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## THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1880.

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### MORE ABOUT THE BOOK OF MORMON.

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IN the number of the STAR immediately preceding this, we presented a brief sketch, from which some idea could be formed regarding the character of the Book of Mormon as a historical work. Some further statements relating to it in other respects, will probably not be without interest to many people.

It is explained in the pages of the book that the Lord made "an everlasting decree," that any people who should inhabit the Continent of America should be righteous, keeping His statutes and commandments. If this were not their character, they should, when the cup of their iniquity was filled, be utterly destroyed from the face of the land. This fiat was executed upon the Jaredites, who were annihilated, as shown in the previous sketch.

The holy prophets among the Nephites understood the unalterable character of the "everlasting decree." They also, by prophetic power, were enabled to see that their posterity would fall into the practice of the most gross and diabolical abominations, so that they would be in danger of being utterly extinguished. Being desirous that a remnant might be spared and be brought to a knowledge of the true Gospel in the latter-days, they prevailed with God, by mighty faith and prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, to give them a promise that this might be the case. That the same remnant might not be ignorant as to who their forefathers were, according to the mind of God the record on plates was hid up, that, in the latter times, when it should be revealed to the Gentiles, it might be carried by the latter to the aborigines, or remnants, that they might be informed regarding their origin.

It is predicted, on its own pages, that when the words of the book should be published, many people would believe in them, and that the Church of Christ, after the ancient pattern and power, would be set up. The existence of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the faith of its scores of thousands of members, verifies this prediction.

It is not only asserted that many people among the Gentiles should believe the words of the book and accept of the doctrines so clearly taught in its pages, but that, in due time, the remnants would begin to believe, and be consequently enlightened. This also is being literally fulfilled, several thousands having been baptized into the Church during the last five years, and the work among them still increases. They are improving in their habits and light is gradually breaking in upon their minds.

The book prophetically states that in the same generation in which it should be brought forth by the power of God, the various remnants of the Tribes of Israel should be gathered to their own lands. Also that the work of the Father should commence among all the nations of the earth, to prepare the way for that great event at the same time as the Lamanites or remnants on the American Continent should begin to believe in the same Gospel that was understood and practised by their progenitors. They commenced to believe in this Gospel about five years since, and within that time the developments in regard to the Jews and Palestine are astoundingly marvelous. Stupendous barriers that, previous to that time, acted as obstacles to the gathering of the Jews, have been effectually removed within that limited period. In fact the gathering of the Jews appears to have actually begun, and to be, at least, in its incipient stages. This shows the sign to be genuine, and the claim set up for the prophetic character of this remarkable record to be valid.

The "everlasting decree" applies with equal force to the present inhabitants of America as to its ancient populations. The present generation of the United States have rejected the Gospel of life, and caused the soil to be moistened with the blood of martyred prophets. Unless they repent their destruction is sure. Every move that is made by them of a national character, against the work of God, will hasten the consummation of the impending doom, which will be reached when their vessel of sin is filled to the brim. The agencies that will produce the dire calamity will be internal strife, causing blood to copiously flow; the sea rushing over the land, to the destruction of cities and people; great wind-storms, mammoth hail, fire and great general disturbances of the elements, together with plague, famine and pestilence.

Jerusalem will be rebuilt upon the Land of Palestine, and upon the American Continent the New Jerusalem will be built up. The latter work will be done in what is known to the Saints as the Centre Stake of Zion, which is in Jackson County, Missouri, where the Saints, both those who embrace the Gospel among the Gentiles and the remnants of Israel, the aborigines, shall be gathered. The great community that will be there established will be organized upon the heavenly pattern, according to the statutes of the United Order, or the Celestial law. A revelation, given through Joseph the Seer, states that Zion cannot be built up in its power and glory except it be upon those laws and principles.

The evidences of the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon are innumerable. Its predictions are being fulfilled under our eyes. It is confirmed by every discovery that is being and has of late years been made of ruins establishing the theory of an immense ancient and highly civilized population upon the American Continent. In religion it harmonizes with every revelation that God has given through other channels. In morality it is faultless. In narrative it is consecutive and consistent in every particular. Its statements are also sustained by Indian traditions.

The mass of the people repudiate this record. But, as a rule, if you ask them what the Book of Mormon purports to be, they are at an utter loss for an intelligent answer. The reason for this is that they have probably never scanned its pages. Such people forget the true verdict of the wise man who

said he who judgeth of a matter before he heareth it is a fool. Those who condemn a work without becoming in the least degree familiar with its contents, can surely also be accused of a deficiency of wisdom.

**TERRIBLE COLLIERY DISASTER.**—The year 1879 departed leaving a wail of woe, caused by the disastrous Tay Bridge accident, by which about a hundred lives were lost, near Dundee. As if in exemplification of the saying that troubles seldom come singly, the early part of this year is marked with a fearful colliery explosion, in North Staffordshire. It occurred on Wednesday, Jan. 21st, at 8.30 a. m., in the Fair Lady Pit, at the Madeley and Leycett Colliery. Over seventy lives were lost, most of the killed being the heads of large families. The scenes at the pit mouth, caused by the vehement distress of the relatives of the men whose lives have been, by this fearful accident, brought to an abrupt ending, are said to be heartrending.

**ABSTRACT OF CORRESPONDENCE.**—We are in receipt of a letter from Elder William Barnes, who has been laboring in the Oldham District of the Manchester Conference since the beginning of last November. He feels encouraged in his labors, being aided by a goodly portion of the Spirit of the Lord.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### LABORS OF ELDERS—BAPTISM— PROSPECTS.

Burley, near Leeds,  
Jan. 5th, 1880.

President Wm. Budge.

Dear Brother,—At Leeds we have baptized one, and rebaptized three. The latter have been out of the church for twenty-three years. We have a few strangers at our meetings every Sunday evening.

In the Bradford District, Brother Parkinson reports having baptized three young men at Clayton, with prospects of baptizing more soon, as one family he is visiting acknowledge, that the Latter-day Saints teach the same Gospel as was taught by Christ and his apostles, yet they hesitate in rendering obedience to its principles. At Bradford the brethren anticipate doing some baptizing soon. They also have a few strangers every Sunday evening at their meetings.

We have baptized three and rebaptized one at Top Cliffe, five miles from Leeds, where we have organized a branch, with Brother Adam Mee as

President. One young man was informed last Sunday that he must find another home if he continued attending the meetings of the Latter-day Saints. This, however, did not affect him, as he came to the meeting as usual, and told Brother Mee what his parents had said, remarking at the same time, that he knew that he had embraced the true Gospel; and, therefore was willing to undergo any sacrifice for it. His parents have relented, I am pleased to say, and allow him still to remain at home. From present prospects I am in hopes of baptizing more at Top Cliffe soon.

At Kirkamgate the brethren recently baptized a young lady from Osset. Her sister's husband permitted us to hold a meeting in his house last Sunday evening and promised to let us have a meeting any time we wished. I am informed, the clergy and ministers are speaking against us in their places of worship, and warning the inhabitants against the "Mormons;" therefore we expect something soon, if we do not receive it the next time we go.

Brother B. S. Young and I baptized