



GEORGE Q. CANNON,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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and this is the book (Book of Mormon) which is the translation from these plates, a book which contains some five or six hundred closely written pages. After Mr. Smith had almost completed the translation, he found that there was a prediction contained in the book, that the Lord would show to three witnesses, by his power from heaven, the truth of the divinity of this work. The query immediately arose who these three should be; Martin Harris, Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer were very anxious that they might be the favored individuals. They were told to humble themselves before the Lord and pray unto Him, and that if they would do this the same should be shown to them. They did so. Mr. Smith went with them; this was in Fayette, Seneca Co., New York, in the year 1829. While they were praying the angel descended from the heavens in the presence of these four men, and took the plates and exhibited the pages and engravings of that portion that was unsealed—for the whole of them were not permitted to be translated; and thus the engravings were shown to three other witnesses. The angel at the same time placed his hands upon the head of David Whitmer and said, "Blessed be the Lord and they that keep His commandments." At the time that the angel was showing the records, they heard a voice out of the heavens saying, that the records had been translated correctly by the gift and power of God, and they were commanded to bear witness of the same to all people to whom the work should be sent. They have therefore given their solemn testimony in this book in connection with Joseph Smith, concerning the appearing of the angel, and the exhibition of the plates; their testimony has gone forth wherever this book has been published. Mr. Smith was also permitted to show the plates to eight other witnesses whose names are also given in testimony of these things, that they saw the plates and handled them.

Thus you have the testimony of twelve men, eleven witnesses besides the one who found the plates, three of whom saw the angel of God; and all this before there was any latter-day church in existence. There was a circumstance, however, that took place, before the organization of this church, on the 15th day of May 1829. Two men, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, being exercised before the Lord in regard to the ordinance of baptism: how and in what way they should receive this ordinance acceptably before Him they did not know. They understood the mode of baptism, for in the translation of this record they found that the ancient inhabitants of Israel baptized by immersion, and that the words used in connection with it were also given. The question arose, Who could baptize them? The Lord had already told them that there was no true church on the earth, and that there was no authorized minister to administer baptism; and, of course, this was a question that would arise in the mind of any individuals under similar circumstances; they would naturally want to know how they could be baptized, so as to have their baptism recognized in the heavens. They understood that they might just as well jump into the water themselves, as to be baptized by a man having no authority on him. They did not understand how it could be done, and they, therefore, were troubled in their minds with regard to it, and went and humbled themselves before the Lord, who on the 15th day of May, 1829, sent an angel to them. This angel informed them that he was John the Baptist, who was beheaded, and who baptized their Savior, and that he held the priesthood of his fathers, the priesthood of Levi. He laid his hands upon their heads and ordained them unto the priesthood that he himself had, which priesthood had authority to baptize for the remission of sins, but had no authority to lay hands upon the people for the gift of the Holy Ghost. John, who baptized our Savior, himself declared:

I can baptize you with water and that is the extent of my authority, but there cometh one after me who is mightier than I. He has greater authority, He can baptize you with fire and with the Holy Ghost—but I have the right to baptize you with water. This was in substance what John said to the Jews in his day. He conferred this same priesthood upon these two men, and commanded them to baptize one another, giving them a promise that that priesthood should never be taken from the earth, but should remain forever; conse-

quently the priesthood conferred by the angel is never again to be banished from the earth, as it has been throughout the dark ages.

They went and baptized each other, for the Lord did not permit them to organize the Church until the fulness of time had arrived. He appointed the day by new revelation, the very day on which they should commence the organization of the Church, namely the 6th of April 1830; also gave a commandment on the day of its organization, how the Church should be organized, with what offices, or those necessary to constitute a true Church of God here on the earth. Previous, however, to this organization of the Church they received higher authority than that which John the Baptist gave them.

For when they found they only had authority to baptize by water, but could not minister the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands, the question arose immediately: How shall we obtain that authority? they again prayed; they again called upon the name of the Lord, and the Lord sent messengers from heaven with a higher priesthood than that which John the Baptist held, whose names were Peter, James and John, three ancient Apostles and they conferred upon them the priest hood and apostleship that they themselves had which gave them authority not only to baptize, but to administer in the ordinance of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands in the name of Jesus, precisely the same as the apostles did when on the earth.

Thus they received, not only the lesser priesthood, but also the apostleship, and having authority granted unto them from heaven they were fully qualified to organize the Church; but still they could not do it by their own wisdom. There was nothing to be done in this Church by the wisdom of man. The Lord, as I heretofore stated, had already told them what the necessary offices were, and what the duties of these several offices should be in the Church.

The Church was organized and we might give you a relation of its history from that day down to the present, but I see that the time allotted for our forenoon meeting has already past.

I wish before I close to cite one or two testimonies from the prophecies in relation to this great work of the latter-days. If you will turn to the 29th chapter of Isaiah and read the prediction contained therein you will find that nearly the whole chapter pertains to the events of the latter days, one of the predictions is the destruction of the nations of the wicked, which has never been fulfilled. It reads thus:—That all nations that fight against Mount-Zion shall become as a dream of a night vision, etc., etc.

The Lord intends, in the last days, to build up a people, called Zion, or, in other words, His Church. It matters not how numerous the people of the nations may be, this is their destiny; they will become as the dream of a night vision; or as the Prophet Daniel expresses it— all kingdoms and governments organized by human authority shall become like the chaff of the summer threshing floor; the winds of heaven shall blow them away, and no place shall be left for them; and that the stone out of the mountain should become a great mountain and fill the whole earth; and the kingdom and the greatness of the kingdom should be given into the hands of the saints of the Most High—this is what Daniel has predicted. Isaiah has predicted the same; but before this destruction of the wicked, certain events are to happen; among which he speaks of a book. He says: "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, For as much as this people draw near me with their mouths, and with their lips do honor me, and their fear toward me is taught by precepts of men: Therefore behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder, for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid." "In that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and darkness."

These words of the prophet Isaiah were fulfilled so far as the coming forth of this book was concerned. It was not the book itself that was to be sent to the learned, if that had been the case the prophecy would not have been fulfilled; but it "was the words of the book," and not the book itself. "And the book was given to him that is not learned, saying, read this I pray thee. He says I am not learned." Then comes in the declaration of the Lord:—Because of the wickedness of the people, etc., that he would "proceed to do a marvellous work and a wonder," and in that event he would cause the wisdom of the wise men to perish, etc., all of which has been fulfilled. "And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness." Now, I would ask, are there not many in this congregation of Latter-day Saints who can testify that they have seen this literally fulfilled? Have you not seen those who have been literally deaf, in the enjoyment of their hearing, and this by the power of God in

this dispensation? Yes, there are scores of witnesses that can testify that this has been literally fulfilled. Have you not seen those who have been afflicted with blindness restored immediately to their sight? Yes, and all this in fulfillment of this prophecy. The meek shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel." Who, I would ask again, is the most benefited by this prophecy? In ancient days, while the learned and the chief priests rejected the gospel of the Son of God, was it not the poor among men that were benefited by the gospel preached to them? Yes, and so it has been in these days.

How many scores of thousands have been taken from the oppressions of the old world, and brought some six or seven thousand miles here, into the interior of this glorious land of America, a land of promise? Although we have come into a very poor portion of it, yet, you have been benefited: you now own houses and lands, cattle, horses and property that you never would have possessed had you not participated in the literal fulfillment of this prophecy. The poor among men are literally, as well as spiritually, blessed. Then comes in another prediction concerning the destruction of the nations of the wicked. "For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off, and all nations that fight against Mount Zion, will perish and vanish away." When this marvellous work and a wonder is commenced, and its truths preached, and fully declared to the nations, and they reject them, the desolation and destruction that were brought upon the ancient Jews for the rejection of the gospel, will, according to this prophecy, be visited upon the wicked of this generation. How about Israel? According to the words of our text, "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; Righteousness shall go before him, and shall set us in the way of His steps." Thus you see, in that day, when the wicked will be so sorely afflicted the God of heaven will signally favor Israel. These things will transpire when we get through with the Gentiles, because the direct commandment of the Lord is, first to the Gentiles, and then to the house of Israel. And when the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled, then the Lord will restore the blessings He promised to Israel; He will then fulfill literally that which was uttered by the Psalmist David; "Turn us again O God of our salvation; how long wilt thou be angry with us? how long shall we have to suffer in consequence of our wickedness and the wickedness of our fathers?" Until truth shall spring out of the earth; until then your captivity must remain; until then, your sufferings and great afflictions must continue. But when the Lord brings truth out of the earth and sends righteousness down from heaven He will again remember Israel; then the Gentile nations will be punished, and Israel be saved.

AGRICULTURAL.

THE Spring thus far, though unfavorable in some respects for gardens, has been an excellent one for wheat and other cereals and grasses. We have had cool weather, and occasional rains and falls of snow which have kept the ground moist, and obviated the necessity of irrigation to bring the grain up. According to present appearances in Salt Lake and the adjoining counties heavy crops of grain, vegetables and fruit may be expected. No grasshoppers have made their appearance as yet, and unless they migrate from some other section after they commence to fly, the fields and gardens will not be troubled by them this season. Farms situated on the benches, or in places where the soil bakes on the surface, require spring rains to make a good crop, and owners of such farms are rejoicing in the fall of snow and rain that we have had this Spring. In some portions of Cache and Sanpete counties grasshoppers have hatched out as numerous as at any previous season. Discouraged at the prospect of raising crops there some farmers have engaged land to cultivate in other settlements which are free from this dreadful pest, so we have heard, and have determined to summer fallow their own fields. The grasshopper visitation has had the effect to largely increase the cultivation of peas in this county. It was noticed that peas suffered less from the ravages of this destructive insect than any other field crop. It has been the only dependence for many farmers for one or two years back, furnishing an excellent article of food for their stock, and being easily exchanged for wheat, etc., for their own households' use. Peas are being extensively sown again this Spring, and they promise to become one of our standard crops; all who have used them as feed are satisfied that for this purpose they are hard to beat.

In connection with grasshoppers it is well to remark that probably there is no people in the world who could have had such a pest, destroying their crops

and the fruits of their labor for so many years in succession, with fewer disastrous results. What farming district in the United States could have lost four successive years' crops and the farmers not be ruined? Yet there are several settlements in this Territory which have thus suffered, and we do not suppose that there is a mortgaged farm in any of them! And all the settlements have suffered if not the total loss of crops for that period, at least a considerable portion of them. Of course where crops have thus been destroyed year after year, in an agricultural community, the effect upon the circumstances of the people must be very serious; but the point we think wonderful is, that they have been able to live at all. We have heard of no suffering for actual necessities; though many doubtless have felt themselves straitened in other directions. This exemption from want has been chiefly due to the counsel which has been strenuously and constantly urged upon the people of these mountains to store up their grain. While many have neglected to give heed to this counsel, others have carefully husbanded their grain, and these supplies have been of vast benefit to the community at large.

THE domestication of English sparrows in the East has been a cause of frequent gratulation for the thorough manner in which they have waged war upon troublesome insects. Accounts reach us, however, which lead us to conclude that their presence is not altogether beneficial. They are suspected of destroying the fruit blossoms in orchards. Large quantities of blossom buds are found with the chits or hearts picked out, leaving nothing but the outside covering. It is the first time that injury to fruit-bearing trees has been noticed so early in the season, and the sparrows are suspected of doing the mischief.

THE *Rural Home*, speaking of beans as a crop, says:

In some localities in Western New York, the cultivation of beans as a field crop has become a leading interest with the farmer. Many of our most enterprising and successful cultivators are giving the same special attention to this as a market crop, that was formerly given to the cultivation of wheat, and and on soils well adapted to the crop, perhaps, with equally good results. Every crop, or plant that grows, has its natural soil in which it thrives best, and in which it can be most profitably cultivated, and no one is more peculiar in this respect than the bean crop.

IN California, gardeners and farmers in raising cabbage are troubled with the Cabbage Worm. A correspondent of the *Pacific Rural Press* has communicated a remedy which he thinks is sure destruction to them, wherever it can be made attainable. It was tried last year by a gardener near Downieville, with perfect success, although his neighbors all around, had their plants all destroyed. He simply turned a stream of cold water upon the plants through an open hose, under large pressure, so that the mere force of the water drove them from the leaves, and so beat them into the loose soil that they were drowned or otherwise killed by thousands. Two or three applications of the kind are sufficient to get entirely rid of them. None, however, but certain kinds of cabbage plants will stand such rough usage. He cultivated a variety, which is remarkably hard in this particular, and which is supported on a very strong stem.

IRRIGATION is receiving considerable attention in California at present. We learn from the *Pacific Rural Press* that the

Calaveras and San Joaquin Water Company, lately incorporated, propose building a canal, 8 feet deep, 40 feet wide at the top and 30 feet wide at the bottom, from the Mokelumne River, near Camanche, to Bear Creek, San Joaquin County, thence to the Calaveras River, and thence to Stockton. It is claimed that the canal will irrigate at least 350,000 acres of land. Also that the Merced Irrigation Canal is being constructed, work having being commenced in February. This is to be 50 feet wide, with a fall of one foot to the mile, and to extend from the mouth of the Merced River to Bear Creek, near the Lone Willow, (where the latter stream will be dammed) to Farn's Creek. From a point high upon this creek, a canal will be cut along the hillside to a point about five miles above Snelling to the Merced. The San Geronimo Canal Company, of San Bernardino County