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PEACEFUL PATHS.

It is not here, we hope to tread the way
Of flower-strewn paths, by which clear
streamlets play,
But from life's rugged height we lift our
eyes,
And view the verdant slopes of paradise.
The pleasant ways we may not hope to
reach
Till heavy cares, and many a trial teach
Our feet the way Christ walked for us before,
And help us understand the grief he bore.
But soon the pains we bear will be forgot,
Beside the peaceful paths where grief comes
not;
And even more, where cooling waters flow,
Will rest in joy—no sorrow e'er to know.

CARINE.

EVIDENCES OF THE GOSPEL.

"Hearken, O ye people of My
Church, saith the voice of Him
who dwells on high, and
Whose eyes are upon all men;
yea, verily I say, hearken ye people
from afar, and ye that are upon
the islands of the sea, listen to-
gether. For verily the voice of the
Lord is unto all men." Doc. and
Cov. Sec. 1: 1, 2.

For centuries past the world had
cherished the thought that the voice
of the Lord should no more be
heard, when suddenly, thunder-
like, a messenger appeared, herald-
ing from one end of heaven to an-
other the above quoted intelligence.
God has spoken.

To the chosen seed these were, in-
deed, tidings of great joy, but the
world at large, influenced, as the
Jews formerly were, by priests and
rabbis, denounced the messenger as
a bold impostor. He offered the
strongest proof a man ever can offer
as a demonstration of the truth of
his message: he gave his life, seal-
ing his testimony with his blood.
Yet a sceptical world refused to be-
lieve, refused, to a large extent,
even to investigate.

What was, then, the nature of his
message? That the day of the
Lord is at hand; that the inhabi-
tants of the earth must repent of
their sins and false doctrines, and
turn unto God; that those who
would obey should be made happy
in the Kingdom of the Son of God,
but that on all disobedient souls
fearful judgments would speedily

fall. To prepare for the coming of
Christ was the message sent from
God to man through His servant,
the Prophet Joseph. That was the
nature of the message.

It will be perceived that this is in
full harmony with sacred writ, and
its very nature should be a sufficient
proof of its divine origin. If it
harmonizes with the Bible, how
can it be false? How can those who
believe the one reject the other? Is
not that the very same contradic-
tion as those of which the Jews
were guilty who believed the sacred
writings of the Old Testament at
the same time they rejected Christ?
Clearly, when the Bible is first
proved to be true, everything that
is in perfect harmony with the
Bible must be true too. In such re-
lation to the Bible stands the divine
message of which we are speaking.

This is a subject that must not be
treated lightly. The highest inter-
ests are here at stake—interests
dearer than life itself, which lasts
but a moment. If God has spoken
to this generation, woe, woe, woe
unto those who wilfully shut their
ears and harden their hearts against
the Word of God! The antediluvian
world was drowned by a flood be-
cause the people did not heed the
warning voice. The cities of the
plain were wrapped in flames and
buried in a sulphurous tomb because
they rejected the message of God.
Jerusalem fell because she did not
know the time of her visitation. And
how can the present world escape a
similar fate under similar circum-
stances?

With these lessons of past ages be-
fore us, let every honest soul investi-
gate the evidences of the truth of
this message of the latter days. An
honest investigation is the very least
that can be demanded for a subject
of this vast importance.

The attention of theological stu-
dents who are familiar with the evi-
dences of the truth of Christianity
is particularly called to the
line of thought here offered, as it is
proposed to show that the message
delivered by Joseph Smith is sup-
ported by the same evidence as the
message delivered by former prophe-
ts or apostles. Christianity and
"Mormonism" must stand or fall to-
gether. If the evidence here pre-
sented is sufficient for the one, it is
sufficient for both.

RETROSPECTIVE EVIDENCE.

The books of the Old Testament
abound with predictions foretelling
the work of Christ on earth. It is
distinctly foretold that a deliverer
should come, "the seed of woman;"
he should spring out of the people of
Abraham; a new covenant would
be made; the deliverer would
be despised, put to death, and yet
reign forever and ever. Such won-
derful predictions run like a string
through the Old Testament, and are
always pointed to as an evidence of
the truth of Christianity. Christ
himself points to these predictions
as such evidence. "Ought not Christ
to have suffered these things, and to
enter into His glory? Beginning
with Moses and all the prophets, He
expounded unto them in all the
Scriptures the things concerning
Himself." (Luke xxiv:26, 27. Com-
pare John v: 46, 47.)

But the same prophets foretell
with equal clearness the grand
work in which the Latter-day
Saints are now engaged, as will ap-
pear on investigation of the follow-
ing passages.

Isaiah, who lived almost 800 years
before Christ, has many remarkable
predictions, some of which were
fulfilled shortly after their delivery.
Syria and Israel, for instance, were
to be conquered by Assyria, before
the infant son of the prophet could
say "my father" (Isaiah viii, 4).
The glory of Kedar was to fail in
one year (xxi, 6), that of Moab in
three years (xvi, 14), that of
Ephraim in sixty-five years (vii, 8),
that of Tyre in seventy years (xxiii,
15). Other predictions relate to
more distant times. Thus that por-
tion of his book which is contained
in chapter xl. to lxiv. embraces the
whole period from the Babylonian
captivity to the end of the Christian
dispensation.

In this portion of the book the
prophet predicts the deliverance of
the Jews by Cyrus (xliv; xxviii;
xlv: 1-5, xlvii), the return to Judea
(xliv: xxviii), the coming, suffering
and glory of the Messiah, the down-
fall of idolatry, the rejection of
Christ by the Jews, and their conse-
quent rejection by God; also their
final conversion and recovery (lii;
iii: lxv: lxii).

Speaking of this last event, the
final gathering of the Jews—an
event which is about to be fulfilled