

his kind is the very essence of his religion. He is not only a citizen of his own country, but of the world. Even this field is not broad enough for his comprehensive charity. Through the sacred ordinances of his religion he claims kinship with the dead, and labors for the benefit of departed generations. To him, preaching the Gospel is a labor of love, a part of his earthly mission. To perform this labor he leaves his family to take care of themselves, with some needful assistance from his brethren. In this labor he endures many hardships, and often faces persecution and death.

At home he largely contributes means and labor to build magnificent temples, in which the dead past and the living present may be bound together in a future life that will be glorious and eternal. Does any other religion develop a broader benevolence to soften the heart of man; a purer charity to work out of him the selfishness of his fallen nature?

This earth, re-organized, purified, sanctified, and thus fitted for man in an exalted condition, is the anticipated abode of the Latter-day-Saint. Associating with those he loves, the pure joys of his nature will be intensified. With such a reward for faithfulness he is ready to face imprisonment, confiscation and death.

From the sacred records of this people, and the facts of their history, let us elucidate the only policy that will redeem mankind from the curse of blood. The ancient record of this continent, now in the hands of this people, has done much towards shaping their policies. Whatever others may think of this marvelous Book of Mormon, to the modern Saint it is an existing fact. It is not only a chief corner stone of his theology, but it moulds his personal character and shapes his general policies.

Mormon was the name of the last leader of a numerous people, called Nephites who were destroyed in a terrible battle, in Central New York, in A. D. 384. They had inhabited the continent about 975 years. At one time, numerous and powerful, they constituted a vast empire. It occupied a considerable portion of South America, immediately south of the Isthmus of Darien, and all that portion of North America, south of the great lakes. They were a highly civilized people. They engraved on metal plates, extensive records of their theology, of their wars, and policies of government.

Mormon held the offices of High Priest, historian, and military leader of his people. He was evidently a man of noble sentiments, unusual executive ability, and intellectual culture. From general records he engraved, on plates of gold, an abridged history of his people. Severely wounded in their final struggle for existence, he survived them only a few days. He enjoined upon his son, Moroni, to make some addition to the record, and then bury it in a hill called Cumorah, around which the Nephites had terminated their national existence. These labors were performed, according to the record, under a powerful Divine inspiration that the record would be preserved in its place of deposit, and come forth in after ages to instruct their descendants concerning their fathers. They also had unwavering faith that then its resurrected policies would shape the final destiny of the people and of the continent which they inhabit.

The Divine principles of the Decalogue, and of the New Testament Gospel, are finely illustrated in its pages by historical facts and individual experiences and teachings. To develop some of the leading policies of the Saints, as illustrated in this book, is the object in now referring to it.

The orthodox Saint does not question the Divine origin of the Book of Mormon. He would stake his existence on the fulfilment of its prophetic declarations. With a powerful faith, born of this record, he scans the future of his generations and beholds their destiny involved in that of the continent of which it is, in part, a history. He devotes to the record careful, critical study. He soon comprehends that it bears a similar relationship to the western hemisphere that the Bible does to the eastern. Being a Bible believer he finds nothing in this ancient record antagonistic to that belief. Still pondering on its contents, he is forced to the conclusion, that God revealed His will to a chosen Israel on each continent. On each continent, this Israel apostatized from the faith of their fathers; and that, before the culmination of the world's destiny, these branches of the House of Israel must come back to the faith and to the lands of their fathers.

This Book of Mormon furnishes an example of the purest constitutional republic recorded in the world's history. In the account of its organization are elucidated the purest principles of liberty, and the

direct responsibility of each citizen of a republic, for the character of the administration of the government under which he lives. This individual responsibility where constitutional guarantees insure the citizen his free agency, is the chief corner-stone of the "Mormon" political creed.

The earth being filled with violence, is given as the Divine reason for its baptism by water. The children of Noah have not profited by the fate of the antediluvian fathers. The world's history is principally a record of aggression and bloodshed. The Creator promulgated the law to Noah, and through him to his posterity, that "he that sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." This law is so sweeping in its character that it does not discriminate between races, nations or individuals.

That the Lord's chosen Israel might not be guilty of blood, they were commanded not to make war without his sanction. The Hebrew colonizers of America were not only traditioned in this law, but took with them, from Jerusalem, the record of the Jews, engraved on plates of brass. From the first the Nephites—a part of the descendants of this colony—met aggression with a strictly defensive policy. So thoroughly traditioned were they in it that, in the prolonged struggle which terminated their national existence, they broke it but once, and that under very trying circumstances. With revenge burning in their bosoms, and against the expostulations of their leader, Mormon, they assumed the offensive, and were defeated with terrible slaughter. For this act, for many years Mormon refused to lead them. Finally, deeply sorrowing for the miseries of his people, and through their earnest solicitation, he resumed command of their armies. The elucidation of this defensive policy, in the history of a great people for nearly a thousand years, must have powerfully impressed the Prophet Joseph Smith. This, and the predictions contained in the history, of the future of this continent, forced upon him the one great culminating fact of its destiny, that no people would be firmly established upon this land, who did not adopt and live this policy. That human blood must cease to smoke on the soil which God has consecrated to that Divine freedom which grants to man, not merely the privilege of living, but of gathering around him, without aggression