

ceived by the Greek ministry of war announcing an engagement between Turkish troops and insurgents at Perlasia, Thessaly. Turks lost 450 killed and wounded, and the insurgents 70, including their leaders.

LONDON, 23.—Correspondence at Berlin reports Germany and France are co-operating heartily on the Greek question.

Russia is about to add a number of swift cruisers to her fleet.

A match between Plaisted and Nicholson has not yet been effected, because the latter's backer is temporarily absent.

Both Elliott and Hanlon are out twice daily. Plaisted accompanies Hanlon.

The weights have been published for the Ascot stakes. Parole has been handicapped at 8 stone 13 pounds, which is 4 pounds heavier than the weight to be carried by any other horse.

A Vienna dispatch says: It is announced from Constantinople that Khairaddin Pasha, Grand Vizier, has tendered his resignation, as certain rivalries have been very active lately. Should the change be effected, it is believed that it will be a far-reaching one.

A Vienna dispatch to the St. Petersburg *Golos* states that Germany and not Russia demanded that Switzerland renounce the right of an asylum to foreign refugees. Switzerland refused, and Germany referred the question to the other powers, who refused to co-operate with Germany.

Pierre Jules Mene, French sculptor, is dead.

The *Times* says: The recent speculation in silver has partially if not wholly ceased, and the market has become comparatively quiet.

The latest novelty in athletic contests is a six days' swimming match at the Lambeth Baths Gymnasium which began last Monday at 11 o'clock. Last night the scores stood as follows: Captain Webb, who swam across the British channel, 57 miles; G. Teame, of Wadsworth, who made such a close contest for the Lords and Commons five miles last summer, 49 miles; Willie Beckwith, 32 miles, and J. M. Taylor, 21 miles.

At a meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society yesterday, the council were recommended to instruct the qualified commissioners to obtain and publish separate and reliable reports as to the corn and meat raising capabilities of the United States, Canada, Russia, India and Australia, with regard to the probable food supply intended for the English market.

In the House of Commons, tonight, Stanhope, Under Secretary of India, introducing the Indian budget said: Independently of the results of the inquiry into army administration and expenditure or unproductive public works, government believed it would be able to economise a million pounds yearly, and had no doubt of its ability to establish a financial equilibrium. He explained that the authorization to borrow in England would only be used if strictly necessary and only to the extent of five millions.

Fawcett, in consequence of this statement, withdrew his amendment expressing alarm at the increase of expenditure.

Gladstone congratulated Stanhope on the presentment he had been able to make of the financial condition of India.

Chief Joseph has been lecturing at La Salle, Ills., in the interest of his people, but has not met much encouragement.

The committee on public lands has authorized the chairman to report favorably a bill for the establishment of land districts in Montana and Dakota.

Miss M. E. Buddington and M. L. W. Walker were married by telegraph last evening, the bride and her friends being present in the telegraph office in Milwaukee and the groom at Owatonna, Minn.

#### TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

The Chinese ambassador to Spain has arrived at Madrid.

Memorial day was observed at Richmond, Va., with the usual decoration of graves of confederate soldiers in Hollywood Cemetery.

A cablegram received in Detroit, to-day, from the Henly-Stewards, announces the Showaemattas, of Monroe, on account of their having been mechanics or artisans will be barred from entering the lists at the forthcoming Henly regatta.

Secretary Sherman has written a

letter to the chairman of the State republican central committee of Ohio, stating positively it will be impossible for him to accept any nomination for governor, which may be offered him, as his duties in the Treasury department will not permit.

#### THE DIVINE AUTHENTICITY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON.

BY ELDER W. H. H. SHARP.

NO. I.

In contemplating God's gracious condescension and goodness to mankind, there is no greater evidence revealed, than that in the fulfillment of prophecy, in the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, which not only contains a history of the aborigines of America, in a national and religious view, but which also impresses itself upon the mind as the word of God; containing the fullness of the everlasting gospel unto Gentile and unto Jew. I propose in these articles upon this sacred and impressive history, to produce testimony of its divine origin.

Prophecy is but history reversed, and this is manifested in the history of America and her antiquities found recorded in the sacred pages of the Book of Mormon, which work was published and given to the world in 1830, many years before it was known that America contained the ruins of cities 30, 40 and 50 miles in length, and 20, 30 and 40 miles in width. It is from the silent, slumbering ruins of these mighty cities that I shall produce testimony which it is to be hoped will induce the rising sons and daughters of the Saints of God to investigate for themselves and be able to valiantly fight for the cause of Zion and the establishing of the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon. I will first mention the city of Otolum, as from its mighty and stupendous ruins comes forth testimony, as if so directed by the Almighty, to put to shame that avowed enemy of the Book of Mormon, Professor Anthon, of New York City, one of the most learned and profound readers of ancient languages and searchers into antiquities of the 19th century.

During the translation of the Book of Mormon by Joseph Smith, he was moved upon to fulfil not only the words of the Book of Mormon, but also those same words as recorded in the 29th chapter of Isaiah, 11th to 15th verses:

"And the vision of all is become unto you 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.'"

"Wherefore the Lord said, forasmuch as this people draw near me, with their mouth and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear towards me is taught by the precept of men; therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder; for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid."

Joseph Smith copied a portion of the hieroglyphics, signs and symbols from the plates from which was translated the Book of Mormon, and sent them by the hand of Martin Harris, (a distance of several hundred miles,) who, in the language of the Prophet Isaiah, presented them to Professor Anthon, and when Martin Harris informed him how the plates were obtained, and that a portion of them were sealed, he then and there declared in the language of God's prophet, he "could not read a sealed book;" he however informed the bearer that the characters were translated correctly, more so than any he had ever seen, but that the arrangement of them was not correct, as there were no ruins in America or elsewhere, showing such peculiar arrangement and mixture of signs, symbols, and characters as presented to him—and in a letter, some two years after the Book of Mormon was published, he wrote to a French savant and antiquarian, Professor Rafinisque, and made considerable fun over the matter of these signs and their arrangement, as were presented to him some years before. About this time, a very significant and remarkable in-

cident took place in Mexico. An Indian from the tribe of Otolum, in the pursuit of a deer, in one of those mighty forests, came suddenly upon an open space, in the midst of which loomed up before him an imposing structure, four stories high, and upon the roof, which was flat, trees of considerable size had grown. Wonderment and surprise gave way to fear, and he swiftly fled from the spot. The news of this discovery soon spread and Professor Rafinisque started westward on a voyage of discovery. He soon found the Indian, and on the payment of a liberal sum, induced him, in company with a number of his tribe, to lead him to the place. After much trouble in cutting their way through this immense forest, they finally reached the building, which upon actual survey and discovery proved to be a massive temple, occupying a central spot in the midst of a city, whose ruins hidden by an aged forest, reached many miles around. For a moment white man and Indians stood in awe. Professor Rafinisque boldly entered this building and there before his astonished gaze in all the resplendency of architectural skill and grandeur, standing out in sculptured beauty, was an altar upon which still remained the blood stains of those who were offered up to the idol gods of the conquerors who overthrew that city. Many of the Nephite prisoners, according to the testimony of the Book of Mormon, became subjects to sacrifice. This is also corroborated by a legend handed down from father to son and still entertained by many of the Indian tribes of that land.

I now come to one of the positive evidences of the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon, which will conclude this article. Standing against this altar was an obelisk, which upon examination proved to be beautifully sculptured in hieroglyphics, consisting of signs, symbols and figures, interspersed with planets, moons, and stars. Professor Rafinisque contemplated this obelisk with silent wonder, for there before him were the same characters arranged in the same manner and way as were the characters copied from the golden plates by Joseph Smith, and presented to Professor Anthon, some seven or eight years before. Yet this was the first white man who had looked upon this obelisk and gazed upon that ruined city of the dead, whose history was locked up in the then unknown past. The correspondence which ensued between these two learned professors developed the following facts, which forever silence the strictures of Professor Anthon and all other enemies of the Book of Mormon, who have raised their voices against it, as a history of these very people who inhabited Otolum and the hundreds of other great and wonderful cities which have since been discovered.

Professor Anthon, in his letter to Professor Rafinisque two years before the city of Otolum was discovered made use of the following language: "That these signs presented to him by Martin Harris comprised Hebrew, Egyptian and Damotic Libian characters, interspersed with moons, planets, and stars, reading from side to side, and like the Chinese from top to bottom."

What does the obelisk of Otolum reveal seven or eight years afterwards? Read what Professor Rafinisque writes to Professor Anthon:

"Looking upon this wonderful obelisk, I call to mind your letter of some years ago, in which you stated that nowhere had been found such an arrangement of hieroglyphics, but here before me are the very signs, symbols and figures, interspersed with moons, planets and stars, and, still more remarkable, they are Hebrew, Egyptian and Damotic Libian characters, reading from side to side, and, like the Chinese, from top to bottom." (I refer the reader for proof to No. 22 of a publication called "Church Record," and to the *Atlantic Journal*.)

Thus in the introduction of these articles upon the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon, the ruined cities of ancient America begin to speak and the saying of the prophet is fulfilled, "The wisdom of the wise perisheth," and the language none can read except him unto whom God will reveal the same. And out of darkness and mystery shall the long-slumbering nations of ancient America awake, and bring to pass the ful-

filment of prophecy, and aid us in the restoration of all things decreed by the Almighty from the foundations of the earth.

(To be continued.)

#### "INDEPENDENT" ON THE BOOK OF MORMON.

The revival of the old "Spaulding Romance" legend is only another exhibition of the flimsy and illogical hypotheses which either weak and indolent, or conceited and arrogant minds will adopt in preference to a careful, patient and scientific investigation of any new or strange phenomenon. This is no new phase of human nature nor has its manifestation been confined to religious subjects. Every new truth, so-called, whether in physics, politics or religion, has been opposed at first with the same weapons of falsehood, misrepresentation and ridicule.

No sane man would ever have dreamed of obtaining the slightest attention to or success for the Book of Mormon, as a romance. The genius, beauty, style and literary ability displayed in the works of Scott, Bulwer, and Dickens, and that so fascinate the reader, are wanting. Considered as a work of fiction, the intellectual mind cannot help regarding it as an exceedingly dull, uninteresting, awkwardly told story. No disrespect is intended by these remarks; the point is, that this book is not and could not be of the slightest possible interest or value to anybody unless it be true, or—what is the same thing to the individual mind—at least believed to be true. How utterly illogical and absurd to suppose that the men who first presented it to the world could expect it to be received, as it has been, by thousands of intelligent men and women, and to build upon it a mighty religious and political system, unless they had been convinced that it was just what it professed to be.

The more intelligent among its opponents will hardly dare to assume that the manuscript from which they profess to believe the Book of Mormon was compiled, was purposely mutilated and disfigured by Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon, in order that their enemies might not be able to charge their success to its plausibility and attractive style. This would be attributing to them a power of foresight and a mode of action utterly inconsistent with human nature. Impostors always use the most plausible methods and neglect nothing, however trifling, that will attract and fascinate those whom they wish they deceive. Had the Book of Mormon been an imposture, no effort would have been spared to make it suit the popular taste; but, if it be true, then there certainly appears to be a profound degree of wisdom in permitting it to go before the world just as it is, for upon that feature alone does it depend for success.

There is one peculiarity, among others, about the Book of Mormon, which is not possessed by any other book having no greater claim to genius or literary ability, or, indeed, by any work of fiction, namely, that when even the possibility of its truth is admitted it becomes one of the most interesting books in the world. There are abundant evidences, however, both internal and external, that the man or men who wrote that book believed what they wrote, and if so, then it is not an imposture and they were not impostors. To those at all acquainted with the facts of their life and the history of your people no argument is necessary to prove this; and for others the facts are accessible in your own works if a knowledge of them is desired.

One of the prominent objections formerly made by smatterers in science to the Book of Mormon has recently been swept away by the logic of facts. That Book says that horses were used by the ancient inhabitants of this continent. Now, when America was discovered and its unfortunate people were subdued by such diabolically religious people as Cortez and Pizarro, not only were no horses found on the continent but the aborigines were utterly unacquainted with them. What sneers arose the world over at Joseph Smith's ignorance and stupidity in putting "horses" into his book. But recent geological discoveries prove that there were—at some former period—numerous herds of horses on this continent. Had Mr. Smith and Mr. Rigdon concocted an imposture would they not have carefully excluded from

their book this animal, pressed into the service of their enemies? But, as one falsehood needs to be supplemented by another, perhaps it will be said that these gentlemen had, by some human means, become acquainted with this fact, although it was not then recognized in any geological work of which we have any knowledge.

The all-important question, as it appears to me, is, not so much where the Book of Mormon originated, how it was translated, or why it was not clothed in more acceptable style and language, but, *Is it true?* That is what all must decide for themselves, not by the sneering criticisms of newspaper scribblers, but by careful, unbiassed investigation.

It is but a few years since it was the fashion to denounce Mahomet as a vile impostor; but a better acquaintance with the facts of his life has changed the opinion of most Christian scholars upon that point, whatever they may think of the religio-political system which he founded, and, to-day, those who thus speak of him are considered by literary people as un-informed and unphilosophical. And so will it be before many years, in regard to Joseph Smith. This cry of "imposture" is worn threadbare—indeed it always was "too thin." The men who resort to it are, in most cases, either impostors themselves or else shamefully ignorant of the ten thousand facts connected with the work they oppose, and upon which common sense would dictate they should thoroughly inform themselves before entering the lists against it. The time is not far distant when, unless they wish to become ridiculous in the eyes of all intelligent men, they will have to change their tactics.

INDEPENDENT.

#### DEATH OF PATRIARCH WM. SNOW.

The following by Deseret Telegraph was received by Prest. Taylor this morning:

PINE VALLEY,  
May 20, 1879, 11 a. m.

President John Taylor,  
Salt Lake City.

Our beloved patriarch and brother Wm. Snow, departed this life last evening at 57 minutes past nine o'clock. He had his senses to the last moment. Saturday the 17th he called his family all together, gave four of his sons a patriarchal blessing, talked to his family and friends that were there about 15 minutes and blessed them all, and said "Now I feel satisfied, let me go." During all his sickness he was in severe pain, but when he left he went without a struggle.

H. BURGESS,  
ELI WHIPPLE.

#### The Winter Temperature of the Last Twenty-nine Years.

From the table of winter mean temperature, it will be seen that the coldest winters of the last 29 years were in 1854-5, 1859-60, 1870-71, and in 1878-79, and that the present winter is colder than the coldest of these, viz., 1854-55 by 3-7 degree or 12 per cent. The mean temperature of the winter months for 29 years is 33.7 degrees. And whilst the winter of 1854-55 was 3.8 degrees, or a little over 9 per cent, below the average temperature, the present winter is 7.3 degrees or 19 per cent. below the average winter temperature. Five years elapsed between the cold winters of 1854-55 and 1859-60; but six years elapsed between the cold winters of 1864-65, and 1870-71, and eight years elapsed between the present cold winter and the previous one of 1870-71. It is now known that the sun spot period is irregular and not so nearly an interval of 10, 11 or 12 years, as was imagined. The minimum of the sun spot period happened about two years ago, but it is still at a minimum, and very seldom have spots been seen on his disc during the past year. Whether these cold winters are traceable to this solar inactivity or not, the present coincidence is very striking.—*English Paper.*

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