

plates giving an account of the ancient inhabitants of America and the dealings that God had with them, was deposited in a particular spot in the earth. (a place in Manchester Hill, in Ontario Co. N.Y.); that with these records were transparent stones, in silver settings like spectacles, anciently called the Urim and Thummim, by means of which the angel informed him that he could read the golden plates.

In after life it seems that the memory of Mr. Smith regarding the description of these plates became slightly confused, since he first calls them, as a secular history and again states that they constituted a sort of bible; he avers that they were golden plates engraved, and at a later date, that they were metallic plates, stereo-typed, or embossed with golden letters. It seems very evident that Mr. Smith, did not have a very clear idea on the matter or that he did not tell his converts the truth. Could it be that the plates at first were golden, until Joseph found it profitable to substitute a baser metal!

However, Joseph found, that there was a man by the name of Nephi, a Jew, who was commanded by the Lord to go with his family, and seek his kingdom; that Nephi and his family and some relatives, set out ages ago from Europe in search of the promised land. It is claimed by Mr. Wm. Alexander Linn, one of the great writers on Mormonism, that they travelled straight eastward for eight years, until they reached the coast of South America, somewhere near the coast of Chili, thence penetrating North America, in search of the promised land. They were gradually killed off by wars among the other races and themselves, until one by the name of Moroni, buried the plates that Nephi gave him, and all the records of their religion and government, to prevent their falling into sacrilegious hands. These records given him had been held by the different kings of his race, among them Mormon who handed them down to Moroni, after which Moroni died and became an angel revealing to Joseph Smith the location of the plates. After Joseph Smith had recovered the mysterious deposit, he translated them in private to Oliver Cowdery, who wrote the contents, thus forming the book called after one of their kings 'Mormon.' In 1830 this book was published and with it a statement, signed by "The Three Witnesses" as they are called, (Oliver Cowdery, David Whitner, and Martin Harris). These protagonists afterwards