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HISTORICAL.

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LATTER DAY SAINTS. The origin, rapid development.

and present prosperity of this religious sect, is one of the most remarkable and instructive historical events of the present century. That Voseph Smith, a native of Vermont. an obscure individual, without money, education or respectability, should under the influence of an overwhelming religious enthusiasm, successfully induce a belief in his immediate inspiration in the minds of hundreds of thousands of people, and cause a book entitled the 'Book of Mormon,' to be conscientiously received by them as of equal authority with the Scriptures, and a continuation of the sacred revelations of Heaven, that, in swenty year's time the disciples of Joseph Smith should have increased from six to 100,000, should have founded a State in the distant wil derness, and compelled the government of the United States practically to recognise them as an independent people with the right of self government; that the emissaries of this religious sect should now be preaching its doctrines with success, in the most enlightened nations in Europe. and in pagan countries, and that convers should be continually flocking to the Morinons settlement, in the val ley of the Great Salt Lake, from all parts of the earth; these are facts worthy the researches of the philosopher, the consideration of statesmen, and the pen of the historian. Such a revelation of the superstition and folly of humanity in modern times, throws a bright light on similar events which have occurred in former epochs of the world's history, the revelation

The following is the a rount given by Lieutenant Gunnison, [from whose interesting book just published by Lippincott, Grambo & Co., the facts set forth in this article are obtained,] of the origin of the Mormon sect :

" The founder of the Mormon sect was Jeseph Smith, a native of Vermont, who emigrated when quite young in his father's family to Wes. tile," for the "convincing of both tern New York. According to his Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the York, near to her early residence, at tobiography, published in a series Christ." (See Preface, B. Morof letters, he was of a religious turn of mind, and, when seventeen years of age, became greatly interested in the "revivals of religion," often occurring among the "denominations" in that section of country. In one of these times his feelings were so powerfully wrought upon that he gave himself up to continued prayer for some days-and meditating still at night, he at length arose while all the family were hushed in sleep, and poured forth his soul "agonizing" to have made known to him the truth, among the conflicting opinions he heard by the various sects. His apartment became suddenly illuminated, and an angel appeared and conversed familiarly with him, and instructed him in the way of righteousness; informing him also that there was no true church upon earth. The doctrine taught on this point is, that the church which was once established, had fallon under the rule given by the prophet, and had "changed the ordinances," "broken the everlasting covenant," and "corrupted the faith;" for which cause it was removed from earth-or, in their figurative expression, "the man child was caught up into heaven," which means that the priesthood was taken away fifteen hundred years ago .-And Joseph was to'd that his prayers were heard and registered in the books on high, and that, being dearly beloved of the Lord, he should be commissioned a priest after the order of Melchisidek, and restore that line among men, organizing a church of faithful persons, to receive the Lord in the Millennium, which time should be hastened according to their degree of mighty faith, for he was determined "to cut the work short in righteousness." In after visits he was further instructed that "truth should spring out of the earth' -(Ps.) -and that, accordingly, he should be conducted to the hill Cumoceive without the ground holy and prophetic records concerning a fami-

across the Eastern ocean.

found a square stone box, eight inches high, covered with a slab, cemented apon it. He was struck back by an invisible blow, and informed, in answer to his earnest prayer, that the want of success was owing to his listening to the suggestions, of Satan, who had walked at his elbow on the way, and had made him resolve to make use of the golden plates on which the records were engraved, as well as the contents when published, to advance his temporal fortunes .-This was sin-to think he should become famous, was unholy ambition; that he should be rich and powerful

thereby, was avarice. "But, on sincere repentance and submission, four years after, the contents of the box were shown to him, the angel opening it; which consisted of the "Sword of Laban," brought from Jerusalem, a breastplate and two stones "bright and shining," and golden plates engraved with characters, and united at the backs of rings. A portion of the records was received, constituting the Book of Mormon, in which are depicted, much in the style of the Bible Chronicles, the various fortunes of the four brothers of the emigrating family, and of their descendants -how some tribes were evil in their practices, despising reproof, and became cursed with a dark skin and loathsome habits, and were made scourges to others when falling away from the truth-the sayings, teachings, teachings, and warnngs of their prophets, who foretold by name the advent of the Saviour of the world-the organization among the purer people on this continent, of a church by Christ, who came down to them after His ascension at Jarusalem, and gave them His gospel nearly in the words of the Sermon on the Mount, and how that for apostacy these Christians were finally destroyed by the Gadiant in robbers and the red men-the last prophet, Morani by name, sealing up the records, and depositing them, with the enord, Urim and Trummim, and breastplate, at Cumorah, there to remain until "the fullness of time" should demand their exhumation; and which should be brought forth, "by way of Gen-

"The restoring angel was the spirit of this same Morani, the son of Mormon the Seer, who had made a compendium of the holy writings an I delivered them to him; and Joseph now constituted the Seer, by means of the Urim and Thummun, placed in a bow and looked through upon the plates, began their translation, and preached the news of his important mission."

Such is the account given by Joseph Smith and his followers of the origin of the Book of Mormon. Fanaticism will ever meet with opponents in men whose minds are enlightened by science, and where Christian principles are firm and settled. It is alleged by the opponent of Mormonism, that the Mormon bible was fabricated by Joseph Smith, out of a manuscript written by the late Rev. Mr. Spaulding, at Conneaut, Ohio; and of which he became possessed. This manuscript was written by Mr. Spaulding, to account for the ruined cities and temples discovered in Central America. These remains of a past civilization, which antiquarians have not yet been able to account for, were chosen by Mr. Spaulding as the subject of his MS., which is a romance to show the manner in which America was peopled by the Jews, and the "lost ten tribes of Israel, together with the subsequent events that occurred to their descendants, and the origin of the Indian nations which overspread the continent of America when it was discovered by Columbus. A clear idea of the origin of the Mormon bible can be had from the affidavit of Mr. Henry Lake, given at Conneaut, in 1833 which is corroborated by an abundance of other testimony.

"He affirms; "I left the State of New York in the year of 1810, and the words, in reformed Egyptian dling. The Mormons in Missouri arrived in this place about the first characters would change to his ver- and Ohio were now driven out of arrived in this place about the first rah, in Palmyra, New York, and re- of January following. Soon after nacular; and "pass before his eyes by these States, and 12,000 of them my arrival I formed a copartnership the power and gift of God." with Solomon Spaulding * * *. He ly of Jews that emigrated from Jeru- frequently read to me from a man- of the first persecution by his tale of distress touched the hearts of press to pieces, and scattered the salem in the time of Zedekiah, and uscript which he was writing, and neighbors, who tried to capture the the Illinoisians, and they received type in the streets. This attack flowed in his his veins; for blood was were miraculously led to America, which he entitled the "Manuscript "On being guided to the spot, he being found in this town. I spent beans. We are also told that place on which to effect a settlement. the Governor of the State was ap- stored to flesh and blood would be

writings, and became acquainted with their contents. He wished me to assist him in getting it printed, alleging that a book of that kind would represented the American Indians as the lost tribes, gave an account of their leaving Jerusalem, their contentions and wars, which were many and great. One time-when he was reading to me the tragic account of Laban, I pointed out to him what I considered an inconsistency, which he promised to correct; but by referring to the Book of Mormon, I find to my surprise it stands there, just as he read it to me then. Some months ago I borrowed a golden Bible, * * had not read twenty minutes before I was astonished to find the same passages in it that Spaulding had read to me, more than twenty years before, from his "Manuscript Found." Since then, I have more fully examined the said golden bible, and have no hesitation in saving that the historical part of it is principally, if not wholly, taken from the "Manuscript Found." I well recollect telling Mr. Spaulding that the too frequent use of the words, "Now it came to pass." "And it came to pass," rendered it ridiculous. Spaulding left here in 1812, and I furnished him with the means to carry him to Pittsburg, where he said he would get the book printed and pay me. But I never heard any thing more from him, or of his writings, till I saw them in the Book of Mormon."

The same in effect is the evidence of the brother of Spaulding, that he heard much of the "Manuscript" read, and that, according to his best recollection, "The Book of Mormon is the same as my brother Solomon wrote, with the exception of the religious matter." All this is confirme I by more than half a dozen other gentlemen; and by the widow and daughter of the author of "Manuscript Eound."

It appears that Mr. Spaulding left Pittsburg in 1814, and that his widow, after his death, in 1816, removed to Onondaga county, New and carried a trunk thither, containthe residence of the Smith family ed, and and its identity with the Spaulding MS. was discovered, he mysteriously disappeared, and the "Manuscript Found" has ever since been the "Manuscript Lost." From these circumstances it is thought that Jeseph Smith obtained possession of it, and moulded it into the Book of matter so as to suit his own purpo-

A copy of the Book of Mormon was placed in our hands a few days ago, when in the Philadelphia Library, and we have no hesitation in saying that a more successful attempt at the Scriptures, was perhaps never made. Its leterary style and merits are, however, truly contemptible, its author having been plainly about as ignorant of the rules of grammar and composition as a Hotthe Book of Mormon with the sublime beauty and grandeur of the How truly contemptible is superstition!

The manner of writing the Book of Mormon was as follows: "Smith would place his pseudo gold plates in a hat, and take the stones, Urim and Thummim, which he affirmed had been delivered to him at the hill Cumorah, in Palmyra, by an angel-and, arising a screen of cloth between look through the stones, and characters would change to his ver-

Found," which he represented as this, he concealed them in a barrel of with both foot and cluthing and a ple, and justice having been refused, principles of mortality; and a man re-

many hours in hearing him read said | Cowdery, the scribe, was sharply rebuked for impertinent curiosty, in wishing to see the gold plates, which

was the prophet's privilege only. The Book of Mormon was issued meet with a rapid sale. This book in 1830, and on the 4th of April, of ble privileges; the Nauvoo Legion spired together to attack the jail, and the same year, the first Mormon church was organized, consisting of the State loaned, in which they were Early on the morning of the 27th of only six members-the father of well drilled, and became a standing June, 1844, they assaulted the door Smith, his two brothers, and Oliver army, with the prophet as Lieuten- of the room in which the prisoners Cowdery, a schoolmaster, being ant-General. Missionaries were now were incarcerated. - Richards and amongst the number. It is said that Cowdery first baptized the prophet, and, to render the act legitimate, there was present as sponsors, Moses and Elias, together with Peter, James and John. The prophet now pabtized and commissioned elders, who began their enthusiastic preaching, and converted several visionary characters, persons without any settled opinions in Christianity, of a weak and superstitious turn of mind, and liable to be immediately carried away by the first eloquent harangue in favor of Millerism, Mormonism, or any other religious delusion. In this manner, the Mormon church gradually increased in numbers.

In the following August, Parley P. Pratt, a Campbellite preacher in Ohio, who was preaching notions on prophecy, the restoration of the Children of Israel and the Millennium, met with the Book of Mormon, and became a convert, whilst on a visit to the State of New York. On his return, he presented the new Bible to another still more enthusiastic person, named Sidney Rigdon. He too adopted the new system. These were important additions to the Morman Society. Both were men endowed with talents, learning and eloquence. We would remark here, now full confidence in his hold that Rigdon had for three years the priest could have the same taught the literal interpretation of lege of adding to the Scripture prophedt , 4 100 ther of the largelites to recipe the ond coming, the literal reign of the priest says he Saints on earth, and the use of miraculous gifts in the church.

tience shows that men may pore over each pair was 'finished' by the priest, such are in reality their views. the hidden meaning of such passages they retired through the folding until they become religiously insane, doors, and thus to their own apart throned in yonder heavens, is like a ng the writings of her deceased hus. and are thus led to 'wrest the Scripband. During a part of the tures to their own destruction.'time from 1817 to 1820, when When we find the most mysterious When we find the most mysterious she again married and moved to parts of the Bible, including the against the church of new privileg-Massachusetts, the trunk was at her prophecies and revelations invariably es,' he was denounced as a deserter brother's in Onondaga Hollow, hear quoted to sustain their peculiar views in their papers, and the public cauby the Mormonite and Millerite tioned against him as a defamer. When the Book of Mormon appear- preachers, and this with a degree of positiveness of assertion which will admit of no consideration, common trunk was hunted up, and search sense as well as Christianity plainly made for the Spaulding MS. It had shows such preachers to be nothing but religious fanatics or impostors. 'Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

The first Mormon settlement was formed at Kirkland, in Ohio, in January, 1831. To this place the Mormon, arranging and altering the prophet and his people removed, where Pratt and Rigdon had already society of over a thousand to reeive them. In the month of June, Joseph Smith professed to have rewived a revelation, which resulted the sending forth of a mission of ellers into Missouri. The site for a lity was selected, which was called Zan, and there was soon collected, in Vackson county, Missouri, over 14) Mormons, buying lands and by the infatuated votaries of his relicultivating them peaceably. Two years thus passed away in peace, tentot .- Contrast the revelations in but in \$1834, the people in Jackson cllected and drove them out. This attack appears to have been alrevelations of the unchanging laws of nature, in the "Principa of Newton." motive but the fear of the Mormons tain justice in the Nauvoo courts. gaining a political ascendency in the county, and a dislike to their fanatical doccrines and institutions. The Mormons again gathered rapidly together in Clay and the adjoining counties, and prosperity again accompanied them in all their efforts. In 1837 a Mormon bank was established at Kirtland, and public credit obtained to a considerable amount.himself and the scribe, proceed to This bank failed in 1838, and its managers were prosecuted for swinarrived on the banks of the Mississip-He gives us a particular account pi, in a destitute condition. Their tacked the printing office, broke the "gold plates;" and to escape from them hospitably, furnishing them was resented on the part of the peo- the natural life in which were the

-The city of Nauvoo was now built pealed to, and Joseph and Hyrum, by the Mormons, and the site for a his brother, together with Dr. Richtemple chosen. The State favored ards and John Taylor, were lodged the exiles; charters were obtained in Carthage jail, for the city, with peculiarly favorawas incorporated, and the arms of take justice into their own hands, sent abroad to Palestine, Africa, and Europe.

One of that band, still well affected towards Mormonism, though dif-Smith to the Missionaries.

that 'spiritual wifery' was to be most polygamy, he sincerely declared that | The people in the hall forced into the but one wife was ever known to any room and wounded Taylor; the other of his brethren. While zealously preaching in the city of New York. he was thought worthy, by the Apostle Lyman, to be let into the secret It must conquer or die. The Morof the 'blessings of Jacob,' the privi- mon settlement is at present renderleges of the Saints. Called aside one ed harmless by its geographical posiday by the President of the State, tion. The valley of the Great Salt he was told that God had always re- Lake is situated midway between the warded His distinguished saints with Mississippi States and California, and special privileges, such as would be is hemmed in on all sides by inhospiwrong for sinners, but by revelation table tracts of country upwards of a made harmless to the good. As an thousand miles in extent. It is, in instance he would cite Jacob, David, fact, a three months' journey, with and Solomon, who had many wives the present conveniences for travel allowed them. In these last days, ling, from the nearest civilized com also, the like had been accorded to munity to the Mormon settlement. Joseph Smith and others, and having We have given an outline of the his

but, on reflectio that he retired to his home, and though he never took any open part

From 1838 to 1844, Mormonism was during this peaceful interim, that the revelation, allowed to Joseph, and the high priests of the Mormon hierarchy, as many wives as they could support, was alleged to have been received from Heaven. -In vain the wife of Joseph, styled by himself and followers, 'The Elect Lady threatened, by way of retaliation, to take another husband; the only consolation she received was that a would be obedient to the Heavenly vision.'

The Mormons now boasted of having 100,000 persons in the faith, throughout the States. In 1844, Joseph sent forth his 'Views on Gov ernment,' and was actually put forth gious imposture as one of the candidates for the Presidency! Now it was that those who had treated them so hospitably, became incensed against them. It was asserted, and The property of the people of Illinois was stolen from them, and traces of it were obtained at Nauvoo .-Men of influence and talent now deserted the standard of the prophet, denouncing him as an impostor, debauchee, and tyrant .- Women impeached him of attempted wrong, whilst the miserably subterfuge resorted to by him, that he did it just to be the mortal part of our nature. to see if they were virtuous, only casperated those families which he expressed by apostle Pratt, one of their had sought to dishonor. The Expositor having published a list of the prophets debaucheries, and those of his friends, a party of Mormons at-

The citizens of Carthage now con-Taylor, lying on the floor, made a stretch across the room, the feet of one against the shoulders of the other, and text the deer from fully opening. fering on one point from its teach. Guns were thrust in and discharged ings, related to Lieut. Gunnison some | and Joseph, with a revolver returned parts of the discourse of Joseph two shots, hitting one man in the elbow. A ball struck Hyrum, the One unain point insisted on was, patriarch, and he fell, exclaiming, 'I hat 'spiritual wifery' was to be most am killed!'—to which Joseph replied. pointedly denied; and that they 'Oh, brother Hyrum.' The prophet taught that one man should live in then threw up the window, and, in chaste fidelity with one woman in the act of leaping through, was killed conjugal relationship. In the dark by balls fired from the outside, say concerning the revelation allowing ing, as he fell, 'O Lord, my God!".

> escaped 'without a hole in his robe.' Experience has shown that Mormonism cannot exist in these States.

semble, Godhead. God the father is an in enea age and community; but it e sucand say he would consider the mat finitely perfect man; Jesus Christ is cess of so transparent a system of im-It will be readily allowed, that ter. In the evening he was invited there are passages in Scripture to witness 'a sealing' of several couwhich are hard to be understood, ples, at a large boarding-house. In which are hard to be understood, and about the exact meaning of which the learned disagree. Expewhich the learned disagree is reality their views.

man unto one of yourselves, that is the great secret. If the veil was sent today, and the great God who holds this world in its orbit, and upholds all things by His power, if you were to see Him to-day, you would see Him in all the person, Image, and very form as a man; for Adam was created in the very fashion and image of God; appears to have been in a state of Adam received instruction, walked, continuous prosperity at Nauvoo. It talked, and conversed with Him, as one man talks and communes with another."

There is a quotation extant from the author of the "Voice of Warning," to the effect that "we worship a God who hath both body and parts; who has eyes, mouth, and ears, and who speaks when, and to whom He pleases -who is just as good at mechanical inventions as at any other business."

But we are referred by their teachers to the Apocalypse, where it is written prophet must obey the Lord- he of the Redeemer: "And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father;" and to the apostle that said, there are gods many and lords many, to prove that the Father had his fu ther," and they talk boldly of the grandfather, great-grandfather of God, thus tracing back almost ad infinitum to the "Head God, that called the grand council together, when the worlds came rolling into existence."

Our author adds :- "The prophet has not left on record, to my knowledge, the manner in which the Head God originated." And, hence, amongst the Mormons, the mode of his origin is a mere matter of opinion!

The Mormons believe that the "head devil," as they term him, re tains many of the noble qualities which he possessed when an archangel that he is a "perfect gentleman," the memer temptations being resorted to by the baser sorts of imps.

They entertain peculiar views on the resurrection, believing that the same body will be raised, but that it will they always keep dark. be without blood, which they consider expressed by apostle Pratt, one of their authorities in doctrinal matters.

" Jesus was the exact pattern of our resurrection. "And Jesus Christ came forth triumphant from the mansions of the dead, possessing the same body which had been born of a woman, which was crucified; but no blood

mortal, which was not the case w our Savaur;" and he was substantial; for he told a disciples to handle him; and know that he had "fiesh tind boyes," which will be the constitution of all resurrected bbdles."

It is believed that a person may be "moved by the spirit" to utter lilly set of sounds in "histation of words the speaker knowing nothing of the ideas expressed, and that another incinber of the congregation may have imparted

It is unnecessary to give further extracts from Lieut: Gunnison's book. We have written thus much on Mormonism because we think the fisti-progress, present prosperity and been liarities of this religious sect ought to be more generally known; and we wish to call particular attention to this work, as a faithful and truthful expositor of Mormonism.

That polygamy is practical among the Mormons is undeniable, and, indeed, the subject begins to be more openly discussed than formerly, and it is announced that a treatise is now in preparation to prove, by the Scriptures; the right of all Christians to a pluralic ty of wives, if not to declare their own ractice of the same.

We dissent from many of the views We dissent from many of the views in this volume. Mormon prospetity is attributable to their admirable system of combining labor, whilst each has his own property in lands and tened ments; and also to their industry.—Similar results would follow, under any other religious system, provided the laws were equitably administered; and therefore are not to be attributed to the peculiarities in the Mormon

theology, or priestly government.

The success of the Mormon prophet is to be attributed more to the ignor-ance and superstition which is still so abundantly prevalent in society; that to the skill and science with which he red: Our author speaks in agrandizement of Jeseph

than those of their predecessors, ante-"First God himself, who sits en-

After the death of Jose gle for the leadership followed; and Brigham Young was elected. persecuting spirit did not cease with the death of prophet. Nothing would satisfy the people of Illinois but the expulsion of the Mormons from Nauvoo and the surrounding country. It was announced, by revelation, that the whole church must retire into the Wilderness to grow into a multitude aloof from the haunts of civilization. The Valley of the Great Salt Lane was selected for a settlement, and on the 21st of July, 1847, the pioneer party ar-Presidency, which latter day is now heir grand epech.

Since this time, the Mormon church us continued to prosper. They have by their industry fertilized a barren region, and inade "two spires of grass to grow where only one grew before." And there they are bidding defrance to their persecutors, and ready to fight for their rude rocks and snowy lands. They demand a recognition of their independence as a State, on the ground that they know better than all the world besides what is suited to their condition. They are a poculiar people. "They have formed everything on the model of a republican State, adopted a constitution, liberal, free, and tolerant of conscience in religion; and have a criminal code which applies to their peculiar situation and feelings;" and it is not to be presumed that lawyers and judges, however emi-nent their profession at home, can understand or appreciate the statutes of this wild country. Gentile judges; are, therefore, regarded by all Mormons as an unjust imposition, and they are resolved on resisting all such foreign interference:

"Why are "culled pussons" first rate to whisper a secret to! Because

CENSUS OF IOWA. - Returns from all but two counties show that the present population of the State is about 240,000, an increase of nearly 50,000 in two years.

There is an old toper in Maine who s making quite a fortune out of the anti-liquor law. He goes into New Hampshire, and when he comes back charges his neighbors twelve-and a-half cents for smelling his breath, Hell