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Isaiah's Prophecy and the Book of Mormon

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And the dauntless youth of the year,
 When nothing that asks for bliss,
 Asking aught is denied,
 And half the world a bridegroom is,
 And half the world a bride?"

11. Some member of the class may know of other English poets who have paid tribute to May; if they do, let the class have the benefit of their knowledge, if not, let the quotation from Watson suffice to show that Tennyson is not alone among English poets in his admiration for May.

LESSON III.

Book of Mormon--Bible Testimony

Third Week in May.

(Optional.)

SUBJECT: Isaiah's Prophecy and the Book of Mormon
 (continued.)

TEXT: Isaiah 29:15-24; Matt. 8:1-4; Matt. 9:27-30;
 17:1-9; Mark 8:22-25; Moroni 10:14.

Continuing with an analysis of Isaiah's prophecy respecting a "Book" that was to come forth, and continuing with the outline commenced in the preceding lesson, we learn that he:

F.—Foreshadows an attack upon the Book by the enemies of righteousness.

(a)—Sees the nature of the plans of those who seek to destroy the divinity of the Book (v. 15.)

(b)—Sees to what extremity the enemies of the Book would go in order to destroy its usefulness (v. 10.)

(c)—Sees the language of the Book assailed.

(d)—Anticipates the Spaulding myth that should "turn aside the just for a thing of naught." (v. 21.)

At this point we might ask the question, does the prophet have those in mind, who would reject the Book because of the imperfections of its language? Does he see the insidious work of Hulbert and Howe and their kind in "turning of things upside down" in order to make the "work say of him who made it—He made me not?" Does he see these men exerting every energy, seeking "deep to hide their counsels from the Lord," so that they may fasten the Spaulding manuscript upon the Book as its inspiration? Surely such

a colossal conspiracy—so far reaching in its pernicious effects—was of sufficient importance to entitle it to prophetic utterance in the form of a warning as voiced by Isaiah! There is no gain-saying the fact that a more stupendous fraud, a more ingenious snare layed for “him that reproveth in the gate,” could not have been conceived and set on foot than this negative suggestion; namely, that the Book of Mormon is nothing more nor less than the Spaulding idea elaborated upon. It was a master-stroke of the enemy of truth. It is no exaggeration to say that hundreds of thousands have been prejudiced against the Book by this negation, to such an extent they would not even curiously examine it. The tragedy of the whole affair is, these people can never become the beneficiaries of its promise; namely, “That if ye would ask God the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart; with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you by the power of the Holy Ghost.” (Moroni 10:4.)

This negative suggestion is not a new thing. It has been one of Satan’s most potent weapons to combat truth since the beginning of time. The power of its baneful influence upon the human mind was thoroughly understood by Jesus, who, in many instances during his ministry, cautioned those who had received extraordinary blessings at his hands, to go their way and tell no man. (See Matt. 8:1-4; 17:1-9; 9:27-30; Mark 8:22-26.)

Twenty years ago, when the writer was in the office at mission headquarters in Chattanooga, Tenn., President Ben E. Rich gave him a residence address, a Book of Mormon, and requested him to board a certain street car and present himself at the house of the given address. Upon receiving this strange mission, the elder felt something akin to what Phillip of old must have experienced when an angel suddenly appeared to him at Samaria and said: “Arise, and go toward the south, into the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza; the same is desert.” Without further instruction, the elder presented himself at the designated place and without salutation or ceremony, was ushered into a room where sat three Jewish rabbis. After a conversation lasting about two hours, in which the Book of Mormon was freely discussed, the truth dawned upon the elder that these three learned Jews desired to possess an authentic copy of the Book for purposes of study, and to compare it with the Hebrew scriptures, but that they also wanted to come into possession of it secretly. This view of the matter was strengthened upon

the leave taking of the elder, for he was importuned to say nothing of the circumstance.

The Samuel Spaulding story has done its work well all these years, in spite of the fact that the Book of Mormon was published years before the Spaulding myth was discovered and the conspiracy published. Under the direction of one Philaster Hulbert, who had twice been a member of the Church and who had twice been cut off from its membership for bad conduct, a few sympathizers associated themselves together in Ohio, in the year 1833, and with the Book of Mormon before them and the spirit of vengeance and hatred in their hearts, got up some affidavits as to a story which it was surmised had been written before by Samuel Spaulding, a broken down clergyman of that place. About this time, these conspirators located an able confederate in the person of one E. D. Howe, of Painsville, Ohio, who, at this particular time, was much wrought up and disturbed in his feelings because his wife and sister had become members of the much hated Church at Kirtland. Between Hulbert and Howe, and assisted by their little coterie of malcontents, they published their malicious story between the years 1834 and 1841, years after the publication of the Book of Mormon and with that Book before them from which to make their garbled statements.

One can readily understand how it would be possible for Joseph Smith and Martin Harris, by conniving, to cause the literal fulfilment of that part of the prophecy which pertains to the "words" of the Book being delivered to one who was learned, and then the "Book" itself delivered to the unlearned, provided they were aware of the existence of the prophecy, which is by no means probable; but no one will admit for a moment that they, by any manner of scheming, could bring about the literal fulfilment of the balance of the prophecy as considered in the foregoing.

With reference to Martin Harris' visit to Prof. Anthon, there is an interesting bit of evidence in favor of the Book that must not be overlooked. It will be remembered that Harris carried with him Joseph Smith's translation of a few original characters of the plates. Upon the verdict of the learned doctor would depend largely whether or not Harris would assist in financing the publication of the Book, a proceeding which would require him to mortgage his farm. I, for one, do not feel to censure him in this matter, for it would only be human nature to reinforce a growing faith by such corroborative evidence. The destroying of the Anthon certificate dispelled every doubt in the mind of the young farmer as to the Book's divine authenticity, for he went forth-

with and procured the necessary means to assist in putting the work before the public.

Students will get clearer concepts of the truths in this lesson if they will direct their activities along the lines pointed out by the following:

QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS.

1. Name the one thing that is common to the New Testament references in the text.
2. Give an illustration from your experiences showing the insidious effects of negative suggestions.
3. There is much truth in the proposition—"The first reward of truth is persecution." What are your conclusions when it is applied to the coming forth of the Book of Mormon?
4. Can you call to mind any other great event, other than the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, which so accurately fits the conditions set out by Isaiah's prophecy?
5. What were the selfish reasons that urged Hulbert and Howe and their confederates to launch their conspiracy against the Book of Mormons?
6. Read the history of the Spaulding story in "The Myth of the Manuscript Found." If you do not happen to have it, it can be procured for a few cents from the Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City.

LESSON IV.

(Required)

Social Service

Fourth Week in May

HEALTH

(Feeding School Children.)

1.—Appetite As An Indicator of Body Needs.

Doubtless the normal function of the appetite is to indicate what the body needs by way of food, both as to quantity and kind. If a child were fed wisely from the beginning the appetite would, no doubt, be trained to function normally, but unfortunately many children are allowed to form unwarranted dislikes for really wholesome foods. It is not unusual to hear a mother say, "I don't believe in making my children eat foods they don't like." Anyone could sympathize with this view point, provided, that the average child's likes