

THE
EARLY HISTORY
—OF—
MORMONISM;

AND, THE TRUE SOURCE WHERE THE
ABORIGINES OF THIS CONTI-
NENT CAME FROM.

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Commerce, Carthage County, Illinois, gave Smith a considerable portion of it in order to enhance the value of the rest by the settlement of the Mormons. There Smith accordingly received a revelation commanding the saints to establish themselves at Commerce and build a city to be called Nauvoo on the land presented to him, which he divided into house lots and sold to his followers at his prices. By this transaction, and by other equally successful speculations, the prophet in a few years amassed a fortune estimated at upwards of \$1,000,000. Nauvoo soon grew to be a city of several thousand inhabitants, the saints being summoned by a new revelation to assemble there from all quarters of the world and to build a temple for the Lord and a hotel in which Smith and his family should "have place from generation to generation forever and ever." The legislature of Illinois granted a charter for the city of Nauvoo, conferring upon it extraordinary privileges which enabled Smith, Rigdon and the other leaders to exercise almost unlimited civil power. They were authorized by charter to organize a military body, which was accordingly formed under the name of the Nauvoo Legion, and comprised nearly all the Mormons capable of bearing arms. Smith was commander of this force with the rank of lieutenant general. Beside this office he held that of mayor of the city and first president of the church. By a revelation, given April 6, 1830, he had been appointed "Seer, Translator, Prophet, Apostle of Jesus Christ and Elder of the Church," and the Lord had said of him: "The church shall give heed to all his words and commandments which he shall give unto you, for his word shall ye receive as if from my own mouth in all patience and faith." This revelation gave the prophet absolute authority over his followers, making him the mouth-piece of God himself. The civil and military offices which he conferred upon himself at Nauvoo and the Legion at his command gave him supreme power within the city whose charter had been purposely so framed that the State authorities were almost excluded from jurisdiction within its limits. On April 6, 1841, the foundation of the temple was laid at Nauvoo by Lieutenant General Smith, who appeared at the head of the Legion surrounded by a numerous military staff, and the saints being commanded by revelation not only to contribute to its erection but to labor personally upon the work every tenth day, its walls rapidly arose. In 1838 Smith had persuaded a number of women to cohabit with him, calling them his spiritual wives, although he had a lawful wife to whom he had been married in 1827. His wife became jealous of these rivals, and to pacify her Smith received, July 12, 1843, a revelation authorizing polygamy. This fact being whispered at Nauvoo much scandal was created in consequence. The imputation was strenuously denied in public, and in 1845 the heads of the church deemed it prudent to put forth a formal denial of the charge in the following words: "Inasmuch as this church of Christ has been reproached with the crimes of fornication and polygamy we declare that we believe that one man should have but one wife and one woman but one husband, except in case of death, when either is at liberty to marry again." It was not till 1852 that they admitted the truth and boldly avowed and defended polygamy on the authority of the revelation of 1843. Meantime Smith, in 1843 and 1844, made advances to so many women in Nauvoo, soliciting them to become his spiritual wives, that great uproar was created by the declarations of