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A REPLY

TO

MR. THOMAS TAYLOR'S

“COMPLETE FAILURE,” &c.,

AND

MR. RICHARD LIVESEY'S

“MORMONISM EXPOSED.”

“An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign.”—MATT. XII. 29.

BY

PARLEY P. PRATT.

MANCHESTER :

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A REPLY.

It seems a Mr. Taylor and some others have been greatly alarmed of late, on account of certain men who have come from America to preach the doctrine of Christ and his apostles, and to "contend for the faith once delivered to the saints!" For instance, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as revelations, visions, the ministering of angels, the gift of tongues, interpretations, miracles, healings, &c. I know of no reason why this should alarm them, unless it is because this ancient doctrine of the New Testament comes in contact with Methodism, and all other systems which "have a form of godliness and deny the power."

Hence, Mr. Taylor very justly remarks in the 4th page of his pamphlet as follows,—“Any attempt to discuss the question with these people would be utterly fruitless.” We are glad Mr. T. is sensible of this, that having once discovered the principles which Christ and his apostles taught, the Saints are not disposed to turn from them to the doctrines of Methodism.

Thus, feeling a conviction in his own mind that our doctrine could not be refuted by scripture and argument, Mr. T. and his associates have recourse to the old way which Satan made use of to tempt our Saviour, in order to prove whether he was the Son of God. “If thou be the Son of God cast thyself down from hence; for it is written, he shall give his angels charge concerning thee, and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.” These were the words of the tempter to our Lord; and so it is in these days, persons come in a similar manner to a member of the church, saying, if thou be a servant of God speak in Hebrew, for it is written “they shall speak with new tongues.” But the man to whom they came, instead of resisting the temptation as Jesus did, yields to it, and actually attempts to do the thing which the tempters suggest, instead of rebuking their iniquity. Thus, overpowered by temptation, and actuated by its spirit instead of the Spirit of God, he utters sounds (to use their own comparison) more disgusting than swine. It seems too, that a Mr. Whyatt, one of their own company, was seized by the same spirit, and spake or muttered in a similar manner, to the no little amusement of this dignified assembly.

Thus, these evil and adulterous men, (for such they are as sure as Jesus testified the truth in Matthew xii. 29.) have been the means of manifesting their own shame, and of leading a fellow being into temptation.

The course which they have taken in this matter amounts to this—

it is as much as to say, Lord, we are so good, and useful, and wise, that we could be a great help to your cause if we were to embrace it; indeed your cause can hardly roll on without our aid and influence: but in order to secure it, you must come to our terms. You must not only work signs and wonders, but you must work them when, where, and by whom we please,—you must not only give the gift of tongues, interpretations, &c., but it must be Hebrew. Thus Lord, you must divide the gifts of the Spirit severally to every man as we will. On these conditions we will be thy servants, and join thy people. Where this system would end I know not: for having won a set of evil and adulterous men into the society, by giving them a sign, they would find ten thousand more sign-seekers of the same character; and these would in turn dictate to the Lord just such signs as they pleased, and the Lord must perform them or his servants would be counted impostors: and even if performed, we would have ten thousand more of a wicked and adulterous generation in the church, and so on until evil and abomination had covered the earth.

Now we wish the public to understand that if Mr. Mahon boasted of his gifts, and offered to exhibit them for the purpose stated in Mr. Taylor's pamphlet, he did very wrong, and grieved the Spirit of the Lord, and in consequence lost it, and was led away by the spirit of the evil one, and has need to repent and make confession both to the church and the public; without which he ought to be disfellowshipped as an officer and member of the Saints. The gifts of God are sacred, and only to be used by the leadings of the Spirit of God, for sacred and holy purposes, viz., "for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, for the perfecting of the saints."—(See Ephesians, 4th chap.) These gifts are not governed or controlled by the will of men as they please; but are divided to every man as God will. No man should make an appointment before hand to work any sign or exercise any gift, but should leave these things to the movings of the Spirit of the Lord, especially avoiding to exhibit them as a mere curiosity to gratify those who come seeking signs as a matter on which to build their faith. Remember "they have Moses and the prophets, and if they will not believe them, neither will they believe though one should rise from the dead."

We wish the public to understand also, that so far from wishing a sign wrought to convince Mr. T. and his associates of the truth of our doctrine, and bring them into the church, we could not consistently receive them if they were convinced, until they repented of the wickedness which they have committed in this affair; (that is, of seeking a sign on which to build their faith,) and take a different course altogether. "Faith comes by hearing," "and hearing by the word of God." So on the other hand, signs come by faith: or in other words hearing the word of God *produces* faith, and signs *confirm* it.

If the doctrine we teach is scriptural, what need of a sign to confirm it? If it be unscriptural it ought not to be believed although confirmed by a thousand signs.

The Latter-Day Saints ask no man to believe any book or principle which is not established by two or three witnesses, and even then we

do not ask them to believe in anything contrary to the scriptures: and furthermore if one is not satisfied with the testimony of witnesses, and with the corroborating testimony of the prophets and apostles, then it is their privilege to go before the Lord in the name of Jesus, and ask him in humble faith and sincerity of heart to give them a knowledge and testimony of the truth or falsehood of any system which claims their consideration. The Almighty by his Holy Spirit has promised to bear testimony of his own truth. In this way all humble believers in Christ may know and bear witness themselves to the truth which is now promulgated by the Latter-Day Saints.

It may not be improper for me to remark here, that Elder Young advised Mr. Mahon not to go on such an errand by any means, as he did not think it consistent with the duties of a minister or member of our society. This Elder Young at that time had the superintendence of the society in this town and vicinity. Therefore the Church is not to be charged with or censured for anything which Mr. Mahon may have done as an individual.

I would also remark, that several of the Latter-Day Saints were refused admittance into the meeting where this affair took place, as I have been informed by Mr. John Mc Ilwrick, who was present.

We now dismiss the subject of Mr. Taylor and his tract, and proceed to reply to Mr. Livesey's publication; which in its preface signed "Thomas Newton," states that this system "is most injuriously affecting the ties of social life by severing husband and wife, parent and child." It further states, that among the colony of Saints who lately embarked for America, "the wife has left the husband; the daughter has forsaken the widowed mother, and left her to sink into the depths of distress and poverty."

These assertions are utterly false, such things are contrary to every principle of our society; and I am sorry to be compelled to say, in justice to our society and the public, that these assertions coming from Mr. Thomas Newton are wilfully false, as I am prepared to prove by a respectable member of the Church of England, who has conversed with Mr. Newton on the subject since these falsehoods were published by him. This gentleman asked Mr. Newton what he alluded to in these slanders, and he replied that he hardly knew, he wrote them because he thought we ought to be put down any how; but being still questioned, he brought forward the case of Mrs. Poole, the truth of whose case is as follows:—her husband had turned her away, and had ceased to live with her or provide for her, many months before this emigration to America took place. Herself and four children were dependant on the charity of their friends, and were sent to America by the charity of others to save them from hunger. This Mrs. Poole was the daughter of a widow by the name of Ann Miller, who has just informed me, and wished me to inform the public, that if Mr. Newton alludes to her, her daughter has not left her destitute of support; but on the other hand, she has had to support her and her children in a great measure from the time of her marriage until her embarkation for America. Now let Mr. Newton come forward and face these things if he can. But no doubt his preface with these charges in it, will be republished a thou-

sand miles from this place, and be vouched for by many reverend names, and thus answer the purpose there, that similar publications in Mr. Livesey's pamphlet are made to answer in this place. Here is a fair sample of the manner in which lies are hatched up by "very respectable" men, and published in the papers in one country, and then taken by some pious priest and conveyed to another country, and published as facts.

Mr. Livesey remarks, that "we have the evidence of prophecy, of miracles, of purity of doctrine, and of the holy examples, and pious lives, and disinterested conduct of those who have been the chosen instruments of the Almighty to convey to man the records of his will," but that "the Book of Mormon is without even the shadow of such evidence."

To this we reply, that as to the evidence of prophecy and its fulfilment, the Book of Mormon is abundantly supported; that is, there are predictions in it which have been fulfilled since it was published in English, which would convince any unprejudiced mind who is acquainted with its contents, that it is a production of the spirit of truth. As to miracles, Mr. Livesey has not seen a single miracle, nor can he produce a man who has seen a miracle wrought to prove the truth of the Bible. Neither can he bring testimony as to the miracles, holy lives, or conduct of the writers of the Bible, except from their own writings;* and from these we learn that the writers of the New Testament were considered by the world at large as the very off-scouring of all things,—as deceivers, babblers, madmen; superstitious, visionary, foolish, disturbers of the public peace, breaking up churches, destroying other religions, teaching unlawful customs, turning the world upside down, every where spoken against, hated of all men; and those who bore this testimony of them were priests, kings, nobles, judges, rulers, philosophers, and learned men, who would vouch for each other's respectability. Now in all these respects the Latter-Day Saints will compare very well with the Former-Day Saints, especially judging from Mr. Livesey's pamphlet, in which may be found the following charges against the translator and witnesses of the Book of Mormon, testified to by more than fifty "respectable witnesses."

"Fortune-telling," "money-digging," "trick-playing," "juggling," "wicked men," "cheats," "liars," "profane," "intemperate," "quarrelsome," "not good characters," "gold-bible company," "indolent," "cruel," "destitute of moral character," "visionary," "addicted to vicious habits," &c.

What more proof can people wish for to prove the Latter-Day Saints to be the church of God, than is here given by Mr. Livesey and his witnesses? does not this catalogue amount to the "all manner of evil" which Christ foretold would be said of his followers? if not I can cite them to some fifty different publications against us, which are equally famous for a multiplicity of evil reports, with that of Mr. Livesey's, and all vouched for by "very respectable" priests, &c., so that from them all, we think the full catalogue may be made out, and if so we shall rejoice exceedingly, knowing that our reward is great in hea-

* The Saints do not call in question the truth of the Bible, but are willing to admit its truth upon the testimony of its authors.

ven, and that in this respect we are not a whit behind the ancient saints.

As to purity of doctrine, we challenge Mr. Livesey, or any other of our opponents, to find fault with the Book of Mormon. It everywhere teaches faith in Christ, holiness of life, and obedience to all his commandments. Mr. L. says, upon the statement of this book (Mormon) the Latter-Day Saints' religion is founded. This is incorrect; our religion is founded upon the most sound principles of doctrine, as contained in the Bible, as well as in the Book of Mormon. The system taught by Christ and his apostles, is the system we teach—it was the system Mormon taught.

Mr. L. complains of all the witnesses to the Book of Mormon being interested witnesses; that is, they are all followers of, and believers in, that system. But, I enquire, who would be a disinterested witness? If all Christendom were to see the original document, and be convinced of its truth, they would all be as much interested in it as those who first witnessed it. The Lord never chose a disinterested witness of his resurrection or any other truth. Would Mr. L. have a witness who would say the thing is true to be sure, but does not concern me, I purpose never to obey it myself, but to go down to hell, for the sake of giving others a disinterested testimony of its truth? But after all, the first witnesses to the Book of Mormon were not members of this church when they gave their testimony; for there was no such church in existence until some time after their testimony had been published.

After various objections of the foregoing tenor are brought forward by Mr. Livesey, he next proceeds to bring up the old story of Spaulding's romance being converted into the Book of Mormon by Mr. Sidney Rigdon and others. This wicked fabrication has been so frequently repeated, and often replied to, that we deem it inexpedient to reply again; whoever wishes to see a complete refutation of the Spaulding story, will read our reply to Mr. BUSH, (a church minister of the parish of Peover); this tract is for sale at 149, Oldham-road, and by several booksellers in this town and other places, price three-half-pence.

Mr. Livesey quotes several of our Church rules referring to money for the support of the poor, for the feeding, clothing, and administering to the wants of travelling preachers, &c., and for printing, building houses of worship, &c., these he finds fault with; but in so doing he finds fault with Jesus Christ and his ancient apostles, for they had quite as much to say about money as our rules have.

For my own part I can say, that I expect the public whom I serve, to feed me, cloth me, and give me money for my necessary expences, and likewise to my ministering brethren; I expect the Saints also to give money for the support of the poor among them, and this to the extent of all they have to spare; and I shall teach them so to do, and if they do not do it, their religion is vain. If the enemies of truth are dissatisfied with this, then let them set the example of going on a mission without eating, drinking, or wearing any cloths, let them live without houses, let them print and build houses of worship without money;

and when they have shewn by a long practical experience that it can be done to advantage, then perhaps we will adopt it; but till then, we beg to be excused.

We preach a religion which very materially affects men's purses; and a religion which does not affect men's purses is worse than none. A bitter complaint is made by Mr. Livesey because when men give money to the society for any of these purposes, and afterwards leave the society, they cannot get it back. Will our opponent please point out to us where some institution exists which pays back the money donated to it. We should like a few examples and precedents set before us in this matter, as well as in the former case, for we are young and inexperienced as a society. Perhaps the Missionary, Bible, Tract, or other Societies pay back the money which is given them! Perhaps the Methodist Episcopal Church pays back the money collected for the support of their ministers, at their weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly collections!

Mr. Livesey's work contains a letter, purporting to come from me, against Messrs. Joseph Smith, Jun., and Sidney Rigdon; I should think Mr. Newton must be possessed of much impudence and presumption, or he would never have given publicity to such a letter here in Manchester, with my name to it. When the public know that I am here proclaiming both from the press and pulpit, the principles which are held by Messrs. Smith and Rigdon, does such a letter need any contradiction from me, more than is daily exhibited in my publications and discourses? Still I take this opportunity to say, that for ten years I have esteemed Messrs. Smith and Rigdon as men of God, and men who have suffered more for the testimony of Jesus, than any other men now living. I have been a minister in connexion with them for more than ten years—I have been with them in dungeons and in chains—I have stood with them as lambs among wolves, when we were sentenced to death without trial by judge or jury—and the deadly rifle aimed at our heads, and the dagger, already stained with the blood of the Saints, pointed at our breasts, while we were helpless prisoners and uncondemned—and I now bear witness, that they are servants of the Most High God, for whom I would lay down my life if necessary. These letters from apostates and dissenters, are wicked lies and misrepresentations. By them a false colouring is thrown over every circumstance of which they speak. The public in England know not what the founders of this church had to suffer for the cause of truth; nor the circumstances which gave rise to many things which are made to answer as stumbling blocks by misrepresentation and slander. But known unto God are all their wrongs, and all their woes; and in that day when the secrets of all hearts are made manifest, then will the lyings, the slanderings, the persecutions, the rash judgments which have been heaped upon the Latter-Day Saints be known before the assembled universe, and we and our enemies will have an impartial judgment rendered unto us, according to the deeds done in the body. That Messrs. Rigdon, Smith, and myself have our failings, it is true; we are but imperfect creatures at best, but base and dispised as we are, God has seen fit to give us a dispensation

of the Gospel to preach to the nations, and we glory in tribulation and reproach; yea, we count our lives not dear if it so be that we may win Christ, and bring souls to repentance. The worst wish that we wish for our enemies, is, that they may live to find out that they are speaking evil of those things which they understand not, and may be brought to repentance.

I would now enquire why it is that our enemies always take the weapons of slander and reproach to oppose us, instead of meeting us fairly upon principle? If our doctrines are false and unscriptural, as they represent them to be, why do they not point out definitely wherein they are so?

We have ever been, and we still continue to be, open, frank, and free to make all our principles known to the public: five thousand copies of the Book of Mormon will soon be issued from the press in this country, the public can have them, or any of the works which we have now on hand. We have no secrets in our system, but on the other hand have taken unwearied pains to lay our principles before the public.

If our doctrines or books are unscriptural or false, they can be easily detected, and shown to be so, without ranging creation to slander and vilify our characters.

Having finished my reply to these publications, I consider it a duty I owe the public to expose "Methodism;" but in so doing I shall not vilify any man's character, nor range sea and land to select and bring forward slanderous reports and railing accusations; but shall simply show from the scriptures, in few words, that the Methodist church is not the church of Christ, and that her ministers do not preach the gospel of Christ, but are under the curse which Paul pronounced upon those who preach a different gospel from that which he preached.

In order to shew this clearly, I must, in the first place, shew what constitutes a church of Christ, and what the gospel is.

From Ephesians, chap. iv. we learn that the church of Christ consisted of one body, and one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.

In this one body there were certain offices, ordinances, gifts and blessings, by which it may be easily distinguished from all other religious systems.

Its offices consisted of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers; these were all inspired and appointed by the immediate gift of God, who had ascended high, and given gifts unto men. These offices thus inspired and set in the church, were "for the work of the ministry, for the perfecting of the saints, for the edifying of the body of Christ," and were destined to continue in the true church wherever it existed until they all arrived at perfection.

Its ordinances consisted of baptism for the remission of sins—Acts ii. 38; of the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost—Acts xii. 17, and xix. 6; of laying hands on the sick to heal them—Mark xvi. 18; of the anointing with oil in the name of the Lord to heal the sick—James iv. 14, and of the Lord's supper.

Its gifts and blessings consisted of wisdom, knowledge, faith, mira-

cles, healings, tongues, interpretations, discerning of spirits, revelations, visions, dreams, prophecyings, &c., all flowing from that spirit which they received through the ordinances; the Lord dividing these things among the members severally, as he saw fit—Joel ii. 28, 29; Acts ii. 17, 18; 1st. Cor. xii. xiii. xiv.; Mark xvi. 17, 18.

Such, then, is the church of Christ from the days of Christ henceforth and for ever, wherever it exists among men. A people who do away or alter one of these offices, ordinances, or gifts, saying we have no need of you, can no longer be called the church of Christ. There never was a church of Christ, there is not now, nor ever will be, unless they answer the description here given.

The gospel preached by the apostles, consisted of faith in Christ, repentance towards God, baptism for the remission of sins, laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment; requiring those who obeyed this gospel, to endure to the end in all the Christian duties. If a man had two coats he should give one to him that had none; if he had meat let him do likewise; if he was rich he should sell that he had and give to the poor; in short he should live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Now I would enquire of the Methodist, and of the public, whether the Methodist church answers the foregoing description, and whether their ministers preach accordingly? If they answer in the negative, then I would enquire whether the Bible is the rule and pattern, or whether the system established by the apostles has been disannulled, and Methodism and other modern systems of form, denying the power, instituted in its stead? if so, when was it done, and by what authority?

I shall now proceed to make a few extracts from the Methodist discipline, section second:—

1. "There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without *body or parts.*"

2. "In unity of this Godhead there are three persons of one *substance*, power and eternity, the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost.

3. "This *Christ*, very *God*, and very *man*, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead and buried."

4. "To reconcile his father to us," &c.

5. "Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven,"

6. "And there sitteth until he return to *judge the world at the last day.*"

I must say, that I never saw such a bundle of nonsense, contradiction and absurdity thrown together before.

1. A God *without body or parts*, consisting of three persons.

2. One of these persons, who is very God, was crucified, dead and buried, (*without body or parts!*)

3. The object was to reconcile his *Father* to *us*, instead of reconciling *us* to the Father; thus conveying the idea that his Father must be *changed* about, and made a *new creature*, in order to be reconciled to poor sinful mortals, who are unchanged.

4. This God (*without body or parts*), arose from the dead, and took upon him his *body*, when he had none; but to cap the climax, he has gone to heaven, there to remain till he comes to *judge* the world at the *last day*. Thus contradicting the 3rd, 20th, and 21st of Acts, where Peter promises that God will send him again, at the times of restitution of all things spoken by the prophets; this restitution will be a long time before the *last day*. See Rev. xx. and Zech. xiv.

Here then is the Methodist God, without either eyes, ears or mouth!!! And yet man was created after the *image* of God; but this could not apply to the Methodist God, for he has no *image or likeness!* The Methodist God can neither be Jehovah nor Jesus Christ; for Jehovah shewed his *face* to Moses and seventy elders of Israel, and his *feet* too: he also wrote with his *own finger* on the tables of stone. Isaiah informs us, that his *arm* is not shortened; that his *ear* is not dull of hearing, &c., and that he will proceed to make bare his *arm* in the eyes of all nations. And Ezek. says his fury shall come up in his *face*; and Zech. xiv. says his *feet* shall stand in that day, upon the mount of olives, and they which behold shall say, what are these wounds in thy *hands*, and in thy *feet*, &c. Consequently, Methodism is a system of idolatry.

Now, although I feel disposed, and have promised to hold sacred the character of *men*, and not vilify or slander them in this exposure; yet I have not promised to speak respectfully of the Methodist God, or spare his character in the least; therefore, I hope my readers will indulge me while I treat him with that contempt with which the idols were treated by Isaiah and Elijah. If I do not offend man in so doing, I am sure not to offend this God; for having no eyes, he will not see me, and no ears, he will not hear me, and no mouth, he will not reprove me, and no arm, he will not take vengeance on me.

I must say then, that I neither love, serve, nor fear a God who has neither *body or parts*, and however I may dislike the conduct of some of the Methodists, yet I think far more favourably of them than I do of their God; for I know that many of them are sincere, and have never looked sufficiently into their own discipline, neither have they realised that such things were written in it. Such persons, will turn from the system the moment they are brought to understanding on the subject. I would say to such, "The days of this ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth he all men everywhere to repent."

Having now replied to our opponents, I will close this pamphlet by quoting an exhortation by the Rev. John Simons, (of the Church of England) in his pamphlet against the Latter-day Saints, published at Dymock, Herefordshire, Sept., 1840, it is good advice, and I hope it will be strictly heeded by every sincere enquirer after truth. It reads as follows:—"Let me implore you to examine well the proofs and evidences presented to you, both for and against this pretended new revelation; and rest not satisfied till you have a full conviction either of its truth or falsehood. Do not depend upon your uninformed judgment in deciding upon this all-important subject; but seek for instruction from those who are able and willing to give it to you. * * * Hear both

sides of the question before you come to a determination. Remember eternal salvation or eternal damnation depends upon this enquiry. I shall conclude in the words of the Apostle:—‘Be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, or sleight of men, and cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive:’ but ‘prove all things, hold fast that which is good.’ That God of his infinite mercy may enable you to do this, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, is the fervent, daily prayer of your faithful friend and minister.—JOHN SIMONS.”

P. S. Just as the foregoing pages were going to press I happened to notice the following, contained in *Elder Taylor's Answer to Mr. Heys, Wesleyan Minister in the Isle of Man.*

“Mr. Heys says, that Joseph Smith, Jun. is the author and publisher of the Book of Mormon; Mr. Livesey says that Solomon Spaulding is the author of it! One says that it was written by Martin Harris & Oliver Cowdery from the mouth of Joseph Smith, Jun. as he looked at a stone with his face in a hat; the other, that it was written, and altered by Sidney Rigdon, from the “Manuscript Found”!! One makes it out that it was written in Harmony township, Susquehanah county, by Martin Harris & Oliver Cowdery; the other, that it was written in Conneaut, Ohio, first by Solomon Spaulding, and afterwards altered by Sidney Rigdon, in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania!!! So much then for the agreement of the testimony which is brought forth as Facts concerning the coming forth of the Book of Mormon; and yet these gentlemen are both of them good men; both of them accredited ministers of the Methodist connexion; and both of them have got what they call Facts, diametrically opposed to each other as light is from darkness. But Mr. Heys has got good testimony to his account, so has Mr. Livesey; and I suppose that because both of the testimonies are good, they must both of them be true—although the one contradicts the other—especially as they were supported and held forth by such pious, holy men.”

I also publish the following from the New York Sun, one of the most respectable political papers in America, dated July 28, 1840, in order that my readers may contrast it with Mr. Parrish's letters contained in Mr. Livesey's tract, and then judge for themselves whether our system has come to ruin and sunk in eternal night as is predicted by Parrish. It reads as follows:—

“A GLANCE AT THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

Since the Latter-Day Saints were expelled from the state of Missouri, they have purchased the town of Commerce, a situation of surpassing beauty, at the head of the lower rapids, on the Illinois shore of the Mississippi river. The name of the place they have recently changed to Nauvoo, the Hebrew term for fair or beautiful. Around this place as their centre, they are daily gathering from every quarter; and several hundred new houses, erected within the last few months, attest, to the passing traveller, the energy, industry, and self-denial with which the community are imbued. They have also obtained possession of

extensive land on the opposite side of the river, in that charming portion of Iowa Territory, known as the "Half-breed Reservation," and there upon the rolling and fertile prairies, they are rapidly selecting their homes and opening their farms. As the traveller now passes through these natural parks and fields of flowers, which the hand of the Creator seems to have originally planted there for the inspection of his own eye, he beholds their cabins dotted down in most enchanting perspective, either on the borders of the timber, or beside the springs and streams of living water, which are interspersed on every hand.

Nor are they unmindful of their interests abroad, while they are thus accomplishing so much at home. No sect, with equal means, has probably ever suffered and achieved more in so short a space of time. Their elders have not only been commissioned and sent forth to every part of our own country, but they have left their families and friends behind them, and gone to Europe, and even to the Holy Land, to reveal the wonders of the "new and everlasting covenant," and to preach "the dispensation of the fulness of the gospel." They doubt not but that they shall be endued, when necessary, with power from on high to proclaim to all the nations of the earth, in their own tongues, the wonderful works of God."

LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

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