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THE

HORRORS OF MORMONISM;

BEING A

LECTURE

DELIVERED BY

JOHN BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,

(LATE MANAGER OF THE MORMON PRINTING OFFICE AT THE GREAT SALT LAKE CITY,)

IN SEVERAL PLACES IN ENGLAND, &c.

about 1858

AN OPINION OF THE PRESS.

"THE HORRORS OF MORMONISM ON GLASGOW GREEN.—On Sunday evening last, by far the largest and most attentive meeting we have ever witnessed this season, assembled to hear Mr. J. B. Franklin, (compositor, of London,) on the 'Horrors of Mormonism.' The lecturer handled the subject in a masterly style, to the satisfaction of every one present, except the few Mormon leaders standing by. J. B. F. challenged any one to deny the accusations he had made against the priesthood of the Mormon church. No one came forward, and the meeting separated highly pleased with the lecture."—*Glasgow Daily News.*

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LECTURE

ON THE

HORRORS OF MORMONISM.

THIS subject is intended for the few honest Mormons in this country. I know their sincerity—I know their delusion. As sincerely deceived as themselves, I preceded them to the Great Salt Lake City.

It is better to learn by personal experience than ever to remain without knowledge of things in general; it is far wiser to profit by the experience of others. Although the practices of individuals cannot determine the principles of communities, yet, when those practices are criminal, and those individuals assume to be prophets and apostles, all men ought to hesitate before committing themselves to their jurisdiction, believing their pretensions, or imitating their example.

It is interesting to learn the peculiarities of a remote nation, or an ancient age. It is far more important, however, that we should correctly understand the character and practices of any extraordinary people of our own day. Mormonism and the Mormons are subjects that not only deserve attention, or excite interest, but demand the most serious consideration. The meanness of its origin, the mysterious influence it exercises on its followers, and its ultimate destiny, should commend its investigation to all persons. It is a religious delusion, entailing not only present suffering, but eternal loss on its infatuated believers.

Many false prophets have been, and many more will yet come, trying to lead men and women from the path of duty towards their Heavenly Father; attempting to show the way mankind might get an admission into the Kingdom of Heaven. Allow me (one who has travelled thousands of miles for the purpose of obtaining the knowledge of some of the ways that these false prophets have laid out for mankind to follow in) to say, that the only way to obtain admittance into the Kingdom of Heaven, there to enjoy immortality and endless felicity, Christ must be relied on, as the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the only begotten Son of the Father and all sufficient Saviour. The soul must be illuminated, regenerated, and sanctified by the all-enlightening and energetic influences of the Holy Spirit. Holiness and heavenly-mindedness, proceeding from a faith working by love, and cherished by steady believing views of a once dying, but now risen and reigning Saviour, must be perseveringly pursued, till the Christian finishes his course, and is called by Him, who is Lord and Judge, God over all, blessed for ever, to join the spirits of the just made perfect. In order, however, to this glorious attainment, a previous meekness must be diligently pursued and acquired. Although this object be so truly important, and should interest every person, how many there are, even in this enlightened country and age, who awfully neglect it! But, what is still more surprising is, many professing Christians will foolishly run after every new doctrine of

Pandemonium, and do their utmost to serve the arch-deceiver of mankind, unknowingly thinking, that the *new* doctrine must be of God.

If this lecture, for which I solicit your serious consideration and attention, accomplish no more, may it at least lead you to a thorough and careful re-investigation of your grounds of faith.

I now commence my lecture, with a statement as to myself. Who I am, how I became what I am, and why I lecture against Mormonism, are questions every one should ask. I endeavour to reply.

Mormonism in England and Mormonism in Utah are two very different systems. In England all its objectionable principles are denied. Its apostles and elders not only utter negative, but also positive falsehoods, in order to induce belief.

As a sample of their falsehood, I will instance polygamy. This was practised by Smith, in 1838, and the Mormon apostles knew it. Yet, when the church was charged with its adoption, Parley Pratt, in Manchester, before the General Conference of the European Churches, and in the *Millennial Star*, of 1846, thus publicly denounced it. Hear their lying words:—

"Such a doctrine is not held, known, or practised as a principle of the Latter-day Saints, and is as foreign from the real principles of the church as the devil is from God."

Although denying it in this bold and lying way, this man knew that Smith and others had children living who were the offspring of this very practice!

John Taylor, another Mormon apostle, in a discussion at Boulogne, in July, 1850, was also charged with the belief of this doctrine of more wives than one, to which accusation he thus replied:—

"We are accused here of polygamy, and actions the most indelicate, obscene, and disgusting, such as a corrupt heart only could have conceived; therefore, I shall content myself with reading our views of chastity and marriage, from a work published by us, containing some of the articles of our faith."

He read in the book of Smith's Revelations, page 330, the Marriage Covenant, which is as follows:—"You both mutually agree to be each other's companion, husband and wife, keeping yourselves wholly for each other, and from all others during your lives."

He also read, on page 331 of the same book:—"Inasmuch as this church of Jesus Christ has been reproached with the crime of fornication and polygamy, we declare that one woman should have one husband, and one man but one woman."

"There," exclaimed elder Taylor, triumphantly: "that is our doctrine on this subject." And this man had four wives at the Great Salt Lake City, and was paying attentions to a girl at Jersey, at the very time he uttered these wilful and intentional falsehoods. Only a year after this discussion they had to confess to it, and laid all the blame on their God, saying that it was he who instructed them to tell these falsehoods—in order to get converts!

What do you think of Mormonism now, and their God? who is afraid to set out all his principles at once, and even denying some that he has already taught his favoured ones at the Mormon city in America. Such a God as this Mormon God seems to be, is none other than that lying one who tempted our forefathers. And I wish that I had the tongue of an angel, ah! of an arch-angel, that I might be able to sound in your ears, so that you might never forget, that the God of the Bible is the God of Truth, and not the God of Falsehoods. (Tremendous cheering.) Therefore, the God of the Book of Mormon must be the old lying deceiver, the devil. (Cheers.)

The illustrious examples of such inspired apostles were industriously imitated by similarly inspired elders. From the lips of such inspired men did I first hear of Mormonism; the character of Smith; his many mighty miracles; his