

THE  
**VISITOR,**  
OR  
MONTHLY INSTRUCTOR,  
FOR  
1851.

*Devotional Series.*

THE WORKS OF THE LORD ARE GREAT, SOUGHT OUT OF ALL THEM THAT HAVE PLEASURE THEREIN.  
HIS WORK IS HONOURABLE AND GLORIOUS: AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURETH FOR EVER.  
HE HATH MADE HIS WONDERFUL WORKS TO BE REMEMBERED: THE LORD IS GRACIOUS AND  
FULL OF COMPASSION.—PSALM CXL. 2-4.

WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE TRUE, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE HONEST, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE  
JUST, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE PURE, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE LOVELY, WHATSOEVER THINGS  
ARE OF GOOD REPORT; IF THERE BE ANY VIRTUE, AND IF THERE BE ANY PRAISE, THINK  
ON THESE THINGS.—PHILIPPIANS IV. 8.

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settlement had been, in the middle of the night, leaving his creditors to do as they could. This transaction was followed by a great schism among his people themselves, led on by two of the three who had signed the first paper, testifying to the authenticity of the books of Mormon, in alliance with whom was Sidney Rigdon. But the last was deep in Joseph Smith's secrets, and was soon forgiven. The persecution of the body in the meantime continued. Obstructions being offered to the right of voting in political elections by the enemies of Smith, a regular series of assaults took place, which lasted during several weeks. In the end, an attempt was made to massacre the Mormons.

The Mormons now began to establish themselves in Illinois, where they formed a town, which they called "Nauvoo," or beautiful. Of this town Smith was appointed mayor, and in addition to his titles of prophet and president, was also termed lieutenant-general.

In 1837, Mormonism began first to make head in England, and in that year made many converts among the ignorant and weak-minded, principally in the manufacturing districts. Those who looked to religion for a system of external advantage and polity, saw much in this new system which corresponded with their views. In 1841, Joseph Smith directed, under inspiration, as he termed it, the construction of a magnificent temple at Nauvoo, to which he invited contributions from all quarters. It was well situated, and of large proportions, and a million of dollars were expended upon its construction.

Among other descriptions given at this time of the prophet, is one delivered by a public lecturer, named Newhall, who was present at a review of his army by Smith himself, attended by "six ladies on horseback, who were dressed in black velvet, and wore waving plumes of white feathers, and rode up and down in front of the regiment." The prophet himself is called "very sociable, easy, cheerful, obliging, kind, and very hospitable; in a word, a jolly fellow, and one of the last persons whom he would have supposed God would have raised up as a prophet or priest."

It was about this time that one of the leaders of the Mormonites, Sidney Rigdon, promulgated the abhorrent doctrine of plurality of wives, in imitation of Mohammed himself—a doctrine which Smith

was regarded as greatly favouring. Smith now, at the very height of his ambition, was put forward as a candidate for the presidency of the United States, and published what he termed "General Smith's Views of the Government and Policy of the United States." It is needless to say that his pretensions were regarded in the main with contempt. Soon after this, the accusation against Smith of promoting the "spiritual wife" doctrine, sustained as it was by the affidavits of sixteen persons, led to the destruction by the Mormons of the newspaper which had published them, and thence to a serious conflict between the Mormonites of Nauvoo and the surrounding inhabitants, in the course of which Joseph Smith and his brother were shot. The prophet's death gave to him a power which it is probable his life, had it been prolonged, would have utterly prevented—he became enshrined and worshipped.

After the death of Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon endeavoured to vault into the vacant chair. His reputation was, however, so low, that this was found to be impossible. He was expelled from the society, and Brigham Young was appointed the leader—a post which he still holds.

Again the Mormon body were compelled to emigrate. They were driven from Nauvoo, and have now fixed their residence at Deseret, in the vicinity of California, in the great Salt Water Lake Valley, which they first reached after incredible troubles and privations. They have formed here a large and increasing settlement; they have built an enormous temple; they are said to have been the first who profited by the gold found in California; they have established a perpetual emigration fund, to aid those from all countries who are attracted by the hope of an earthly paradise. The latest account of them is given by Mr. Kelly, who, in his "Excursion to California," gives no very favourable description of the morals of the new settlement. If only half the narratives given of the practices of the leaders be true, they will demonstrate the fact that chastity and purity have no true basis among them. It is, indeed, true that the Mormonite books profess to abjure such practices. But a new revelation is with them always possible, and who can say what are the practices it may sanction.—"*Remarkable Delusions*," published by the Religious Tract Society.