TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."

HENRY B. MASSER, } PUBLISHERS AND
JOSEPH EISELY. } PROPRIETORS.

H. B. MASSER, Editor.

[OFFICE IN MARKET STREET, NEAR DEER.]

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SUNBURY AMERICAN.

AND SHAMOKIN JOURNAL.

Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of Republics, from which there is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism.—JEFFERSON.

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PRICES OF ADVERTISING.

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☞Sixteen lines make a square.

From the N. Y. Zion's Watchman.

MORMONISM.

Mormonism Exposed and Refuted.

Messrs. Piercy and Reed, No. 7 Theatre Alley, have just issued from the press an 18mo. volume of about 54 pages, with this title. It is for sale at the book stores, and may be had at this office, at $8 per hundred, and twelve and a half cents single.

This book comprizes the articles which have appeared in the Watchman on this subject within a few weeks past. Among other testimonies to the necessity of something of this kind, we give the following. Dr. H. Cowdry, in a letter to the editor, dated Acton, Mass., March 8, 1838, says:

"You have done the church and the world a good service in your delineation of Mormonism, of more value than any I have ever seen."

From the Maine W. Journal.

Mormonism.

I have been much pleased, Mr. Editor, with a number of articles published in Zion's Watchman, showing in a strong light the gross absurdities and baffably contemptible pretensions of Mormonism. I conceive Mr. Sutherland has rendered an essential service to the cause of truth and righteousness. It must have been to him a thankless and wearisome task; but having seen the book of Mormon, I am prepared to say, he has performed it faithfully. You have published one or two of the numbers in the Journal. It would please me if the whole review could be spread before our people through the same medium. The Mormons have entered this state, and in some instances made converts to their impious assumptions. They deserve rebuke—and the effort of Mr. S. in giving it, though ungrateful to himself, will, I am persuaded, be of substantial benefit to the public. It is, I trust it will, be instrumental in reverting some from the error of their ways—in saving souls from death, and covering a multitude of sins."

Bangor, March, 1838. J. B. H.

We are aware that some of our readers may have thought we were devoting more attention to this subject than really deserved. But we are confident they would not have thought so, if they known as much of the mischief which this barefaced delusion is doing in many parts of our country, as has come to our knowledge.

If people, every where, knew what Mormonism is, they would stand in little danger of being duped by its wicked advocates. But before those who would do so, have an opportunity or the means of demonstrating its falsity, in every place, where one of its pretended prophets and miracle works has made his onset upon the people, numbers of well meaning persons may be caught in the snare, and then every effort to reclaim them is denounced as persecution.

Read the following letters. It is a fact, that the Mr. Pratt referred to below, has, as we learn, baptized quite a number of individuals in this city, the last winter, and he is still practising his art in other places, we are told.

It will be seen that the following letter is from a man who was himself a Mormonite, and a "high priest" among them, and was Joseph Smith, Jr's. private secretary.

KIRTLAND, Ohio, March 6, 1838.

TO THE EDITOR OF ZION'S WATCHMAN:

Dear Sir.—I learn from your valuable and highly interesting periodical, which has casually fallen into my hands, that you are laying before the public a brief and (I believe thus far) a correct story of the Mormon church, which I think is conferring a favor upon the public that they are justly entitled to, as the abominations, evil designs, and practices of their leaders need only to be known and investigated, to explode their deep rooted system of heresy, whose sable shades are hovering around the mental horizon of thousands, and is calculated to impair in the minds of the credulous and unsuspecting, the fair form of virtue and religion.

If I can render you any assistance in forwarding this laudable enterprize, by giving you a statement of facts that have fallen under my own observation, I shall consider that I am discharging a duty that I owe to God and my fellow creatures. I understand that P. P. Pratt, one of the twelve modern apostles, an intimate acquaintance of mine, is now holding forth in your city; and I have thought that a letter written by himself, to Joseph Smith, Jr., containing a statement of facts in relation to the conduct of said Smith, and S. Rigdon, might be of service to the lovers of truth; especially to the inhabitants of your city. The following is a true copy of the original:— W. PARRISH.

"KIRTLAND, May 23, 1837.

"PRES. J. SMITH, Jr.

"Dear Brother,—As it is difficult to obtain a personal interview with you at all times, by reason of the multitude of business in which you are engaged, you will excuse my saying in writing what I would otherwise say by word of mouth.

"Having long pondered the path in which we as a people, have been led in regard to our temporal management, I have at length become fully convinced that the whole scheme of speculation in which we have been engaged, is of the devil. I allude to the covetous, extraordinary speculating spirit which has reigned in this place for the last season: which has given rise to lying, deceiving, and taking advantage of one's neighbor, and in short, every evil work.

"And being as fully convinced that you, and President Rigdon, both by precept and example, have been the principal means in leading this people astray, in these particulars, and having myself been led astray, and caught in the same snare by your example, and by false prophesying and preaching, from your mouths, yea, having done many things wrong, and plunged myself and family, and others, well nigh into destruction; I have awoke to an awful sense of my situation, and now resolve to retrace my steps, and get out of the snare, and make restitution as far as I can.

"And now, dear brother, if you are still determined to pursue this wicked course, until yourself and the Church shall sink down to HELL, I beseech you at least to have mercy on me and my family, and others who are bound with me for those three lots which you sold to me at the extortionary price of $2000, which never cost you $100. For if it stands against me it will ruin me and my helpless family, as well as those bound with me: for yesterday president Rigdon came to me and informed me, that you had drawn the money from the bank, on the obligations which you hold against me, and that you had left it to the mercy of the bank, and could not help whatever course they might take to collect it; notwithstanding the most SACRED PROMISES on your part, that I should not be injured by those writings. I offered him the three lots for the writings; but he wanted my house and home also.

"Now, dear brother, will you take those lots and give me up the writings, and pay me the $75 which I paid you on the same? Or will you take the advantage of your neighbor because he is in your power! If you will receive this admonition of one who loves your soul, and repent of your extortion and covetousness, in this thing, and make restitution, you have my fellowship and esteem, as far as it respects our dealings between ourselves.

"But if not, I shall be under the painful necessity of preferring charges against you for extortion, covetousness, and taking advantage of your brother by an undue religious influence. For it is this kind of influence which led us to make this kind of trades in this society. Such as saying it was the will of God that lands should bear with such a price; and many other prophesyings, preachings and statements of a like nature. Yours with respect,

"P. P. PRATT."

Accompanying the above, Mr. Parrish has sent us the following letter, which first appeared in the Painesville (Ohio) Republican:

KIRTLAND, Feb. 5, 1838.

SIR,—I have taken the liberty to send you a synopsis of some of the leading features of the characters of Joseph Smith, jr. and Sidney Rigdon, who are styled leaders of the Mormon Church, and if you are disposed, and think it would be of service to the public, you are at liberty to publish it. I have for several years past been a member of the Church of latter day Saints, commonly called Mormons, belonging to the quorum of seventy high priests, and an intimate acquaintance of Jos. Smith Jr. and Sidney Rigdon, the modern prophets, and have had an opportunity of ascertaining to as great an extent, the real characters of these men, as any other individual. I have been Smith's private secretary, called to fill this high and responsible station by revelation which I wrote myself as it dropped from the lips of the prophet, and altho' contrary to my natural inclinations, I submitted to it, fearing to disobey or treat lightly the commands of the Almighty. I have kept his journal, and like Barak, the ancient scribe, had the honor of writing the history of one of the prophets. I have attended him in his private councils, in his secret chambers and in his public exhibitions. I have performed a pilgrimage with him, not to Mecca, but to Missouri, a distance of 1000 miles, for the redemption of Zion, in company with about two hundred others, called the camp of Israel. When we arrived in Clay county, adjoining Jackson county, Mo., in which Zion was located by revelation, and from which our brethren had been driven, we were informed through the prophet that God had revealed to us that we need not cross over and fight as we expected, but that God had accepted our sacrifice as he did that of Abraham, ours being equal to his when he offered up his son. Therefore we were sealed up unto eternal life in the name of Jesus Christ, as a reward for our sufferings and obedience. I have set by his side and penned down the translation of the Egyptian Hieroglyphics as he claimed to receive it by direct inspiration from Heaven. I have listened to him with feelings of no ordinary kind, when he declared that the audible voice of God instructed him to establish a Banking-Anti-Banking institution, which like Aaron's rod should swallow up all other Banks, (the Bank of Monroe excepted,) and grow and flourish and spread from the rivers to the ends of the earth, and survive when all others should be laid in ruins. I have been astonished to hear him declare that we had 60,000 dollars in specie in our vaults, and $600,000 at our command, when we had not to exceed $6,000, and could not command any more; also that we had but about ten thousand dollars of our bills in circulation, when he, as cashier of the institution, knew that there was at least $150,000. Knowing their extreme poverty when they commenced in the Mormon speculation, I have been not a little surprised to hear them assert that they were worth from 3 to 400,000 dollars each, and in less than ninety days after, became insolvent without any change in their business affairs. But such has been the audacity of these boasting blasphemers, that they have assumed the authority to curse, or to bless, to damn or to save, not only this church, but this entire generation, and that they hold their destinies in this world and that which is to come. And such has been their influence over this church in this place, that they have filched their monies from their pockets, and obtained their earthly substance for the purpose of establishing a bank and various other wild speculations, in order that they might aggrandize themselves and families, until they have reduced their followers to wretchedness and want. For the year past their lives have been one continued scene of lying, deception and fraud, and too, in the name of God. But this I can account for in my own mind, having a knowledge of their own private characters and sentiments; I believe them to be confirmed infidels, who have not the fear of God before their eyes, notwithstanding their high pretentions to holiness, and frequent correspondence with the Angels of Heaven; and the revelations of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Ghost. What avails the claim of such men to holiness of heart, when their examples do violence to the system of morality, to say nothing about religion? What more favorable idea can one entertain, who has heard them say that man has no more agency than a wheelbarrow, and consequently is not accountable, and in the final end of all things no such principle will exist as sin.

Thus language independent of many abominations that might be named, such as the prophets fighting four pitched battles at fisticuff, within four years, one with his own natural brother, one with his brother-in-law, one with Ezra Thair, and one with a baptist priest, speaks volumes. Their management in this place, has reduced society to a complete wreck. The recent outrages here, viz: the burning of a printing establishment, I have no doubt was nothing more nor less than carrying into effect Smith and Rigdon's last revelation that they had before they took their leave of this place between two days—in fact the *lying, fighting, stealing, running away, &c.*, that have been carried on among us, is only reducing their theory to practice, and in some instances they have not only taught the theory, but have set the example themselves. And I am fully convinced that their precepts and examples both in public and in private, are calculated to corrupt the morals of their votaries, and cast a shade over their characters, which like a twilight of evening will soon settle into the gloom of midnight darkness; and had it not been arrested in its mad career, would have transmitted to succeeding generations, a system of hereditary tyranny, and spiritual despotism, unparalleled in the annals of Christian church, the church of Rome not excepted. But they have fled in the night; "they love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil: the wicked flee when no man pursueth." The printing establishment, book bindery, &c., was formerly the property of Smith and Rigdon; it had been sold the day previous to its being set on fire, by virtue of two executions obtained against them of one thousand dollars each, for issuing banking paper contrary to law. The establishment had fallen into the hands of those who have of late remonstrated against the wickedness of the above named individuals; and had it not been sacrificed upon the altar of reckless fanaticism, it would no doubt at this time been speaking the truth as an atonement for an ill-spent life; a well grounded conviction of this fact was evidently one reason why Smith and Rigdon obtained a revelation to abscond; and that the Press must not at all hazards be suffered to be put in requisition against them, also that God would destroy this place by fire, for its wickedness against his prophets, and that his servants are swift messengers of destruction, by whose hands he avenges himself upon his enemies: this accounts for the outrage. This is but a preface to the catalogue of their iniquities that might be enumerated. But the most astonishing thing after all is, that men of common sense and common abilities should be so completely blinded as to dispense entirely with the evidence of their senses, and tamely submit to be led by such men, and to countenance such glaring inconsistencies, and at the same time be made to believe, that they had God for their author, and the happiness and well being of mankind for their end an aim. But the magic charm is broken at last; superstition and bigotry have begun to loose their influence and unclench their iron grasp from this devoted people, who have "been led like the lambs to the slaughter, and as a sheep is dumb before her shearers" so have we not dared to open our mouth. However, justice seems to be in pursuit of the workers of iniquity; and sooner or later will overtake them; they will reap a just and sure retribution for their folly. This then is the conclusion of the whole matter; they LIE by revelation, SWINDLE by revelation, CHEAT and DEFRAUD by revelation, RUN AWAY by revelation; and if they do not mend their ways, I fear they will at last be damned by revelation. W. PARRISH.

This is to certify that we are personally acquainted with said Parrish, Smith and Rigdon, and that the above is a statement of facts, according to our best recollection.

LUKE JOHNSON, } *Two of the twelve*
JOHN F. BOYNTON, } *Apostles.*
SYLVESTER SMITH, } *Formerly Presidents*
LEONARD RICH, } *of the seventies.*

American Artists Abroad.

The Parisian correspondent of the Courier and Enquirer, in noticing the success of Mr. Healy, an American artist now in Paris, says that at the request of Governor Cass, he has taken a portrait of Marshal Soult, which is said to be superior in point of resemblance and excution, to any among the thousands that have been finished of this celebrated officer. The King of the French having been informed of the fact desired to see the artist and his picture, and was accordingly introduced to His Majesty by the General, and was most favorably received—but his good fortune did not terminate here. The King consented to sit to him for a Portrait for General Cass, and is so much pleased with the progress of the work, that he has ordered a copy of it for himself. The American citizens resident in Paris have resolved to employ Mr. Healy to paint a portrait of Mr. Guizot, Minister for Foreign Affairs, whose literary connexion with the name of Washington they propose thus acknowledging. When finished, the picture will be sent home (to the U. S.) to be placed in a suitable situation in New York or Washington.

The Kremlin.

This ancient palace of the Czars, at Moscow, is said to be rising magnificenty from the ruin into which it fell during the fire of Moscow on the French invasion. The plan will unite grandeur and comfort with the peculiarities of the barbarous Tartaric style. The building will be heated in winter on the Russian plan, by one huge stove, constructed in the basement story, from which 250 tubes convey the hot air to all points of the edifice. For the use of the heir apparent and his young consort, a second palace is to be erected at Moscow, near the Kremlin.—*Boston Jour.*

The standing army of France is to be kept at 500,000 men, whose duration of service is to be eight years, but one half of them, after having served four years, will be allowed leave of absence, and be incorporated as a corps of reserve, liable to be called into active service; by this means the nation will save about half the expence of maitaining so large a force.

An Unprofitable business.—The Paymaster General of the Missouri militia has made a report, in which it appears, that what he calls the *Mormon War*, cost the state of Missouri *one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.*

A Runaway Railroad Train.

During the gale on Saturday afternoon, a tender and passenger car, which were standing on the track of the Long Island Railroad, at Hicksville, were suddenly set in motion by the force of the wind, and moved off in double quick time toward Jamaica. Their progress was not arrested till they reached the woods on the New York side of the village above named. Some estimate may be formed of the force of the wind from the fact that the distance travelled over by the cars was fifteen miles, and that the time in which it was accomplised was 30 minutes—an avarage of a mile in two minutes. The car was part of a funeral train, and contained the corpse. A locomotive was immediately despatched after it, but did not overtake it until its progress had been partially stopped by a thick piece of woods, which broke the force of the gale.

Improvements in the Daguerreotype.

Mr. Daugerre has authorized M. Arago to announce to the Academie des Sciences that he has discovered the means of catching a complete image of any moveing object in less than a second. The New Bedford Register announces an improvement, effected by Mr. J. Dixon, of Tauton, in this State, which exceeds in utility any other yet made. Hitherto the operation of this instrument has been confined to the production of picturs on silver plate properly prepared, but Mr. Dixon has succeeded in producing the effect upon lithographic stone, and, in such a manner, that copies of the picture may be multiplied with as much ease and certainty as lithographic work, produced in the usual way.

Boston Post.

Singular Fishing.

On Wednesday the 30th ult., a Newfoundland dog, belonging to Mr. Cameron, Tontine Hotel, Prebles, captured a fine salmon in the Tweed, in the following singular manner.—(Hector, for such is the dog's name) is exceedingly fond of the water; so much so, that whenever he gets loose from his chain, he is off to the river, and with the greatest industry brings to land all the drift wood, &c. floating down the stream. On Wednesday the 30th ult. while thus employed, he was observed by some boys to dive suddenly under the water, where he remained entirely out of sight for about half a minute. When he arose again to the surface he had a salmon in his mouth, which was struggling to escape; but he held it fast in his capacious jaws, and brought it safe to land, and would on no account quit his prize, until he carried it safe home to his master. The fish was of the real salmon tribe, and weighed about four pounds.—*Scotchman.*

How to Cure a Husband.

A woman, whom her husband used frequently to scold, went to a cunning man to inquire how she might cure him of his barbarity. The sagacious soothsayer heard her complaint; and after pronouncing some hard words, and using various gesticulations, while he filled a vial with colored liquid, desired her, whenever her husband was in a passion, to take a mouthful of the liquor and keep it in her mouth for five minutes. The woman, quite overjoyed at so simple a remedy, strictly followed the counsel which was given her, and by her silence escaped the usual annoyance. The contents of the bottle being at last expended, she returned to the cunning man and anxiously begged to have another possessed of the same virtue. "Daughter," said the man, "there was noting in the bottle but brown sugar and water. When your husband is in a passion, hold your tongue, and, my life on it, he will not scold you in future."

A Bosom Full.

A female in Baltimore was suspected recently by a storekeeper of secreting in her bosom a skein of worsted, and he insisted upon searching her, to which she objected for some time, but being threatened with exposure, she consented. He found concealed in her bosom the worsted, two shawls, a pair of stockings, and to his astonishment, a *pair of skates.*

A Rival for J. Q. Adams---Remarkable Case.

Mr. Casey, of Illinois, is said to be the most attentive member of Congress—more faithful in attendance to his legislative duties even than Mr. Adams. During the eight years that he has been a member of the House, he has been abroad only a day and a half, and has voted on *every question* (?) taken, with that exception.

The Express mentions one person who will remember Inauguration Day as long as he lives. It was a garrison officer of the Navy, who went to the White House, intoxicated. The President answered his greeting with—"Sir, I am sorry to see you or any person in your condition, here." This sobered him—we guess—but it isn't every man who has the honor to be rebuked by the chief magistrate of the nation. The man has that to comfort him at any rate.—*Amer. Sentinel.*

Spark Catcher—A new contrivance, for the purpose of locomotive spark-catching, has been invented by Mr. D. Matthews, of Schenectady, N. Y. In addition to relieving the passenger from the inconvenience now experienced by his optics, all danger of fire to be apprehended from the machine is entirely done away with. On a recent occasion the inventor placed a pound of powder on the top of the car next to the locomotive, and made the run from Schenectady to Utica and back, a distance of 150 miles, without igniting it.

Death in the Ball Room.

"As the first dance at the Ball last evening," says the Portland Argus of the 5th instant, "was about commencing, the company was shocked by the instantaneous death of one of their number—Mr. Wm. Parker—who fell dead just as he had led his partner to the floor. He was taken directly to the office of Dr. Wood, in the Exchange building, but all life had departed."

The London Times relates the following occurrence which lately happened in the great metropolis.

"Mr. Stroud having occasion for a house-keeper to superintend his domestic arrangements, advertised for 'a widow, or a widow and her daughter, to take charge of the upper part of a tradesman's house, and to cook for him.' The wages were stated to be £30 per annum, with coals, candles, &c, and application was directed to be made between eleven and three o'clock on Tuesday, at No. 68 Tower Street. Before the clock struck eleven the widows began to arrive, and soon the street was rendered impassible by the number of fair ones crowding towards the house, and in a few minutes Mr. Stroud's shop and parlor were filled with women struggling to gain the attention of the advertiser, and clamorously setting forth their qualifications for the situation.

A report soon got wind that Mr. Stroud had advertised for a wife, and people flocked from all quarters to see the ladies in search of a husband. The widows, young, middle-aged, the thin and stout, the dark and the fair, some in their weeds, others gaily attired, and many poorly but decently clad, continued to arrive, and were greeted with laughter and shouts by the mob, who gave free vent to their jokes and ribaldry as the widows arrived and departed. At length the confusion and noise became so great, that a posse of the city police were sent for, who preserved a little better order, and afforded free ingress, for the applicants."

Miraculous.—On Friday last a small boy by the name of Battles, playing near Smith & Peacock's saw mill, Rochester, fell over the precipice, a distance of 70 feet. He landed in a snow drift, and the only injury he sustained was the dislocation of his ankle!—*Rochester Democrat.*

Mysterious Professions.

"Now Tom," said the printer of a country newspaper, in giving directions to his apprentice, "put the 'foreign leaders' into the *galleys*, and *lock 'em up*—let 'Napoleon's remains' have a larger *head*—*distribute* the 'army in the East'—take up a line and finish the 'British Minister'—make 'the young Princess' to run on with 'the Duchess of Kent'—move 'the Kerry hunt' out of *the chase*—get your stick and conclude 'the horrid murder' that Joe began last night—wash your hands and come in to dinner, and then see that all the *pie* is cleared up." Some printers are *devils*—and no mistake.

The following toast was recently given at Ogdensburg, New York;

"WOMAN.—A mother, she cherishes and corrects us; a sister, she consults and counsels us; a sweetheart, she coquets and conquers us; a wife, she comforts and confides us; without her what would become of us!"

EMENDATION BY A BACHELOR.

A mother, she scolds and spanks us; a sister, she tells of and pinches us; a sweetheart, she coquets and jilts us; a wife, she frowns, pouts, frets, cries, and torments us; without her, what would there be to trouble us!—*Buffalo Repub.*

FISHING.—We learn from the London Quarterly Review, that Chantrey, the celebrated English sculptor, is an inveterate angler—trout-catching is his favorite amusement. When Madam Malibran first visited the great sculptor in his studies, she addressed him, from her frank feeling and good heart, with "How happy you must be in the midst of this your beautiful creation. To which he, with equal sincerity, though a little to her surprise, replied, "I'd rather be a fishing!"

A lady of Tarrytown being out in the evening, was accosted by a gentleman who offered to escort her home, to which she answered, "Get out you brute!" He begged her pardon, when she immediately replied, "Ah, sir! I ask *your* pardon, for in a state of mental absence, I thought it was my husband."

RECEIPT FOR THE LADIES.—Cream may be frozen by simply putting it into a glass vessel, and then placing the whole in an old bachelor's bosom.

The New York Planet has the following:—"Bill, that's a *capital* cigar." "Yes, Ned, so it is; but it will afford you very little *interest*, I am afraid, as it is solitary and *a loan.*"

HONOR VS. PROFIT.—The Circuit Judges in Illinois are so poorly paid that they are compelled, it is stated, to swap horses and gamble in order to support their families.

A SMOKER.—"You look," said a German-minded and imaginative friend to a pale, haggard smoker, "you look as if you had got out of your grave to light your cigar, and could'nt find your way back again!"

PROGRESSION.—We learn to climb by keeping our eyes on the mountains that rise before us, and not on the hills that lie behind.