The Great Mormon Fraud;

OR,

THE CHURCH
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

PROVED TO HAVE HAD

A FALSEHOLD FOR ITS ORIGIN; A RECORD OF CRIME FOR ITS HISTORY;
AND FOR DOCTRINES: CRUELTY, ABSURDITY, AND INFAMY.

The detestable and immoral system of Polygamy exposed, and the horrible
Mormon doctrine of "Blood Atonement" explained.

BY JOSEPH JOHNSON,

Author of "Self-Effort," "Noble Women of our Time," "Living to Purpose,

"It is a crafty and powerful lie, and the fanaticism which it kindles in the votaries
has in it a spurious chivalry akin to that which dwelt in the crusaders of old."—
Rev. W. M. Purshol, L.L.D.

"The worst of all knaves are those who can mimic honesty."—LATAMER

MANCHESTER:
BUTTERWORTH & NODAL, PRINTERS, 10, NEW MARKET LANE.
Despite these divisions, Smith and Cowdery in 1826, said they were visited by Jesus Christ, Moses, Elias, and Elijah; probably on the strength of that visit, or rather, supposed visit, in 1837, the first missionaries were sent to England.

SMITH BECOMES A BANKER.

The prophet in the meantime, keeping his eye upon the main chance, opened a bogus or humbug bank; notes were circulating without money being in the bank to cash them when presented. Smith's pious mother said 'her son was warned by the spirit to make his escape;' then the spirit was a party implicated in a swindle. Smith took refuge in Missouri, where there were further disturbances with the inhabitants. Here Smith and his companions were put in prison, but managed to effect their escape to Illinois. The next settlement was at a village called Commerce, but was rechristened Nauvoo. In this place Smith put himself at the head of 3,000 Mormon troops; but he had not in the meantime cleared himself from the defrauding humbug bank. He was however, taken into custody, by an officer from Missouri, but was speedily released by his armed Mormon dupes.

CHARGE OF SEDUCTION AGAINST SMITH.

In 1844, the prophet was accused of attempting to seduce the wives of Dr. Forster and Mr. Law, who in order to expose him, published a paper called the Expositor; in which there were sixteen affidavits from women declaring that Smith, Rigdon, and others had endeavoured to corrupt their virtue. Smith, to conceal his own infamy, ordered the printing office to be destroyed, which was done, the types and presses being thrown into the street; finally Joseph and Hyrum Smith were imprisoned at Carthage, before they were brought to trial, a number of infuriated men broke into the prison and shot Hyrum and Joseph; the prophet either leaped or fell through the window. This deed can only be described as an atrocious and regrettable murder, but Smith was no martyr to his religion; he was a martyr to his evil passions. He violated his country's laws, his death was the result. Had he been permitted to live he could not have escaped punishment, any more than the thief caught in the act. He commenced his career with the Book of Mormon fraud, and ended his life by perpetrating a bank swindle and outraging women and the law. It may be asked: 'What did he leave behind him?' So-called revelations which had reference to his own ambitions and self-seeking schemes. There is not a single elevated thought, not a ray of fervour, not a trace of deep religious feeling to be found in all his verbose, weary, and tedious revelations. He was a licentious, ignorant humbug. He found large numbers of silly and ignorant people ready to receive any nonsense in the name of religion, and duped them to his heart's content.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

At the death of the prophet, Sidney Rigdon aspired to be President of the Church, but Brigham Young, who was one of the twelve apostles, enjoyed the popular favour and was elected. Rigdon, who had previously been described by Smith as "The John the Baptist of the Church," was deemed an authorised and self-seeking in aspiring to be the President; he was therefore cut off from the Church and delivered over to the buffettings of Satan! What a very holy and just Church this must be, to perpetrate a deed of such heavenly justice! Brigham, however, proved himself to be an excellent administrator; and when the Saints were driven out of Nauvoo, the inhabitants being determined to get quit of them, Young led 1,600 Mormons to the West in search of a settlement. Altogether 10,000 followers started upon a journey of 1,400 miles; very many were buried on the road, the rest being subjected to immense privations. They had to cross the Mississippi and the Missouri rivers, but the waters were not separated in order that the Saints might walk over. They were in fearful want of food, but no manna fell from heaven. They longed for water, but no rock was commanded to yield a gushing spring. They were in doubt as to the way in which they should go, but no cloudy pillar went before them to guide their steps. On the 24th day of July, 1847, however, the Mormons arrived at the Great Salt Lake, where they built a city and where they remain.

WHAT DO THE MORMON'S TEACH?

They profess to possess and exercise all the gifts which were owned by the Apostles. They profess to own the gift of tongues; the gift of healing; the power to work miracles; .
ham, Isaac, and Jacob, who were polygamists. That was at a period of the world's history when marriage was not sanctioned by a religious ceremony, and the polygamists and divorce were permitted, not commanded; when females performed the most menial tasks and degrading offices, and in no sense were looked upon as man's equal. That was woman's condition in the patriarchal period. We object, under the Christian dispensation, to that condition. The Christian dispensation knows nothing of polygamy—a system which is repugnant to the chastened instincts of human nature; and the proportions of population, which assign one woman to one man. Had God intended that the husband should have more than one wife He would have created a second, or many more, Eves, to be Adam's wives. God gave the first man one wife—a wise natural condition, intended for man's and woman's happiness. When that condition was changed, when polygamy was introduced, woman became lowered and degraded in the scale of human beings. That degradation was certainly not in harmony with the Divine will, otherwise God has placed instincts in the human heart which are opposed to his intentions. It must be conceded that God intended the happiness of His creatures; can it be supposed for a moment that the wretchedness which is the accompaniment of polygamy is appointed and approved by the Creator? To suppose and so assert is simply blasphemy.

HOW POLYGAMY WAS AT FIRST DESCRIBED BY THE MORMONS.

Polygamy, however, in the first years of the Latter-Day Saints' Church, was properly described and condemned by the so-called Mormon Apostles. When Mormons were accused of favouring and practising Polygamy they hotly denied the practice, but were extremely indignant at the accusation. Parley P. Pratt, the Mormon apostle, when in England, in answer to the accusation, wrote in the Millennial Star, vol. iii., page 74: "But for those who may be assailed by these foolish tales about the two, wives, we would say that no such principle ever existed among the Latter-Day Saints, and never will." Pratt further wrote in the same Mormon publication, vol. vii., page 22: "No such doctrine as polygamy is known, held, or practised as a principle of the Latter-Day Saints. Polygamy is but another name for whoredom, wicked and unlawful connection, and every kind of confusion.

POLYGAMY REPUTED BY THE BOOK OF MORMON.

The book in which the Mormons found their Church upon—the Book of Mormon—condemns polygamy in the strongest terms. In the second chapter of the book of Jacob these words occur:

"But the word of God burtheneth me because of your grosser crimes. For behold, thus saith the Lord, This people begin to wax in iniquity; they understand not the scriptures; for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son."

"Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord; wherefore, thus saith the Lord, I have led this people forth out of the land of Jerusalem, by the power of mine arm, that I might raise up unto me a righteous branch from the fruit of the loins of Joseph."

"Wherefore, I the Lord God, will not suffer that this people shall do like unto them of old. Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord; for there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife, and concubines he shall have none; and, if the Lord God delighteth in the chastity of women, and whoredoms are an abomination before me; thus saith the Lord of Hosts."

A REVELATION FORBIDDING POLYGAMY.

In the March of 1831, Joseph Smith had a revelation, in which these words occur—"I say unto you, that whosoever biddeth to marry is not ordained of God, for marriage is..."