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"TALL OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW."

BY FRANK W. BAXTER.

In the primitive days of the world, long before the intellect of man had been developed, or had assumed the proportions that it has assumed within the past few centuries, the principal employment or characteristic of the people was agriculture, with attendant features. Sacred and ancient history informs us that the patriarchs of old "tilled the soil and tended their flocks and herds." The worship of their all-wise God was performed by words, deeds, and by the sacrifice of peace and burnt offerings, such as were "pleasing in the eyes of the Lord," and on altars erected by them in holy places by hallowed hands. The habitation of the people in those days was in tents; walled towns, and buildings of brick and stone being unknown. God, in his infinite wisdom, created man, and endowed him with full reasoning faculties. Man, having those reasoning powers, at once proceeded to put into practical form the idea of self-preservation, and providing for himself places of abode that would give him ample protection against the elements and the influences of heat and cold; which also would afford him a secure place to retire into when weary, and afford him a full sense of security. At first, his habitation was rendered primitive, but "necessity, the mother of invention,"

soon caused him to devise some means whereby he could add to his comfort, by improving his places of habitation. His progress was indeed slow for a time, but, by continually adding to what he already had, he built for himself abodes that afforded him ample protection against the elements, and at the same time gave him a secure place to protect himself against the attacks of his enemies. He continued his efforts until the stupendous structures of the Romans, the Greeks, and the Egyptians were designed and executed. After seven years of herculean efforts, aided by the master talent of the age, King Solomon's Temple assumed its massive proportions, and was completed. The Pyramids of Egypt, the Mausoleum of Rome, the Temple of Diana at Ephesus, the walls and hanging gardens of Babylon, the Colossus of Rhodes, the statue of Jupiter Olympus, the Pharos or watch tower of Alexandria, and many other remarkable structures, whose very remembrance we hold in awe, were but the outgrowth of the crude ideas of the primitive builder. From habitations of tents and "trees placed on end to support a covering," is but a step in the imagination to the palatial residences of more modern times, which were built by men whose bones have