the same countries as the most degraded races of men reside; and that the language of these people is little better than the chattering of the monkey, and, in their habits, they are not far removed from them; in fact, that the Bushman or Hottentot of South Africa is nearer in looks and habits to the monkey than he is to the refined European or American. But, from him, there is a

gradual chain upwards that links him to these civilized people; and another chain downwards that links him to the monkey, and from them to the beasts, birds and fishes, that live on the earth, that fly in the air or swim in the water around him. Is not this idea ridiculous to those who know by revelation that men are the sons of God, not the improved descendants of monkeys, mice or oysters? These different opinions amongst learned but uninspired men arise from their not being willing to believe in the revelations of God; but, seeing so great a difference in the various families of man, they in their own wisdom try to find out the cause, and, not being enlightened by the holy spirit of God, they bring forth the most absurd ideas and teach them as truth.



One of the arguments most favored by those who believe that there are several distinct races of men, is that the difference of climate, food, civilization and other outward circumstances could never have caused the diversity in intelligence, habits, appearance and color that we now see around us, during the five or six thousand years men have been upon the earth. But there is a cause, the greatest cause of all in bringing about this difference that they know nothing about or will not recognize. It is the effect the blessing or curse of the Lord has upon any people. All who believe the sacred records given to us in these days, know how easy it is for men when they depart from the service of the true God to descend from the highest and purest forms of life to the lowest and most degraded.

The book of Mormon most expressly teaches that the Indians of this continent are of the house of Israel. From Patagonia to Alaska they are but different branches of the same great family. It tells us also that, like the rest of Israel, they were once a white and beautiful people; but their great and abominable sins brought upon them the anger and curse of God. When they turned from His laws to sin and death, they dwindled in intelligence, a skin of darkness came upon them, and they fell from their beauty and strength to be what we see they are to-day. What we want to impress upon you, little friends, is how quickly this great change was brought about. Many years after the coming of Christ their prophet Nephi says of them: "they did wax strong and did multiply exceeding fast, and became an exceeding fair and delightful people." Further on he says: "there was no contention in the land

because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people. And there were no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders * * * and surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God." This was one hundred and ten years after the coming of the Redeemer. This is the picture of the forefathers of the Indians at that time. How the love of God moulded their faces in beauty, and obedience to his laws gave them health and vigor, is not difficult for Latter-day Saints to understand. But this bright picture soon faded, this blessed period of their history soon passed away. Little by little they turned from God. Contentions arose, murders became frequent, men bound themselves together by sacred oaths to commit the most abominable sins, and a most blood-thirsty and cruel war desolated the land. This condition of things continued until about four hundred and twenty years after Christ, when the inspired record of their history closes. The Lamanites, who were an exceedingly cruel and savage race of beings, had then entirely destroyed the better portion of the people called Nephites.

From this time until Columbus landed on these shores, or about one thousand and seventy years, we know little of their history. What did he find the inhabitants of this land? The same dark, degraded people we are acquainted with, with but very indistinct traditions of their former greatness. True, some had not fallen to such depths of degradation as others. The Mexicans and Peruvians were not so far down in the scale as many of the tribes north and south of them, yet they had sunk far below the level of their ancestors in the days when they worshiped the Great Spirit in purity and truth.

With this evidence before our eyes of what the anger of the Lord will bring upon a people in one thousand years, we can readily understand that the same cause would bring about much greater changes in the four thousand years that have elapsed since the Flood. In fact, as great a difference as we see around us in the various families of man. Could the learned in the wisdom of the world realize this, they would stop talking of various races of mankind that have sprung from various origins.

(To be Continued)

Chemistry of Common Things.

For the Juvenile Instructor.

SOAP.

THE human skin is covered with very small pores or tubes, which are necessary for perspiration; and, as some assert, "to inhale atmospheric food through." They pass through the skin into certain glands, the office of which is to secrete, or separate water from the blood. It is said that considerably more than three thousand of these little tubes are found in a square inch of skin; no wonder, then, that dirt impedes their functions. They are natural outlets for many impurities which have to be removed to preserve health, and the means also, of preventing the body from becoming over-heated; for they promote evaporation, which produces cold by the removal of caloric. Sometimes these pores are stopped by a sudden chill; a natural effort is then made to get rid of the excretion, which ought to pass through the skin, in other ways; difficult breathing and an unpleasant discharge from the nose inform us that we have taken cold—the pores are stopped. More often they are obstructed by an accumulation of matter which soap and