

# LATTER DAY SAINTS'

## MESSENGER AND ADVOCATE.

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### PROSPECTUS

For a *new paper*, to be published at Kirtland, Geauga co. Ohio, called the **ELDERS' JOURNAL** OF THE CHURCH OF LATTER DAY SAINTS.

As the Latter Day Saints Messenger and Advocate, published at the above place, is to be closed with the present volume which closes in the month of September, and as the publishers of that paper have declined publishing any more for the present, at least. A large body of the elders of the church of Latter Day Saints have united and rented the printing establishment, for the purpose of publishing a paper with the above title.

This paper is intended to be a vehicle of communication for all the elders of the church of Latter Day Saints, through which they can communicate to others, all things pertaining to their mission, and calling as servants of the living God, and messengers of righteousness to the nations among whom they are sent. As there have been many desires expressed by the elders of said church, to have a periodical of this kind published; it is hoped that the present proposals will meet with their most unqualified approbation, and will find a patron and a friend in all those into whose hands it comes.

This paper is intended to occupy vacant ground, as there is no other periodical with which we are acquainted, that presents itself in the attitude of the public, that this does. The church of the Latter Day Saints is increasing very rapidly, perhaps more so at this time considering its circumstances, than any other society in our country. The number of elders amounts to many hundreds, and are constantly increasing: and out of the number there are many who are respectable in point of both learning and talents, and some of the first order.

The great excitement which has been produced by the coming forth of this church; the unparalleled rapidity of its growth; the excessive rage of persecution against it by all sects and

parties, together with the wide range it is destined to take among the nations, form at once a source of interest peculiar to itself. And every thing pertaining to either its prosperity or adversity, its advance or decline, its favorable or unfavorable reception among the nations, where its doctrines are promulgated, and where it is destined to present the majesty of its truth in formidable array against the errors and false doctrine of the age, is now, and will be more abundantly hereafter, sought with an eagerness by both friends and foes, in this country, and elsewhere, unknown, since the days that the former apostles proclaimed the same doctrine among all the nations of the world.

Already has the sound gone forth into every State of the Union, and messengers sent by the church have safely (as appears by letters,) arrived at Liverpool, [England,] from whom accounts are expected continually, making known the progress of the work in the old world.

What proposals then, could be made to an inquiring public better calculated to gratify their desires than a periodical of this kind; designed to give information on the very points where information is desired, and to satisfy the unceasing anxiety excited by reason of the progress of the church.

It may be confidently expected, that this paper will be enriched with important intelligence from the eastern as well as the western continent, and at no very remote period we may anticipate with great assurance, to see its columns abounding with matter of deep interest, from all nations in the civilized world. It will be a rich repast, to ladies and gentlemen, of all religions, or to those who professed none; inasmuch as the contributors to this paper will be in every part of the world, and thereby afford facilities to obtain information through its columns, equal, if not superior to any in the union. The great events of nations, tending to that point of consumation spoken of by all the holy prophets since the world began, will be diligently sought for, and correctly presented.

This paper is therefore intended to be a counter part to this lying *mania*, which seems to pervade all ranks of men, when engaged to try to stop the progress of truth, and prevent the kingdom of God from spreading, by affording the traveling elders an opportunity of presenting the truth to the public, in relation to the events, and occurrences which transpire within the reach of their observation, and which occur with, and by themselves, while they are traveling and proclaiming the gospel, in obedience to the high and holy calling wherewith God has called them.

It becomes a duty not to be dispensed with, that the saints of the last days owe to themselves, and their children, as well as the public in general, to use all lawful endeavors to disabuse the public mind in relation to the affairs of the kingdom of God, which has been committed to them; so that as far as in them lies, they will guard the public against the abuses which are heaped upon them, by reason of a spirit of persecution which rages most unhallowedly against the truth.

It has been the usage of all saints in every age as far as our knowledge extends, to transmit to succeeding generations an account of their religion, and a history of their travels, and of the reception which they met with in the nations, among whom they executed their divine commission. With an account of their travels, both by sea and land, among strangers and acquaintances; and these accounts stand as an armed man, guarding both their characters, and religion, against the aspersions of foul calumniators, and base slanderers.

May we not ask, What saved the name of the Waldenses, from being handed down to all generations with infamy and contempt? The answer is their own writings. Had it not have been for the exertions which they used, to transmit to posterity, a true account of themselves; their enemies would have left the world in perfect ignorance, of both their character and religion; and stamped their name with as much infamy, as they exercised cruelty upon their persons: and the name of Peter Waldo, would have been associated with every thing that was base and abominable. But the course which they took to be their own historians, has turned this infamy upon the heads of their enemies, and most effectually

redeemed themselves from under the power of their slanderers; until their memory is had with reverence among all men, whose approbation is worth having.

It is equally as possible for the saints of these days, to guard themselves against the abuses of a corrupt people, and the rage of an unrighteous priesthood, against whom they have to contend; as it was for those to do so, who have gone before them.

In view then to obtain objects so laudable, and so desirable, this paper is offered to the public. In its success and prosperity, we presume all the elders will feel suitable interest; for it is through this medium, that they have an opportunity offered them, of handing down to their children, and their childrens children, as well as to all others who are disposed to read, an account of their labors and sufferings, the success and discouragements they may meet, through the course of their ministry in the world, and be able to give and receive information from every part of the world, and thereby enrich their own minds with much useful knowledge, as well as bestow great light on the world.

In proportion as the church increases, and the knowledge of the gospel spreads abroad upon the face of the earth; in the same proportion our desires are increased to know how it fares with the servants of God who are employed in this good work of gathering the saints together, out of all tongues, languages, and kindreds, under heaven.

For instance, since our missionaries started for England, how many deep anxieties are felt in the minds of many, that they never felt before, to know how they will be received, and what will be the success of their mission; and this by persons who never saw any of the individuals who have gone. How grateful then would a letter be from any of them, making its appearance in the Journal, by this means satisfying the desires of all at once, which could not be done in any other way, but by great expense and great waste of time.

How indispensable then is a periodical of this kind to the saints: It is essential to their peace and happiness as saints. It will always be hailed as a welcome messenger to the habitation of the truly pious. It will be cherished

by the saint of God as a kind friend come to allay his anxieties, and to open a new field for contemplation and prayer: to heighten his devotion by making him acquainted more extensively with the works of God; and to calm his mind in the hour of affliction, by making him acquainted with the sufferings, and yet the patience and perseverance, of others of his brethren in tribulation.

How many that would be otherwise slothful, will be provoked to good works, by hearing of the zeal, and of the great exertions of others, in extending the work of God.

In a word then, let every saint lay to a helping hand, use his or her influence to get subscribers, and obtain as extensive a circulation for the paper as possible, so that it may be sustained, and there by the cause of God be advanced.

It is expected that all the saints into whose hands this prospectus comes, will feel themselves authorized to get all the subscribers they can, and every person getting ten *new* subscribers and forwarding the money shall have the eleventh gratis.

The JOURNAL will be edited by Joseph Smith Jun. and printed once a month on a superroyal sheet, and folded in form for binding, at one dollar a year in *advance*: and should the subscription list justify, it will soon be published semi-monthly at two dollars a year.

The first number will be issued in October next, and will be forwarded to the subscribers of the Messenger and Advocate, unless they say to the contrary.

*All letters whether for publication or other purposes, sent to the office must be directed to DON C. SMITH, and the postage PAID, or they will not be attended to.*

Done by the request and in behalf of the elders.

SIDNEY RIGDON.

N. B. The elders sending letters for publication, will prepare them for the press so as to save expense.

A combination of circumstances not in our power to control, prevented our inserting our brothers valedictory in the fifth number of the current volume of the Messenger and Advocate. It

was written, as it purports to be, from the date, at Monroe Michigan, while he was absent from here on business in that place.

We consider it due to him and to our numerous friends who have been edified, enlightened or amused by his pen, to let them hear directly from him; and we only regret, deeply regret, that the little passing compliment he bestows on our humble efforts, which, truly were then but in anticipation, could not have been realized: He has retired from a responsible charge, and with more hopes and good wishes for his happiness and future welfare than we can reasonably expect for ours when we resign the *same* charge.— May the Lord bless and preserve him.

Ed.

### VALEDICTORY.

In the 8th number, Vol. first of the Messenger and Advocate, I addressed its readers, as I *then* supposed, for the last time as its Editor. From considerations of duty, on the departure of brother Whitmer to the west, I again assumed the conduct of its columns, during which interval pecuniary circumstances have compelled me almost wholly from home, and when there, a feeble state of health prevented that strict attention, after fulfilling paramount duties, necessary to render such a periodical interesting, instructing and useful. How far under those circumstances, my labors have been approved by my heavenly Master, remains to be revealed when all things are openly proclaimed: and to what extent I have answered the expectations of my friends, I do not stop here to ask, as I presume they are quite willing to exchange my labors for the labors of another, and in that change expect a more faithful servant, without venturing any hazzard.

But, lest these remarks should create an unreasonable expectation, and an unwarranted call for labor on the part of my brother who succeeds me. I will here add, that were he numerous readers of the Messenger aware, while perusing its columns, how many, very many constitutions are impaired, *ruined*,—worn out, by writing matter for others to read, they would be ready to excuse, when a number appeared not quite as full of editorial matter as