

(Ps. 23: 1); "Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel" (Ps. 80: 2); "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd" (Is. 40: 11); "I will set up one Shepherd over them, and he shall feed them" (Ez. 34: 23, 37, 24.)

Alpha and Omega are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. When applied to our Lord they denote that He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. And this term is frequently found in Isaiah. For instance: "I the Lord, the first and the last," (Is. 41, 4); "I am the first, and I am the last" (Is. 44, 6); "I am the first, I also am the last," (Is. 48, 12). This Old Testament expression, "the first and the last," applied to our Lord, was conveniently rendered in the New Testament by the first and the last letter of the Greek *Alpha* and *Omega*. It has as conveniently been rendered *aleph* and *tau* in Hebrew or *aleph* and *ya* in Arabic or by the signs for *a* and *th* in the Egyptian hieroglyphics. But a conscientious translator would, as Joseph Smith the Prophet has done, render any of these *Alpha* and *Omega*, since these two words in the English tongue have come to signify that title of our Lord—The First and the Last.

The expression the "Lamb of God" is an allusion to the Mosaic sacrifices, and particularly to the pascal lamb, and the Spirit who led John the Baptist to apply the term to our Lord might just as well lead the writers of the Book of Mormon to use it.

The term, "the light of the world" is applied by Isaiah to our Lord. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Is. 9, 2); "I will give thee (Jesus) for a light of the Gentiles" (Is. 42, 6); "And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldst be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my Salvation unto the end of the earth" (Is. 49, 6).

From all these passages it is clear enough that the terms to which the learned English critic objects in the Book of Mormon were not originated by the authors of the New Testament as he claims. They are terms, more or less familiar to the servants of the Lord in all ages. The writers of the New Testament derived them from the Old, under the inspiration of God. So did the authors of the Book of Mormon. They were all instructed by the same Divine Teacher, and the evi-

dence of this is clear to all those who are humble and willing to admit the truth.

It will be observed that the method by which Dr. Duncan endeavors to ascertain the authenticity of the Book of Mormon is altogether wrong. It is no wonder that it should have led him to a negative conclusion. It is similar to that which a few years ago in this country, was applied to the same sacred volume by a person named Lamb, and is exactly the same method by which Voltaire attempted to show that the books of the Bible were nothing but the spurious fabrications of the clergy. The reply to Dr. Duncan with regard to the Book of Mormon is given in the observation so often made to infidels, that the supposed difficulties in the inspired records do not exist in the records themselves, but in the limited powers of the human intellect, which without the aid of the Divine Spirit, is unable to comprehend things Divine.

There is a better way by which an honest inquirer can ascertain the truth of the claims of the Book of Mormon. Let him contemplate the facts that the Prophet Joseph Smith was an unsophisticated youth when he gave his famous translation to the world; that he was during the whole of his life a man whose moral character was above reproaches; a brave, valient champion of truth, who would sooner die than tell a falsehood; that he, finally, as the apostles and martyrs of old, laid down his life to seal the truth of his testimony; and that those who had seen and handled the original plates were firm in the proclamation of their testimony even in the face of death and the solemn eternity; contemplate, further, that manifestations of the Divine power have followed the work connected with this book from first till last, and when this has been made clear to the enquirer, surely, if his intention is to ascertain the truth, he must feel assured that the Book of Mormon is authentic and inspired.

#### RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.

THE act of Congress "making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1891, and for other purposes," contains some provisions that are of special interest to the people of the West. Among them are the following:

"For topographic surveys in various parts of the United States, three

hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, one half of which sum shall be expended west of the one hundredth meridian; and so much of the act of October second, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, entitled "An act making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the government for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, and for other purposes," as provides for the withdrawal of the public lands from entry, occupation and settlement, is hereby repealed, and all entries made or claims initiated in good faith and valid but for said act, shall be recognized and may be perfected in the same manner as if said law had not been enacted, except that reservoir sites heretofore located or selected shall remain segregated and reserved from entry or settlement as provided by said act, until otherwise provided by law, and reservoir sites hereafter located or selected on public lands shall in like manner be reserved from the date of the location or selection thereof.

"No person who shall after the passage of this act, enter upon any of the public lands with a view to occupation, entry or settlement under any of the land laws shall be permitted to acquire title to more than three hundred and twenty acres in the aggregate, under all of said laws, but this limitation shall not operate to curtail the right of any person who has heretofore made entry or settlement on the public lands, or whose occupation, entry or settlement, is validated by this act; *Provided*, That in all patents for lands hereafter taken up under any of the land laws of the United States or on entries or claims validated by this act west of the one hundredth meridian, it shall be expressed that there is reserved from the lands in said patent described, a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States."

The act was approved on the 30th day of last August.

#### THE CHURCH CASES.

At 10 a. m. September 18th the Dyer examination was resumed before Commissioner Stone, in the office of the Salt Lake City Gas Company. P. L. Williams, Judge Judd and Arthur Brown, the three attorneys for the ex-receiver, and F. S. Richards, attorney for the Church, were present, but the government was not represented by counsel.

Mr. Williams was placed upon the stand and testified at great length in behalf of the receiver. Nearly all the ground he went over was old, and made familiar to the public by testimony been heretofore published.

The witness said: In my acquaintance here in the past I have known of properties reputed to belong to the Church, and have known of its reputed wealth, and conversed on these matters with Mr. Dyer; the possession of personal property by the Church, I regarded as sufficient evidence of ownership and steps were taken to recover all personal property that could be found.

The witness described what personal property, account books, etc., had been seized, and stated that account books dating prior to 1887 could not be found.