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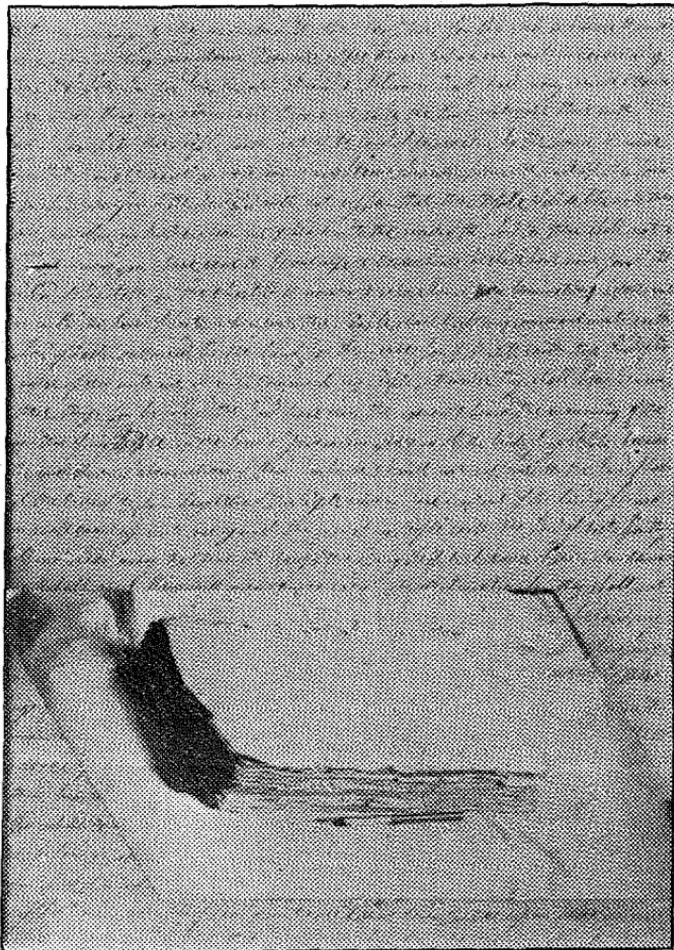
## THE BOOK OF MORMON, ITS TRANSLATION AND PUBLICATION

BY WALTER W. SMITH, CHURCH HISTORIAN

The first piece of literature published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or any member of it, was the Book of Mormon. This book was in fact translated and the printing well-nigh completed before the church was organized.

The Book of Mormon was translated from the original language of the Nephites into English by Joseph Smith, jr., Oliver Cowdery acting as his amanuensis or scribe. The work was begun early in April, 1829, and completed early in July the same year. The copyright was secured and the contract let for the printing of the book during the summer of 1829 to E. B. Grandin, of Palmyra, New York. In order to guard against possible loss or destruction of the manuscript of the book, a copy of the entire work was made, and portions of this were carried daily to the printers. When the work of printing was done, the two manuscripts were carefully arranged, one of them being kept by Joseph Smith, the translator, and the other given to Oliver Cowdery, the scribe. Joseph Smith deposited his copy in the corner stone of the Nauvoo House in 1841. Some years afterward Major Louis C. Bidamon removed the stone which had been broken and found that frost and moisture had ruined the manuscript. Oliver Cowdery preserved his copy, and at his death, at Richmond, Missouri, March 3, 1850, he

gave the manuscript to David Whitmer. After the death of David Whitmer, January 25, 1888, it passed to his grandson, George W. Schweich, who transferred it to Joseph Smith (the son of Joseph Smith, jr., the translator) at Independence, Mis-



THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

souri, April 18, 1903. At the death of Joseph Smith, December 10, 1914, the manuscript passed into the possession of Frederick M. Smith, of Independence, Missouri, where it remains at the present time.

The manuscript contains 464 pages of foolscap paper. It is well preserved, clear and legible throughout. It is mostly in the handwriting of Oliver Cowdery; a few pages are in the handwriting of Emma Smith, and perhaps of Alva Hale, Martin Harris, and Christian Whitmer. Some pages of the manuscript show the marks of the printer, and some are cut in takes for the typesetter. But much of it is the original, written by Oliver Cowdery at the dictation of Joseph Smith, and has not been in the hands of the printer.

While the book was still in the hands of the printer, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was organized at the home of Peter Whitmer, sr., in Fayette, Seneca County, New York, on April 6, 1830, there being six charter members, viz: Joseph Smith, jr., Oliver Cowdery, Hyrum Smith, Peter Whitmer, jr., Samuel H. Smith, and David Whitmer.

The history of the translation of the Book of Mormon is best told by the principal participants themselves, Joseph Smith, jr., the translator, and Oliver Cowdery, the scribe. Joseph Smith writes of this as follows:

On the evening of the 21st of September, A. D. 1823, while I was praying unto God, and endeavoring to exercise faith in the precious promises of scripture on a sudden a light like that of day, only of a far purer and more glorious appearance and brightness, burst into the room, indeed the first sight was as though the house was filled with consuming fire; the appearance produced a shock that affected the whole body; in a moment a personage stood before me surrounded with a glory yet greater than that with which I was already surrounded. This messenger proclaimed himself to be an angel of God sent to bring the joyful tidings, that the covenant which God made with ancient Israel was at hand to be fulfilled, that the preparatory work for the second coming of the Messiah was speedily to commence; that the time was at hand for the gospel, in all its fullness to be preached in power unto all nations, that a people might be prepared for the millennial reign.

I was informed that I was chosen to be an instrument in the hands of God to bring about some of his purposes in this glorious dispensation.

I was also informed concerning the aboriginal inhabitants of this country, and shown who they were, and from whence they came; a brief sketch of their origin, progress, civilization, laws, governments, of their righteousness and iniquity, and the blessings of God being finally

withdrawn from them as a people was made known unto me: I was also told where there was deposited some plates on which were engraven an abridgment of the records of the ancient prophets that had existed on this continent. The angel appeared to me three times the same night and unfolded the same things. After having received many visits from the angels of God unfolding the majesty, and glory of the events that should transpire in the last days, on the morning of the 22d of September, A. D. 1827, the angel of the Lord delivered the records into my hands.

These records were engraven on plates which had the appearance of gold, each plate was six inches wide and eight inches long and not quite so thick as common tin. They were filled with engravings, in Egyptian characters and bound together in a volume, as the leaves of a book with three rings running through the whole. The volume was something near six inches in thickness, a part of which was sealed. The characters on the unsealed part were small, and beautifully engraved. The whole book exhibited many marks of antiquity in its construction and much skill in the art of engraving. With the records was found a curious instrument which the ancients called "Urim and Thummim," which consisted of two transparent stones set in the rim of a bow fastened to a breastplate.

Through the medium of the Urim and Thummim I translated the record by the gift, and power of God.

In this important and interesting book the history of ancient America is unfolded, from its first settlement by a colony that came from the tower of Babel, at the confusion of languages to the beginning of the fifth century of the Christian era. We are informed by these records that America in ancient times has been inhabited by two distinct races of people. The first were called Jaredites and came directly from the tower of Babel. The second race came directly from the city of Jerusalem, about six hundred years before Christ. They were principally Israelites, of the descendants of Joseph. The Jaredites were destroyed about the time that the Israelites came from Jerusalem, who succeeded them in the inheritance of the country. The principal nation of the second race fell in battle towards the close of the fourth century. The remnant are the Indians that now inhabit this country. This book also tells us that our Savior made his appearance upon this continent after his resurrection, that he planted the gospel here in all its fullness, and richness, and power, and blessing; that they had apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists; the same order, the same priesthood, the same ordinances, gifts, powers, and blessings, as was enjoyed on the eastern continent, that the people were cut off in consequence of their transgressions, that the last of their prophets who existed among them was commanded to write an abridgment of their prophesies, history, etc., and to hide it up in the earth, and that it should come forth and be united with the Bible for the accomplishment of the purposes of God in the last days. For a more particular ac-

count I would refer to the Book of Mormon, which can be purchased at Nauvoo, or from any of our traveling elders.—*Times and Seasons*, vol. 3, pp. 707, 708.



JOSEPH SMITH, JR.

Oliver Cowdery, as editor of the *Messenger and Advocate*, writes as follows:

#### THE RECORD OF THE NEPHITES

Tuesday morning, September 22, 1835.

On the morning of the 22d of September, 1827, the angel of the Lord delivered the record of the Nephites to Joseph Smith, jr. This opening a new era, as it were, the mind runs, with the rapidity of lightning, over the history of the eight past years, and views with wonder the hand of God in its dealings with men, in that thousands and tens of thousands

have since heard the contents of that volume which then remained locked up from the eyes and knowledge of the nations of the earth.

The book has been translated, tho' its translator was driven from his native land, to do the same, by the hand of wicked and designing men, and those too who professed the religion of heaven, or were instigated so to do by such; it has been printed, though many sought to keep it from the public eye, and actually stole a part, which was, however, supplied from the writings of another; a few embraced its truths, yielded obedience to the gospel, and tasted the good word of God and the powers of the world to come; many of the elders of Christ's church have since been commissioned and sent forth over this vast Republic, from river to river, and from valley to valley, till the vast sunny plains of Missouri, the frozen regions of Canada, and the eastern Maine, with the summer States of the South, have been saluted with the sound of the voice of those who go forth for the last time to say to Israel, Prepare for the coming of thy King!

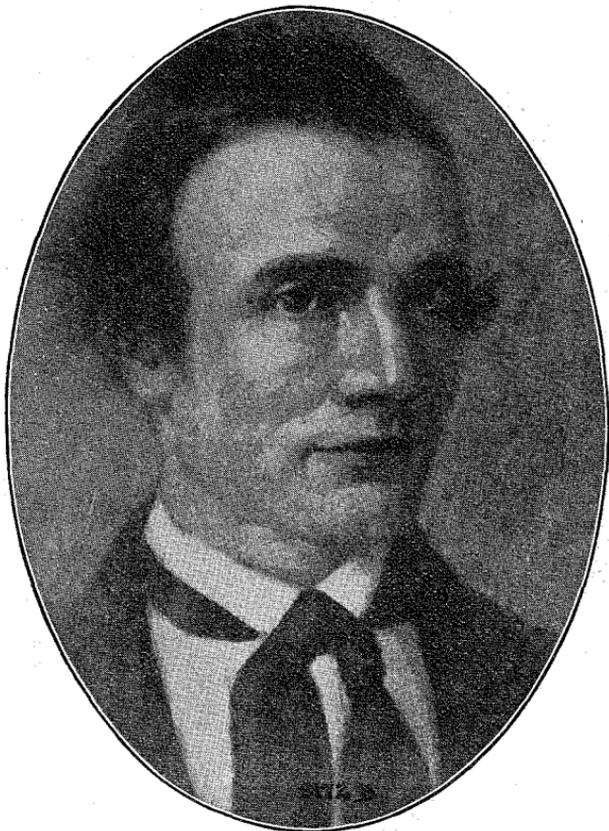
Wonderful to tell! Amid the frowns of bigots, the sneers of hypocrites, the scoffs of the foolish, the calumny of slanderers, the ridicule of the vain and the popular prejudice of a people estranged from God, urged on to deeds of villainy by the priests of Baal, the word has been proclaimed with success, and thousands are now enjoying the benign influence of the love of God shed forth by the Comforter upon the pure in heart!

Nor has the sound been confined alone to our shores: Europe has heard that the great King was doing wonders for us, and the eyes of many are now anxiously turned to behold the rising spreading glory of the church of the Latter Day Saints in the new world: in that world, though vast its forests and broad its rivers, where but a few centuries ago the roaming red man chased the buffalo, the elk and the bounding deer unmolested and alone, now subdued, the Father of mercies has lifted to the nations of the earth a standard, has raised up to the gaze of the world an ensign, has caused his voice to be heard, has shown to his faithful ones that Israel is about to be gathered, the indignation toward the Jews is also to cease, and that he will soon bring the house of Jacob from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, the blind, the lame, the aged and the suckling, that they may sing in the height of Zion, and flow together to the goodness of the Lord!

Prepare your hearts, O ye saints of the Most High, for great things await you! Hasten ye, hasten ye, to the places of gathering, for after a little the indignation of the Lord will cease toward those who are called by his name, and then his arm must fall upon the wicked. His sword is bathed in heaven, and must fall upon Idumea, and who can stand amid the crash and fall of empires?

Sanctify yourselves, O ye servants of the Lord, for much is required at your hands: the blood of souls will cry against you except you hasten on your mission: yes, let all raise their warning voice, in meekness and in mildness, for soon will there be a famine for the word of God. Listen,

O ye elders, for soon the voice from distant lands will salute you,—Come over and help us! Think, for a moment, on the millions in your own land who are destitute of the word of life; think also on the vast multitudes whose thoughts never reached our shores, who are now perishing for lack of vision, and bowing to idols; think of the numberless islands where darkness and the shadow of death prevail, whose waters never covered a soul for the remission of sins, and whose groves, though spicy,



OLIVER COWDERY

were never saluted with the voice of one who proclaimed life and immortality through the power of a risen Savior!

Should one ask, what has been done during these eight years of which you speak? I would say, the first two and a half only translated and printed the record, and organized the church with *six members!* And the fruit of the labor of five and a half are so great that the hearts of thousands are astonished; the veil of superstition has been rent from the minds of many; the church increased to thousands; the list of elders multiplied to hundreds; the deaf have heard the words of the book;

the eyes of the blind have seen out of obscurity and out of darkness; the meek have increased, (for their joy is in the Lord,) the poor among men rejoice in the Holy One of Israel; many that erred in spirit have come to understanding, while others that murmured have learned doctrine.—*Messenger and Advocate*, vol. 2, pp. 203, 204.

In a letter bearing date September 7, 1834, from Norton, Medina County, Ohio, Oliver Cowdery spoke of the translation as follows:

Near the time of the setting of the sun, Sabbath evening, April 5, 1829, my natural eyes, for the first time beheld this brother. He then resided in Harmony, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. On Monday the 6th, I assisted him in arranging some business of a temporal nature, and on Tuesday, the 7th, commenced to write the Book of Mormon. These were days never to be forgotten—to sit under the sound of a voice dictated by the *inspiration* of heaven, awakened the utmost gratitude of this bosom! Day after day I continued, uninterrupted, to write from his mouth, as he translated, with the *Urim* and *Thummim*, or, as the Nephites would have said, “Interpreters,” the history, or record, called “The Book of Mormon.”—*Messenger and Advocate*, vol. 1, p. 14.

The following copyright certificate indicates the time of securing the copyright and the claim thereto made by Joseph Smith, the translator.

*Northern District of New York, to wit:* BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the eleventh day of June, in the fifty-third year of the Independence of the United States of America, A. D. 1829, JOSEPH SMITH, JUN. of the said District, hath deposited in this office the title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as author, in the words following, to wit: “The Book of Mormon: an account written by the hand of Mormon, upon plates taken from the plates of Nephi. Wherefore it is an abridgment of the Record of the People of Nephi; and also of the Lamanites; written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the House of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile; written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of Prophecy and of Revelation. Written, and sealed up, and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed; to come forth by the gift and power of God, unto the interpretation thereof; sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by the way of Gentile; the interpretation thereof by the gift of God; an abridgment taken from the Book of Ether. Also, which is a Record of the People of Jared, which were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people when they were building a tower to get to Heaven: which is to shew unto the remnant of the House of Israel, how great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast

off forever: and also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile, that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting Himself unto all nations. And now if there be fault, it be the mistake of men; wherefore condemn not the things of God, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment seat of Christ.—By Joseph Smith, Jun., Author and Proprietor.

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, “An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned;” and also the act, entitled, “An Act supplementary to an act, entitled, ‘An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints.’”

R. R. LANSING,

*Clerk of the Northern District of New York.*

The preface to the first edition :

#### PREFACE

TO THE READER—

As many false reports have been circulated respecting the following work, and also many unlawful measures taken by evil designing persons to destroy me, and also the work, I would inform you that I translated, by the gift and power of God, and caused to be written, one hundred and sixteen pages, the which I took from the Book of Lehi, which was an account abridged from the plates of Lehi, by the hand of Mormon; which said account, some person or persons have stolen and kept from me, notwithstanding my utmost exertions to recover it again—and being commanded of the Lord that I should not translate the same over again, for Satan had put it into their hearts to tempt the Lord their God, by altering the words, that they did read contrary from that which I translated and caused to be written; and if I should bring forth the same words again, or in other words, if I should translate the same over again, they would publish that which they had stolen, and Satan would stir up the hearts of this generation, that they might not receive this work: but behold, the Lord said unto me, I will not suffer that Satan shall accomplish his evil design in this thing: therefore thou shalt translate from the plates of Nephi, until ye come to that which ye have translated, which ye have retained; and behold ye shall publish it as the record of Nephi; and thus I will confound those who have altered my words. I will not suffer that they shall destroy my work; yea, I will show unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the Devil. Wherefore, to be obedient unto the commandments of God, I have, through his grace and mercy, accomplished that which he hath commanded me respecting this thing. I would also

inform you that the plates of which hath been spoken, were found in the township of Manchester, Ontario County, New York.

THE AUTHOR.

The following is a photo engraving of the title-page of the first edition of the Book of Mormon, commonly called the Palmyra edition:

**THE**

**BOOK OF MORMON:**

**AN ACCOUNT WRITTEN BY THE HAND OF MOR-**  
**MON, UPON PLATES, TAKEN FROM**  
**THE PLATES OF NEPHI.**

Wherefore this is an abridgment of the Record of the People of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites, written to the Lamanites, which are a remnant of the House of Israel, and also to Jew and Gentile, written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of Prophecy and of Revelation. Written, and sealed up, and hid up unto the LORD, that they might not be destroyed, to come forth by the gift and power of God, unto the interpretation thereof, sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the LORD, to come forth in due time by the way of Gentile; the interpretation thereof by the gift of God; an abridgment taken from the Book of Ether.

Also, which is a Record of the People of Jared, which were scattered at the time the LORD confounded the language of the people when they were building a tower to get to Heaven: which is to shew unto the remnant of the House of Israel how great things the LORD hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the LORD, that they are not cast off forever, and also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that JESUS is the CHRIST, the ETERNAL GOD, manifesting Himself unto all nations. And now if there be fault, it be the mistake of men, wherefore condemn not the things of God, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment seat of CHRIST.

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**BY JOSEPH SMITH, JUNIOR,**  
AUTHOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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**PALMYRA.**

PRINTED BY E. B. GRANDIN, FOR THE AUTHOR.  
www.LatterDayTruth.org

1830.

The following testimony of three and eight witnesses was appended to the first edition of the Book of Mormon and has been published in every subsequent edition of the book whether in English or in a foreign tongue.

#### THE TESTIMONY OF THREE WITNESSES

Be it known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come, that we, through the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, have seen the plates which contain this record, which is a record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites, their brethren, and also of the people of Jared, who came from the tower of which hath been spoken; and we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of God, for his voice hath declared it unto us; wherefore we know of a surety, that the work is true. And we also testify that we have seen the engravings which are upon the plates; and they have been shewn unto us by the power of God, and not of man. And we declare with words of soberness, that an Angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings thereon; and we know that it is by the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, that we beheld and bear record that these things are true; and it is marvelous in our eyes, nevertheless, the voice of the Lord commanded us that we should bear record of it; wherefore, to be obedient unto the commandments of God, we bear testimony of these things.—And we know that if we are faithful in Christ, we shall rid our garments of the blood of all men, and be found spotless before the judgment seat of Christ, and shall dwell with him eternally in the heavens. And the honor be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, which is one God. Amen.

OLIVER COWDERY.

DAVID WHITMER.

MARTIN HARRIS.

#### AND ALSO THE TESTIMONY OF EIGHT WITNESSES

Be it known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come, that Joseph Smith, Jr., the translator of this work, has shewn unto us the plates of which hath been spoken, which have the appearance of gold; and as many of the leaves as the said Smith has translated, we did handle with our hands; and we also saw the engravings thereon, all of which has the appearance of ancient work, and of curious workmanship. And this we bear record, with words of soberness, that the said Smith has shewn unto us, for we have seen and hefted, and know of a surety, that the said Smith has got the plates of which we have spoken. And we give our names unto

the world, to witness unto the world that which we have seen: and we lie not, God bearing witness of it.

CHRISTIAN WHITMER.  
 JACOB WHITMER.  
 PETER WHITMER, JR.  
 JOHN WHITMER.

HIRAM PAGE.  
 JOSEPH SMITH, SEN.  
 HYRUM SMITH.  
 SAMUEL H. SMITH.

The second edition was published at Kirtland, Ohio, in 1837, as the title-page and preface indicate.

THE  
 BOOK OF MORMON:

AN ACCOUNT WRITTEN BY THE HAND OF MOR-  
 MON, UPON PLATES TAKEN FROM  
 THE PLATES OF NEPHI.

Wherefore, it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites; written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile: written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation. Written, and sealed up, and hid up unto the LORD, that they might not be destroyed; to come forth by the gift and power of GOD unto the interpretation thereof: sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the LORD, to come forth in due time by the way of Gentile; the interpretation thereof by the gift of GOD:

An abridgment taken from the book of Ether: also, which is a record of the people of Jared; who were scattered at the time the LORD confounded the language of the people when they were building a tower to get to heaven: which is to shew unto the remnant of the house of Israel what great things the LORD hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the LORD, that they are not cast off forever; and also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that JESUS is the CHRIST, the ETERNAL GOD, manifesting himself unto all nations. And now if there are faults, they are the mistakes of men; wherefore condemn not the things of GOD, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment seat of CHRIST.

Translated by  
 Joseph Smith, Jr.

Kirtland, Ohio:

Printed by O. Cowdery & Co. for  
 P. P. Pratt and J. Goodson.

1837

## PREFACE

The publishers of the following volumes having obtained leave to issue five thousand copies of the same, from those holding the copyrights, would respectfully notice a few items for the benefit of the reader.

The 1830 edition of the book of Mormon having some time since been distributed, the pressing calls for the same, as well as the book of Doctrine and Covenants, and the vast importance attached to their contents, have induced the undersigned to seek the privilege of supplying those calls by presenting, in one volume, both books, in a condensed form, rendering greater convenience to elders, and others, who convey the same to different parts.

Individuals acquainted with book printing, are aware of the numerous typographical errors which always occur in manuscript editions. It is only necessary to say, that the whole has been carefully re-examined and compared with the original manuscripts, by elder Joseph Smith, Jr. the translator of the book of Mormon, assisted by the present printer, brother O. Cowdery, who formerly wrote the greatest portion of the same, as dictated by brother Smith.

Expecting, as we have reason to, that this book will be conveyed to places which circumstances will render it impossible for us to visit, and be perused by thousands whose faces we may never see on this side of eternity, we cannot consistently let the opportunity pass, without expressing our sincere conviction of its truth, and the great and glorious purposes it must effect, in the restoration of the house of Israel, and the ushering in of that blessed day when the knowledge of God will cover the earth, and one universal peace pervade all people.

PARLEY P. PRATT.

JOHN GOODSON.

KIRTLAND, OHIO, 1837.

The third edition of Book of Mormon was published at Nauvoo, Illinois, in 1840, as may be seen by following notice:

## TO THE SAINTS SCATTERED ABROAD

We announce, with pleasure, to the saints throughout the world, that our beloved brother, E. Robinson, has gone to Cincinnati for the express purpose of getting the Book of Mormon stereotyped and printed. and that he has entered into a contract to have it done immediately. This is therefore to request all those, who feel an interest in the accomplishment of this glorious work, to assist in the arduous undertaking, by forwarding to him means to help defray the expenses, which it requires in publishing a work of such magnitude. We will give a copy of the work, well bound, for every dollar received in time to meet our engagements, which will be the first of September, or one hundred and twenty copies for every hundred dollars then remitted.

All orders for books addressed to Robinson and Smith, Cincinnati, Ohio, Post Paid, will receive prompt attention.—Ed.

—*Times and Seasons*, vol. 1, August, 1840.

Title-page of the third American edition commonly called the Nauvoo edition.

THE  
BOOK OF MORMON

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Translated by  
JOSEPH SMITH, JR.

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THIRD EDITION  
CAREFULLY REVISED BY THE TRANSLATOR.

Nauvoo, Ill.:  
Printed by Robinson and Smith  
Stereotyped by Shepard and Stearns,  
West 3rd St. Cincinnati, Ohio.  
1840

The following announcements, gave notice of the publication of the fourth edition.

A new edition of the BOOK OF MORMON has just come out of press, and will be bound in a few days, and ready for sale.

—*Times and Seasons* for June 15, 1842.

BOOK OF MORMON, ETC.

JUST published and for sale, Books of Mormon, and Hymn Books, together with some other publications in defense of the faith of the saints.

Nauvoo, Aug. 20, 1842.

—*Times and Seasons*, vol. 3, p. 894.

Title-page of this edition, called the second Nauvoo, and fourth American edition.

THE  
BOOK OF MORMON

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Translated by  
JOSEPH SMITH

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FOURTH AMERICAN,  
AND  
SECOND STEREOTYPE EDITION  
CAREFULLY REVISED BY THE TRANSLATOR.

Nauvoo, Illinois  
Printed by Joseph Smith  
1842.

THE EUROPEAN EDITION

The following editions have been published in Eng.....  
and known as the European editions.

THE  
BOOK OF MORMON

AN ACCOUNT WRITTEN BY THE HAND OF MORMON  
UPON PLATES TAKEN FROM THE  
PLATES OF NEPHI

---

Translated by  
Joseph Smith, Jun.

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FIRST EUROPEAN, FROM THE SECOND AMERICAN EDITION

Printed by J. Tompkins,  
Liverpool, England:

For Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Parley P. Pratt  
By order of the Translator.

1841

## JOURNAL OF HISTORY

SECOND EUROPEAN EDITION

Liverpool:

Published by Orson Pratt, 15 Wilton Street  
1849.

Third European Edition

STEREOTYPED

Liverpool:

Published by F. D. Richards, 15 Wilton Street  
London

Sold at the L. D. Saints' Book Depot  
35 Jewin Street

And by All Booksellers  
1852

Fourth European Edition

STEREOTYPED

Liverpool:

Published for Orson Pratt  
By S. W. Richards, 15 Wilton Street  
1854

Fifth European Edition

STEREOTYPED

Liverpool:

Published by F. D. Richards, 15 Wilton Street  
London

Sold at the L. D. Saints' Book Depot  
35 Jewin Street

And by All Booksellers  
1854

Sixth European Edition

STEREOTYPED

Liverpool:

Published by Brigham Young, Jun., 42, Islington  
London

Sold at the L. D. Saints' Book Depot  
30 Florence Street, Islington,  
And by All Booksellers  
1866

THE  
BOOK OF MORMON

AN ACCOUNT WRITTEN BY  
THE HAND OF MORMON  
UPON  
PLATES TAKEN FROM THE PLATES OF NEPHI

---

TRANSLATED BY JOSEPH SMITH, JUN.

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Division Into Chapters and Verses, With References  
By Orson Pratt, Sen.

ELECTROTYPE EDITION

Liverpool:  
Printed and Published by William Budge, 42, Islington  
1879

Division Into Chapters and Verses, With References  
By Orson Pratt, Sen.

THIRD ELECTROTYPE EDITION

Liverpool:  
Printed and Published by John Henry Smith  
42, Islington  
1883

Division Into Chapters and Verses, With References.  
By Orson Pratt, Sen.

FOURTH ELECTROTYPE EDITION

Liverpool:  
Printed and Published by George Teasdale  
42, Islington  
1888

Division Into Chapters and Verses, With References  
By Orson Pratt, Sen.

FIFTH ELECTROTYPE EDITION

Liverpool:  
Printed and Published by George Teasdale  
42, Islington  
1889

The first edition published by the Utah church in America was issued in 1871, title-page as follows. Many subsequent editions have been published by them.

THE  
BOOK OF MORMON  
AN ACCOUNT WRITTEN BY  
THE HAND OF MORMON  
UPON  
PLATES TAKEN FROM THE PLATES OF NEPHI

---

TRANSLATED BY JOSEPH SMITH, JUN.

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Salt Lake City  
For Sale at Deseret News Office, The Church Book  
Depot  
Published By George Q. Cannon  
1871

THE  
BOOK OF MORMON  
AN ACCOUNT WRITTEN BY  
THE HAND OF MORMON  
UPON  
PLATES TAKEN FROM THE PLATES OF NEPHI

---

TRANSLATED BY JOSEPH SMITH, JUN.

---

Division Into Chapters and Verses, With References

By Orson Pratt, Sen.

Salt Lake City, Utah

Deseret News Printing and Publishing Establishment

1879

THE BROOKS HUNTLEY EDITION

This edition of the Book of Mormon was published by Russel Huntley, and known as the Brooks edition, and sometimes as the Huntley edition. Some 4,000 copies were printed, as the imprint shows, by James O. Wright and Company, 377 Broadway, New York (in 1858). The introduction was written by Elder Zadoc Brook, who labored for a time at Kirtland, Ohio. It was from this edition that the Reorganized Church was supplied up to 1874, when the first edition of the Book of Mormon was published by the Reorganized Church.

THE  
BOOK OF MORMON

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Translated by  
JOSEPH SMITH, JR.

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REPRINT FROM THE THIRD AMERICAN EDITION, CAREFULLY  
REVISED BY THE TRANSLATOR

New York:  
Jas. O. Wright & Company, 337 Broadway  
Publishers

ADVERTISEMENT

The present edition of the Book of Mormon is an accurate reprint of the third American edition, originally published at Nauvoo, eighteen years ago, under the official sanction of the leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ. The apostasy of the great body of the Church, through the influence of false teachers, who privily brought into the Church Damnable Heresies, even denying the Lord, that bought them; together with the fact that they have for a long time suppressed the Book, on account of its pointed condemnation of their practices, has appeared to the Publisher as a sufficient reason for reissuing it; so that the many firm believers of the Book that are scattered through the land, earnestly desiring the spread of truth, may have an opportunity to avail themselves of its precious truths, and put into their own and their neighbors' possession the real weapon with which to put down Polygamy and its kindred institutions. In this republication, the Publisher has yielded to a general desire for information in regard to the nature and origin of the Book, and has placed in the introduction a mere synopsis of the evidences of its Divinity, and what it purports to be.

INTRODUCTION

What is the Book of Mormon? Whence its origin? What its purpose? are questions often asked and variously answered, without much regard to truth, by the many who make the answers. In answer to these questions, we remark that the Book of Mormon purports to be a part of the great things of God's law to Ephraim, as stated in the 8th chapter, 11th and 12th verses of Hosea. "Because Ephraim hath made many altars to sin, altars shall be unto him to sin. I have written to

him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing."

Who is Ephraim? Where his land? Let the Bible answer. By reading the 48th chapter of Genesis, you will find that Jacob, a prophet of the Living God, just before his death, blessed his son Joseph in the land of Egypt, and that he also pronounced a peculiar blessing upon his two grandsons, Manasseh and Ephraim, sons of Joseph, born unto him in the land of Egypt. In this blessing, God, through his prophet Jacob, enters into a very peculiar covenant with these lads, as you will find by reading the 19th verse. And his father refused, and said, "I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations." Here, then, is a positive, unconditional covenant, that Manasseh shall become a people, and that Ephraim shall become a multitude of nations; i. e., a great many nations, and yet at the same time an unknown number of nations. Now the question arises, where? Certainly not in the land of Palestine, the land covenanted to Abraham, and confirmed to Isaac by an oath, and unto Jacob for a law; for in that land there was not room for a multitude of nations; and besides this, every reader of the Bible well knows that the whole house of Israel never became but two nations in that land, viz, the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah. Then, where is the place for the peculiar covenant to be fulfilled? Again let the Bible answer. In the 49th chapter and 1st verse of Genesis, we find the following: "And Jacob called unto his sons and said, Gather yourselves together that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days."

Not that which should befall them in person, but that which should befall their posterity in the last days, as is evident from his blessing upon Judah, in the 10th verse, where he says: "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh (i. e. Christ) come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." A thing that Christ has not yet done.

In this chapter, commencing at the 22nd verse, by reading to 26th verse, you will get Jacob's dying blessing upon Joseph and his posterity. And inasmuch as Ephraim and Manasseh are all the children that the Bible informs us of Joseph's having, this blessing, of course, pertains to their posterity. In verse 26, Jacob says to Joseph: "The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors, unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren."

Thus we find Jacob declaring that he has prevailed with God, and obtained a greater blessing than his progenitors, Abraham and Isaac, had obtained. They had obtained, as we learn from Genesis, 15th and 17th chapters, the everlasting covenant of all the land of Palestine. But Jacob here claims a greater possession, and describes it geographi-

cally as extending to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills, which, on examination, we find to be on this continent, it being opposite on the globe from the land of Palestine. And these everlasting hills, at the utmost bound of his blessings, he declares shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren. We have already seen, in the 48th chapter, that he made Ephraim the crown of Joseph's head, by putting the right-hand blessing upon him. Thus we find that the Bible provides a land for Manasseh to become a people, and a place where Ephraim can become a multitude of nations. And it now becomes as much the work of God to get them to this land, as it was his work to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt with great substance, in fulfillment of his covenant with Abraham, in Genesis, 15th chapter. And also as emphatically the work of Ephraim and Manasseh to write the dealings of God with them, and the history of their travels and of their settlement of this covenant possessions, as it was the business of the Israelite to write the dealings of God with them, and the history of their settlement in their covenant possession in the land of Palestine.

Having learned who Ephraim, or the house of Joseph is, and the land on which they reside, we are now prepared to understand to whom God wrote the great things of his law, and they were counted as a strange thing. But from Hosea, 9th chapter, commencing at the 11th verse, we find that Ephraim has apostatized from God, and that God has cast them away because they would not hearken unto him, and that he has cursed them with the barren womb and dry breasts, and made them wanderers among the nations. Or, in short, they having joined themselves unto idols, God has left them, and they have dwindled down to these wild, roving Indian tribes, grieved, shot at, and hated, as Jacob and Hosea have both predicted. Now the question arises, What has become of the great things of God's law that was written to Ephraim? Is it lost, forever lost? Let the Prophet Ezekiel, in the 37th chapter, commencing at the 15th verse, answer.

"The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying: Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions; and join them one to another into one stick, and they shall become one in thy hand. And when the children of the people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not show us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in my hand."

Now, anyone at all acquainted with the ancient custom of keeping records on parchment, well knows that they fastened a stick on each end of the parchment, for the purpose of rolling and unrolling as they

read, and that hence records came thus to be called sticks. And all the Bible readers as well know that our Bible all came to us through the kingdom of Judah, and that hence it is the stick of Judah. Hence, we perceive that the great things of God's law to Ephraim here on this continent, his covenant possession would be the stick of Joseph, in the hand of Ephraim; and that God has positively declared that he would put it with the stick of Judah, the Bible, and make them one in his hand. But when? Ezekiel here answers that question by showing us what shall follow God's putting the sticks together: "And say unto them, thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen (or Gentiles), whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side and bring them into their own land:" The very thing that God has been turning and overturning the nations to accomplish ever since this Book of Mormon was published, in 1830.

For further proof, please read Isaiah, 29th chapter, where the Lord, in addressing the nations that had fought against Mount Zion, or his covenant people, declares that these nations are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, because the Lord has poured out upon them a deep sleep, and has closed their eyes by covering their prophets, seers, and rulers. And the vision of all is become unto them "as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot, for it is sealed. And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee; and he saith, I am not learned." Then the Lord proceeds to speak, and among the important declarations that he makes, he says: "Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?" Now here the prophet shows us first the coming forth of a Book from the ground, and then in a little while Lebanon becoming a fruitful field, which, according to Mr. Barclay's history of Jerusalem, published in 1858, is most emphatically fulfilled; and certainly the year 1858 has taken rapid strides towards causing the fruitful field of the northwest and west to be esteemed as a forest. But again David, in the 85th Psalm, declares, "Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven; yea, the Lord shall give that which is good: and our land shall yield her increase."

Thus testimony accumulates on testimony in the Bible in regard to a Book coming forth from the ground, and that Palestine should become fruitful soon after its coming forth, and also that Israel should be gathered back to their own land on every side. Now it is easy for men to claim that this Book of Mormon is the Solomon Spaulding romance, or that it was got up by the ingenuity of Smith, Rigdon, and others. But it is not so easy disposing of the fact that God has turned and overturned the seasons until he visits the land of Palestine with the earlier and the later rain, until her soil is again fruitful and her people again returning to their long-cherished home.

To claim any of these sources to be the true origin of the Book, is virtually to claim that Smith, Rigdon, and others have power over the elements, and can cause one land to become fruitful and another unfruitful at their will and pleasure. Which absurd claim is more preposterous than any claim ever set up for them by their most sanguine followers.

But when we acknowledge the Book to be just what it claims to be—a part of the great things of God's law to Ephraim having come forth in fulfillment of prophecy—it is at once all plain and reasonable.

But for further evidence, read from 4th to 10th chapter of Revelation, and you will there read of a book to come forth after John's day, in seven distinct portions. And John closes his prophecy with this fearful curse upon the man that takes away from the words of his prophecy, "That their names shall be taken out of the Book of Life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this Book." But all who say that the Bible is all the revelation of God's will that we are to have, are guilty of thus taking away from John's prophecy.

Another class of evidence that proves the origin of this Book to be divine, is this: It came forth and was published in the year 1830, at a time when the antiquities of this country were but little known. Yet the Book boldly committed itself, that a people once lived and built cities of curious workmanship in stone in Central America, and that at a certain time a portion of that people emigrated northward, along the west sea, and became exceeding expert in the use of cement, building many buildings of that material. Time, since this Book came forth, has brought forth Josiah Priest's Antiquities, Catherwood and Stevens' Travels in Central America, The Antiquities of Peru, Emerson and Sage's Travels in Mexico, California, etc., together with Lieutenant Beal's Reports, and a host of other works, which, when taken in connection with the facts and location put forth in the Book of Mormon, before any of these explorations were made, surrounds the Book with an amount of evidence to prove the divinity of its origin that does not exist in favor of any other book in existence. To this add the testimony of eleven witnesses, that with words of soberness testify to its truth and divinity, the most of whom, when the leaders of the church went into transgression, withdrew from it, and have led sober, upright, and consistent lives; and, when tested by mobs, have declared that they would forfeit their lives before they would recant or deny the testimony they had given.

Thus we have given to you, kind reader, a mere synopsis of the evidences of the divinity of this Book, and in so doing have answered the two first questions at the head of this article, and will now proceed to answer the third question, to wit: What is the purpose of this Book? One important purpose of this Book is to increase the testimony of God to the human family in regard to the plan of salvation, and the

truths of the Christian religion, by giving to them the testimony of the prophets and apostles of God sent forth to Ephraim on this continent, as well as the testimony of the prophets and apostles of God to Judah on the other continent. This he does in view of the fact that two witnesses who agree in regard to the same truths are better than one. In the plan of salvation, and all things pertaining thereunto, this Book and the Bible agree. In condemnation of sin in all its forms, they are perfectly united—only the fact that, on all points of doctrine, the Book of Mormon is plainer, easier to be understood than the Bible.

Another purpose is to make the people acquainted with who the aborigines of this country are, and what they are yet in future to be, as well as to develop to some extent the past history of the people that have lived on this continent. Another design of God in bringing forth this work evidently is to prepare the way for the fulfillment of the Savior's oft-repeated declaration: "For there is nothing hid which shall not be manifested; neither was anything kept secret, but that it should come abroad," (Mark 4:22; Luke 8:17,) by raising up a people that shall throw off the shackles of superstition, and open their hearts to the truth that God is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever, and that hence he can as well be approached in this as in any past generation. So that those who fear him can obtain wisdom at his hand by direct revelation, as well now as in the various ages in the past, when men have feared God and worked righteousness, and did obtain for their benefit, as well as for the benefit of the world, all the rich store of wisdom contained in the Bible. But space reminds me, kind reader, that I must bring this introduction to a close, which I will do by earnestly inviting you to divest yourself of prejudice, and carefully and critically read the Book.

Written by Z. BROOK, *Elder in the Church of Christ.*

## THE BOOK OF MORMON

An account written by the hand of Mormon upon plates taken from the plates of Nephi.

Wherefore, it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites; written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile; written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation. Written, and sealed up, and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed; to come forth by the gift and power of God unto the interpretation thereof; sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by the way of Gentile; the interpretation thereof by the gift of God.

An abridgment taken from the book of Ether: also, which is a record of the people of Jared; who were scattered at the time the LORD confounded the language of the people, when they were building a tower

to get to heaven: which is to shew unto the remnant of the house of Israel what great things the LORD hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the LORD, that they are not cast off forever; and also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that JESUS is the Christ, the ETERNAL GOD, manifesting himself unto all nations. And now if there are faults, they are the mistakes of men; wherefore, condemn not the things of God, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment seat of Christ.

MORONI.

#### WRIGHT EDITION

About 1858, James O. Wright and Company published another edition of the Book of Mormon from the plates of the Brooks-Huntley edition, and distributed the same as a literary curiosity. Title-page precisely the same as the Huntley edition. The advertisement to this edition was as follows:

#### ADVERTISEMENT

The present Edition of the "Book of Mormon" is an accurate reprint of the Third American Edition, originally published at Nauvoo, eighteen years ago, under the official sanction of the leaders of the Mormon Church.

The interest which attaches to this curious work, not only as a literary production, but as the recognized standard of the religious faith of a People whose history is attracting great attention, has appeared to the Publishers a sufficient reason for reissuing it. Everything pertaining to the faith, manners and customs of the Mormons is invested with a singular air. The "Golden Bible" is accepted as the corner stone of their belief, and forms a remarkable feature in their historical record. In this republication, the Publishers have yielded to a general desire for information in regard to the nature of the Book, and have carefully abstained from any alteration or modification of the original text.

The "Book of Mormon" has passed through several editions in the United States and Great Britain since its original publication in 1830, but for some years past it has been entirely out of print. The present Republication is respectfully submitted to the Public.

#### DESERET CIPHER EDITION

In 1869 an edition of the Book of Mormon was published by the Russell Brothers in New York City, for the Deseret University, in the *Deseret Cipher*.

## NEPHITE RECORDS

In 1899 an edition of the Book of Mormon was published in Kansas City from the Hudson Kimberly press, by the Church of Christ (Whitmerite), bearing the name of "Nephite Records" with the title-page as follows:

THE  
NEPHITE RECORDS  
AN ACCOUNT WRITTEN BY  
THE HAND OF MORMON  
UPON  
PLATES TAKEN FROM THE PLATES OF NEPHI

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Translated by Joseph Smith, Jun.

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Published by  
The Church of Christ

Printed From the Palmyra Edition, Which Edition was Printed  
From the Original Manuscript.  
1899

## THE PLANO AND LAMONI EDITIONS

The *Saints' Herald* for February 1, 1875, bears the following announcements on page 82:

We are in receipt of the new edition of the Book of Mormon, (received them on January 22d), and are prepared to furnish those in want of that book at the following rates: For roan binding, post paid, \$1.25; for morocco, plain, post paid, \$1.50; for morocco, gilt, post paid, \$2.00. The orders already received will be filled first.

This is a splendid edition, and we believe will please everyone in its workmanship. It is like the Doctrine and Covenants in size; a little longer, but not quite so thick as the European edition. The chapters are numbered in the headlines, and are versified like the European

edition. This edition is a reprint of the Nauvoo edition, and is not open to the objection urged against what is known as the Brook's edition. We recommend it to the Saints.

The title-page of the Plano edition:

THE  
BOOK OF MORMON

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TRANSLATED BY JOSEPH SMITH, JUN.

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Reprinted from the Third American Edition

Plano, Ill.:

Published by the Reorganized Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter Day Saints

1874

A large number of editions, perhaps thirty in all, were subsequently printed from these plates at Lamoni, Iowa, bearing dates of their issue from 1880 down to the time of the issue of the authorized edition.

Title-page of the authorized edition:

AUTHORIZED EDITION

THE

BOOK OF MORMON

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Translated by  
Joseph Smith, Jr.

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Compared With the Original Manuscript and the Kirtland Edition of 1837, which was Carefully Re-examined and Compared with the Original Manuscript by Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery.

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Authorized Edition

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Lamoni, Iowa.

Published by the Board of Publication of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
1908.

#### PREFACE

At a General Conference of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in April, 1906, the following preamble and resolution were adopted:

“Whereas, There are several editions of the Book of Mormon extant, differing in divisions of chapters and paragraphs, thereby rendering it impossible to prepare concordance and works of reference, therefore,

“Resolved, That we recommend . . . the appointment of a committee . . . to investigate and prepare a uniform plan for the divisions of chapters and verses, and, if thought advisable, to prepare or adopt a system of references.”

Frederick M. Smith, Heman C. Smith, Richard S. Salyards, Francis M. Sheehy, Columbus Scott, Edmund L. Kelley, and Frederick B. Blair were appointed.

The committee appointed Frederick M. Smith, Heman C. Smith, and Richard S. Salyards as a sub-committee to do the work of reversification, etc., with instructions to use the large-type, Lamoni edition as a basis; to leave the chapters as in the original Palmyra edition.

The sub-committee completed the work of reversification, and in so doing made "all verses from the Book of Isaiah to correspond in their divisions" to the versification of the Inspired Translation of the Holy Scriptures, and indicated such matter by reference notes.

The general committee indorsed the work of the sub-committee. It concluded to broaden the scope of its work by making provision for comparison of the Lamoni edition with the Original Manuscript and the Kirtland edition. It adopted the following as instruction to the sub-committee for the completion of the work:

"Resolved, That it be the sense of this committee that in the publication of the new work we follow the corrections of the Book of Mormon so as to make the new work in accordance with the Original Manuscript and the Kirtland edition of the Book of Mormon, published by Pratt & Goodson, of 1837, that the work may be completed as corrected by Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery."

The sub-committee were authorized to "examine proofs and corrections" according to the foregoing resolution; to proof-read the matter as published; and to prepare a suitable index. They were also instructed to indicate by paragraph signs the divisions into paragraphs according to the Palmyra edition, and to hand over the work for publication.

The sub-committee carefully compared the Original Manuscript with the Kirtland and the large-type editions. One member of the committee read from the Manuscript, one followed the Kirtland edition, the other recorded all corrections in the large-type edition. The Manuscript is legible; there was little difficulty in reading it. They also referred to the Palmyra edition in the examination of the text. There is very little difference in the paragraphs in the Palmyra and the Kirtland editions.

The Preface to the Kirtland edition contains the following paragraph:

"Individuals acquainted with book printing, are aware of the numerous typographical errors which always occur in manuscript edition. It is only necessary to say, that the whole has been carefully reexamined and compared with the original manuscripts, by Elder Joseph Smith, Jr., the translator of the Book of Mormon, assisted by the present printer, Brother O. Cowdery, who formerly wrote the greatest portion of the same, as dictated by Brother Smith."

The committee found errors, including omissions, in the Lamoni edition; also some matter in the Original Manuscript omitted in the Palmyra or the Kirtland edition, or in both those editions; such omissions evidently being overlooked in proof-reading.

They were not commanded & it doth come to pass that Jared shall inquire  
of his brother saying Go & inquire of the Lord whether he will drive us out of the  
land if he will drive us out of the land say unto him whether shall we ~~go~~ <sup>Go</sup> & who know  
that the Lord will carry us forth into a land which is choice above all the earth  
it so be let us be faithful unto the Lord that we may receive it for our inheritance  
And it came to pass that the brother of Jared did cry unto the Lord according to that which  
had been spoken by the mouth of Jared And it came to pass that the Lord did hear the  
cry of Jared & had compassion upon him & said unto him Go to & gather together thy family  
both male & female of every kind of the seed of the earth of every kind & thy friends  
& also Jared thy brother & his family & ~~also~~ <sup>also</sup> thy friends & their families & the friends of  
their families & when thou hast done this thou shalt go at the head of them down  
into the valley which is northward & thou wilt I meet thee & I will go before

Where differences occurred between the Manuscript and the Kirtland edition, the committee were governed by the subject-matter of the context. There were no material differences in the sense of the text of the Manuscript and of the Kirtland edition.

Numerous minor changes were made, many of which have improved the subject-matter. Among the more important corrections we note the following:

Concerning the prohibition of polygamy; book of Jacob, chapter 2: 6, 7: "I *must* testify unto you concerning the wickedness of your hearts"; *must*, instead of *might*. 2: 45: "Behold ye have done greater *iniquity* than the Lamanites, our brethren." *Iniquity*, singular form, specific; instead of *iniquities* in other editions. Ethel 1: 16: "The Palmyra and Kirtland editions both read, "thy families," referring to the brother of Jared and the commandment to migrate. The manuscript reads, "thy family"; the singular instead of the plural form of the word. The text was made to read according to the manuscript.

Samples of matter omitted in one or all early editions, included in this correct edition:

Book of Alma 4: 8: "there having been a city built which was called the city of Gideon." 12: 5: "even as with the power and authority." 15: 55: "yea, decreeth unto them decrees which are unalterable." 16: 157: "And now behold, will not this strengthen your faith? Yea, it will strengthen your faith, for ye will say, I know that this is a good seed, for behold, it sprouteth and beginneth to grow." 25: 59: "yea, they would not partake of wine."

Book of Nephi 2: 32: "and the land which was between the land of Zarahemla."

Samples of corrections:

1 Nephi 3: 219: The Palmyra and Kirtland editions read, "whose foundation is the devil"; the Manuscript reads, "founder"; the text was made to conform to the Manuscript.

2 Nephi 12: 84: "*White* and a delightsome," instead of "*pure* and a delightsome."

Mosiah 11: 190: *wading*, instead of *wandering*.

Alma 3: 89: *inherit*, instead of "*enter* the kingdom." 15: 27: "*where* they had pitched their tents," instead of *whence*. 21: 108: "armies" should march, instead of *servants*.

Book of Nephi 1: 9: "*build* cities," instead of "*fill* cities."

Names corrected:

*Ammeron*, for *Ammaron*, wherever given. (This does not refer to *Amaron*, book of Omni.) *Jeneum*, instead of *Joneam*, Mormon 3: 15.. *Cumenihah*, instead of *Camenihah*, wherever given.

Mosiah 9: 170: The Manuscript reads, "King Benjamin had a gift from God"; the Kirtland edition reads, "King Mosiah." The text was made to read, "King Mosiah."

The name *Mosiah* was inserted in brackets after the words *King*

*Benjamin* in book of Ether 1:95, in harmony with the reading of the book of Mosiah 9:170.

The committee concluded that instead of providing marginal references, a concordance to the Book of Mormon should be provided.

FREDERICK M. SMITH, *Chairman.*

RICHARD S. SALYARDS, *Secretary.*

LAMONI, IOWA, July 17, 1908.

#### DANISH EDITION

The Book of Mormon has been translated and published in many languages other than the English. The first language to be honored by the translation of the Book of Mormon, was that of the Scandinavian, as "Mormons Bog." It was translated from English into the Danish by Erastus Snow and Peter O. Hansen, and published by F. E. Bording Establishment, Copenhagen, 1851. The following is a translation of the preface:

#### PREFACE TO THE DANISH EDITION

This most interesting and important work, is now going to the Danish public, since many editions have been printed both in Europe and America.

The publishers have taken great pains to make it plain and true, while the original simple form has with care been preserved. It has been carefully compared by one Dane and one American, who are very conversant with both languages, so that few mistakes have been unobserved.

As you may see from the title of the book, it is a short but continuous holy history of the old inhabitation in America, as far back as the great flood. Its contents tell us how that God took care of two great races, one succeeding the other in inhabiting this continent; especially was this true with the second one, that was a branch of the house of Israel.

It was written by a prophet by the name of Mormon, about four hundred years after Christ, and was an abridgment from old writings as far back as six hundred years before Christ. In the fourth century, the God fearing part of the people was overcome and extinguished by that other part who was barbarous and unbelieving. This abridgment was written on gold plates, and was hid in the ground along in the fifth century, at the command of the Lord, with the promise that he would watch over it and bring it forth to a coming generation, who would inhabit the land in the latter days.

The instrument that God chose to bring it forth, was an un-

learned young man by the name of Joseph Smith. To him it was revealed, and the translation intrusted in the year 1827, and the first edition was printed in the English language in 1830.

The language found on the plates was termed reformed Egyptian, and a part of the plates were sealed, which he was forbidden to translate at that time. It was translated by the gift and power of God through the means of Urim and Thummim, which was done after he had shown a copy of some of the characters to the most learned professors in America, who were not able to translate them. He was greatly persecuted while translating by the unbelieving, and several attempts was made to take his life and thus obtain the plates. Among his friends that viewed the plates, will be found eleven names in the book, as witnesses; the persons named were well known to the publishers, and were trustworthy men.

Four of these men are yet living (1851), after having passed through many trials and persecutions for the Gospel's sake. It will be seen that the plates were shown to these men, and it became their duty to bear witness that the translation was true; this was done because of a previous promise to Smith, which event took place when the translation was about finished, while they were engaged in united prayer in the woods.

The Seer and Translator, Joseph Smith, lived and preached the Gospel of the Kingdom for fourteen years after the book was made public, and brought many thousands to repentance and acknowledgment of its truthfulness, by whom he was dearly beloved during his lifetime; while on the other hand he was as much hated and persecuted by the ungodly.

The persecution ran high in different states in North America. He was whipped, stoned, lacerated, tarred and feathered, and was arrested forty-seven times, and accused of many foolish things, but the courts of the land rendered a decision each time, "not guilty." At last he was, together with his brother Hyrum, murdered in Carthage jail, Illinois, June 27, 1844, at 5 o'clock, by about 500 armed men, who had painted their faces to disguise themselves. The guard was overpowered, and the prisoners were shot, each one receiving four bullets; death being instant.

They defended also, like the prophets and apostles of old, their testimony during their lifetime, and sealed it at last with their blood.

The publishers, who are personally acquainted with these occurrences, give an opportunity to inquire into these things, that it may prevent honest souls from being led astray by base tales. Copenhagen, May, 1851.

ERASTUS SNOW.

The second edition was issued from these plates for Hecter C. Haight, by F. E. Bording Establishment, Copenhagen, 1858.

An edition in Swedish, "Mormons Bok," was published by F. E. Bording Establishment, Copenhagen, 1878.

An edition was published by Peter Anderson and Peter Muceus for the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at Porsgrund, Norway, 1903.

#### WELSH

The next language to be honored was the Welsh, as "Llyfe Mormon." It was translated by John Davis and printed at Merthyr-Tydfil by John Davis, 1852, the preface being signed by W. S. Phillips, John Davis, and Thomas Pugh, and bearing date, Merthyr-Tydfil, April 6, 1852; being placed on sale at the Millennial Star office May 1, 1852.

The following is a Translation of the Preface of this Edition.

*Dear Fellow-countrymen:* With feelings of gratitude and thanks to God, we have the honor of presenting and dedicating this valuable book to our people in the Welsh language. Many of our fellow-countrymen have expressed their opinion and judgment of this book before they ever saw it, and have condemned it; but now, after being for so long a time under disadvantages, they can read it for themselves and see if their former judgment is correct. We did not undertake the task of translating and publishing this book of our own volition, but in response to the request and command of our President, F. D. Richards, who is over us in the Lord. It is not necessary for us to praise this book, more than to praise the Bible, for the two books speak for themselves, to all those who love the light and the truth. It is enough for us to say that we know it is a good book, and a gift of God, and whosoever believes it and does according to its words, (and teachings) will receive life everlasting: but it is useless to expect *all* to express that view of it, for few are those who walk the narrow way.

In regard to the translation, we can state that it is the best that could be accomplished, in the face of the difficulties and disadvantages, which were such that translators, as a rule do not labor under. We have sought clearness and simplicity of language more than elegance and ornateness, and we trust that the thought and meaning of the English translation of the Prophet, JOSEPH SMITH, have been given as correct as is possible. It can be seen, through reading the Book of Mormon, that even the writers of the plates did not profess infallibility in the first place; and it is, therefore, unreasonable to expect infallibility in the second translation of the book. Infallibility was not claimed either by those who translated the Bible, for many corrections have been made in its translation from time to time, and after the Book of Mormon, in the Welsh language, has been corrected and revised as much as the Bible has

been, it can be expected to become more perfect in regard to its language, at least. Of course, it is easier for others to see faults, than it is for the translator to avoid them.

We now, therefore, submit and present this work to our fellow-countrymen, and hope many of them will believe it, and that it lead them to know God, so that they may come through this book, as well as by other means, to embrace the Gospel, and may the Saint be enlightened and edified in the reading of the book, so that the name of God may be glorified, and His purposes fulfilled, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Your humble servants in the truth,

W. S. PHILLIPS,  
JOHN DAVIS,  
THOMAS PUGH.

*Merthyr-Tydfil, April 6, 1852.*

#### FRENCH

The same year it was published in French as "Le Livre De Mormon," the translation being made by John Taylor and Curtis E. Bolton. Stereotype edition published by John Taylor, Paris Rue De Tournon, 7, 1852.

#### ITALIAN

The Book of Mormon was published during 1852 in the Italian language. "Il Libro di Mormon."

#### GERMAN

In 1852 the Book of Mormon was also published in German, "Das Buch Mormon." Translated by John Taylor and G. Parker Dykes. Stereotype edition, published by John Taylor at Hamburg. F. H. Nestler and Melle, printers, 1852. Several subsequent editions have been published in the German language. One from Bern, printed by Lang Blau and Company, for the German Mission, 1873. Another stereotype edition by the Deseret News Publishing Company, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1893. Another edition was printed by Hugh J. Cannon, Berlin, 1902.

The authorized edition of "Das Buch Mormon" was translated by Alexander Kippe, printed by J. J. Starde, Berlin SW.

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#### HAWAIIAN

An edition was published in the Hawaiian, by George Q. Cannon, San Francisco, California, 1855.

The Reorganized Church published an edition in the Hawaiian at Honolulu, in 1898. Translated by J. M. Poepoe and G. M. Kameakua, under the direction of Brother G. J. Waller.

#### SPANISH

The Book of Mormon was published in Spanish, by the *Deseret News*, in 1886. The translation by Milton G. Trejo and James Z. Stewart, under the direction of Moses Thatcher.

The second edition in 1920 corrected by Rey L. Pratt.

#### HOLLAND

The Book of Mormon was published in Holland, "Het Boek Van Mormon." Translated into the Holland by J. W. F. Volker. Printed by Francis A. Brown, Amsterdam, 1890.

#### ARMENIAN

An edition was published in 1906 in the Armenian language.

#### JAPANESE

An edition was published in the Japanese language in 1908. Translated by Alma O. Taylor.

The book has also been published in Hindostanee, Maori, Tahitian, and other tongues.