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## A Family Dialogue

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**Abstract:** Discusses fulfillment of prophecy given in 1 Nephi 13:14. Columbus and Indian oppression was foretold centuries ago, and prophecies yet remain to be fulfilled in the future.

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As we wended our way slowly and thoughtfully through the shady walks, stepping carefully, so as not to tread on the soldiers' graves, those beautiful lines written by Gray came rushing in upon my mind :

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,  
And all that beauty, all that wealth, e'er gave,  
Await, alike, the inevitable hour—  
The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

A FAMILY DIALOGUE.

BY JAMES A. LITTLE.

FATHER.—I see, William, that you have appeared much interested lately in a book you have been reading. What might be the subject upon which it treats?

WILLIAM.—It is a history of the conquest of the Peruvian empire by the Spaniards. The Spaniards certainly have one trait of character that has often been called a virtue, they were brave even to recklessness.

MOTHER.—They certainly made bad use of their courage when they destroyed such a people and civilization as existed in Peru.

GEORGE.—Not long since I read in some magazine a description of the Peruvian empire. It appears to me that they deserved a better fate than they received at the hands of the Spaniards.

W.—The Peruvian empire is described as having been fifteen hundred miles in length. It was traversed by five roads and had many public store houses well filled with grain and other necessaries of life, with which to supply the public service, and also the people in times of scarcity.

M.—I do not have much time to study, but I believe the idea is about correct, that the Spaniards, in conquering Peru, destroyed a higher civilization than their own.

F.—It is certain that the native Americans have disappeared very rapidly before the conquering white race. Instead of bringing desolation and destruction, civilization should build up and improve a country.

W.—It is quite evident from history that Peru has never been so thickly peopled and prosperous since its conquest by the Spaniards as it was before.

M.—I suppose that the Peruvians were at the head of civilization on the American continent at the time of its discovery by Christopher Columbus.

F.—The history of the whole continent teaches us the same general fact—the gradual extinction of the Indian race in the presence of the white man.

G.—The enmity of the white race towards the Indians appears to be quite general; I often hear men assert that the Indians have no rights which the whites are bound to respect.

M.—It is virtually asserting that the strong have a right to plunder and destroy the weak.

W.—It is certain that the Spaniards, in the conquest of Peru, acted on no other principle. They evidently had no regard for the rights of the Peruvians.

G.—But what about that Inca who piled up such a vast amount of gold and silver to ransom himself?

W.—The Spaniards took him prisoner by treachery. He agreed to fill up a certain portion of the room in which he was confined with gold and silver, on condition that he should

be released. When he had paid the ransom, the perfidious Spaniards, after a mock trial, put him to death.

M.—The title of the Indians to the soil of America has certainly come down from their fathers through many centuries, while that of the white man is more generally the result of either force or fraud.

F.—It occurs to me that all these oppressions of the Indians by the white race, are prophesied of in the Book of Mormon many centuries before the discovery of America by Columbus.

G.—I remember in reading the life of Columbus that it stated he took possession of the newly-discovered country in the name of the sovereigns of Spain, and that he afterwards sent some of the natives to Spain to be sold as slaves.

F.—George, will you please look for that prophecy I spoke of? I think you will find it in the 13th chapter of the first book of Nephi.

G.—(*Takes the Book of Mormon from the center table and turns to the chapter, as requested.*) Yes, father, here it is; in the 14th verse, Nephi says, "And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of the Gentiles upon the land of promise; and I beheld the wrath of God, that it was upon the seed of my brethren; and they were scattered before the Gentiles, and smitten."

F.—Can you tell us, George, how long it was before the discovery of America, that Nephi saw in vision what you have just read?

G.—As he had the vision nearly six hundred years before Christ, and America was discovered fourteen hundred and ninety-two years after, there would be about twenty-one hundred years between the prophecy and its fulfillment.

F.—It appears that the Nephite prophets foresaw that these terrible destructions would come upon their race in the latter times, on account of their wickedness.

M.—May we not hope that the time appointed for their affliction is drawing to a close, and that the time of their redemption is nigh?

F.—Yes, for in the same chapter there is a promise that the Lord gave Nephi, that the Gentiles should not utterly destroy his seed nor the seed of his brethren. The Book of Mormon states that there are great blessings in store for them, and we may feel assured that the time of their redemption is near.

M.—I feel a great interest in the Book of Mormon; it contains many important prophecies yet to be fulfilled, and I hope the boys will continue to study it.

W.—I find what knowledge I have of the Book of Mormon adds much to the interest of American history since its discovery by Columbus.

F.—We will find that the history of the world, as far as it is correct, verifies its inspired prophetic history as recorded in the sacred books.

ENDURE HARDSHIP.—As a gladiator trained the body, so we must train the mind to self-sacrifice, to "endure all things," to meet and overcome difficulty and danger. We must take the rough and thorny road as well as the smooth and pleasant; and a portion at least of our daily duty must be hard and disagreeable; for the mind cannot be kept strong and healthy in perpetual sunshine only, and the most dangerous of all states is that of constantly recurring pleasure, ease and prosperity. Most persons will find difficulties and hardships enough without seeking them; let them not repine, but take them as a part of that educational discipline which is necessary.