it was not into Christ; "hearing Paul, they believed," and "were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus; and when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Ghost came upon them, and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." I am aware it is urged that the laying on of hands of the Presbytery for ordination, and of the Bishop for confirmation, are still attended to; but tell it, you who know, is it not the form destitute of the power? How else can it be? Can any one impart what he has not received? and are they not of those who deny the power, and say it is no longer needed?

May not any one baptize, seeing that any one can now preach, and if zealous is sure to get many hearers? That many run who are neither called, ordained, chosen, nor sent, and that men are willingly "heaping to themselves teachers" of all sorts, I admit and have already shown; but they are not the sent of God—they neither obey the gospel nor give heed to the commands and doctrines of Jesus; nay more, they exert themselves to prevent them that would, and they shall have their reward. Any man might assume the magisterial power, that he might obtain the fee, and, in form, administer the oath of allegiance to a stranger and alien, and that, too, in the name of the monarch; but would this formal naturalization or citizenship be recognized at head quarters? No; "Depart, I never knew you nor him who introduced you into our kingdom; he has no measure of our authority, we know him not," the monarch would justly say. Of what avail would it be to say, "Why, he observed the proper form, had the proper books, I paid him the usual fee, and he did it in your majesty's name." "We know him not, nor you." So is it in the kingdom of God. Those who administer lawfully in the name of Christ, being the called of God, the sent and ordained, will be recognized in heaven, and their works, as if Jesus himself had done it; but not so with those who assume the power.

So then we see that the doctrines and commandments of men, their beliefs—faith and creeds, can neither satisfy nor save. No more could the penal code of Moses; it was as a schoolmaster to bring to Christ. Only he, his doctrines, ordinances, officers, or priesthood and spirit, can save, heal, restore, bless, and exalt.

(To be continued.)

MORE EVIDENCE TO ESTABLISH THE DIVINE AUTHENTICITY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON.

From the Edinburgh Evening Courant, October 16, 1848.

DISCOVERIES IN AMERICA.

"The papers received from the United States by the last mail, contain several very curious and important matters deserving particular notice. Amongst these we notice, first, the pointed and remarkable account given, that at Durango, the capital of the province of that name, in Mexico (say lat 24 deg. 30 min., and long. 103 deg. 35 min. W.), caverns have been discovered and entered, containing hundreds of thousands of mummies, similar to those of ancient Egypt. This is a most remarkable point and fact in the history of man, and the further development of these ancient remains will be awaited with impatience by ourselves and an inquiring public. In the mean time the discovery clearly points out these remains to be of Egyptian or Phoenician extraction, or, more properly, of both. There are many reasons, from recent discoveries, to believe that the continent of America was known to the nations of the ancient world; and a nation who, like the Egyptian, circumnavigated Africa, as the Egyptians certainly did, may readily be supposed to have crossed the Atlantic, and got to America. At any rate, if once they got to the southward, and clear of land, within the sphere of the trade wind, they had no alternative but to run before it to the western world. The Red Charibs of the Windward Islands, Grenada, and St. Vincent (now, we believe, extinct) were most certainly, from their manner, customs, and religion of the Phoenician and Carthaginian race, but from the discovery above alluded to, and those some time ago made in Central America, by Stephens, it would appear that all the western portion of the American continent had been discovered and peopled by Eastern Asiatic nations. It would
exceed our limits to quote references to shew this fact. We shall here simply remark, that whoever looks at the able drawings in Stephens's book on Central America will perceive them to be covered with Egyptian hieroglyphics and Hamyarcic letters; such as those lately discovered in Southern Arabia, and at once perceive that the figures and lineaments are those of superior civilized Asiatic nations, in which portion of the world vast civilized empires were found in very ancient times, as also in Egypt, one of the most ancient and powerful of the whole, and which, though strictly speaking, an African power, yet her sway extended both in Africa and in Asia; and, above all, was, in the African portion, comprehended in what was called the Land of Cush or Ethiopia, in its early and most extended sense, including both Arabia and Africa, from the Red Sea to the banks of the Nile throughout its course.

"In corroborat ion of what we have stated regarding America, in its western parts, being discovered and peopled from the Eastern world, we may state that we had lately the pleasure of conversing with a very intelligent gentleman, long resident in the Sandwich Islands (Hinololu), who states that it is not unusual for vessels from Japan to be driven by the western winds upon, or to be picked by the whaling ships off, these islands, and landed in them, he himself having been the means of relieving and sending back some of their crews to their own country through the Russian settlement at Kamskatska. The prevalence of strong south-west winds from all the coasts of Eastern Asia beyond the northern tropic will just as certainly drive vessels, when blown off the coast, before them to the coast of America, as the trade wind on the Atlantic would carry vessels from Africa to America. But what is more important, and to the point, he told us that the natives of the Sandwich Islands are daily in the habit of rehearsing, in songs, the traditions of the exploits of their ancestors, and tracing these back through a period of 180 reigns or kings (at 12 years to a reign, this would give 2160 years); they describe them as issuing in swarms, by fleets, from the southern points of Eastern Asia, mentioning especially the Malay coast, and thence coming along by the southern points of Japan, giving the very names of the headlands as stated by the earliest Dutch navigators, till they gained the coast of America on the Oregon or Columbian territory; thence descending the western coast of America into the tropical division thereof, they returned home through the islands in the North Pacific Ocean, giving to some of them the names as known at the present day. From this we perceive how America could be peopled from Asia, and also how Asiatic manners, and a people like Asians, could be found in it. The Anglo-Saxon race having now got a firm footing and power in the more central portions of the American continent, may speedily prepare us for learning other important discoveries, which will go to connect the ancient inhabitants of the Old World with those of the New.

"Amongst the important discoveries made in California, coal has been found on the borders of the Bay of San Francisco. This will greatly facilitate the proposed steam communication between that port and China, to which latter country a good steamer may go from San Francisco in a little more than three weeks. It will also be of great service to the line of steamers determined on by the American Government, to run from Panama to the Columbia River. A short time also will, we doubt not, see a railroad made from the more western borders of the United States, as known before the peace with Mexico, across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific at San Francisco. That active officer, Colonel Fremont, has already set out on a journey to explore a route for the purpose, and should he find, as he most probably will find, a practicable passage through the Rocky Mountain chain, about the head-waters of the Arkansas, which runs into the Mississippi, and the Green River, a great and head branch of the Colorado, which runs into the Gulf of California, or in lat. 41 deg. by the Platte or Kansas rivers, which run into the Missouri, then a communication by steam on the eastern rivers and by rail to the Pacific, will speedily be effected. The head-waters of the Arkansas, the Kansas, the Platte, and the Colorado come very near to, in fact almost interlock with each other, and there is every probability that a railroad may be found practicable, keeping to the north of the Colorado, and to the south of the connecting range, which runs from the Rocky Mountains to the Sierra Nevada, or, more properly speaking, the eastern wing of that chain, and running along by the foot of the most southern point of that last named chain, in about the lat. 34° 30', and lon. 117° 30', and thence running N.W.
into the Rio Joaquim, and along it to the Bay of San Francisco. This effected would complete a very rapid line of commercial communication between the Atlantic and the Pacific, and add prodigiously to the wealth, power, and influence of the United States. We are confident a few years will see such a communication completed."

The speculations of the learned have at last come to a focus. Stephens's late discovery in Central America of Egyptian hieroglyphics, great numbers of which he has given in his drawings, and published in his able book of that curious region, and the still later discovery of many thousands of mummies in the caverns of Mexico, similar to those of Ancient Egypt, are evidences so pointed, that Ancient America must have been peopled from the highly civilized nations of Asia, that the learned are at last convinced of the fact. The unlearned, however, have got the start of the learned in this instance, for they found it out about nineteen years ago, through the medium of the Book of Mormon. Moroni, who lived over fourteen centuries ago, in closing up the history of his nation says, (page 586), "Now, behold, we have written this record, according to our knowledge, in the characters which are called among us the reformed Egyptian, being handed down and altered by us, according to our manner of speech." Joseph Smith has given us the history of ancient America, translated from Egyptian hieroglyphics, showing that America was peopled by colonies from one of the most enlightened nations of Asia, even from Jerusalem, a nation of Israelites, who were well acquainted with Egyptian hieroglyphics, embalming mummies, &c.; for their forefathers had dwelt in Egypt upwards of 400 years, and at a period too, when the art of embalming was known— Jacob and his son Joseph both being embalmed. No wonder, then, that they should introduce these Egyptian arts into America. But the learned antiquarians will speculate on their new discoveries, and try to find some clue as to the origin of the ancient nations of that continent, while the unlearned will have them in derision, and laugh at their folly for not believing in the plain and pointed history contained in the Book of Mormon, and published years ago. Let them alone; they cannot make any discoveries but what will establish the divine authenticity of that excellent and most precious record.—Ed.

C O N F E R E N C E M I N U T E S.

[As the conferences are getting more numerous, we find it impracticable to publish the entire minutes of each conference, without occupying too much room in the STAR; and as we find the minutes accumulating on our hands, we have concluded to give abstracts of the most important items in each. To publish them entire would occupy six or seven pages in each number, rendering it dry and uninteresting to the generality of our readers.—Ed.]

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

Held September 17th, 1848.—Represented 9 branches, consisting of 312 members, 24 elders, 22 priests, 9 teachers, and 4 deacons. Baptized during the last quarter 35; 4 removed; 8 received; 1 dead; and 1 cut off from the church. The most of the branches, but not all, in good standing. One new branch, called the Blyth branch, consisting of 7 members, was admitted into the conference. One elder, 2 priests, 4 teachers, and 3 deacons were ordained.

WILLIAM SPEAKMAN, President.
THOMAS GREENER, Clerk.

SHEFFIELD.

This conference was held on the 24th of September, 1848, at which were represented 22 branches, consisting of 1080 members, 1 high priest, 47 elders, 66 priests, 36 teachers, and 17 deacons; 121 having been baptized since the last quarterly conference; 22 excommunicated, 20 removed, 15 received, 3 died, 27 emigrated to