somewhere, about the origin of Christianity, and a great
many statements in the Bible that were harder to believe than
the taking of all the sailors to hold the captain's hair on his
head during a rather severe gale. Elder Blair, of the
Josephite church, called to see me at Hyde Park about this
time, and he advised me to read Gibbons, and other authors,
on ancient history, who wrote on Christianity as it was in the
days of Christ and His apostles. I discovered that one
author, Gibbon, I think, made the statement "that he was
very careful not to write anything that would militate
against the church." I considered that historian as unre-
liable, after making such a statement.

CHAPTER XIII.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MARTIN HARRIS.

Martin Harris, who was one of the three witnesses to the
Book of Mormon, was living in Smithfield, Cache Valley,
with his son Martin. I called to see him and he gave me his
history from his youth up. This occurred in the winter of
1875-6. Following is the history as related to me, including
all his connections with Joseph Smith, the pretended prophet
and the founder of the Mormon church: He told me all
about the translating of the Book of Mormon, and said he
had given $5,000 towards its publication. He said: "I never
saw the golden plates, only in a visionary or entranced state.
I wrote a great deal of the Book of Mormon myself, as Joseph
Smith translated or spelled the words out in English. Some-
times the plates would be on a table in the room in which

Smith did the translating, covered over with a cloth. I was
told by Joseph Smith that God would strike him dead if he
attempted to look at them, and I believed it. When the time
came for the three witnesses to see the plates, Joseph Smith,
myself, David Whitmer and Oliver Cowdery, went into the
woods to pray. When they had all engaged in prayer, they
failed at that time to see the plates or the angel who should
have been on hand to exhibit them. They all believed it was
because I was not good enough, or, in other words, not suf-

ficiently sanctified. I withdrew. As soon as I had gone
away, the three others saw the angel and the plates. In about
three days I went into the woods to pray that I might see the
plates. While praying I passed into a state of entrancement,
and in that state I saw the angel and the plates." Harris
told me about his trip to New York and what Prof. Anthon
told him. He (Anthon) said the characters were translated
correctly. After Harris had told the professor how the plates
had been found, the professor said that it was his opinion that
he (Harris) was being duped by sharper, and advised Harris
to take care of himself. I asked him if he knew what the
prophet Isaiah had said about that event. He said, "No," but
that Joseph Smith had shown that chapter to him after his
return.

Harris told me that Smith had permitted him to take
home a part of the translated manuscript to show his wife and
a few friends. It consisted of several chapters. He said that
the manuscript was taken out of the house and never returned.
That part which was stolen was never embodied in the Book
of Mormon. Soon after this happened Joseph Smith had a
revelation from the Lord for Martin Harris, threatening Harris
with the destruction of himself and property, and misery was
to be his eternal doom. Harris further told me that none of
this revelation ever came to pass. See Doctrines and Cove-
Martin Harris asked me to look on his face and see how it was wrinkled with old age. I never knew his correct age, but I understood him to be about ninety years old at that time. He then read that part of the prophet Isaiah, which speaks of some man "whose visage was so marred, more than any other man's, so shall he sprinkle many nations." Harris said, "I am that man," and that the vigor of youth would yet return to him, and that he would yet lead the faithful of all the Latter Day Saints back to Zion, in Jackson County, Missouri, and "I know it will come to pass, as well as I know that Mormonism is true." About two years later Harris died. Harris never believed that the Brighamite branch of the Mormon church, nor the Josephite church, was right, because, in his opinion, God had rejected them; but he did believe that Mormonism was the pure gospel of Christ when it was first revealed, and I believe he died in that faith.

CHAPTER XIV.

DAVID WHITMER'S LETTER.

In March, 1887, I wrote a letter to David Whitmer, requesting him to explain to me the condition he was in when he saw the angel and the plates, from which the Book of Mormon is supposed to have been translated. In April, 1887, I received a letter from David Whitmer, dated on the second of that month, replying to my communication, from which I copy, verbatim, as follows:

"In regards to my testimony to the visitation of the angel, who declared to us three witnesses that the Book of
Ten Years Before The Mast.

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SHIPWRECKS AND ADVENTURES AT SEA!

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Religious Customs of the People of India and Burmah’s Empire.

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HOW I BECAME A NORMON AND WHY I BECAME AN INFIDEL!

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BY A. METCALF.

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