

gard to either the Mosaic, or the Christian economy. The closing remarks of the missionary however manifests weakness and folly to a degree. "Then you will have no part in the world to come, you will reject the message which has been sent to you by the prophets which we quote." As if the Rabbi was going to be damned for not bowing with deference to his ipse dixit; or for not being governed by his quotations, and interpretations. The Rabbi had the prophets before the missionary took them to him and was capable of quoting them: and on this ground was as likely to be damned before the missionary went to him as after; or had he the folly to suppose that *his* barely quoting passages of scripture would condemn the Rabbi to perdition, if he rejected his testimony? The Rabbi had as good ground to say that the missionary would be damned if he rejected the testimony of the Rabbi; but the missionary might with propriety say that the Rabbi was an unbelieving Jew; and the Rabbi might say in as good faith that the missionary was a gentile dog;—but the missionary had been sent by the London Society; and the Rabbi had been set apart by the laws and ordinances of Moses;—yet the laws and ordinances of Moses are abrogated in Christ. The London Society however had never been acknowledged by either Moses, or Christ; nor the missionary set apart, nor sent by either. So look at it which way we will the Rabbi had as good ground to go upon as the missionary, and he was as capable of going on a mission to teach the missionary, as the missionary was qualified to teach him.

What consummate ignorance is displayed in missionaries quoting the New Testament to the Jews, as proof of the divine mission of Jesus Christ;—says the Jew in answer, "well well you believe it well I do not." And how could it be otherwise, for, "how can they believe on him of whom they have not heard? and how can they hear without a preacher? and how can he preach except he be sent? Yet the missionary was sent by the "London Society:" did God ever tell the London Society, to send out missionaries—if the above named gentleman had been sent by God instead of by the London Society he would have known his business better.—Ed.

A CATACOMB OF MUMMIES FOUND IN KENTUCKY

Lexington, in Kentucky, stands nearly on the site of an ancient town, which was of great extent and magnificence, as is amply evinced by the wide range of

its circumvallatory works, and the quantity of ground it once occupied.

There was connected with the antiquities of this place, a catacomb, formed in the bowels of the limestone rock, about fifteen feet below the surface of the earth, adjacent to the town of Lexington. This grand object, so novel and extraordinary in this country, was discovered in 1775, by some of the first settlers, whose curiosity was excited by something remarkable in the character of the stones which covered the entrance to the cavern within. They removed these stones, and came to others of singular appearance for stones in a natural state; the removal of which laid open the mouth of a cave, deep, gloomy, and terrific, as they supposed.

With augmented numbers, and provided with light, they descended and entered, without obstruction, a spacious apartment; the sides and extreme ends were formed into niches and compartments, and occupied by figures representing men. When alarm subsided, and the sentiment of dismay and surprise permitted further research and inquiry, the figures were found to be *mummies*, preserved by the art of embalming, to as great a state of perfection as was known among the ancient Egyptians, eighteen hundred years before the Christian era; which was about the time that the Israelites were in bondage in Egypt, when this art was in its perfection. * * * * * On this subject Mr. Ash has the following reflections: "How these bodies were embalmed, how long preserved, by what nations, and from what people descended, no opinion can be formed, nor any calculation made, but what must result from speculative fancy and wild conjecture. For my part, I am lost in the deepest ignorance. My reading affords me no knowledge, my travels no light. I have neither read nor known of any of the North American Indians who formed catacombs for their dead, or who were acquainted with the art of preservation by embalming.

Had Mr. Ash in his researches consulted the Book of Mormon his problem would have been solved, and he would have found no difficulty in accounting for the mummies being found in the above mentioned case. The Book of Mormon gives an account of a number of the descendants of Israel coming to this continent; and it is well known that the art of embalming was known among the Hebrews, as well as among the Egyptians, although perhaps not so generally among the former, as among the latter people; and their method of embalming also might be different from that of the Egyptians.

Jacob and Joseph were no doubt, embalmed in the manner of the Egyptians, as they died in that country, Gen. 1, 2, 3, 26. When our Saviour was crucified his hasty burial obliged them only to wrap his body in linnen with a hundred pounds of myrrh, aloes, and similar spices, (part of the ingredients of embalming,) given by Nicodemus for that purpose: but Mary and other holy women had prepared ointment and spices for embalming it, Matt. xxviii. 59: Luke xxiii. 56: John xxx. 39, 40.

This art was no doubt transmitted from Jerusalem to this continent, by the before mentioned emigrants, which accounts for the finding of the mummies, and at the same time is another strong evidence of the authenticity of the Book of Mormon.—[Ed.]

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

MORTAL SICKNESS IN PHILADELPHIA.—It is stated in the Philadelphia Times, that a peculiar kind of sickness prevails to an alarming extent in the vicinity of Reading, and that many cases have already proved fatal. Also that a singular and alarming disease has made its appearance at Norristown and the village opposite. It is said that persons in good health are first seized with a giddiness in the head, then a diarrhœa, and immediately after the skin becomes as yellow as gold, convulsions take place, and the individual is a corpse in a few hours after the attack. The disease has baffled the skill of the ablest physicians, and produced the greatest consternation in consequence of its malignant and fatal character. Several deaths occur every day.—[*St. Louis Western Atlas.*]

TEMPLE FUNDS.

A certificate of deposite in the "Butchers and Drivers Bank," New York, by Doct. John M. Bernhisel, in favor of the Trustee in Trust, has been received at the Recorder's office, and passed to the credit of the individuals named in the accompanying letter.

GO AND DO LIKEWISE.

For the Times and Seasons.

TO ELDER L. SNOW, LONDON, ENG.

BY MISS E. R. SNOW.

Dearest Brother, wherefore leave us?

Why forsake thy friends and home?

Of thy presence, why bereave us,

And in foreign countries roam?

Must the dearest ties be broken?

Must affection's beauties fade?

No: O no, but God has spoken

And his voice must be obey'd.

Thou art call'd to bear Salvation's

Joyful tidings far abroad—

Thou hast gone to warn the nations,

In the name of Israel's God.

For the spirit of Devotion

To Messiah' glorious cause;

Thou hast cross'd the pathless ocean,

To proclaim redemption's laws.

For the gospel proclamation

Must be sounded far and near;

That the *best* of every nation,

May in Zion's courts appear.

Thou art now a standard bearer

On a distant mountain top;

And perchance, art made a sharer

In privation's bitter cup

For the Lord designs to prove thee

If his voice thou wilt obey;

Therefore from the friends that love thee,

Thou art parted far away!

Thou art call'd thyself to sever

From the land where kindred dwell!

But it will not be forever—

Time ere long, will break the spell.

Here warm friends await thy greeting—

Noble friends, of Abram's line—

Here are gentle pulses beating

In soft unison with thine.

Here are daily pray'rs ascending

That th' appointed time may come,

When thy foreign mission ending,

We shall bid thee "*welcome home.*"

City of Nauvoo, April, 21st, 1842.

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BY the subscriber, a first rate Book Binder; one who thoroughly understands his business, and of good moral character, will receive good wages, and constant employment, by applying soon, to

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