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Testimony of Martin Harris

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Abstract: This article contains two letters of Martin Harris written to a Mr. Emerson, with an editorial introduction. Harris testifies that an angel showed him the plates containing the Book of Mormon and that the translation copied from them was approved by Professor Anthon. Harris states that Joseph Smith could not have translated the plates by himself. He denies that he preached against the Book of Mormon in England.

little failings, and parish beadles are not wholly of heavenly nature. The best wine has its lees. All men's faults are not written on their foreheads, and it is quite as well they are not, or hats would need wide brims; yet, as sure as eggs are eggs, faults of some sort nestle in every man's bosom. There's no telling when a man's sins may show themselves, for hares pop out of a ditch just when you are not looking for them. A horse that is weak in the legs, may not stumble for a mile or two,

but it's in him, and the rider had better hold him up well. The tabby cat is not lapping milk just now, but leave the dairy door open, and we will see if she is not as bad a thief as the kitten. There fire in the flint, cool as it looks; wait till the steel gets a knock at it, and you will see. Everybody can read that riddle, but it is not everybody that will remember to keep his gunpowder out of the way of the candle.—*Spurgeon.*

LORD DUFFERIN AT SALT LAKE.

“Lord Dufferin, in his recent visit to Salt Lake City, reflected honor upon the country and Queen he represented by refusing to call upon President Young.”—*Montreal Witness.*

His refusal to call upon a party possessing wives in number and variety, may have reflected honor upon the country he represented, but his excellency, the governor-general of the Dominion of Canada, did not reflect honor on his Queen. It was a rebuke he reflected. No one was more cordially received in England by Her Most Gracious Majesty than the Shah of Persia, a monarch with a multiplicity of better halves. He was entertained by the Queen of England as royally as if it wasn't notorious that in Teheran he supported a large and miscellaneous assortment of wives. The Seyid of Zanzibar was also welcomed to the royal palace, notwithstanding that his domestic circle was gladdened by as large a number of houris as was compatible with the size of his revenues. When the Sultan of Turkey—the same who recently saw a pair of bright, sharp scissors in his chamber and took the hint—married his daughter, the Queen of England

didn't stoop to inquire which of the fair occupants of the extensive harem was mother to the girl, but straightway telegraphed to her dearly beloved and highly respected cousin, the Caliph, her congratulations that the fair young bride would have an opportunity to share with some half dozen other delightful creatures the bed of the noble Turk who would receive her from the Sultan's hands. When the Queen's hopeful, the Prince of Wales, was in Egypt, “he reflected honor upon the country and the queen he represented” by calling on the Khedive, a polygamist like “President Young.” In the name of that queen he bestowed the “Star of India” upon the son of the Khedive, and generally bore himself as though he and his august mother didn't care two straws how many wives a man had.—*Chicago Times.*

If Lord Dufferin, while at Salt Lake, did not wish to call upon President Young, Lord Dufferin had a perfect right to pass through without calling. If Prest. Young were to visit Ottawa, it would not be incumbent on him to call upon Lord Dufferin.—*Deseret News.*

TESTIMONY OF MARTIN HARRIS.

The following letters of Martin Harris, written in his old age, after his arrival in Utah, we clip from an eastern exchange, believing that they will be read with interest, especially by our “Mormon subscribers:—

Smithfield, Utah, Nov. 23, 1870.

Mr. Emerson, Sir: I received your favor. In reply I will say concerning the plates, I do say that the angel did show to me the plates containing the Book of Mormon. Further, the translation that I carried to Prof. Anthon was copied from these same plates; also, that the Professor did testify to it being a correct translation. I do firmly believe and do know that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God; for without I know he could not had that gift; neither could he have translated the same. I can give if you require it, one hundred witnesses to the proof of the Book of Mormon. I defy any man to show me any passage of Scripture that I am not posted on or familiar with. I will answer any question you feel like asking to the best of my knowledge, if you can rely on my testimony of the same. In conclusion I can say that I arrived in Utah safe, in good health and spirits, considering the long journey. I am quite well at present, and have been, generally speaking, since I arrived.

With many respects I remain your humble friend,

MARTIN HARRIS.

Smithfield, Cache County, U. T.,
January, 1871.

To H. Emerson,—Dear Sir:—Your second letter, dated December, 1870, came duly to hand. I am truly glad to see a spirit of inquiry manifested therein. I reply by a borrowed hand, as my sight has failed me too much to write myself. Your questions: Question 1, "Did you go to England to lecture against "Mormonism?"

Answer. I answer emphatically, No, I did not;—No man ever heard me in any way deny the truth of the Book of Mormon, the administration of the angel that showed me the plates; nor the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, under the administration of Joseph Smith, Jun., the Prophet whom the Lord raised up for that purpose, in these latter days, that he may show forth his power and glory. The Lord has shown me these things by his spirit—by the administration of holy

angels—and confirmed the same with signs following, step by step, as the work has progressed, for the space of fifty-three years.

The Lord showed me there was no true Church upon the face of the earth, none built upon the foundation, designated by the Savior, "The rock of revelation," as declared to Peter. See Matt. xvi, 16, 17, 18 verses. He also showed me that an angel should come and restore the Holy Priesthood again to the earth, and commission his servants again with the Holy Gospel to preach to them that dwell on the earth: See Rev. xiv, 6, 7 verses. He further showed me that the time was nigh when he would "set his hand again the second time to restore the kingdom of Israel, "when he would gather the outcasts of Israel and the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth," "when he would bring the record of Joseph which was in the hand of Ephraim, and join with the record of Judah, when the two records should become one in the hand of the Lord to accomplish his great work of the last days." See Ez. 36th and 37th chap.; also Isaiah 29th chap.; also from the 58th chap. to the end of the book; also Psalms 50.

Question 2. What became of the plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated?

Answer. They were returned to the angel, Moroni, from whom they were received, to be brought forth again in the due time of the Lord; for they contain many things pertaining to the gathering of Israel, which gathering will take place in this generation, and shall be testified of among all nations, according to the old Prophets; as the Lord will set his ensign to the people, and gather the outcasts of Israel:—See Isaiah, 11th chap.

Now, dear sir, examine these Scriptures carefully; and should there still be any ambiguity relative to this great work of the last days, write again and we will endeavor to enlighten you on any point relative to this doctrine.

I am, very respectfully,

MARTIN HARRIS, Sen.

—Ogden Junction.