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## Old Bottles and Elephants

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**Abstract:** Discusses earthenware manufacture in antiquity. Points out that some bottles and pottery vessels dug up on the American continent resemble elephants. Also mentions that the discovery of elephant bones in the United States tend to prove the truth of the Jaredite record.

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celebration of their religious rites, were obviously either of Hebrew or Greek derivation. The fifth, that Las Casas, the bishop of Chiapa, who had the best means of verifying the fact, was of that opinion. The sixth, that the Jews themselves, including some of their most eminent rabbis, such as Menasseh, Ben Israel and Montecino, who though not a rabbi, was a Jew who had visited America, maintained it both by verbal statement and in writing. The seventh is the dilemma in which the most learned Spanish authors, such as Acosta and Torquemada have placed their readers by leaving them no other alternative than to come to the decision whether the Jews had colonized America and established their rites among the Indians, or whether the devil had counterfeited in the New World the rites and ceremonies which God gave to His chosen people. The eighth is the resemblance which many of the Indian rites and ceremonies bore to those of the Jews. The ninth is the similitude which existed between many of the Indian and many of the Hebrew moral laws. The tenth is the knowledge which the Mexican and Peruvian traditions implied that the Indians possessed of the history contained in the Pentateuch. The eleventh is the Mexican tradition of the Teomoxthi, or the divine book of the Tultecas. The twelfth is the Mexican history of their famous migration from Aztlan. The thirteenth is the traces of Jewish superstitions, history, traditions, laws, manners and customs which are found in the Mexican paintings. The fourteenth is the frequent sacrifices amongst the Indians, and the religious consecration of the blood and the fat of the victims. The fifteenth is the style of architecture of their temples. The sixteenth is the fringes which the Mexicans wore fastened to their garments. The seventeenth is a similarity in the manners and customs of Indian tribes far removed from the central monarchies of Mexico and Peru (but still within the pale of religious proselytism) to those of the Jews, which writers who were not Spaniards have noticed, such as Sir William Penn, who recognized a probably fanciful likeness between the features of Indian and Jewish children. He says: 'When you look upon them you would think yourself in the Jews' quarter in London. Their eyes are little and black like the Jews. Moreover they reckon by moons: they offer the first-fruits; and have a kind of feast of tabernacles. It is said their altar stands on twelve stones. Their mourning lasts a year. The customs of their women are like those of the Jews. Lastly they were to go into a country which was neither planted nor known, and He who imposed this condition upon them, was well able to level their passage thither; for we may go from the eastern extremities of Asia to the western extremities of America.' *Kingdon's Antiquities of America, Vol. 6, Pages 115, 116.*

From the above quotation we see there is good reason for believing the Indians to be Jews or Israelites, and I trust that even these few evidences may be of service in increasing an interest in the minds of the young, in the Book of Mormon, which is the sacred history of that people.

S.

**GLASS BLOWING.**—Glass blowing is a trade that it takes a long time to learn. Usually a man works as long as ten years before he becomes thoroughly and reliably skilled. It is also laborious, but it pays very well. A good blower averages \$125 per month, a cutter \$110, and a gatherer \$75. The work is all done by the piece, and both cutter and gatherer are dependent on the blower for the amount of work which they do.

## OLD BOTTLES AND ELEPHANTS.

**BOTTLES** are now generally made of glass, china or earthenware; but it was not always so. There was a time when people did not know what glass was. The secret of its manufacture had not been discovered.

But in those days, as now, something had to be used to carry water, wine, milk and other liquids; and if men did not know how to make glass they had to use something else. That something, in very early times, was the prepared skins of animals, in other words, leather; also vessels made of clay.

The manufacture of earthenware from clay is generally one of the first industries undertaken by races rising out of barbarism.

The skins of animals are still used in many places for bottles. Among our southern neighbors, the Mexicans, pig skins are very extensively used.

Nor is this the case on this continent alone. Leathern bottles have been used ever since the flood, in the nations of the far east.

Jesus, when upon the earth, spoke of this kind, when He said, "No man putteth new wine into old bottles."

Why not? For fear the new wine would rend the old bottles, run out and be lost. Now, if the bottles had been glass



or china it would not matter in the least how old the bottles were, if they were not cracked or broken, the new wine would not hurt them, but it was not so with the half-worn-out leather ones. Then, when a man had new wine which he wanted to keep, he put it in a new bottle and the wine and the bottle grew old together.

Some very strangely-shaped old bottles have been dug up on this continent; some like animals, some like grotesque human faces, and some that are not found in the shape of anything known, but simply the products of the fanciful imaginations of the ancient inhabitants of this country. Some of these earthenware or pottery curiosities of the ancients are in the shape of elephants, which shows that the men who made them knew what elephants were, and were used to seeing them.

This is a proof of the truth of the statement in the Book of Mormon that elephants were once plentiful in this country. There are none here now except imported ones, and their babies, but in the days of the Jaredites they were numerous.

For a long time the over-wise people who ridiculed the Book of Mormon, but never read it, said it was all nonsense about elephants being natives of America. But the finding of vessels of pottery in their image, made by the ancients, vindicates the truth of the Book of Mormon and proves how little worldly-wise men know of some things.

But this is not all. Lots of elephants' bones have been dug up in various regions of this vast land, by men digging foundations, or cutting through earth for railroads; so all doubt on this point is dispelled and God's word is sustained.

God's word always will be sustained, for His word is truth.

G.

O, WHAT A tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive!