GOSPEL TO BE PREACHED IN ALL THE WORLD.

ELDER JOSEPH W. McMURRIN.

At the Seventy-Sixth Semi-Annual Conference of the Church Of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, October 8, 1905.

I esteem it a very great privilege, my be proclaimed by the weak and the simple unto the ends of the world, and this gathering this afternoon, and I before 'angs and rulers.' I esteem it a very great pirvege, in you rethren and sisters, to be with you his gathering this afternoon, and I lso feel it a privilege to speak a few ords here by way of testimony in bealf of the wonderful work in which we are engaged. I have felt during we are engaged. I have felt during the meetings of this conference much as the brethren who have addressed you have felt. All seem to have had a spirit of joy and thanksgiving for the spirit of joy that thanksgiving for the light of the glorious Gospel, and all have been filled with a desire to bear testimony to the truth of the great work which the Lord has established. I believe that the Latter-day Saints who have assembled together during who have assembled together during this conference have felt in very deed, as suggested in the words of the opening prayer this afternoon, to glorify the Lord of heaven. There has been no spirit manifested that would indicate in the slightest degree that there was any lack of faith in the hearts of the brethren, or any lack of confidence as to the outcome of the work that our Father has established upon the earth. I do not suppose that any of those who have spoken understand in detail how have spoken understand in detail how God's work is to be wrought out, or how it is to be made victorious, and overcome the opposition with which it will have to contend. We only know that the Lord of heaven has spoken; that He has revealed the authority of the Holy Priesthood; that He has made promises in connection with the powers of the Priesthood, and decreed the ultimate triumph of the work which He of the Friesmout, and decreed the ultimate triumph of the work which He has introduced. It certainly is a very great thing to be biessed with this spirit of confidence, and to feel in one's soul that the work will be successful. As one of the speakers closed his remarks this morning, a brother patted the knee of his associate and said, "We are going to win eut." He felt so impressed by the remarks that were made by Brother Ellisworth regarding the spirit manifested by the people of the city of Nauvoopeople who had once looked with contempt upon the Latter-day Saints and entirely misunderstod their motives, now were beginning to change their opinion, and to feel that there was a something about them that was most commendable and desirable.

When we look back over the history

When we look back over the history of the people for the past 75 years we discover there has been a steady and wonderful growth. We realize that the promises that have been made, the promises that have been made, through the voice of inspiration and revelation, concerning the growth and development of the work of the Lord, have all been verified as far as we have advanced in our history. If some of the aged men and women who had part in this great work in the early days were to give their testimony, I imagine that that testimony would be to the effect that the condition of the Latterday Saints at the present time was beyond what they anticipated in the inwond what they anticipated in the in-ception of the work. In those days the lives of the leaders of the people the lives of the leaders of the people were constantly sought. They were hounded from place to place, their homes were broken up time after time, and they were compelled to be almost constantly upon the move, seeking new locations where they might establish themselves. I very much doubt if those heroes and heroines of the past ever saw, while looking into the future, the mighty growth and strength of the people as we see it today. Surely the promises of the Lord have been marvelously fulfilled, and the efforts of those who have so strenuously sought the destruction of the Latter-day Saints have been brought to naught in a most wonderful way. Our course has been an upward course. We have been constantly advancing. In spite of the misrepresentations so widely circulated regarding us, there are many thousands of people who are beginning to be acquainted with the Latter-day Saints. Many of those who journey through our ountry, and who come in contact with the people in their homes, go away im-pressed with the feeling that there is pressed with the feeling that there is a power, a strength, a goodness, and a virtue, connected with the work of the Latter-day Saints that they little dreamed of. It is my faith that this growth will still continue, and that the promises made by our Father in heaven will be accomplished. I take a great deal of comfort in reading some of these promises, and I would like to read to this great congregation a few words of revelation given in the early words of revelation given in the early It has been writthere is no vision the people perish.
When the Lord does not reveal When the Lord does not reveal His will to the inhabitants of the earth are in a perishing condition. Father in heaven, because of the

Our Father in heaven, because of the love He has for His creatures, has manifested His will in all ages of the world, and has spoken to the prophets. The testimony of the Holy Scriptures is, "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secrets to His servants the prophets." When we have a promise of this character, that has been given by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, we can understand and been given by the inspiration of the high Ghost, we can understand and know that the great and marvelous work, spoken of by all the prophets, will not be accomplished without the Lord revealing to the prophets of the atter times, what He intends to do. Our Father has always raised up men and filled them with the power of the Hely Chart that they might communication. ly Ghost, that they might commu-ate His will to the people. As God In times past has looked in compassion upon mankind, and has raised up men who were filled with the Holy Ghost to deliver His words, so in these latter times He has manifested the same manner of love for His children here below, and He has declared: "Wherefore I the Lord, knowing the

amity which should come upon the abitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jr., and poke unto him from heaven and gave

nim commandments; And also gave commandments to

others, that they should proclaim these things unto the world, and all this that it might be fulfilled, which was written by the prophets.

"The weak things of the world shall come forth and break down the mighty and strong ones, that man should not ounsel his fellow man, neither trust

But that every man might speak in the name of God the Lord, even the Savior of the world; That faith also might increase in

mine everlasting covenant "That mine ever might be established; That the fulness of my gospel might

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the Book of Mormon it must be assumed that whatever is written on gold plates in ancient and curious characters is true and inspired of God, and that the visible possession of such plates proves beyond question the veracity of those who have charge of them, and assures the divinity of the Church work accomplished by their guardians. But such assumptions can find no lodgment in sound minds; nor are the "Mormons' seeking converts who hight be secured by the exhibition of gold plates.

Of course those who ask the question we are considering never intended to invest it with the weighty consequences already noticed, and so it must be modalready noticed, and so it must be modified sufficiently to make it mean that the "Mormon" cause would be helped ELY BROTHERS, 56 Warren Street, New York

The reason the Lord called upon Joseph Smith was that all the children of men, the great and mighty as well as the humble, might have the truth of the everlasting Gospel proclaimed unto them, that through hearing the Gospel, through repenting of their sins and turning to the Lord of heaven, they might escape the judgments and calamities that are coming upon the inhabitants of the earth. The mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith and his fellow laborers is a mission of peace, glad tidings of good things, the preaching of the Gospel of the Redeemer of the world. There is no spirit in connection with the preaching of this gospel that will do injury to any man that lives. The Lord has said:

"And again, the Elders, priests and teachers of this Church shall teach the principles of my gospel, which are in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, in the which is the fulness of the gospel; "And they shall observe the covenants and church articles to do them, and these shall be their teachings, as they shall be directed by the Spirit; "And the Spirit shall be given unto you by the prayer of faith, and if ye receive not the Spirit, ye shall not

not the Spirit, ye shall not

teach."

The commandment that was given in the very beginning was that the Gospel should be preached by those who were called and authorized, as it is contained in the Bible and in the Book of Mormon; and the men who were authorized to preach the Gospel and to call men to repentance have been commanded by the Lord that if they do not have the Spirit they shall not preach. It is evident from this great concourse of people, and the great gathering in the Assembly Hall, and the hundreds of thousands of Lattergathering in the Assembly Hall, and the hundreds of thousands of Latter-day Saints who are not able to come unto this conference, that the Spirit of the living God has been upon those who have been crying repentance among the nations of the earth. It is also apparent that that same spirit has taken possession of the men and women who have hearkened to the testimonies. who have hearkened to the testimonies of those who have been chosen and com-missioned of the Lord to cry repentance. A more stupenduous testimony concerning the power given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and the Spirit of the Lord resting upon him and upon those who have been commissioned from that day to the present, could not be imagined than is witnessed in this great Tabernacle this afternoon, and witnessed still more wonderfully in these mountain nacle this afternoon, and witnessed still more wonderfully in these mountain valleys from Canada to Mexico. God has taken possession of the hearts of the people in every land. He has drawn them together by the power of the Holy Ghost, and He has revealed unto them the truth of the everlasting gospel. Men in the world imagine that we are not free, that we are priest-ridden; but the truth is that by the power of the Holy Spirit men have been drawn from the east and have been drawn from the east and from the west, from the north, and from the south, to this land of Zion. They have come here thirsting for the word of God, thirsting for information

ABOUT THE BOOK

ANY of the Latter-day Saints,

who, through missionary la-

bors or business requirements,

are brought into familiar as-

sociation with people not of their faith,

are aware that the question is some

times asked why the plates from which the text of the Book of Mormon was

translated, were not put on exhibition

to prove the truth of Joseph Smith's

statements respecting them. Generally

the questioner wishes to know also

what was done with them. When in-

formed that they were returned to the

angel who delivered them to the Proph-

et, a smile of incredulity and scorn be

trays, in many instances, the feelings

with which the reply is received; and it

is insisted that the plates should be

produced or their non-existence ac-

There are many who think the public

exhibition of the plates would be prop-

er and reasonable, and its wisdom is sometimes advocated by Church mem-

bers. It is with this proposition that we are at present concerned; for re-

specting what was done with them can-

not be determined now further than has been stated already. Before giving rea-

sons why the proposed course would be neither necessary nor proper, attention

shall be called to the significance of the question itself. This, by its terms, is substantially a proposition that the production and exhibition of the plates

production and exhibition of the plates would prove all that the Prophet Joseph Smith claimed for them.

From this standpoint it appears, therefore, that this one item of evidence is all that is yet lacking to turn the scales in his favor, and to put the latter-day work on a sure foundation. That is to say, though there are but few of these questioners or of others who

of these questioners or of others who are in sympathy with them, who can state intelligently half a dozen of the doctrines that the Book of Mormon con-

tains or that Joseph Smith taught, yet we are to understand, a view of certain

gold plates whose engravings not one in many thousands could read, would en-

many thousands could read, would ensure an acknowledgment that principles of which the confessor knows almost nothing are the truth of God, and genuine Gospel dectrines—that a view

of these plates would firmly establish the claim of Joseph Smith that he was

the claim of Joseph Smith that he was a man sent with a message from Almighty God to this world; while otherwise he must continue to stand as an impostor before the generality of mankind, and have his religious principles scoffed at and derided as the grossest of errors and delusions—that a sight of the plates would satisfactorily prove the authenticity and inspiration of their can record. Were these things possible

own record. Were these things possible of accomplishment by a mere exhibition of the plates, the exercise of human reason would be dispensed with, and a condition to which God never purposed

to reduce mankind, follow.

To effect anything of importance by a mere view of the original plates of the Book of Mormon it must be assumed

knowledged.

concerning the purposes of the Almighty, and their souls have been filled, they have been established in the truth, and they cannot be moved. This is empressed upon us by this gathering. It is still more evident from the mighty gathering of the Saints from the nations of the world. The predictions made by the prophets are surely being fulfilled when they declared that it should come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord's house should be established in the top of the mountains and many people should say: "Let us go up to the house of the God of Jacob, that we may learn more fully of His ways and walk more perfectly in His paths." If the prophets have written by the power of the Holy Ghost and their words are to be fulfilled, then there must transpire in the latter times just what has taken place since the commencement of the preaching of the Gospel introduced in this dispensation by the Prophet Joseph Smith. Who is there in all the religious world today who believes in the fulfilment of these predictions of the prophets? Who is there calling the attention of the people to these great prophecies pertaining to the latter times? As far as I know, we are the only people who seem to understand these predictions, and the only ones who are laboring to accomplish tham. We are the only people who are possessed of that power and spirit that was to characterize God's work in the last dispensation. It was to be a marvelous work and a wonder. Surely this work has been a marvel; in the eyes of the world it is a marvel today. We can rejoice when we look into the future and read of God's promise relating thereto. This is the promise:

"And the warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples concerning the purposes of the Al-mighty, and their souls have been filled,

"And the warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples whom I have chosen in these last days; and they shall go forth, and none shall stay them; for I, the Lord, have com-manded them."

If this be a revelation from the Almighity there is no power that can stay the preaching of the everlasting gospel, or that can prevent God's servants from delivering the message that has been committed to the earth; not because of the might of the preachers of "Mormonism," not because of the strength of the Latter-day Saints, but because the God of Alasham Leane and Jacob of the Latter-day Saints, but because the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has decreed that this warning voice shall be carried to all the inhabitants of the earth, and that none shall beva the power to stay it. We believe in the the power to stay it. We believe in the power of our Father in heaven. We believe His arm is not shortened. We believe His arm is not shortened. We believe that He can accomplish His decree. And while we do not know what means He will use in the accomplishment of His purposes, we do know within our souls that this promise will be verified, that this Gospel will be verselved in all the world and that be preached in all the world, and that the hearts of honest men and women, and the hearts of wicked men and womand the hearts of wicked men and women as well, will be pricked by the power of God, their feelings softened, and they will be turned from darkness and error to the Lord of heaven, and from all the points of the compass, as has been the case in the past, so in the future, the Israel of God will be gathered, and His mighty purposes will be accomplished. Well may our great choir sing, and well may the preachers cryout. "Rouse, Oye mortals, and hearken to the message of truth." May God help us to hear our responsibility well and faithfully, is my prayer through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE ORIGINAL.

THE ORIGINAL.

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some, more or less, by the production of the original plates of the Book of Mor-mon. That is to say, a view of what-ever is written on gold plates and in an-

cient curious characters helps some to create a belief that the record is a true one—helps a little to prove the veracity

of those who have charge of them-helps a fraction to manifest the divinity of the Latter-day work-helps to make good, pure and holy that which before was esteemed evil and evil only.

Let it be admitted that these shrunk

en propositions are true; it is evident that the exhibition of the plates is not

a matter of such vital importance a

We next have to consider the very

singular fact that those who are most vitally concerned in having the Book of Mormon records substantiated by

every available and proper testimony are not the ones-except in rare in

stances, who are clamoring for a view

of these plates. There are thousands of good men and women in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who have endured insult, privation and

distress—who have forsaken almost everything the natural man holds dear, for, and who are staking their eternal

salvation on the principles contained in those records, together with other scripture, and yet they are satisfied

and happy under existing conditions. The church membership does not ask to have the plates produced to confirm

their faith in Joseph Smith as a mes senger sent from God, nor in his state

ments respecting the originals of the Book of Mormon, nor in anything else. This is a weighty consideration, and its

importance is intensified when we add to it the fact that people who pursue

to it the fact that people who pursue this course are the intellectual and moral peers of those who do not agree with them as to what should be done

in this matter. The exhibition of the plates does not, from these facts, seem

Again, when we consider the flero

opposition to the spread of the Lat-ter-day work that has been met or

all sides, and the unusual expenses and

difficulties that must be met and borne

by the Saints in gathering together from all parts of the world—when we think that the missionaries upon whom has devolved the work of carrying the

Gospel message throughout the world, are generally poor and inexperienced

men who have never enjoyed the privi-leges of skilful training for years to

schools of theology; when, we repeat, we think of these things, and many others of a relative character on the

one hand, and, on the other, see the rapid progress of the Latter-day work

which is already spreading beyond the powers of the Church to bear off its portion of the labor in a manner as effectual as it is desirable, it becomes

apparent that the question we are con-sidering dwindles to one of no great importance. Again, since many scien-tific discoveries, relative to the people

who formerly inhabited this country onfirm unequivocally the authenticity of the Book of Mormon history; and

since, in round numbers, half a million devout men and women have risen up during the past few years to declare in the fear of God that they know by

he testimony of the Holy Spirit that

Joseph Smith was a messenger sent from God, and consequently that the plates must have an existence, their

exhibition becomes a matter of no im-

To show them publicly would mere-ly pander to the desires of the curious

at all necessary.

OF MORMON PLATES.

ment. There are extant, for instance only copies of the original manuscripts of the New Testament scriptures, and it seems that fairness and impartiality ought to be observed in these cases; but since those who question us in this matter do not comply with these terms, we shall have to say, by parity of reason, that people ought not to accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangeits, Mathew, Mark, Luke and John, unless the originals of their writings are produced. But such an outrage on the feelings of the Christian world is not seriously contemplated. It serves to illustrate the fact that when men take such a course respecting the Gospel of Jesus Christ as written by Nephi, Alma and others, something has affected their reason.

others, something has affected their reason.

Suppose, too, that the plan of exhibiting the originals of the Book of Mormon were put into practise to bring men to a knowledge of the truth, how many of the teeming millions of this world could find time to go to see them? To a few who might live near the place where they were kept the necessary loss of time involved would be of little consequence, but when a journey of hundreds or of thousands of miles would have to be undertaken by millions of people the plan would not work at all. To carry it out would prove a task too great for human agencies. It would also effectually bar out most of the poor, who could not afford the expense of the journey required in nearly every case. These form the very class of people for whom, as we are taught by the Savior Himself, the Gospel is specially intended, and from which Hogathers. Any scheme, therefore, we may be sure, that would bar out the poor from any Gospel privilege is not the one that is best. It can not have

may be sure, that would bar out the poor from any Gospel privilege is not the one that is best. It can not have God's approval, no matter how worthy it may appear in the sight of men.

Again, were the plates put on exhibition there would be but few of those who ever saw them to whom they would not be "a sealed book." How many of the common people could read the characters in which that record is written? Not one. A few learned men might be able to partly decipher them, but the number of these even, competent in every respect to undertake the work, would probably be less than a score or a dozen. The great mass of mankind would be in a position like that of the king of Babylon and his nomankind would be in a position like that of the king of Babylon and his nobleg who saw the handwriting announcing their doom written on the walls of the feasting hall, but which none of them could read or understand. The aid of an interpreter had to be obtained before the meaning of that writing could be made clear, and in the case of the originals of the Book of Mormon the services of an interpreter would be necessary before they could be made of any practical religious or historical benefit to mankind.

At this point we ask, why Joseph

At this point we ask, why Joseph Smith could not act in that capacity as faithfully as some other or any other man? Why is it that his testimony is not as good as that of another person might be respecting some of these ques-tions? He was a man of unimpeacha-ble veracity. He surrendered his life is a sacrifice and sealed his testimo with his blood rather than retract word of what he had spoken about ligious, or spiritual matters. Let the world suggest, if it can, who could be a more faithful and reliable translate. of those sacred writings than Joseph Smith was. A mere view of certain plates would demonstrate nothing but the existence of those plates. Their mere possession by the "Mormons" would afford no assurance that they were not spurious altogether, and to settle this question the world would have to fall back on "Mormon" testimony, and that is just as reliable now mony, and that is just as reliable now when referable to the manner in which the genuine plates were obtained, as it would be under proposed conditions, to allay suspicions that the plates in view were not manufactured to order. Let the interpretation of the Book of Mormon record be made by Joseph Smith or by a committee of learned men, let the originals be produced or not be prothe originals be produced or not be produced, the principle of reliance on hu nan testimony cannot be el from the case. The alternatives are for God or angels to appear personally to each and every individual-visits for which some of us are not prepared-or for us to rush at once into the realms

The question of reliance on human testimony in some of its phases shall be taken up later; but a pause is no made to remark that a public view of the plates would serve no good purpose particular that the translation of records does not now effect latter offers many advantages that the plates do not and never can possess. Thus, for instance the translation and publication of those records in cheap book form, in severa different languages, substantially places within reach of everybody the originals themselves, and, consequently the principles contained in them ca be examined at one's leisure. By this plan we have investigation substituted for a transitory view of uninteiligi-ble writings, and every one can at small cost engage in the work. Were it taken up and carried out faithfully it would reveal the fact that the Book of Mormon offers principles of salvation to mankind identical with those contained in the New Testament Gospel. This identity is so perfect through-out in greater or in less particulars that it is immaterial to "Mormon" missionaries whether new members come into the Church in compliance with the New Testament Gospel or under Book of Mormon principles. Candidates can have their choice. From this standpoint it appears that the proposition for a view of the plates of the Book of Mormon does not spring from any real desire to get at the fruth and emprace it. Pearly who do not seem the brace it. People who do not accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ as written origi inally in Greek and afterward translat ed into their own tongue, can not be expected to accept the same principles of salvation when offered to them in ancient characters or hieroglyphics engraved on gold plates. Some might have a preference, but there are not many of this class. Not enough of them to cause the Saints much dis-turbance of mind over the number of souls that reject the book because the said plates are not on exhibition

Thus far this question has been re viewed in a general way only, and there yet remains to be considered its bearing on some of the specific state-ments of Joseph Smith respecting the plates. Among them we find in substance the following:

1. They were delivered to him by an They were translated by Divine

They were sacred. 1. With respect to the first of these assertions the exhibition of the plates would afford no evidence whatever that they were delivered to him by an angel. There is no necessary connec-tion between gold plates of ancient and tion between gold plates of ancient and carlous graving and angel's visits to this world for any purpose. We could not therefore decide with anything like satisfying assurance that because we saw certain gold plates in the possession of the "Mormons" they were originally received from an angel. Joseph Smith himself is dead, and if his testimony be rejected the testimony of others under the proposed plan would have to be substituted in its stend. have to be substituted in its stead that is, second hand testimony would take the place of direct, and in course of time it would degenerate into, "they

say," etc.
To be sure the angel who delivered the plates to the prophet might be put on exhibition, too, to verify the "Mormon" claims; and to some such a dis-play would seem to be all-sufficient. But how would the case stand under or give uninspired men an opportunity to display their learning. Results from these sources could not affect to any appreciable extent the present conditions in the sources could not affect to any appreciable extent the present conditions in the question of his angelic genuine. Here, in turn, the question is asked why the plates of the Book of Mormon are singled out for exceptional treat-

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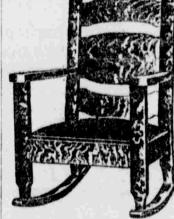
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have to be employed, and then we would be obliged to accept human teatimony again to help us out of our troubles. But these scientific troubles would be the least of our perplexities,

r about the time the doctors got rough with their work, the preachers would raise the question whether the vouching visitor was a good or a bad angel—a problem much harder for mankind in general to solve than the other. Allowing that the angel looked all right many could not say that he was not Satan himself transformed into

an angel of light.

The Almighty has so ordered affairs in this world that men must rely on the testimony of their fellows to a great extent. This fact is not peculiar to religious concerns; but is met with in all the affairs of life. In some instances the testimony of a few chosen servants is all that He offers us directly. Such is the case in regard to His. ly. Such is the case in regard to His own existence. He makes no public exhibition of Himself to gratify the desire or whims of any man or set men. We can reason the proposition His existence out to an affirmative cor clusion if we wish to; and the question of the existence of the original plates of the Book of Mormon rests on an equally the Book of Mormon rests on an equally solid foundation. God has given to the world the testimony of a few faithful witnesses who saw them, and if men will set themselves honestly at the task they can reason this proposition out satisfactorily also in the affirmative. Mankind ought to be satisfied if God puts the credentials of a work that He does on the same footing as those that loes on the same footing as those that relate to His own existence. Some mer do not believe that God does exist; but that sad condition of mind is not chargeable to a lack of evidence that He does, but to something else. So, too. He does, but to something else. So, too, those who deny the existence of the Book of Mormon plates, do so because they will neither accept the unimpeachable testimony of those who saw and handled them, nor impartially examina and weigh the corroborating evidence. There is an abundance of it at hand, if peeple will not believe under existing conditions, they would not do so though one rose from the dead to testify.

Another statement we have to consider is that the records were trans-lated by divine aid, and for this assur-ance we feel doubly grateful. But how lated by divine aid, and for this assurance we feel doubly grateful. But how could a view of the plates affect this statement, in the least degree? How could a sight of the originals afford any one a particle of evidence that the alleged translation was made from those records, or that it had been faithfully performed, by any agency, divine or human? Here is where the need of a competent and faithful translator becomes very apparent. Certainly were the plates produced a scientific commission might he appointed to review and, if thought necessary, revise God's work, and their word would put an end to all doubt. So some may think. But the troubled skies would by no means be cleared up. They appear as lowering as before for the element of human testimony has not been set aside. The testimony of a commission of scientific men would be substituted for the testimony of a commission of religious men, who designs that the case in point was timony of a commission of scientification would be substituted for the testimony of a commission of religious men, who declare that the case in point was tried before the court of high heaven, and the decision of the Almighty Judge is that the translation was faithfully performed. All that a scientific commission of review could do would be to affirm that the Book of Mormon records agree in religious principles with those of the New Testament; but they would have to leave unsolved the great question of the authenticity of the Book of Mormon history. That matter would still be left open for investigation and proof or dispraof just as it is now. The substantiating evidence that could be found to support the statements of a scientific commission of translation, is all now obtainable to support the statements of a religious commission of all now obtainable to support the state ments of a religious commission of translation. Unless people should ac-cept the scientific dictum as the end of controversy the case would stand prac-tically as it does now.

But some one may retort that there would be no greater blunder made in accepting without question a scientific dictum than in accepting a religious

pose doing anything of this kind. A heginning is made with the statements of Joseph Smith respecting the plates. Then to this they add the testimony of three witnesses, Oliver Cowdery, David Whitner and Martin Harris, every one of whom seeded from the saw the plates and that the voice of God Himself approved the translation. And, lot it be remembered, too, that under the most alluring circumstances these three men could never be induced to revoke a single word of their testi-mony. As a third rock in their founda-tion the "Mormons" have the testimony of men who sat by divine appointmen of the plates are concerned. Besides all this, the "Mormons" carry the question into the field of rational and scientific researches, so far as it is inoffen-sive to God, and gather from various sources evidence of the most convincing character that the records of those plates are true, and hence must have existed; and finally in the hearts of hundreds of thousands of God-fearing men and women the Holy Spirit of God has testified that Joseph Smith's statements are true. That is the "Mor mon" foundation and no scientific common" foundation and no scientific com-mission that was ever formed, or that ever might be formed could hope to offer a better one. For convenience, satisfaction, and universal appreciabili-ty no plan can be devised by man that is comparable to the one adopted by the Almighty Himself, which among other things provides for the testimony of the Holy Shrit to every faithful

Smith is the work of God.

3. As to the statements that the plates are sacred, it is immaterial what the world may think about this point; they were so in the sight of Joseph Smith, and are so esteemed by every Latter-day Saint, and had the angel not taken them in charge again this single characteristic is sufficient of itself single characteristic is sufficient of itself to prohibit forever a public exhibition of them. Were they now in possession of the Church authorities it would be strange if any of them could be snared in the trap of profaning that which is sacred. As well might men ask for the exhibition of the Dove that descendent to the Savier to prove the existence. ed on the Savior, to prove the existence of the Holy Spirit, as to demand the exhibition of the sacred plates of the Book of Mormon to prove their existence. Both of these matters can be de-

ways, and neither the one nor the other will ever be put into the hands of un-believers and wicked men for any pur-THOS. W. BROOKBANK.

termined very satisfactority in other

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