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THE STAGE COACH.

Furnished and battered and old,
Heartlessly hidden away,
Left to the moth and the mold,
Darkness and dust to decay.
This was the pride of its day.

Now all its glory is o'er—
Faded and vanished for aye;
Gone are the driver and four!

How shall its story be told?
What shall a song of it say?
Once it was brilliant and gold,
Once it was gilded and gay,
Fine in their festal array,
Many the bride that it bore.
Now are they wrinkled and gray;
Gone are the driver and four!

Long through the heat and the cold,
Ever from May until May,
Over the highways it rolled,
Time has now made it his prey,
Never a steady display,
Never a dash as of yore,
Never a swing or a sway;
Gone are the driver and four!

Over new roads that men lay,
Rush we with rattle and roar.
Only sweet memories stay;
Gone are the driver and four!

—Harper's for September.

LETTER FROM TURKEY.

In reading a lecture by Mr. Sale, an English writer, and translator of the Koran into English, I notice that even among the traditions of the Mohammedans we may find evidences that will help to confirm the antiquity of the Book of Mormon, and indeed verify one of its narratives. It is a prophetic truth that I do not know of having been preserved by any other people than the Mohammedans and the Nephites.

The tradition referred to is related by Mr. Sale among other signs believed by the Mohammedans that will happen at the second coming of Christ and the end of the world. It reads as follows: "The coming of the Mahdi, or director, concerning whom Mohammed prophesied that the world should not have an end till one of his own family should govern the Arabians, whose name should be the name with his own name, and whose father's name should also be the name with his father's name; and who should fill the earth with righteousness."

Now, it must be remembered that this verse is not found in the Koran, but is one of the many traditions from ages past, many or perhaps all of which have been more or less corrupted and contorted by the nations, as they have undergone religious changes. The fact of its not being in the Koran makes it all the more reliable, and is strong evidence that Mohammed never used his name in connection with this prophecy. But as the Catholics, and, in fact, all the so-called Christian churches have had a sort of mania for inventing wonderful, not to say unreasonable, miracles supposed to have been performed by this, that, or the other saint, and also to borrow old heathen traditions with their idols and their festivals and reconstruct them to conform to something in the history and doctrine of Christ, so our Mohammedan friends have likewise done, leaving out the idols, against which, be it said to their credit, they have proved themselves proof. In their enthusiasm they have remodeled everything possible to fit either Mohammed or his successors, and the masses of the people who are ignorant and unable to read and gather information of course firmly believe these contortions.

There is, however, a fact to be considered. Among all the traditions and myths handed down to the present age, sparkling jewels may be found. Many facts and divine truths have in this peculiar way been preserved, and help the honest in this age of infidelity to better and more clearly understand the dealings of God with His children. As the light from above descends and the true history of the world and the prophecies and doctrines of holy men are by degrees restored again to the earth, these relics of truth will find their true places, from which they have been ruthlessly torn, and though to many they may seem insignificant, yet there are others who will regard them as precious and will endeavor to restore them to their proper places.

Now those not familiar with the Book of Mormon may ask what connection this saying can have with that book. For the information of such we will quote a few verses from the Book of Mormon (page 65, 2 Nep., chap. 3.) "For

Joseph truly testified, saying: A seer shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a choice seer unto the fruit of thy loins. Yea, Joseph truly said, thus saith the Lord unto me: A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins, and he shall be esteemed highly among the fruits of thy loins. And unto him will I give commandment that he shall do a work for the fruit of thy loins, his brethren, which shall be of great worth unto them, even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with the fathers. And I will give unto him a commandment that he shall do no other work which I shall command him. And I will make him great in mine eyes, for he shall do my work; and he shall be like unto Moses, whom I have said I would raise up unto you, to deliver my people, O house of Israel. And Moses will I raise up, to deliver the people out of the land of Egypt; but a seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and unto him will I give power to bring forth my word unto the seed of thy loins; and not to the bringing forth of my word only, saith the Lord, but to the convincing them of my word, which shall have already gone forth among them. * * * And thus prophesied Joseph, saying, "Behold, that seer will the Lord bless; and they that seek to destroy him shall be confounded; for the promise, which I have obtained of the Lord, of the fruit of my loins, shall be fulfilled. Behold, I am sure of the fulfilling of this promise. And his name shall be called after me, and it shall be after the name of his father. And he shall be like unto me; for the thing which the Lord shall bring forth by his hand, by the power of the Lord shall bring my people unto salvation." (The italics are the writer's, and are only used to indicate the similarity in the two passages.)

Now, I doubt not for a moment that those who know that the Book of Mormon is a true record will at once see the origin of the promise of the Mahdi who is to come. Joseph who was sold into Egypt left many glorious promises and instructions of which we know but little, but they will, of course, appear in the due time of the Lord. Most writers