

"Yea, let men rage since thou wilt spread
Thy shadowing wings around my head."

Under the protection of Jehovah, have the first elders gone forth "weeping, bearing precious seed," and after struggling, with persecution in its various forms, they have returned with joy, bearing their sheaves with them;" and now, tens of thousands on this, and thousands upon other lands, join in an ascription of praise to the God of all grace, for remembering his covenant and restoring the fullness of the everlasting gospel.

"The Lord is on our side." Think of this ye ministers of the sanctuary, while engaged in proclaiming the gospel far from the home of your childhood and the habitation of the Saints, and while sorrow may overflow your soul, and you feel disheartened on account of the hardness of the people, and their clamour for your blood, and your sorrow will depart, you will be inspired with new energy, and shall exceedingly rejoice, and be ready to exclaim "although an host should encamp against me yet I will not be afraid."

Think of this, you sufferers in the cause of bleeding Zion, who have been driven from your homes and pleasant places of abode, and who have had to bear the fury and indignation of the enemy, and let joy spring up in your bosoms, for the Lord will bless you, and abundantly reward you for all your toils and sufferings.

Think of this, all you that are engaged in the cause of truth, and are endeavoring to establish Zion, and prepare a sanctuary for the Most High; and let not your hands be slack, neither be afraid, for "the Most High hath spoken and shall he not perform? He hath commanded and shall he not bring it to pass?"

Think of this, ye widows and fatherless, who have had to mourn the premature loss of husbands and fathers who have fell martyrs to the cause of truth; although you are not permitted to dress their graves, or drop a tear upon the sod that covers their sleeping dust, they will one day burst the tomb and come forth in glory and splendor, and you shall hail them with unspeakable joy which shall be durable as eternity, and you will then, if not before, have to exclaim, the Lord has done all things well, blessed be the name of the Lord.

DIALOGUE ON MORMONISM. NO II.

BOOK OF MORMON.

Between Mr. Mathews, Mr. Roberts, and
Elder Pierce.

Mr. M. I am glad to see you and Mrs. R., I was ready to think that you were not coming this evening.

Mr. R. Indeed Mr. M. I must say, I felt no very great desire to come, but as I had given you reasons to expect my company, I thought you would think me too much prejudiced against your favorite doctrine of Mormonism, if I staid away. It was not so with Mrs. R. she no sooner heard of a Mormon preacher being at your house, than she made every preparation to come. You are aware that women are somewhat curious.

Mr. M. I am aware that is their prevailing characteristic; indeed I think we all ought to have curiosity enough to induce us to listen to truth. Elder P. had just commenced to give me an account of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, I suppose you are curious enough Mr. R. to listen to his statement.

Mr. R. This was the object of our visit. I shall be pleased to hear Elder P. proceed.

Elder P. The subject I was speaking upon was the much abused Book of Mormon, or as it is termed, by way of ridicule, the Mormon bible. Their being many foolish and extravagant stories afloat respecting it, I always deem it important to correct the public mind on this subject, before I proceed to any other item of doctrine in our religion. One impression that has gone abroad, is, that we put it in the stead of the Bible, the scriptures of the old and new testament. I presume you have heard it represented so.

Mr. R. Certainly I have, by several individuals, and I must say that I felt surprised when Mr. M. told me this morning that such was not the case.

Mr. M. This has been the received opinion of this neighborhood, and is yet by some, for when I told Deacon Jones last evening that it was an erroneous idea we had imbibed, he plainly told me he knew better, and would not listen to any argument on the subject.

Elder P. Well gentlemen, I will endeavor to inform you what the Book of Mormon purports to be and then you can judge for yourselves. The Book of Mormon is a record of the aborigines of this continent, (America,) which was engraven on plates of precious metal, and handed down from father to son, from generation to generation. It gives an account of the first settlement of this land by the seed of Israel in the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, some time before the Babylonish captivity. While in Jerusalem

during the decline of the Jewish polity, the Lord appeared to a man of the name of Lehi, and commanded him to take his family and journey into the wilderness, and also informed him of the destructions which should come upon the Jewish nation. Lehi obedient to the heavenly command, took his household and journeyed in the wilderness for some considerable time, subject to hunger and many privations, till at length they came to the borders of the sea, where they were instructed to build them a ship, and launch forth upon the mighty ocean. Having got every thing prepared, they did so, and were carried forward upon the waters for a long time, until, at length they arrived on this western continent: and after returning thanks to the Almighty for his protection and great deliverance, they engaged in cultivating the soil, and were prospered exceedingly upon the land and became very numerous indeed.

Mr. M. You will observe by this account Mr. R. that this people who landed here were Jews, this you know agrees with the idea, which many learned men have had, that the Indians are descendants of the Jews.

Mr. R. I am aware that this idea is generally entertained among the learned.

Mr. M. Pardon this interruption Elder P.

Elder P. I shall be pleased for you to make any remarks or ask any questions on any subject as I go along.

After their settlement here, part of the family being righteous, and part wicked and rebellious, they had considerable difficulty and strife, until at length the Lamanites, the wicked portion of the family, were smitten with a skin of blackness and became an idle and filthy people.

It also gives an account of their wars—the reign of their Kings and Judges—the prophecies of righteous and holy men who were among them, several of which have been fulfilled since the records have been found—their skill in architecture—their faith and knowledge of the truths of the gospel—the rending of the rocks on this land at the crucifixion of Jesus—and then gives a very interesting account of our Savior's appearing to the people on this continent after his resurrection at Jerusalem, agreeable to the saying of his, "I have other sheep which are not of this fold, them also, must I bring in"—his teachings to the people—his choosing a-

postles and establishing his kingdom after the same pattern he did on the old continent.

Mr. R. This is certainly new to me, but there is one very serious objection in the way, which I must have removed before I can believe the Book; and that is, if Christ established his church and kingdom on this continent how happens it that the Indians have no tradition of the fact, and are altogether unacquainted with the gospel?

Elder P. It is a question which naturally arises; and I think I shall, before I get through, be able to satisfy you why it is so. After Christ had established his church and sent forth his servants to proclaim the gospel, great success attended their labors, and the greater part of the people became obedient to the faith; true and undefiled religion flourished, and every blessing followed in its train. However, after sometime had elapsed, their began to be schisms in the church; prejudice and its attendant train of evils crept into their midst, until, finally, they began to fight one against the other—the Lamanites against the Nephites, until the Nephites were utterly destroyed from off the face of the land—the last man remaining was Moroni, in whose possession were the sacred records which had been handed down to him, and which he was commanded to hide up unto the Lord, in consequence of the wickedness of the Lamanites, who had not only derided the name of Christ, but sought the lives of all such as professed christianity. Consequently they were given up to a wicked and rebellious heart, and became willing instruments in the hands of Satan, and continued to wander in darkness, ignorance and superstition, until the present time, the degenerate and fallen sons of noble and worthy sires.

Mr. M. I have always thought that there had been a more enlightened people on this continent, than the present Indians. The remains of ancient buildings, monuments &c., are evident proofs on this point.

Mr. R. There can be no doubt on this subject. In the recent researches in Central America, the ruins of very large and splendid buildings have been found, but it does not necessarily follow that the Book of Mormon is true.

Elder P. By no means, but you will undoubtedly admit that it is circumstan-

cial evidence in its favor. Another thing I would observe is, that there is no correct account given of their descent, or their history—the world has been shrouded in darkness on these matters; but the Book of Mormon like the rising sun, eradiates the gloom, throws a flood of light on the history and proceedings of this people, and brings to light things which have been hid from generation to generation—contains many predictions respecting their restoration to righteousness, and again becoming a ‘fair and delightsome people.’ I cannot better express my ideas on this point than in the language of the hymn, which has been composed by one of our preachers, and which we sung a short time before you came. I will endeavor to repeat it.

Mr. M. No, Elder P., pray sing it again. I am sure Mr. and Mrs. R., will be pleased to hear it, the tune and hymn are beautiful.

Elder P. You and Mrs. M. will assist me then.

Mr. M. We will do our best.

O stop and tell m Red Man,
Who are ye? why you roam?
And how you get your living?
Have you no God;—no home?

With stature straight and portly,
And decked in native pride,
With feathers, paints, and broaches,
He willingly replied:—

“I once was *pleasant Ephraim*,
When Jacob for me pray’d;
But oh! how blessings vanish,
When man from God has stray’d!

Before your nation knew us,
Some thousand moons ago,
Our fathers fell in darkness,
And wander’d to and fro.

And long they’ve lived by hunting,
Instead of work and arts,
And so our race has dwindled
To idle Indian hearts.

Yet hope within us lingers,
As if the Spirit spoke:—
He’ll come for your redemption,
And break your Gentile yoke:

And all your captive brothers,
From every clime shall come,

And quit their savage customs,
To live with God at home.

Then joy will fill our bosoms,
And blessings crown our days,
To live in pure religion,
And sing our Maker’s praise.”
To be continued.

From the Gospel Reflector.

THE LOCATION OF ZION, OR THE NEW JERUSALEM.

The location of Zion or the New Jerusalem, is certainly a subject of importance, and well worth a candid investigation: for it is one that interested the prophets, and much the more it ought to interest every true believer of this remote age of the world; for according to the prophets it will be a place of refuge, and deliverance for the people of God when destruction comes upon the nations. Again, the Lord not only intends to gather all his people together in the last days, but he intends to prepare places for them to gather to. The city of Zion is said to be one of these places of gathering; therefore, it is of all importance that we should know where it will be located or established.

That there will be a city called Zion or the New Jerusalem, built, beautified, and prepared for the millennium is evident from all the prophets that have mentioned the work of God of the last days. We have in a brief manner touched upon this subject before; but the magnitude and importance of it is such, that we think that justice to it, requires us to give it a more extensive investigation.

That there was a Zion established at Jerusalem we do not wish to deny; but that has nothing to do with the one for the millennium.—However, because some are unable to separate or distinguish it from the one for the Millennium, we will first show the difference between the two, and then proceed to examine the prophets with respect to the place of the location of the latter.

This Zion at Jerusalem was sometimes called the upper city, and it was detached from Jerusalem proper by a wall. Historians say that Jerusalem was founded by Melchizedek, then called Salem. Paul says Melchizedek was king of Salem. (See Heb. vii. 2.) Subsequently it was called Jerusalem; but whether or not Zion was founded by Melchizedek is not easy for us to determine; but one thing is certain, it was in existence in the days of David; for when he took Jerusalem from the Jebusites, it is said that he “took a strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David.”—2 Sam. v. 7. Many places in the inspired writings where Zion is mentioned, refer to this Zion at Jerusalem.—Isaiah speaking of this Zion says: “For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem,—Isa-xxx. 19. Now if Isaiah had no idea of any other Zion; than the one at Jerusalem, why did he use the preposition at, as though there was another city called by the same name? Indeed he knew that the Lord would cause to be built another city of Zion, which should be a place of deliverance in the last days, which he saw in the vision established upon this land [America]; therefore, he used the preposition, “Zion