THE
DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES
OF
"THE MORMONS,"
AND
THE IMMORAL CHARACTER
OF
THEIR PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH,
DELINEATED
FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

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MDCCCLIII.
Judas Iscariot down and trampled out his bowels, and that Peter stabbed Ananias and Sapphira!" With such teaching as this, and under such a general as Smith, no wonder that the Army of the "saints" committed many enormities. They were soon met by the authorities of the country, who publicly proclaimed them to be in open and avowed defiance of the laws, and having made war upon the people of the state." Smith and his "saints" having been summoned to lay down their arms, felt compelled to obey, being overawed by the superior forces of Generals Lucas and Clark, the latter of whom, after selecting forty or fifty of the Mormons for trial, addressed them thus:— "You have always been the aggressors. You have brought upon yourselves these difficulties by not being subject to rule."

The "prophet" and twenty-nine of his deluded followers were closely confined in Richmond Gaol, being retained for trial by a court of inquiry, on the charges of treason against the state, murder, burglary, and larceny.* Smith and six others were afterwards committed to prison, but effected their escape to the state of Illinois, in 1839. Here he was received by his followers as a martyr; and with a devotion and zeal worthy of a better cause, his poor deluded dupes at once began to build the city of "Nauvoo," on the banks of the Upper Mississippi.

By "revelations" which the prophet received, the "saints" were commanded to build not only a temple, but also a house of lodging, in which

* Congressional Documents. 1841.

"Joseph and his seed after him" were to "have a place from generation to generation, for ever and ever saith the Lord."*

The following description of the "prophet" is given by one who had a personal interview with him in the city of Nauvoo, which he visited in 1842:—"The appearance of Smith," says Mr. Caswall, writing soon after an interview with the "prophet," "is that of a coarse and plebeian person, whose countenance exhibits a curious mixture of the knave and the clown. His language is uncouth and ungrammatical. When an ancient Greek manuscript of the Psalms was exhibited to him as a test of his acquaintance with that language, "It is," said he, "a dictionary of Egyptian hieroglyphics. It ain't Greek at all, except perhaps a few words. What ain't Greek is Egyptian, and what ain't Egyptian is Greek!" Such, reader, was the gross ignorance of one who pretended to have the gift of tongues, but whose ignorance and ungrammatical language would have shamed a child in any of our Day or Sunday Schools.

In addition to this, may be added the testimony of Bennet, formerly the Mayor of Nauvoo, who apostatized in consequence of the disgusting conduct of Smith, whom he had in vain urged to desist from his shameless course of intemperance and profligacy.

He states that the "prophet" Smith taught that, "the blessings of Jacob were granted him," and,

* Book of Doctrine and Covenants, page 302. Second European Edition. Observe:—This house was built, but afterwards abandoned by the "prophet's" followers; consequently Smith was a LYING PROPHET when he delivered the revelation that it should be "for ever and ever!"
consequently, that he had Divine authority and permission for indulging in unrestricted polygamy. He thus induced several English and American women, whose husbands or fathers had been sent on distant missions by the prophet, to become his "spiritual wives." But having attempted to add to their number the daughter of Sidney Rigdon—Rigdon, who had accompanied the "prophet" in his long and hateful course of imposture and hypocrisy, at once dissolved all association with this abandoned wretch, and exposed his infamous proceedings in several public newspapers. He spoke of him, as well he might, in terms of unmeasured severity, as one "polluted mass of corruption, iniquity, and fraud: a beast and false prophet."

These disclosures well-nigh cost Bennett his life, for he declared that twelve of the desperate band called the "Danite" band, subsequently attacked his residence by night disguised as females, but he being aware of their intentions, prepared for them so warm a reception that they were compelled to retire.‡

* What effect this teaching and example of the profligate prophet had upon his immediate followers, may be gathered from the following extract—"The last act in the expulsion of the Mormon fanatics from the state of Illinois was performed on the 6th of September... Although this sect of polygamists have been driven from Illinois, they are attempting to make proselytes."

† Published in the Louisville Journal, St. Louis' Bulletin, and others—and quoted by the Professor of Divinity in Kemper College, Missouri.

‡ The following is from the Boston Herald:—"This tribe of insane fanatics (the Mormons) are about being broken up by the villany and profanity of their "prophets"—Bennet and Joe Smith. Bennet is publishing a biography of Smith, which exposes a life of the blackest turpitude, spent in the perpetration of seductions, and robberies. The most effectual means to release the deluded followers from the spell which binds them, is to seize Smith and his brother "prophets," and punish them for their manifold crimes. A thorough exposure will cure them of the belief that anything godly can

We now come to the closing scenes of Smith's career. In 1841 he prophesied that his old enemy the Ex-governor of Missouri should die by violent hands within a year.

Bennet (then Mayor of Nauvoo) affirms that Smith offered a reward of 500 dollars to several of the "Danite" band who would undertake to "fulfil the prophecy." One was found willing for the work, and after being absent from Nauvoo about two months returned, and on the following day the fulfilment of the prophecy was announced. The assassin, who had previously been "miserably poor, now appeared in the streets of Nauvoo with his pockets full of gold."

The "prophet's" barefaced iniquity in this matter, however, was not allowed to pass unnoticed by the authorities of the state. The governor of Missouri demanded Smith for trial, at the hands of the governor of Illinois, on the charge of his having been an accessory in an attempt to murder Ex-governor Boggs, of the state of Missouri. Smith was arrested at Nauvoo, but made his escape from the officers of justice. A reward of 600 dollars having been offered for his apprehension, he was at length secured with his brother Hiram, in the gaol, at Carthage. Here they were to await their trial on a charge of treason. A Mormon having attempted to rush by the guard who had been placed before the gaol, by the governor, was opposed; thereupon he fired a pistol and wounded the sentinel. This was the signal for Smith and his fellow-prisoner, abide with such villains." Let the reader observe that this is the testimony of one of their own countrymen, whose many opportunities would enable him to form a correct and unbiased judgment.
who, being provided with pistols, commenced firing upon the guard within. A general confusion ensued, and Smith, attempting to escape from the window, was pierced with a hundred balls, and fell a lifeless corpse.

Thus died the false prophet, in open rebellion against his country: in daring and outrageous defiance of the laws of God and man, and in direct contradiction of his own creed, which acknowledges in theory what he discarded in practice all his life long, viz., obedience to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in “obeying, honouring, and sustaining the law.”

Thus he died in disgrace and infamy, a profane and ignorant impostor, palming himself off on the credulous and designing as a prophet sent from God—a deliberate, cold-blooded, persevering deceiver, possessed neither of talent nor originality, whose insane ravings, gross ignorance, and blasphemous assertions were only equalled by the loathsome profligacy, reckless duplicity, and grasping selfishness of his daily life.

And now, reader, having briefly given you this short outline of the life and character of this wretched impostor, I almost blush to ask you what your opinion of his claims must be. It is an insult to your common sense (I will not say to your religious feelings) even to doubt for one moment, what conclusion you must have arrived at, after reading the blasphemous and disgusting details of this impious man’s life. Remember they are details furnished by eye-witnesses; some of them affirmed by oath before the public magistrate, all of them attested by known public witnesses—(some of whom still live) whose only object in giving publicity to them has been to awaken righteous indignation against so cruel a delusion and so preposterous a heresy, as that of Mormonism.

The object of this tract has been simply to test the pretensions of the prophet, by the rule laid down in God’s Word. That Word, in theory, Smith professed to receive, but in reality made void by his impudent addition of the “Book of Mormon,” and “Books of Covenant,” and “Revelations.” That word says on the authority of the Lord Jesus—“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.” Now test Smith’s pretensions by this touch-stone, and you can come but to one conclusion, viz., that he is a “false prophet,” a “corrupt tree,” one of those forms of the Anti-Christ now rapidly rising to a head, of whom St. Paul speaks: “Whose coming is after the working of Satan, with all power, and signs, and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they receive not the love of truth.” (2 Thess. ii. 10.)

The life of Smith, from his earliest years to the moment of his death, is stained by the grossest crimes. There are not even recorded of him any redeeming qualities. Living by craft, deceit, and
robery, yet pretending to the closest communion with Him whose eyes cannot look upon iniquity; charged by his most intimate companion and former coadjutor, Rigdon, with the grossest immoralities and daring profigacy, and by the Mayor of Nauvoo, and the Authorities of the State with murder and treason; he yet dared to proclaim himself to be a "prophet" and chosen servant" of the Most High God, and blasphemously asserted his equality with the Saviour of the world;* and yet strange to say, we behold the marvel of thousands possessing common sense, and the words of Holy Writ before their eyes, accepting this wretched imposture; imbibing the dreadful principles of his infernal delusion; and willingly led captives from their homes, their country, and their religion, to take up their abode in that den of heresy where they vainly hope to find a heaven in an earthly hell!

Reader, if by the preventing grace of God the Holy Ghost you have been kept from this terrible delusion, thank and bless the name of the Lord! But do not selfishly wrap yourself up in your own privileges. Remember His grace which hath caused you to differ. Pity those deluded souls who are being led captive by the devil! Pray for them! Pluck them as brands from the burning! Warn them of their sin and danger! Tell them of Jesus Christ, the true and only prophet of the Church of Saints; by whom alone, and through whom they can obtain remission of their sins, and the pardon of that God whose word and whose Spirit they have so awfully resisted.

* Testimony of Levi Lewis, given by Dr. Clark.

And if this tract fall into the hands of one who has already embraced Mormonism, oh! may God the Holy Ghost convince that deluded one of the tremendous guilt and judgment which hangs over the soul thus blinded by Satan! Compare the awful pretensions of Joseph Smith, the high and holy mission which he claimed, as one sent from the Most High; with the cunning craftiness and diabolical conduct which marked his whole career. Ask yourself, could such a low and profligate being—alternately a "bankrupt, adulterer, seducer, drunkard, and deceiver,"*—could such a wretch come from that great God whose highest attribute is that of holiness? The very supposition entertained for one moment is blasphemy. Smith died as he lived, in sin. He died resisting lawful authority. No tear of repentance was shed. No prayer for pardon, no cry for mercy escaped his polluted lips. Oh! that you would be entreated to seek for that mercy, to lift up thy voice for that pardon which Jesus Christ, whose salvation you now neglect, is willing and able to bestow.

Under this delusion of Mormonism you are verily guilty of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. You prefer a gross and sensual impostor to the blessed One who will return soon in glory, to take vengeance on them that obey not his Gospel.

The Jews of old preferred a robber to their Messiah, and called for his blood to rest on them

* Bennet's Testimony, Aug. 3, 1842. New York Herald, 1844. See "The Anti-Debt" for 1844, a monthly magazine, where, under the head of "Bankruptcy of the Mormon Impostors," the following remarks occur:--"This vile scheme has at last exploded! Smith, the grand conceiver of the fraud, having applied to the Insolvent Debtor's Court, in America, to be released from liabilities amounting to 100,000 dollars!"