

entire separation from the parent stock, they were by no means kept ignorant of what was done for the redemption of Israel. After many changes and wars, the true people of God amongst the descendants of Joseph, were at last destroyed by an apostate race, of whom the Indians of our woods are the descendants. The last of the prophets of this people concentered in the earth the Plates, on which all their revelations had been written. Joseph Smith avows before heaven—and there are others abandoned enough to abet his declaration—that he was the discoverer and translator of these Plates. Like the original of the Koran which, enveloped in silk and adorned with gems, Gabriel brought down from the highest heaven to show to Mohammed, without however committing it to him, these Plates have been conveniently withheld from the analysis of chemists and the scrutiny of those versed in microglyphics. The eleven witnesses who support Smith's story saw them only by the favour of the angel.

Many of the followers of this system are undoubtedly deluded. Its preachers lay claim to the gift of prophecy, as well as that of unknown tongues; and the public commotions and calamities of these times have been dexterously employed by them to urge the ignorant and superstitious to look out for such a refuge as they tell them of. They are not without pretensions to eminent piety; they eat and drink nothing but what the soil where they dwell produces, and even the sufferings which mobs, taking law into their own hands, have inflicted on some of their settlements for alleged crimes, are ingeniously converted by them into proofs that their cause is that of conscience. The arguments with which the followers of the late Edward Irving justified their claim to gifts of tongues and miracles, and the peculiar organization of their church, appear to have been seized on as ready made weapons, by these impostors for defending their system.

But none are gratuitous villains, and the founders and leaders of Mormonism have not run to the awful extent of lying, perjury and blasphemy, which they have reached, without some motive—we may not say that they could find an adequate one. Some explanation at least of their conduct may be found in the fact that under a pretence of having a common stock, they have attempted to make a large accumulation of capital to be vested in Smith and his coadjutors. For a time Zion was at Kirtland, in Ohio; and here a temple was in progress. Here also a vast Bank was projected; the capital of which was to be four millions of dollars; and as an appropriate part of a system founded on lies, it was called the "Anti-banking Safety Stock Company." We have read a proclamation from Smith to the Saints in distant parts, calling on them to repair to this Zion, and to "bring their silver and their gold" with them, not their "bank notes." New oracles, however, have called these wretched impostors farther west, and Zion is now proclaimed to be in Missouri.

Kirtland, it would appear, had not been that safe

asylum which they had promised to their followers; as they had become in various ways obnoxious both to mob law and State law. In Missouri, they have a considerable tract of land. It would appear from accounts we have read, that the members of their community acquire an interest in this, according to the amount of money which they deposit; but that none are allowed to sell out, however anxious they may be to withdraw from them. We are not informed of the number of this people. As might be expected, multitudes who join, after a little acquaintance with them and their ways, desert them. And the success they have recently had in inducing some few scores of our farmers to join them, is not any real indication of their increase. Sparious com, we know, may be passed off on the ignorant and unsuspecting in remote parts of the country, long after it has been exposed, and rejected around the metropolis; and so it is only because Mormonism has been exploded throughout the United States, that its emissaries have directed their steps to the dark places of Canada. We are under little apprehension that any of those who have left comfortable farms amongst us—and we know a few such—will return in any circumstances that can be tempting to others to follow their footsteps.

The considerate christian will not attend to this imposture, repulsive as it is in all its aspects, without receiving some instruction.

In the first place, he may learn from the Book of Mormon, how baseless error is. The people whose history it records might have lived in the Moon, in so far as their wanderings and settlements and wars have any connection either with the geography or chronology of this planet of ours.

In the second place, he may learn, that all the wickedness which the word of God assigns to men who had sold themselves to do wickedness, and to speak lies in the name of the Lord with shamelessness and boldness, is yet found realized in such men as the leaders of Mormonism undoubtedly are.

In the third place, he may learn, that no error is harmless; and that there is a wonderful affinity between every form of error, however apparently dissimilar. The claim to the possession of unknown tongues and of other apostolic gifts, which was thought, it may be, very harmless in certain enthusiasts in London and Edinburgh, is seen in its own proper wickedness when it is put forth in connexion with the claim of the Mormon teachers to direct inspiration, and with their assertion of the divine inspiration of a book which is a mere collection of puerile fables.

The origin of this book itself, if we have been rightly informed concerning it, strikingly shews, that actions which are not regarded as possessing in themselves any peculiar malignity, may yet lead to sins of the most enormous magnitude, and issue in the final perdition of great numbers of immortal beings. It is said that the Book of Mormon was written by a crazed student in a New England college, as a kind of playful imitation of the Bible; and that at his death