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## Moroni, A Sketch of the Nephite Republic, IX

Author(s): B.H. Roberts

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**Abstract:** Roberts discusses Ammoron assuming the throne after the death of his brother, and his two-front war against the Nephites, both on the east and the west. The efforts of the Nephites in retaking their captured cities are detailed, especially that of Helaman and his army of stripling Lamanites in the west. The lack of support in terms of men and materiel from the Nephite government in Zarahemla is mentioned, as is the determination of Helaman and his men to hold out regardless.

midnight moon as compared with the dazzling noonday.

Nor did she say that much. Loyalty and respect for him to whom she was a promised wife, held her in check. None the less did she realize his noble qualities, because the truth of their position had come to her. She would not wrong him so. Rather she would accept all blame, and make no excuse for the change that had come upon her. He should not, whom she knew to be so true, be humiliated by her.

But so much she told; that she loved Laurence Morton; that she must not look upon his face again; that she knew it was better for them both; that she must not lead him into a vortex from which there might be no escape.

Mercy listened with ever increasing pain and pity, to the recital. Fiametta told her story not without a struggle to be calm. When she spoke of her dead father, the happiness he had felt when he knew that George was to be the husband of his Fiametta, the fervent blessing he had bestowed upon them, her strength gave way and she sobbed afresh on Mercy's bosom.

But there was another who heard those last words of despair and saw the grief that accompanied them, besides Mercy. It was George. He had come unnoticed along the path, and seeing the young girls in the rustic seat had thought to surprise them. But there he stood as one frozen? He heard the last few spoken words, and he was powerless for the minute to speak or move. Blackness came before his eyes. There was a sound like a death-knell in his ears.

Mercy looked up, she almost shrieked out. Fiametta rose pale and trembling. Not a word was said. George recovered himself and passed down the walk. Fiametta, like a wounded thing, was led by her sister to the house.

Pity, shame, despair, raged in her bosom.

Two weeks after that a noble yacht, with all sails spread, rounded the Mesa headland. Its name, *Narcissus*, glistened in gold along the bows. Wetherill in sailors costume of white and blue was among the men. The captain had orders to await the pleasure of Mr. Vincent and party. Yacht and crew were at their disposal, but Laurence had not come.

(To be continued.)

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## MORONI.

### A SKETCH OF THE NEPHITE REPUBLIC.

#### IX.

As soon as Ammoron was elected king of the Lamanites by the army, in the City of Mulek, he placed one Jacob, a Zoramite in command, and hastened at once to the chief city of the Lamanites where the Queen resided, and reported the calamity that had befallen his brother; and also, perhaps, to have his own election ratified, which seems to have been done without any particular trouble. He raised a large number of men, but instead of returning to the City of Mulek, he marched up the west sea coast to attack the Nephites from that quarter, having left orders with Jacob to harass the Nephites on the east. By this method of warfare he hoped to so divide the forces of the Nephites as to enable

either his own or Jacob's army to succeed in penetrating further into the Nephite country and subdue it.

Meantime Teancum with a force too few in number to attempt the capture of the City of Mulek by storming it, was nevertheless moving about it and intrenching himself behind fortifications in order that he might be able to stand his ground should the superior forces of the Lamanites make an attack upon him. As soon as Moroni learned of the success of Teancum, and of the danger he stood in of losing the advantage his victory had gained him, because of his constantly being menaced by a superior army confronting him, he sent large reinforcements with instructions to fortify the land and City of Bountiful, and above all to secure

the Narrow Pass. He was also urged to press the campaign with all possible vigor, to strengthen the fortifications of those cities in that quarter which had not fallen into the hands of the enemy, and to take by stratagem, or by any other means within his power, those cities which were held by the enemy. He was also commanded to hold all the prisoners he had taken as a ransom for the prisoners the enemy held.

The reason that Moroni did not go himself to the assistance of his lieutenant was because by this time the Lamanite forces under Ammoron had appeared on the west coast, and his presence was required there to check their ravages.

Teancum was not slow in carrying out the instructions of his chief, but his force was inadequate to successfully attack the enemy in his stronghold; he therefore contented himself by constructing the fortifications he was commanded to build, and in shutting up the Lamanites in the cities they had taken. Thus the twenty-sixth year of the republic passed away.

Early in the twenty-seventh year of the republic, Moroni, having organized an army on the south-west to beat back the enemy in that quarter, sent word to Teancum that he was on his way to join him, and for him in the meantime to make an attack upon the City of Mulek. In obedience to this order Teancum led his army under the fortifications of Mulek, but he was convinced of the utter uselessness of attacking the enemy in such a stronghold, and fell back into his own fortifications in Bountiful to await the coming of Moroni and the forces he was bringing with him.

The commander-in-chief, however, did not arrive in Bountiful until the last of the twenty-seventh year. Early in the year following a council of war was held, at which well nigh all the chief commanders of the Nephite armies were present. The question before the council was how the Lamanites were to be induced to leave their fortifications. It was decided to send their leader a challenge to bring his army to the plain between the cities of Bountiful and Mulek and there fight; but this challenge the wily Jacob refused to accept.

Failing in this appeal to the chivalry and war spirit of the Lamanites, Moroni resolved upon a stratagem in which he was more successful. Taking part of his army, he concealed it in the night in the wilderness west of the city of Mulek. This done, he left Lehi in command at Bountiful, and ordered Teancum to take a small force and go down on the sea coast near Mulek. No sooner did the Lamanites see this detachment of Moroni's army within their power, as they supposed, than they at once resolved upon its destruction and sallied forth either to destroy or capture it. As soon as Teancum saw the Lamanites in pursuit of him, he began a retreat northward; and the Lamanites, not suspecting them of being a decoy, followed with reckless haste. Moroni now rushed in from the west with his force, and easily captured the city, putting all to death who would not surrender. While their city was thus captured the Lamanites had followed Teancum almost to the very city of Bountiful, and there were suddenly confronted by Lehi and his part of the army. It was now the turn of the late pursuers to be pursued, as they immediately commenced a hasty retreat towards Mulek. Before they reached it they were met by the forces of Moroni, who, after capturing the city, had at once set out for the very purpose of intercepting the Lamanites, or of assisting Teancum and Lehi, if they should unfortunately fall into the hands of the enemy.

The enemy finding himself thus cut off from what he regarded as his place of safety, made a desperate effort to cut his way through Moroni's forces and if possible reach Mulek, which he did not know was then in the hands of the Nephites. It was a fierce conflict, and the victory would have been doubtful if Lehi, about the time the battle began in the front, had not made a determined attack upon the rear of the enemy. After a short but exceedingly bloody battle, in which Moroni was wounded and Jacob, the Lamanite leader, was killed, the Nephites were the victors. And thus not only was the city Mulek captured, but likewise the army that had held it for nearly two years.

The command of Mulek was given to Lehi, between whom and Moroni there was a very warm friendship—companions in righteousness were they, and had shared each others dangers from the commencement of their careers. The captured army of Lamanites were employed in burying the slain of both armies and afterwards in improving the fortifications of Bountiful which ever after was one of the chief strongholds of the Nephites.

About this time Moroni received a communication from Ammoron, proposing an exchange of prisoners, a proposition that was received by him with delight. Still there was a difference in the character of the prisoners taken. Among the Nephite prisoners were many women and children, whereas, the Lamanite prisoners were all men and warriors; to exchange prisoner for prisoner, therefore, would leave the advantage with the Lamanites, an advantage Moroni was determined they should not have. He therefore wrote an epistle to Ammoron, refusing to exchange prisoners unless he would consent to exchange a Nephite and his family for one Lamanite. He also took occasion to remind King Ammoron of the injustice of his cause, and threatened him with utter destruction. Hitherto the Nephites had acted only on the defensive, but unless he put an end to the unhallowed war which he and his deceased brother had waged upon them, he would carry the war into their own lands.

"Yea," said he, "and it shall be blood for blood; yea, life for life; and I will give you battle, even until you are destroyed from off the face of the earth."

These threats did not move his enemy except to increase his wrath, and in an epistle as haughty in tone as that written by Moroni, he called upon the Nephites to lay down their weapons of war and become subject to those (the Lamanites) to whom the government rightly belonged.

"Behold," said he, "this war hath been waged to avenge their wrongs and to maintain and obtain their rights to the government." He consented, however, to Moroni's terms in the matter of exchanging prisoners. But when Moroni received his insolent epistle, he deter-

mined not to exchange prisoners with him at all, but resolved to make an effort to liberate the Nephite prisoners by his own power.

Gid was the city where the Lamanites guarded the prisoners they had taken, and near there Moroni led a part of his army. He sought among his men for a Lamanite, and found one from among the servants of the late Lamanite king, slain by Amalickiah, and who was among the number that had made their way to the cities of the Nephites. He with a few others left the Nephite encampment laden with drugged wine, and coming to the guards of the Lamanites they represented that they were Lamanites who had escaped from the Nephites, and that they had brought with them some of their wine. Of this the Lamanite guards eagerly partook, and soon sank into a deep stupor. This accomplished, it was an easy matter for Moroni to arm the prisoners within the walls of Gid; and he also could have slain the drunken guards, but, being a man that shrank from the wanton shedding of blood, he spared their lives, but during the darkness he surrounded the city with his army, and the morning light revealed to the astonished gaze of the Lamanites the fact that an army stood ready to attack their city from without, while their prisoners, of whom there were large numbers, were armed within. Under these circumstances they wisely surrendered without more ado, and thus Moroni liberated all the Nephites who had been taken prisoners of war, and had not augmented the forces of his enemy by liberating an equal number of prisoners to him. The chagrin of his foe can easily be imagined from the repeated efforts he made to practice a like stratagem upon the Nephites, but in this he failed. These events bring us to the close of the twenty-ninth year of the republic.

I have confined myself so far in describing this war to the movements along the eastern border of the Nephites. It is now time that we turn our attention, briefly, to those events which happened in the south-west during the same period.

In that quarter, in the beginning of the

war, the Lamanites had been successful. Several cities had fallen into their hands, and for a time it seemed that they must gain absolute control over that part of the Nephite country. About this time, however, an event happened that turned the tide of war in favor of the Nephites

The reader will perhaps remember that in a former chapter I spoke of a number of Lamanites who were converted from the false traditions of their fathers to the truth of the gospel, through the labors of Ammon; and who fled from the persecutions of their brethren to the Nephites, who gave to them the land of Jershon for an inheritance. This people at the time they were converted, took such an aversion to the shedding of blood that they entered into a covenant and bound themselves by an oath never again to shed the blood of their fellow men, no matter what the provocation. But when they saw the sore distress of their friends, the Nephites, they were about to break their oath and fly to arms. From this course they were dissuaded by Ammon and Helaman, who feared they would be under great condemnation for their broken vows. But if the fathers had bound themselves by such an oath, they had a number of sons who were under no such obligation, and these they armed and placed under the command of Helaman, whom the young striplings begged to lead them against the successful, invading forces. Though they were very young, still they were men of soberness, of intelligence and above all they were men of unbounded courage—a courage which sprang from a perfect faith in God and in the justice of the Nephite cause.

It was their faith, and their mothers had taught it to them, that if they did not doubt the power of God, he would preserve them and they would not fall in battle. "And they rehearsed unto me," says Helaman in his account of them, "the words of their mothers, saying: We do not doubt our mothers knew it." In all there were two thousand of these striplings, and Helaman led them to the front and joined them to the army of Antipus, whom Moroni had left in command of the army of the west, and who,

on the arrival of these reinforcements was fortifying the city of Judea, where he intended to make his last struggle and there conquer or die. Such had been the reverses that his valiant little army had met, that nothing but the courage born of despair sustained them. But when Helaman with his two thousand "sons," as he called them, arrived, it infused new life and hope into the whole army.

The Lamanites had taken the cities of Manti, Zeezrom, Cumeni and Antiparah before Helaman arrived, and doubtless Judea would have fallen into their hands also had he not arrived. But seeing that the Nephites in Judea had received a considerable reinforcement, they were bound by the instructions of Ammoron not to make an attack upon it.

Meanwhile Antipus completed the fortifications of Judea and was anxious for the Lamanites to attack him, but this they showed no disposition to do. In fact neither army thought itself able to dislodge the other from their fortified cities. But soon after Judea was completely fortified, the Nephites received further reinforcements; two thousand men with provisions arrived from Zarahemla, swelling the army of Antipus to ten thousand men. These additions to the army of Antipus filled the enemy with uneasiness, observing which, the Nephite general resolved upon a stratagem not unlike that adopted by Moroni in capturing the City of Mulek. He sent Helaman and his two thousand "sons" laden with provisions as if to carry them to another Nephite city, causing them to pass within easy view of Antipus, a city occupied by the strongest Lamanite army. The ruse was successful, the Lamanites pursued them and the little army of striplings retreated before them northward, and Antipus with his army pursued the Lamanites. Seeing the trap into which they had been led, the Lamanites dare not turn back to meet Antipus, nor could they overtake Helaman and his band, neither dared they turn to the right or the left lest they should be surrounded. Thus flight and pursuit was kept up until the morning of the third day, when Helaman discovered he was

no longer pursued; but whether the Lamanites had halted with the expectation that he and his band would return, or whether Antipus had overtaken them and was engaging them in battle, he could not determine. He feared to return lest he should fall into the hands of the enemy, with whom his striplings were not powerful enough to cope alone, and he also feared that Antipus and his men had overtaken the enemy, and that without the assistance of his two thousand would be overcome. In this his hour of perplexity he called his "sons" together and made known his fears, and they promptly decided on returning to the assistance of Antipus. It was well they did so, for his army was engaged in deadly strife with the Lamanites; Antipus himself was slain as also were a number of other leaders, and the Nephites were about to be overpowered. The vigorous attack which Helaman made upon the enemy turned the tide of battle in their favor, for the young soldiers that he led fought with a fierceness that struck terror into the hearts of their enemies, and they soon cried for quarter, and yielded themselves prisoners of war. Shortly afterwards the city which this captured army had occupied—Antiparah—was taken possession of by Helaman.

After sending his prisoners of war down to Zarahemla, Helaman, who became the chief commander of the western army at the death of Antipus, laid siege to the city of Cumeni, and by capturing the supplies and men which Ammoron sent to that city, he soon reduced it to the necessity of surrendering. Helaman found great difficulty with the prisoners of war that these successes brought to him. They were so numerous that it required nearly all his army to guard them; for at times they would break out in great numbers and fight fiercely until overpowered. He at last sent them down to Zarahemla under a small force commanded by one Gid, and with the remainder of his forces prepared to take the City of Manti.

He encamped his army on the west of that city in the wilderness; and when the enemy's spies reported the fewness of his numbers, he resolved to leave the city to

attack him. Helaman observing his enemy's preparations for battle, concealed a part of his army in the wilderness, and when the Lamanites came out of the city to give him battle, he began a retreat into the wilderness, the Lamanites in hot pursuit. No sooner was the main army of the Lamanites thus led away than the concealed portion of Helaman's army attacked the city and captured it.

Towards night Helaman bent his course towards Zarahemla, observing which, his enemy suspected he was being led into some trap, and encamped for the night. But Helaman continued his march all night, and made his way back to Manti before the Lamanite army returned. When that army did return to find Manti in the hands of the Nephites, they were terror stricken and fled to the wilderness.

Thus nearly all the chief cities that had fallen into the hands of the Lamanites were retaken, but Helaman's army was by no means sufficient to maintain the advantages he had won, and in the twenty-ninth year of the republic in which he took the City of Manti, the government had failed in supplying him with both men and provisions, and his situation was becoming perilous as the Lamanites appeared to be massing their forces to overthrow him. Means of communication were difficult and slow, and whether Moroni was confronted by such powerful enemies that he had to draw all the resources of the government to his assistance, or whether there were dissensions in the government which prevented it sending the necessary supplies of men and food to him, Helaman could not tell. But in his report to Moroni, from which the above account is taken, he expressed his determination to hold all the cities he had taken from the enemy, as long as possible, and he, and also his army, had received assurance from the inspiration of God that ultimately they would be delivered from the power of their enemies.

And those two thousand striplings? Yes, they were preserved according to their faith in God. They had no fear of death, they loved their own and their father's liberty more than life, and they

fought with the fierceness of young lions, and more than once by the prowess given them of God, snatched victory from the very jaws of defeat. And though at times

many of them were wounded, and on one occasion two hundred of them fainted from loss of blood, yet not one of them were killed in battle. *B. H. Roberts.*

## THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE OF UTAH.

THE productive power of the more civilized nations has been very greatly increased since the opening of the present century. This power is still very rapidly enlarging. Greater political stability, an elevated social life, greater national wealth, and higher moral character, have been the direct outgrowth of the enlarged ability of man to supply these materials, and to use those agencies that minister to his various wants. Those widening powers as they enlarge, will more and more ennoble man. All students of the progress of man, will at once recognize knowledge as the bedrock upon which this progress rests. It will not require very close scrutiny to discover that upon the development of the natural sciences, more than upon the development of any other department of knowledge, is founded the striking growth of the world's varied industries, its material wealth, and all of the salutary influences that have sprung from wealth. It will be understood that I do not make use of the word wealth in reference to individual hoardings, but use it in its broader sense, as related to the producing power of aggregated man.

If the development of man in the broad sense of the word, in his higher wealth of character, rests heavily upon his productive powers that are applied, and these productive powers rest upon his ability to use natural forces, it follows that knowledge of these natural forces, or in other words of the applied sciences, (moral forces not considered) is the most important knowledge that can be acquired.

The Agricultural College of Utah was organized, using the language of Congress, "To teach such branches of learning as relate to agriculture and the mechanic arts—not excluding the

classics—in order to give a liberal and practical education to the industrial classes."

The Legislature of Utah, in defining the studies that should be taught at this territorial college, made prominent the sciences, especially the applied sciences. The authorities in charge of the college have wisely chosen, it is believed, to follow the lines laid out by Congress and by the Legislature of Utah. The Agricultural College of Utah will represent the new direction in which the educational system of the present hour is moving. The applied sciences will be given a prominent place in this college. The purpose will be to place the young men and young women of Utah in possession of that information which will enlarge their powers in their several spheres of life. This will be done by informing them of the natural laws or forces involved in the more important industries. This purpose will be secured not only by teaching principles in the abstract, but by teaching by object illustration. Let me illustrate: The young men in the course in agriculture will work in the fields and on the horticultural grounds. Modern farm buildings with modern farm equipments, varied field and horticultural crops, varied farm processes, and in addition, objects for illustration collected for the agricultural museum, will be used to secure a clear conception of science or law in its application to the art of farming. There is now no industry, in the light of modern researches, which requires for its perfection so wide a knowledge of the sciences, and that makes so large and varied drafts on the ability of man, as farming. It is the good fortune of the course in agriculture, that it involves more of that information that is recognized as essential to a well informed man, than