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Editorial Thoughts

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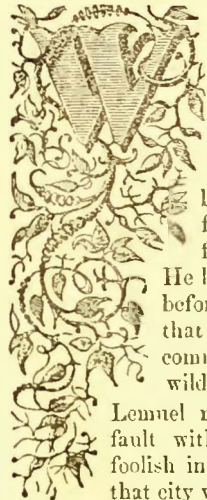
Abstract: A didactic editorial lauding Nephi's obedience and recommending imitation by the youth of the Church.

The Juvenile Instructor.

GEORGE Q. CANNON, : EDITOR.

JANUARY 1, 1868.

EDITORIAL THOUGHTS.



VHAT a beautiful example does the life of Nephi present to the little boys in this church! He had three brothers who were older than himself. Their names were Laman, Lemuel and Sam. The first two were disobedient children, and gave their parents much trouble. Sam was a good boy; but did not appear to have the same force of character as Nephi. Lehi, the father of these boys, was a man of God. He lived at Jerusalem about six hundred years before Jesus was born. The Lord told him that Jerusalem was about to be destroyed, and commanded him to leave there and go into the wilderness. Lehi did so; but Laman and Lemuel murmured against their father and found fault with him. They thought their father was foolish in leaving Jerusalem. They did not believe that city would be destroyed, and, therefore, did not feel pleased at leaving their house, their land, their gold and silver and other fine things. It was hard, they thought, to go off from such a good place as Jerusalem was, and carry their provision with them and live in tents.

They were like many of the people who live in these days, who think the Latter-day Saints are very foolish for coming to the land which the Lord has appointed as a place of gathering. These young men could see no advantage in leaving their native city, neither did they ask God to show them about it.

Nephi was young; but he had a different spirit to that which filled his brothers. He listened to his father's words and he had a desire to know for himself the truth of what his father had seen and told about. So he went to the Lord and asked Him to show the things to him which he had shown to his father. And the Lord did so. When Nephi had these things revealed unto him, he was as anxious to do what the Lord wanted as his father Lehi was. He became a great help to his father, and because of his faith, and diligence in keeping the commandments of the Lord, he became a great prophet. The Lord afterwards taught him how to build a vessel, on which they all embarked. They were carried in that vessel across the Indian and Pacific oceans to this land.

Laman and Lemuel were disobedient boys, careless about God and his laws; they grew up to be hard-hearted, cruel men. Because of their wickedness the Lord cursed them and their children with dark skins. When you see the Indians you can think of this. This is the cause of the blackness of their skins. Laman and Lemuel were their forefathers.

By taking the right course Nephi became a very great man. The Lord was with him and prospered him wonderfully.

Every child can do as Nephi did. They can go to God, and pray to him to guide them. If they do so, he will fill them with peace and joy. He will lead them. Or, they can be disobedient and wicked, as Laman and Lemuel were. They can be strangers to God and his Holy Spirit, and bring his anger upon them.

Children, shun the examples of Laman and Lemuel, and follow that of Nephi, and you will be happy here and hereafter.

ANOTHER New year is here. Eighteen hundred and sixty-seven has passed away. The past year has been a very interesting one, especially to the Latter-day Saints. They have seen the Lord's words fulfilled in the events which have taken place. You live in a very important time, dear children. You should be thankful to the Lord for permitting you to be here in these days, and to be born and brought up among His people in Zion. Probably you have been kind and obedient boys and girls during the past year. We hope you have at any rate. But in commencing a new year, examine your past conduct. Look at it carefully. Recall also to your minds what you have said. You can remember many improper things, perhaps, which you have spoken and done. With the experience you have now gained, you ought to be able to do better this year than you did last. Every year that passes ought to see you growing better. There is much greater enjoyment and happiness in life for those who, each day and year, thus seek to improve, than for those who do not. Remember, that to be truly happy, you must avoid sin in every form. You never should do anything that you should feel ashamed of your parents or of good angels knowing about. Through not observing this rule, many boys and girls have fallen into bad ways and gone to destruction.

We wish all our little readers and their parents a very happy new year. If our wish can be gratified, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight will be a pleasant, peaceful and joyous year to them. We trust the visits of the JUVENILE INSTRUCTOR will contribute its full share in making it such a year. It shall be our endeavor, with the blessing of the Lord, and the aid of our worthy and interesting contributors, and the excellent engravings which we have on hand, to make the third volume all that could be reasonably expected. It is very gratifying and encouraging to us in our labors to receive from every hand, so many evidences of the favor with which the INSTRUCTOR is viewed. It is widely appreciated, and we trust that it will continue to win increased confidence and influence, and be a means of benefiting all the JUVENILES who read it. This is the only object we have had in view in publishing it.

AT last we have obtained an engraving for the head of our little paper. Last winter Brother George J. Taylor kindly made us a drawing for a head, which we sent East to have engraved. In doing so we went to considerable expense, but, to our great disappointment, when the engraving came to hand we found it much too large for our purpose. It was a fine specimen of engraving; but the engraver had neglected to observe our letter respecting the size, and it was useless. The present engraving is home-manufacture. The drawing was made by Brother George J. Taylor, the plate (brass) was prepared and mounted by Brother Z. Derrick, and the engraving was done by Brother David McKenzie. We are convinced that our readers will join with us in thinking it a very creditable piece of workmanship. We are under many obligations to these brethren for their courtesy, and the trouble they have been at to gratify us in getting up this engraving.

For the Juvenile Instructor.

BRITISH TITLES.

ABRIEF account of the titles of British aristocracy will be interesting to our Juveniles. After the Norman conquest, in A. D. 1066, William the First, gave many of his followers titles and estates. The principal nobles of England and Ireland are of Norman origin. Some of the dukes and lords of Britain have gained their titles, for bravery in the field of battle—as the Duke of Marlborough, Duke of Wellings-