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AFTER THE SNOW AND THE SHROUD.

What if we all lay dead below;
Lay as the grass lies, cold and dead
In God's own holy shroud of snow,
With snow-white stones set foot and head,
With all earth dead and shrouded white
As clouds which cross the moon at night.

What if that infidel some night
Could then rise up and see how dead,
How wholly dead and out of sight
All things with snows sown foot and head
And lost winds wailing up and down
The emptied fields and emptied town?

I think that grand old infidel
Would rub his hands with fiendish glee;
And say: "I knew it, knew it well!
I knew that death was destiny;
I ate, I drank, I mocked at God;
Then as the grass was, and the sod."

Ah me, the grasses and the sod
They are my preachers. Hear them preach.
When they forget the shroud, and God
Lifts up these blades of grass to teach
The resurrection! Who shall say
What infidel can speak as they?

—Joaquin Miller in the Independent.

JOSEPH SMITH A TRUE PROPHET.

A Lecture delivered by Elder Andrew Jensen before the Students' Society, in the Social Hall, Salt Lake City, Friday evening, January 10, 1891.

INTRODUCTORY.

I will take for my text the following words of the Prophet Moses spoken to the children of Israel while they were journeying in the wilderness of Arabia.

"The prophet who shall presume to speak a word in my name which I have not commanded him to speak * * * even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart: How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken; but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously; thou shalt not be afraid of him." Deut. xviii: 20-22.

The passage which I have read may be taken as a key by which to distinguish a true prophet from a false one. The first definition of the word prophet, according to the standard dictionaries is, "one who prophesies; one who foretells future events; a predictor;

a foreteller; a seer." In this light we shall proceed to test the claims of Joseph Smith, whom the Latter-day Saints claim to be the great Prophet of the Nineteenth Century. We claim for him that he was visited by holy beings, who restored to him the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, with authority to administer in all the ordinances of the same; that he received from the angel Moroni certain gold plates that had been hidden in the earth for fourteen hundred years, and that he translated the engravings upon these plates into the English language by the gift and power of God, the result of which was the Book of Mormon. We further claim that he organized the Church of Christ once more upon the earth, and that he received by direct revelation a code of laws and commandments by which to govern the affairs of that Church, according to the original pattern given by Jesus and His Apostles eighteen hundred years ago. We further claim that it is of the utmost importance for all people who desire eternal salvation to know whether these things are true or not. If Joseph Smith is what he professed to be: A true Prophet of God, no one can reject his testimony without being condemned, while on the other hand, if he was an impostor, or a false prophet, we can reject him without fear of Divine punishment, and the condemnation will rest upon the man who assumes to speak in the name of the Lord presumptuously. In this lecture I shall confine myself to his prophetic and inspired utterances by proving their fulfillment and truthfulness mostly from a historic standpoint.

JOSEPH'S FIRST VISION.

One of the first declarations made by Joseph Smith, when he was only a boy between fourteen and fifteen years of age, was, that the whole Christian world had gone astray, and that the true Church of Christ was not to be found upon the earth. What a startling declaration! Could anything be more presumptuous on the part of a common uneducated farmer's boy than such an assertion? Preachers of the various denominations in the neighborhood where the boy resided became exasperated and at once denounced him as an impostor or a fraud. A boy who had seen nothing of the world, save the tract of country in Vermont, where he was born, and the western

wilds of the State of New York, where he now resided with his parents. A boy who had perhaps never been even introduced to any of the prominent divines of the day, who had never crossed the threshold of any important institution of learning, who had never thoroughly examined the creed of any one denomination, much less having a knowledge of them all, who had never crossed the ocean to acquaint himself with the great learning of Europe, with its thousands of preachers and its universities and institutions of learning. What did he know about the creeds and organizations existing among the millions of Christians in Europe and America, thus to denounce them all without further ceremony. Why, even Luther, the great reformer of the sixteenth century, with his profound learning and thorough knowledge of the Catholic creed, did not denounce the Roman Catholic Church in such a manner as that. He did not say it was rejected as a whole and that it was not the Church of Christ; he simply contended that it had incorporated into its system doctrines, sacraments and ordinances which were not true and not warranted in the Bible. Luther simply desired to reform the Church, to purge it and remove from it erroneous doctrines and wicked practices. But Joseph Smith, without any more knowledge of the religions of the world than what opportunities his attendance of the numerous revival meetings held in his immediate neighborhood had given him, denounced them all as false. Whence, then, his authority for the sweeping declaration he made as to the condition of the so-called Christian churches? His story is a simple, plain and unimbellished one. He tells in his own straightforward manner how, after attending the different revival meetings without being able to conclude which of the denominations was the right one for him to join, went into the woods to pray to the Lord for that wisdom which the Apostle James promises shall be given the honest believer. The result was an attack of the power of darkness which threatened him with destruction, then a light far above him in the sky, then an envelopment in that light which descended upon him, then a vision of two glorious personages standing above him in the air, one of whom speaking to him, while pointing to the other, said: "This is my beloved son, hear him." Here,