

The Unitarian, conducted by
Bernard Whitman

Vol. 1, Jan. 1834, pp. 40-50
by Jason Whitman, brother of Bernard
(1799-1848)

560 East 200 South, Suite 100 / Salt Lake City, Utah 84102-2004
801-366-7555 (phone) / 801-366-7596 (fax) / www.pehp.org

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

THE BOOK OF MORMON.

An Account, written by the Hand of Mormon upon Plates, taken from the Plates of Nephi. By JOSEPH SMITH, JR., Author and Proprietor.

THIS is the title of the volume which contains the collection of writings held sacred by the Mormonites; in other words, it is the title of the Mormon Bible. The Mormonites, as they are commonly called, or, as they call themselves, the members of the true church of Christ, — as our readers are probably aware, are a new denomination of religionists. It is but a few years since they made their appearance in the western part of the state of New York. They have already met with some success in the spread of their opinions; and preachers of this denomination are now scattering themselves abroad over the land, labouring with much zeal to gain proselytes to their faith. The account which has been given of the origin of their sacred writings is, briefly, this: — Joseph Smith, Jr., whose name appears on the title-page as author and proprietor of the work, was directed by the Spirit of God to dig, in a hill in the “township of Manchester, Ontario county, N. Y.,” for certain golden plates, which were there concealed, and upon which were inscribed sacred records. He obeyed the direction and found the plates. The inscriptions upon them were in an unknown tongue. But, by the special power of the Spirit, Smith was enabled to translate them. This translation is the volume, the title of which is placed at the head of this article. To confirm the truth of this account, the volume contains two certificates, one of which is signed by three, and the other by eight witnesses. The three witnesses testify, “That an Angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates and the engravings thereon.” The eight witnesses testify, “We have seen and hefted, and know of a surety that the said Smith has got the plates of which we have spoken, — and we also saw the engravings thereon, all of which has the appearance of ancient work and of curious workmanship.”