

# THE COMING CITY

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## The Importance of Zion Lace Industries.

**G**OD is giving His people Zion Lace Industries in a most wonderful way. That is the first and greatest argument for its importance.

The story cannot all be told now, and there is much of it which can never be told.

Nevertheless, many things have been and will yet be recorded which will show how marvelously God has led, all the way along.

The working out of God's plan for Zion Lace Industries began years before the General Overseer came to America; indeed, it is not for man to say how far back in history the beginning of that work may lie.

God's direct guidance, however, can be traced back many years.

Every step of the way, in recent years, shows with remarkable clearness the evidences of Divine intervention for Zion's sake.

How God raised up and trained the man Samuel Stevenson and sent the Little White Dove to bring him and his brothers into Zion with all their skill, artistic ability, executive force and intimate knowledge of the art of lacemaking has already been told.

It was God who directed in the purchase of the factory at Beeston, Notts, England, for Zion Lace Industries, and brought about so wonderfully all the various transactions necessary, smoothing out all difficulties.

God's power was manifested in giving great success in the ordering and purchasing of just the machinery needed for the Industries.

God gave Deacon Stevenson and the General Overseer the right men to bring to America to teach Zion workers the art of lacemaking.

He gave victory over all the foes who tried to prevent in this work.

God gave His servant, Attorney Samuel W. Packard, great wisdom and great skill, so that he was enabled to make an argument which is now famous in the two hemispheres, and to win a glorious victory over all the Labor Union and other enemies, open and secret, who attempted to prevent these Lace Experts from landing in America.

God gave this same attorney such wisdom in the drafting of the Articles of Agreement between Zion Lace Industries and the shareholders that legal

experts have declared it to be a marvel as a legal document. "It gives the shareholders," say the lawyers, "all the advantages of a corporation and a partnership, with none of the disadvantages of either."

Another grand argument for the importance of Zion Lace Industries to Zion and to the extension of the Kingdom of God, is the fierce and determined fight which the Devil and all his forces is making against their establishment.

With a curious mixture of reckless daring, diabolical cunning and helpless fury, he has attempted to block Zion's every move in the matter.

Through it all, however, he has showed himself as old and foolish as he always does when he opposes a work which has God and all the irresistible powers of heaven behind it.

Zion has gained, rather than lost, by having had to fight him.

He gave Zion Lace Industries a wide publicity—and a very favorable publicity.

Another argument for the importance of Zion Lace Industries is the fact that conservative business men, keen of mind and quick to detect the slightest flaw or insecurity, have commented very favorably upon the new Industry.

So strong has grown this favorable sentiment that the newspapers, even those most bitterly hostile to Zion, have been compelled to admit that Zion Lace Industries promises to be a success which will be of great advantage, not only to Zion, but to the whole United States.

There has been a veritable flood of this testimony to the greatness of the enterprise, so that we could not quote a tithe of it. However, we give the following article from the Philadelphia *Evening Bulletin* for Friday, November 30, 1900. While it contains a few slight inaccuracies, it is in the main true and contains much which is of great significance:

No spirit of bitterness was displayed by the British experts in lacemaking, who were held here more than two weeks while the Lacemakers' Union and others fought a vigorous legal battle to have them sent back to England.

There were twenty-six persons in the party, and the four men who are to establish the industry were well educated and gentlemanly in demeanor.

It seemed strange that the group should have been compelled to deposit \$8,000 in cash to give them freedom during their detention. Bright children and happy-faced mothers who made life pleasant at the comfortable hotel where they spent their days, conveyed no idea of a lot of people likely to seek means of escape.

The men were animated by high ideals, and came to this country in a pilgrim spirit to help found a Christian community.

Samuel Stevenson, who was in charge of the party, was offered \$1,000,000 by a syndicate to establish the Nottingham fine lace industry in this country upon a purely commercial basis, but he declared that he would not be swerved from his purpose of making the work a basic industry in a Christian Commonwealth.

Beautiful specimens of lace, most ingeniously made, are carried by the lacemakers. Delicate tracing and artistic overwork characterize the patterns, and promise an American output of tempting wear for American women. Eighteen million dollars' worth of lace was purchased here from abroad last year, so that the demand is established, if the industry is not.

Mr. Stevenson points out that the difference in the

established work here and the proposed Levers lace industry is largely in the relative fineness, though much of the new work is covered by patents. He says the machines in use here, as he learned in a long tour of inspection, are old, and without intending any reflection, that there are not workmen here who can set them and manage them for fine work.

He has spent thirty-one years studying the industry and accumulated a fortune at it. He is an enthusiast in talking of the artistic side of his work, and idealizes lace in a manner to win any woman's admiration for it.

It is proposed to build an immense series of mills in "Zion," the City founded by the Rev. John Alexander Dowie, and there to make very fine Honiton, Brussels and Valenciennes. The latter, Mr. Stevenson said, is not made at all in America.

One hundred lace machines of modern make are to be shipped from England, now that the Secretary of the Treasury has admitted the lacemakers, and the beautiful creamy and ivory trimming that Nottingham has sent here, will soon be made in the "Christian City." The material is exceedingly fine and is soft and silky to the touch, so that "ladies fair" will have little trouble in picking it out from varied specimens.

Not only lace, but Swiss embroidery, spinning and weaving cotton and flax, bleaching, dyeing and finishing are to be features of the Christian mills. Hand-made lace will also be turned out.

The purpose of turning to this industry was, besides the market demand for the materila, its availability, cleanness, healthfulness and lightness for the employment of women and girls. It is proposed to employ thousands of men and a much larger number of woemn and girls, probably ten of the latter being employed to every man.

The process of lace manufacture is largely one of twisting threads. Lace machines were first called twist machines, because the bobbin twists around the thread and weaves both threads, and when two or more lie together the bobbin wraps around the whole and fastens or twists it. Hence workers on these machines in England are called "twist hands."

To get one of the machine started is no small task. To put a pattern on an entirely new machine require about six weeks' time, though a pattern may sometimes be changed on a machine in use in about a week. A machine can make from twelve to fifty yards a day.

The lacemakers' party has left this city for Illinois accompanied by Samuel W. Packard, a Chicago lawyer, who made a pronounced hit by his success in having the Immigration Inquiry Board overruled after they had decided to send the company back to Europe.

In order to give our readers some valuable information concerning of the lace industry and the lace market in America and some facts concerning Zion Lace Industries and the men who have come to aid in establishing it at Zion City, we publish the affidavit which Deacon Stevenson submitted to the Board of Special Inquiry at Philadelphia and to Secretary of the Treasury Gage and his assistants at Washington.

The affidavit was read with great interest by these various officials and was doubtless used of God in the winning of the victory.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA }  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA. } ss.

SAMUEL STEVENSON, being duly sworn, deposes and says: I am forty years of age in one capacity or another, in the Levers Lace Industry in Nottingham, England, since nine years of age.

I know every branch and department of the Levers lace manufacture.

For nearly twenty years I have owned and operated a number of Levers lace machines. Up to about April 1, 1900, I was engaged in the manufacture of fine lace upon newly built Levers machines of the most modern and improved type. These machines were considered the finest in Nottingham and contained not only all the improvements of other modern Levers machines, but also special improvements designed and suggested by me.

In January, 1900, I visited the United States and made a tour of inspection of the Levers lace factories here. I personally examined some of the machines and obtained specimens of the lace.

I found that by far the greater part of the Levers lace machines in this country (less than one hundred in all), were from twelve to forty years and in very bad condition. Nearly all the lace is of a coarse, inferior, common nature.

I learned that some of the firms had ordered a few modern machines, but afterward were some of the coarsest gauge of Levers lace machines made.

I found no good machines in America at all, after a search of several weeks.

There were no improved modern Levers lace machines, capable of making fine laces such as those made by my machines in Nottingham.

The difference between the fine-gauge machines and the coarse-gauge machines is very important, not only by reason of the superior product from the fine-gauge machines, but also because of the more skilled workmanship required in the manufacture of fine, delicate laces.

Many workmen who are successful with the coarse-gauge machines cannot be trusted with the fine-gauge machines.

The demand for the coarse laces made in America is extremely limited, whereas the demand for the finer product of delicate, fine-gauge machine-made laces amounts in this country to at least \$5,000,000. Hence the machines in this country are only worked about half time.

On or about April 1, 1900, I sold eight machines to Rev. John Alexander Dowie to come to America.

I soon after sailed for England, to arrange for the shipment of the machines and to settle my affairs there. My brothers, Henry and Arthur Stevenson, had had charge, as Managers, of my Levers lace business during my absence. Henry Norweb and George Middleton, who had been associated with me for several years as expert Levers lace designers or draftsmen, upon learning that I proposed to remove my business to America and to carry on the same as agent for said Dowie, who had purchased the same, expressed their desire to go to America.

After diligent inquiry in the United States, I had ascertained that it would be impossible to obtain in this country Levers lace designers, draftsmen and mangers who could do the skilled artistic work of which these gentlemen are capable. In this view I am confirmed by the evidence given by the representatives of the Lace Workers' Association before the Commissioner and Inspectors of Immigration (pages 45, 49, 40, 41)

Moreover, having known them so long, I naturally preferred to continue my associations with them. I told them that I would like to have them come to America, and that I would see that their fares were paid, and would provide accommodations for them upon their arrival, but that they should be at perfectly liberty to secure employment from whomsoever they desired.

They were given distinctly to understand that they were under no obligations to refund their passage money or board or to enter into our employment, and not one of them agreed, expressly or impliedly, to perform labor or service of any kind for me or said John Alexander Dowie, for whom I was acting.

George Wilkinson is the brother-in-law of my nurse, Emily Daubney, sister to the two Misses Daubney in the party. Emily Daubney and another sister, Elizabeth, are now in Chicago. His sisters-in-law, the Misses Bella and Nellie Daubney, had decided to go to Chicago to join their sisters, who were already there, and Wilkinson and his wife did not want to remain behind in England by themselves.

I made no contract or agreement with him to give him employment, nor did he expressly or impliedly contract or agree to perform any labor or service for me of any kind, or for said Dowie, after arriving in this country.

While I was in the Nottingham district, I ordered over one hundred of the finest and most improved modern lace machines for said Dowie to be shipped to America, which will cost, including the necessary accessories and tariff charges, upward of \$1,000,000 in all.

It is our purpose to erect and equip in Zion City, Illinois,

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a factory for the manufacture of Levers lace and Swiss embroidery (none of the latter of which is now made in this country); also for the spinning and weaving of cotton and flax, and bleaching, dyeing, dressing and finishing the same; in short, to do all from the commencement to the end of this textile industry.

It is our express design to make and finish goods of the very finest quality, vastly superior to the coarse laces now made in this country, which will in no way interfere with, or come into competition therewith.

As nearly as I can ascertain, the importation of laces last year into this country from England was \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000; from France about \$5,000,000, and from Switzerland about \$3,000,000.

The production of lace made in the United States does not equal one per cent of the grand total of \$18,000,000 imported last year.

The fine laces which we propose to make are not made at all in this country. The skill required is such that it is extremely difficult even in England to get draftsmen, managers and expert workmen who understand the peculiar mechanism of the machinery and are able to alter and set it so as to vary the peculiar kinds of nets required to be made.

The work of the needles in the fine lace machines is of infinite delicacy and intricacy, and only trained experts can successfully operate them.

A variation of the width of a piece of tissue paper between the needles makes the difference between one kind of net and another.

The finer and more delicate the net, the greater are the accuracy and skill required.

We propose to make only the finest and most delicate laces, and, notwithstanding a searching investigation, I could not find in this country any single person competent to do such work, or in fact any one who could be taught in years to do this fine work. The makers of the coarse lace in this country are an entirely different class, their work being largely mechanical.

The workmen here are not even capable of adjusting and setting their coarse-gauge machinery in such a way as to produce the best results which could be obtained from the machines. This accounts, in a great measure, for the failure of those people who have tried the lacemaking business and failed in this country.

SAMUEL STEVENSON.

Sworn and subscribed before me this twenty-second day of November, A. D. 1900.

IRA J. WILLIAMS,  
Notary Public.

The hand of God in all this has been so remarkably shown in the past, and is seen so clearly in the present, that Zion goes forward, rejoicing in the midst of great difficulties, calmly assured that God is establishing this great Industry and is building His City, and that all the powers of evil cannot prevent Him.

A. W. N.

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| Sixth Year,   | - | - | 11 Per Cent |
| Seventh Year, | - | - | 12 Per Cent |

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**STATEMENT**

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Estimated area occupied by Industries,                         | 50 to 80 acres |
| Estimated number of hands employed at the end of five years,   | 50,000         |
| Estimated value of property at the end of five years, at least | \$5,000,000    |

In view of the fluctuations in the value of stocks listed on Stock Exchanges, caused many times by manipulation of unscrupulous men, we believe the careful investor will appreciate the value of this stock, which cannot be purchased except through this Bank.

**ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT  
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