
EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Our agent at West Mendon, writes:—

“I feel anxious to have the glad tidings proclaimed to *all people*. I have no doubt that, in due time, reason will assume her empire, and common sense burst asunder the manacles of superstition and priestcraft, and proclaim freedom, candor, and honesty among mankind.—
‘Truth is mighty and must prevail.’

“We have wonderful times in this vicinity with these mushroom revivals. Finneyism prevails in some places to the exclusion of most other business. Great numbers of poor souls have set themselves to work to build a road to heaven, (or rather to contrive a plan to escape hell, which seems to be the main object). The Methodists are determined not to be outdone in thrifdom and fanaticism, and they are holding open a recruiting rendezvous at their churches, almost every night in the week, until very late hours, to fill rank and file during the crusade.

“I would to God, there could be more of our ministers—do all you can to start more—the country is in want—it is all the cause lacks—but by all means make them capable before they start.”

C. D.

A correspondent in Olmsted, Cayuhoga co., Ohio, writes:—

“We are about forming a society in this place. It will probably consist of 50 or 60 members.—
We have made arrangements for the erection of

a meeting house, in the ensuing Spring. The materials will all be on the site this Winter.— But we are like sheep without a shepherd. I wish, Sir, you would look out a worthy brother in the ministry, and send him here. He would be thankfully and cordially received and handsomely rewarded. Even if he could come only for a visit, we should wish him to come and see us. A letter written, and published in the Magazine and Advocate, entitled "a visit to Kempville," by Isaac Whitnall, strikes the attention of many in this place. They wish him to have an invitation to come, if he can consistently, as he has some acquaintances here, who would gladly receive him. You would confer a favor on them, by writing to him on the subject."

E. C. Frost.

[N. B. Brother Whitnall will see this, and will, no doubt, act as duty shall seem to dictate in relation to visiting or corresponding with the above named society.] S.

A friend in Chagrin, Ohio, gives us the following information, which, with the additional explanations, will, we trust, be as interesting to our readers, as it was to us.—We say interesting, though it is shocking and abhorrent to every good principle and better feeling of the human heart.

"It would be highly gratifying to the friends of universal holiness and happiness, in this region of fanatics, if some ministering friend of commanding talents, could visit them. There is not an individual, to my knowledge, in the whole Lake country, who pretends to speak, in public, of the universal love of God.

I said 'region of fanatics,' for the like has not occurred since the days of the Crusaders to redeem the holy Sepulchre. Hundreds, in this vicinity, have become fanatics, complete—call themselves apostles, prophets, &c.—perform miracles—call down fire from heaven—impart the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands, and say that they shall be renovated and live a thousand years. The old women say that they shall again become young, and become fruitful and replenish the earth. They have all things in common, and dispense with the marriage covenant. They assume the general name of Mormonites. They have a new bible which they call the Book of Mormon. Many have joined from whom we might expect better things."

J. M. H.

The above named sect (if sect it can be called) took its rise within the last two or three years, in this state, from a man by the name of Joseph Smith, Jr. a man of subtlety and cunning, but of no learning, and as we are informed, much worse than no character. Judging from the book he has published, we are satisfied he must be a real, unprincipled, villainous impostor. A book of nearly 600 pages, entitled, "The Book of Mormon," bearing Smith's name as author and proprietor, has been published during the past year. It claims to be a translation of "An account written by the hand of Mormon, upon plates taken from the plates of Nephii." The author says in his preface to the reader, "I would also inform you that the plates of which hath been spoken, were found in the township of Manchester, Ontario county, N. Y."

The miserable impostor who publishes this book, pretends that the plates were plates of gold containing the record written by Mormon—that having "by the gift and power of God," translated a part of the ancient record contained on the golden plates, some person or persons stole from him what he had translated; he was commanded by God not to translate that over again, but to translate other parts of the record on the plates; which thing he did, and had thus failed satan's attempt to overthrow this revelation, &c. This volume is divided into the 1st and 2d Book of Nophi, the Books of Jacob, Enos, Jarem, Omni, Mosiah, Alma, Helaman, Nephii, Mormon, Ether and Moroni. At the close, there is what is called "The testimony of three witnesses," stating that they saw the plates of gold from which this Smith translated his book, and know that he did it by the gift and power of God, that it is "a record of the people of Nephii, and also of the Lamanites, his brethren, and also of the people of Jared, which came from the tower of which hath been spoken."—That "an angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates" &c., signed by Oliver Cowdry, David Whitmer, and Martin Harris. Then follows another page of about the same import, entitled, "And also the testimony of eight witnesses," and signed by four Whitmers, one Page, and three Smiths. The whole book is filled with blasphemous nonsense, silly stories, pretended prophecies, history, &c. of people and events immediately succeeding the flood, and during the reign of the kings of Israel and Judah, and extending to the times and events connected with the Messiah's reign; interlarded with unnumbered profanations of the names of the Deity and Jesus Christ. It is a most bungling attempt to imitate the ancient English and Bible phraseology. Much of the language is borrowed from the Bible and inserted in the book, after murdering the English of it: and the Almighty, by the sentences ascribed to him, is made out a most miserable grammarian; insomuch that some have sarcastically remarked that, "if the Deity ever indited the language here ascribed to him, it must have been in his younger days, before he had become much acquainted with the proper analogy of language!"

On the whole, it is one of the most abominable pieces of imposition and blasphemy, that has of late been attempted to be palmed upon community, in the name of a new revelation. And one would suppose that in this enlightened age, none could be found ignorant and stupid enough to be cheated by the imposture. There is, however, one remarkable fact which should be stated in connexion with this subject. It is this: That notwithstanding mankind will be rational on all other subjects but that of religion, there is scarcely any imposture of this character, however absurd or monstrous

it may be, that has ever been introduced into the world, but what has had its supporters and made its proselytes. And we have very little doubt that were a person now to appear on the stage and assert that he had been an inhabitant of the moon for five hundred years, and had finally fallen on this earth to make a new revelation to men, he would find followers and make proselytes, who would be fools enough to believe and profess faith in his new theory. So prone are mankind to the marvelous in religion, when backed, as in this case, by the threats of endless misery!

S.

A friend in Painesville, Ohio, writes:—

"We do not believe, in this section of country, that Congress will grant the request of the Sunday Mail petitioners—we have not therefore, as last year, called meetings, and circulated counter petitions, in this part of the country. Doct. Ely and his party in politics, are so arrogant and presumptuous, that every one, with half an eye, can see their object is to get the reins into their own hands; therefore their sanctimonious professions have become rather stale.

"I think your mode of acknowledging the receipt of letters, is a very good one. It is always a gratification to the person that sends money, to know that it has arrived at its destination, and your mode is one that is not attended with expense."

S. K.

The following very just and feeling remarks were written by a correspondent at Brasher:

"Our friends in this town seem to be rather dull and indolent in the good cause. I am sorry to be obliged to write such unpleasant intelligence, for I am confident that there are, in this town, Universalists enough, (together with those who do not openly profess the sentiment, but would, were its principles better understood,) to form a society of twenty-five or thirty members, and support preaching one-fourth or one-half of the time. It is really surprising to see Universalists sleeping with such criminal indolence, while the advocates of a yawning hell, and a God, whom their sentiments represent to be as much worse than the devil, as the devil is worse than the best man that ever walked the earth, are making such unwearied efforts, and are so busily engaged in propagating a sentiment, which its firmest advocates and ablest champions most frequently pray may not be true.—These things ought not so to be. Universalists, while they have the means in their power, ought to show themselves as zealously engaged, and more so, as their opponents, in propagating a sentiment which God in his revelation to man, and all nature, declares to be true. You will undoubtedly discover that I am a man of not much learning in the wisdom of this world, but I hope to learn of Him who is meek and lowly, for such is the learning which, of all others, is the most valuable."

B. W. Jr.

Dr. Jacob Myers, of E. Hempfield, Lancaster co. Pa. writes in reply to a letter from the Junior Editor:—

"You say that your Presbyterian brethren are trying to get up a revival. Of what? Judging by the columns of Number 1. 2d Volume of the Magazine and Advocate, I must come to the conclusion, that your villagers are not reviving 'Pure and undefiled religion.' But quite the reverse—fanaticism and madness."