

self with the corruptions of it prevailing around them. If these corruptions of the system were fair illustrations of its true character, they might be excused for scoffing at the system and at the Book which sets it forth. The error and the crime of such consist in the neglect of the official authority.—Nothing is easier, generally speaking, than to convict infidels and heretics of ignorance of the Bible.

It is deplorable that Christians themselves, and Christian ministers, are not more thoroughly acquainted with the great Text-Book. Creeds, and prayers, and hymns, and sermons, and, in addition to such sanctuary instructions, the outer and glorious circle of Christian literature, may do much to help those who are not too submissive to their influence; but nothing on earth can suffice as a substitute for the Sacred Volume. Let our Christianity be the Christianity of the Bible. Who holds to this, is sure of triumph. Individual triumph over all the evils of his own nature and circumstances—and a share in the final and perpetual triumph of truth and goodness throughout the universe.

"What is the shortest and surest way for a young gentleman to attain a true knowledge of the Christian religion in the full and just extent of it?" This, it is said, was the inquiry proposed to Locke, "a little before his dissolution." And the following was his "memorable reply. 'Let him study the Holy Scriptures, especially the New Testament. Therein are contained the words of eternal life. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.'"

And at another time, he remarked—"the only way to attain a certain knowledge of the Christian religion, in its full extent and purity, is the study of the Holy Scriptures."

In conclusion, let us observe that

wherever and whenever the Bible is withdrawn from the people, Christianity degenerates. Its history furnishes sadly ample illustration of this fact. On the other hand, the open presence of the Bible is the signal for all Christian improvements. Christianity is more beautifully exemplified now—its Scripture characteristics are more admirably embodied and attractively exhibited—than at any time since the days of the Apostles. And why? The reason is obvious in the unprecedented circulation and study of the Blessed Pages. May the day soon arrive when the Bible shall be acknowledged as the Constitution of the world—and the character of Christianity be witnessed in the knowledge, and love, and joy of imparadised generations of saints.

## ORIGIN OF MORMONISM.

*From the Boston Recorder.*

MR. EDITOR,—As the pastor of the Congregational church and society in this town, I have had occasion to come in contact with Mormonism in its grossest forms. Consequently I have been led to make inquiries relative to its origin, progress, and, so far as they have any, the peculiar sentiments of its votaries. My object in this has been, as a faithful pastor, so far as possible, to arrest the progress of what I deem to be one of the rankest delusions ever palmed on poor human nature. However, not supposing the readers of the *Recorder* would be interested in the details of Mormonism in general, I send you for publication in your valuable periodical the following communication, as a paper of unusual importance, giving a certified, sufficiently well attested, and true account of the "Book of Mormon," or "Golden Bible," as it is sometimes called, on which the whole system mainly depends. And here perhaps it should be said, that the leaders of the delusion pretend that the book was dug out of the earth, where it had been deposited for many centuries; that it was written on certain metallic plates, in a peculiar character or hieroglyphic; that the finder, a man of *money-digging* memory, who was accustomed to look into the ground by the aid of a peculiar stone, was in a similar manner enabled to read and translate it!—Hence what is sometimes called the Mormon Bible. But