

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Thursday, February 4, 1897.

FIRST OF A SERIES.

The Origin of Mormonism; The Story of Its Growth and Development.

LECTURE BY PRESIDENT SMITH.

The Assembly Hall Well Filled to Listen to an Interesting Discourse.

The first of a series of two lectures to be delivered weekly to the Assembly Hall under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. was given in that building last evening by President Joseph F. Smith, president of the Y. M. C. A. of Salt Lake City. The lecture was given in the evening and the hall was well filled. The lecture was given in the evening and the hall was well filled.

After the usual preliminary exercises, prayer being offered by Elder Francis M. Lyman, the lecturer came forward and in a few introductory remarks stated the title of his subject: "The origin of Mormonism and the story of its growth and development."

This was a subject, said the speaker, which opened up a vast field for reflection and remarks. The term Mormonism was a term applied to the Latter-day Saints by the world, and it had been generally adopted by the Latter-day Saints themselves. The term had its origin because of the belief the Saints held in the Book of Mormon, a work translated from gold plates by the Prophet Joseph Smith under the direction of heavenly messengers.

Here President Smith read copiously from section 20 of the Doctrine and Covenants in relation to the rise of the Church and came to the history connected with the origin of the latter-day work, which, said he, was better told in the language of the scriptures than he could do himself.

The speaker said he read extensively from the revelation quoted from verses of the scriptures which bore witness to the work as well as the command made of those who were called to embrace the Gospel, if they did not it told them what the consequences would be.

The early life of the Prophet Joseph was next referred to. He when a mere boy, 16 years of age, began to investigate religion for himself. But his tender years were consumed in vain, why it was that the different churches were claiming for themselves that they were the only true church. He and he to there was the cry among them, they were contending with each other and this contention so damaged the boy Joseph that he knew

not which way to turn. In this condition of mind he took the scriptures in hand and began to peruse them when suddenly he came upon a passage in the spirit of James which called his attention to the words, "The passage ran thus: 'If any man lack wisdom let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.'"

This offer from the Father, said the speaker, required the boy with a feeling that he of all persons certainly needed wisdom. He wanted to fulfill himself a desire, which yearning he knew not because of the strife then existing. The boy then mortified the flesh to try the spiritual suggestion to seek wisdom, which yearning he knew not because of the strife then existing. The boy then mortified the flesh to try the spiritual suggestion to seek wisdom, which yearning he knew not because of the strife then existing.

Continuing President Smith said that this was the first step in the origin of Mormonism. A mere boy, but fourteen years of age, the Prophet, said he, was the first step in the origin of Mormonism. A mere boy, but fourteen years of age, the Prophet, said he, was the first step in the origin of Mormonism.

With joyful testimony, Joseph, a short time afterwards, told a Boston professor that he had had a vision. The professor was a Unitarian and ridiculed the idea, saying that such a manifestation was from Satan, at the same time advising him to pay no attention to it. But the boy was not so easily led; he had been the subject of a heavenly visitation and this knowledge could not be thrown aside or eradicated from his memory.

There he remained firm and faithful to the testimony of that which he had seen and heard, returning ever and over again that he had seen the Father and the Son, notwithstanding the fact that the people at large ridiculed and even at the time called the boy a knave and a liar.

Joseph looking down and over in his vision, said he, saw the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and the Father said unto him, "I have loved thee from the beginning, and thou shalt be my first-born."

The speaker then read copiously from the scriptures which bore witness to the work as well as the command made of those who were called to embrace the Gospel, if they did not it told them what the consequences would be.

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A Dream Made True by the Only Freed.

I had a dream when on the train, Oh, would that I could dream again! And feel the bliss which first I knew, To find that gorgeous vision true!

I thought that I arrived at last, With all discomforts, sorrows past; Not to our attic 'neath the dome, But to a new, palatial home!

Rich carpets covered halls and stairs; Great, splendid beds were there, and chairs, Lace curtains, portieres, dainty nooks; Revolving stands contained my books. I left the parlor, then I saw The housewife's domain without flaw, The dining-room and buffet shared With dishes fit for a Prince's board.

I shuddered as I feared to wake— I shuddered for my Mary's sake— When lo! she met me, said "Oh, Jack, How glad I am to have you back! You'd never found of us a trace— I'll take you to a better place, I know you could not help it, dear, And so I had to make it clear."

"I've been to see a famous man, And tried his great installment plan; And such a home we have! You'll say It's doubly worth what we shall pay." "But how on earth" when I could speak— "We pay for all, small sums each week." Amazed, transported, then I knew Freed had made my dream come true!

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