

THE RETURN.

"Truth, crushed to earth, shall rise again; The eternal years of God are hers."

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PROSPECTUS OF THE RETURN.

Realizing there has been a departure from the plain and pure doctrine of Christ, as set forth in the New Testament Scriptures and Book of Mormon, in the which is the fullness of the gospel, the undersigned proposes to commence the publication, at Davis City, Decatur county, Iowa, of a monthly periodical, to be called THE RETURN, in which we propose to set forth our understanding of the doctrine of Christ, as we find it presented in these sacred records, together with the order of church organization and government.

The examination and presentation of these subjects will necessarily include an examination, presentation and comparison of many of the items of doctrine and practices which have been introduced into the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which we consider departures from the original and true faith. We do not wish to be unnecessarily personal or severe in any thing we may say, but in presenting some of those things may feel called upon to present some circumstances and facts which have transpired under our personal observation, which we devoutly wish never had transpired.

Our desire is, by the grace of God assisting us, to be able to point our fellow men the way to the "Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world," that thereby they may be prepared for the glorious coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, which we believe is drawing near, and that they may be worthy to assist in the great work of the Father, which he has

commenced in the earth to prepare a people for a day of rest, the millennium.

We do not propose to hold a religious controversy with any, neither will we debate, believing these things are calculated to engender strife and ill feelings unbecoming professed christians. But rather, let every one be free to express his views unrestricted and untrammelled, in his own channel and in his own way, and let a thinking, considerate public judge.

THE RETURN will be devoted to the interest of the church of Christ, advocated by David Whitmer, one of the witnesses to the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon, and all true Latter Day Saints will be cordially invited to *Return* to the original principles of the gospel of Christ as presented in the beginning.

As it is expected this Prospectus will mostly fall into the hands of strangers, we deem it proper to give a brief sketch of its publisher.

Being a practical printer we worked in the printing office of the church of Latter Day Saints, in Kirtland, Ohio, where we united with the church in 1835, and assisted in printing the first edition of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants. We printed four numbers, (all that was printed,) of the "Elders' Journal," the church paper, in Far West, Caldwell County, Missouri, in 1838, before the church was driven from that state the following winter. In 1839, in company with Don Carlos Smith, the youngest brother of Joseph Smith, established the "Times and Seasons," the church paper, in Nauvoo, Illinois, which we sold to Brigham Young & Co. in 1842. Remained in Nauvoo until 1844, when we, together with President Sidney Rigdon, were appointed by the

authorities of the church, to go to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to build up the church in that city. We left Nauvoo on the 18th day of June 1844, nine days before Joseph Smith was murdered in Carthage, Illinois. Remained with President Rigdon until his organization failed and he left the State in April, 1847. Moved from Pennsylvania to Decatur county Iowa, in 1855, which has been our place of residence from that date to the present. United with the Reorganized church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in April, 1863, having been acquainted with it for several years. Protested from the first against some of its practices and teachings. Was baptized into the church of Christ on the 13th day of April, 1888, by Elder John C. Whitmer, of Richmond, Mo.

TERMS:—THE RETURN will be published monthly, containing *sixteen* double column pages, *octavo*, at One Dollar a year, payable in advance, and will be furnished to subscribers postage paid. Any person procuring 10 subscribers and sending us *ten dollars* shall receive one volume gratis.

Money can be sent by Bank Draft, Express Order or Post Office Order on Davis City, Iowa, at our risk.

E. ROBINSON.

THE GOSPEL. WHAT IS IT?

We believe that all people, who believe the bible, will say that Jesus Christ fully comprehended and understood the principles of the gospel, the plan of salvation, inasmuch as he is the captain of our salvation.

He says: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me; he gave me a commandment what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting; whatsoever, therefore even

as the Father said unto me so I speak." John, 12:48-50.

By this we learn that when we are reading the words spoken by Jesus, we are reading the words of his Father, who is God over all, to whom be glory and honor forever and ever. Amen. By this we learn also, that Jesus taught the commandments of his Father, the gospel, which is "life everlasting." And Jesus said, "he that will be my disciple let him take up his cross and follow me." Not that we should follow him through the land of Judea, and the cities of Samaria and Galilee, but should follow his example in obeying the commandments of his Father.

His first public act after attaining the age designated in the law for entering into the ministry, was to come to John the Baptist (who had been raised up a forerunner to prepare the way before the face of the Lord, and make his paths straight, who came preaching repentance and baptism for the remission of sins, and was baptized in the river Jordan), and demanded baptism at the hands of John.

"But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering, said unto him, suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.'" Mat., 3:14-17.

Jesus says in another place, "I came not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me," therefore this act of his, in being baptized, was according to the will, the commandment, of his Father, and brought the spirit of life, by which he went forth and taught the principles of salvation, the gospel of peace.