

The structure of the Bible as a collection of writings, renders the proof of its genuineness and authenticity in one respect more difficult; and yet from the continuity of its different parts, the truth of each preceding portion is implied in the truth of that which succeeds it. Thus when it is established that the writings of Isaiah and Jeremiah are genuine and authentic, their testimony in many ways avails to the proof of the genuineness and authenticity of the writings of Moses. This is most strikingly exhibited in regard to the grand division of the sacred writings into the Old and New Testaments. The latter can be demonstrated to be genuine and authentic by proofs applicable to the other book of the same age. And they who, honestly convinced of this, study the writings of the Evangelists and Apostles, will also be brought to the conviction, not merely that there were such men as Moses and David and Isaiah, and the other prophets, and that they wrote the books attributed to them, but that they were faithful in rendering what they saw and heard of the works and counsels of God—yea that they wrote under the very guidance of the Spirit of God.

The resemblance between truth and error is merely external, like that which holds between the living man and the sculptured statue or the waxen figure. And to see the genuine and substantial characteristics of truth, it is sometimes useful to compare it with some specious form of error that apes it. Thus the genuineness and authenticity of the Bible may be advantageously seen by comparing its structure with that of some of those writings which have been obtruded on the world as divinely inspired. Such, for example, as the Koran, and if we may be permitted to name a Cis-Atlantic imposture—the Book of Mormon.

The hundred and fourteen *Suras* or Chapters, into which the Koran is divided, were all alike given to Mohommed by God through the agency of the angel Gabriel; and so we have nothing but Mohammed's word for the whole of it. The Book of Mormon, again, consists of a variety of distinct parts for some of which, amongst other things shocking to sense and reason, an antiquity equal to that of the writings of Jeremiah is sought; while the most recent portion of it is dated towards the end of the fourth century of the Christian era. But imposture, however ingenious and novel, is like itself—always inconsistent. The histories and prophecies of which the Book of Mormon is composed, though professedly written by different men at long intervals of time, do yet all rest on the same foundation—the testimony of Joseph Smith, Jun. and some of his coadjutors in his banking and land jobbing schemes. Joseph

subscribes a declaration that he dug the plates on which the original book was written, out of the ground, having been informed by an angel of the place where they were deposited; and that with the angel's help he translated them out of the Egyptian language into plain English! And eleven of his coadjutors sign another paper, which sets forth that an angel had permitted them to see the plates, and even, as they say, to "*handle and keft them*"!

This is at least a new method of attesting records. But the credibility of the witnesses must not be too keenly scrutinized.

We must stop short, however, in these excursions. Mr. Fairbairn's Lecture so far as it goes, is so well executed that we wish he had sketched out the arguments for the authenticity of the scriptures, distinct from that which is involved in the fact of their being genuine writings.

NOTE ON MORMONISM.

As this system must at once be seen by every right thinking individual to be a *clumsily* devised fable, something like an apology is felt to be necessary for the above allusion to it. This may be found in the sad fact which we record for the information of our more distant readers, that during the last two years, a considerable number of the inhabitants of our Province have embraced it. It has had its emissaries openly teaching and "creeping privily into houses," and here and there performing "lying wonders," so that several of our farmers have been induced by them to sell their farms and stock, and retire to the promised Zion in the wilds of Missouri. There they assure them that Jew and Gentile who are to be saved from coming judgments will be gathered in.

They call themselves "the Church of the latter day saints." They profess to have all the gifts which characterized the age of the apostles, such as inspiration and the working of miracles; as well as the offices of that age; and, if we are rightly informed, the offices also which are peculiar to the Jewish church. The Book of Mormon, which they pretend is a collection of inspired writings, they regard as an appendage to the Bible.

It professes to give an account of a portion of the tribe of Joseph which was long settled in this western continent. A few families of that tribe left Judea in the days of Zedekiah, and after many wanderings and voyages they arrived on these shores, they cleared the soil, founded cities, and multiplied into nations, according to the Mormon records, with wonderful rapidity. And they had their own prophets, age after age, until the beginning of the fifth century, during which time, notwithstanding their