

Moroni, who continued them down to A.D. 420; at which time he deposited them carefully in the earth, on a hill which was then called Cumorah, but is situated in Ontario County, township of Manchester, and State of New York, N.A. This he did in order to preserve them from the Lamanites, who overran the country, and sought to destroy them and all the records pertaining to the Nephites. This record lay concealed, or sealed up, from A.D. 420, to Sept. 22, 1827; at which time it was found by Mr. Joseph Smith, jun., he being directed thither by an angel of the Lord.

This Joseph Smith was born in the town of Sharon, Windsor County, Vt., on the 23d December, 1805, of very humble parents. When he was ten years old, they removed to Palmyra in the State of New York. When he was seventeen years old, he claimed to have had a vision, in which a heavenly messenger revealed to him that certain sacred records engraved on plates were buried in the earth, which would be delivered to him. He says : —

"I left the field, and went to the place where the messenger had told me the plates were deposited; and, owing to the distinctness of the vision which I had had concerning it, I knew the place the instant I arrived there. Convenient to the village of Manchester, Ontario County, N.Y., stands a hill of con-