MORMONISM.

Joseph Smith, the Mormon Leader.

In the Rochester *Union and Advertiser* we find the following account of the peculiarities which marked Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, previous to the publication of his *Revelations*:

"I knew him well before his book was published. He was then a wood-cutter on my farm, more willing to live by his wits than his axe, and worked through the winter in a company with some twenty or thirty others, mostrous rough fellows. He was the lazy associates built a rude cabin of poles and branches with leaves and earth, in the brush, covered with a camp-kettle woodchopper to the South, with a camp-kettle in front for cooking; and here, at night, around a huge fire, he and his companions would gather, ten or a dozen at a time, to tell stories and sing songs and drink cheap whisky (two shillings a gallon), and although there were some hard cases among them, he could beat them all for tough stories and impracticable adventures, and it was in this school, I believe, that he first conceived the wonderful invention of the golden plates and wonderful interpretation. And as these exercises were rehearsed nightly in his hearers, and as their ears grew longer to receive them, so his take grew the more marvelous and to please them, until some of them supposed that he also believed his own stories. But of this fact there is no proof. He was impudent and assuming among his fellows, but ignorant and dishonest, plausible and shrewd in his intercourse with the country people, and ready to cover his ignorance by cunning shifts or others, with sufficient low cunning to conceal his ignorance, but, in my estimation, utterly unqualified to compose even such a jumble of truth and fiction as this book contains.

"The most probable theory of its origin that I remember to have heard is that it was the strange work of an occasional visitor, clergyman, written to while away the tedious hours of long confinement by severe disability, and that this idle production after his decease, fell into Joe's hands, and that having learned something of the gullibility of his cronies, this incidental matter incited in him the first idea of opening a fresh mine of wealth. Dickens and the London Penny-Dreadful, and the London Penny-Dreadful, and the London Penny-Dreadful,