History and Doctrines of the Latter-day Saints.

[The following historical sketch was written by Orson Pratt, Church Historian, in Dec., 1874, for insertion in the Universal Cyclopedia. It is now forwarded for publication in the NEWS.]

LATTER-DAY SAINTS—This is the common name of a religious organization, having its origin in the present century. The name, when stated in full, is, "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." The Saints believe that this name was given by divine revelation.

The distinguished individual, who was the honored instrument in laying the foundation of the Church, was received by its members as an inspired prophet, a chosen seer, a revelator, a translator of ancient records, a great apostle, holding the keys of power to build up the kingdom of God on the earth for the last time, and for the fulness of times.

Like Samuel of old, Joseph Smith, Jr., was called in his childhood, while his mind was yet unwarped by the false theories, traditions and creeds of uninspired men; he was called to do a work, marvelous in its nature and wonderful in its results. A biographical sketch of one so endeared to the Saints, and so celebrated in modern times cannot be uninteresting. Mr. Smith was born in the town of Sharon, Windsor County, Vermont, Dec. 23, 1805...