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## Apostasy and Treason

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**Abstract:** Lengthy retelling of the conflict of Amalickiah and Ammoron against Moroni, Teacum, and Lehi.

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hat his father ever bought him, was made by an uncle of Bro. A. Merrill, the latter in this city. Not many parents could afford to buy store hats for a large family of boys in that newly settled country. Their mothers had to make them caps, and you may be sure they had to take care of them, or they would have to go bareheaded, so with shoes and every other article of dress.

Though his parents were devoted to the Methodist religion, and their precepts of morality were sustained by their good examples, and he was taught by them to live a strictly moral life, yet he was reluctant to connect himself with any of the sects. There were defects in their systems, a lack of knowledge and power of which he was painfully conscious. Preachers labored with him to get him to become a member of their churches in early life; but it was not until his twenty-second year that he became inclined to be religious according to the popular idea. He then attached himself to the Methodist church. But he had sufficient light to understand that the ministers of the day knew but little about God and the gospel. If he asked them questions upon points that he wished to satisfy himself about, he found them ignorant, and if pressed for an answer, they would take refuge under the remark that "great was the mystery of godliness." This did not satisfy the yearnings of his nature. He wanted to know God, whom to know is life eternal, and he could not be contented with the ignorance which prevailed among religious teachers respecting Him.

[To be continued.]

## APOSTASY AND TREASON.

HERE is no enemy which a country has that is more bitter than a man who is a traitor. We see this in the war of the Revolution. Benedict Arnold was a trusted leader in the American armies, yet he became a traitor and sold himself for gold, and became a most hateful enemy to the country of his birth and the cause to which he formerly belonged. The same is true of apostates from the church of God; men who deny their God and the faith which they have received, and turn against them, often become most bitter opponents to the gospel and the people of God. One of the most striking instances of this kind recorded in the Book of Mormon is that of Amalickiah. This man was a Nephite, and had doubtless belonged to the church of God; but denied the faith and became the leader of a party which persecuted the Saints. At that time the Nephites had a republican form of government, which had been established about nineteen years. Amalickiah and his party were in favor of a monarchy, and he wanted to be the king; and they were determined to carry their point by force of arms if possible. Seeing, however, that the armies of the Nephites, who were under the command of a very able general named Moroni, were more numerous than his, Amalickiah thought it better to leave that country and unite himself with the Lamanites. Moroni, however, came very near frustrating him in this design; for he made forced marches and succeeded in heading the army of Amalickiah, and captured the greater portion of them. Amalickiah, with a small number of his men, succeeded in escaping. He was a restless, ambitious man, and being imbued, like all apostates and traitors are, with hatred to his former companions and countrymen, he did all in his power to arouse a feeling of hostility in the breasts of the Lamanites against the Nephites. He succeeded so well with the king of the Lamanites, that he resolved to go to war; but some of his people were averse to such a war and they rebelled against him. He made Amalickiah com-

mander-in-chief of that part of his army which was loyal, and gave him orders to compel the rebels to take arms against the Nephites. When the rebels found that the king was determined to force them, they formed a camp and chose a king, being resolved that they would not be forced into the war.

In appointing Amalickiah commander-in-chief of his army, the king of the Lamanites did a very foolish thing. A man who will be false to his religion and betray his country and friends is not a man to be trusted under any circumstances. Amalickiah was an apostate and traitor, and was dead to every sentiment of honor and loyalty. He immediately began to plot for the destruction of every man that stood in his pathway; he had aimed to be king of the Nephites, and failing in that, he determined to secure the throne and kingly dignity among the Lamanites. He marched against the rebels and camped close by them, and in the night sent a secret message to their king and commander, that he wanted to have an interview with him.

Lehonti, whom the rebels had chosen king, durst not venture out of his camp to meet Amalickiah, although he sent him three messages. Amalickiah then left his own camp and went over to Lehonti's and sent him a message to come and meet him with his guards. Night was a proper time to be selected for such an interview as he desired. He proposed to surrender his entire army to Lehonti on condition that he would make him second in command. The proposal suited Lehonti; he, doubtless, thought it a very easy way of obtaining victory, and being a very ambitious man himself he thought he could see his path clear to the throne, for if he had the entire control of the army the legal king would be unable to offer resistance. He therefore, upon Amalickiah's return, aroused his men, marched them to the camp of Amalickiah which he quietly surrounded. When the alarm was given, and the loyalists found themselves surrounded without any hope of successful resistance, they plead with Amalickiah to surrender and not to attempt to fight. This was the very thing that he wanted and it was easy for him to comply with their wishes. He delivered up his army to Lehonti, and broke the command of the king. Lehonti kept his part of the arrangement and made Amalickiah his second in command.

It was with the Lamanites as it is with many other nations of the present day. When the commander-in-chief dies the ranking officer, that is the next in command, takes his place. Amalickiah had no intention of acting for any length of time under Lehonti. What he wanted was the chief command. To accomplish this he caused one of his servants to administer poison to Lehonti in small quantities, and by this means caused the death of his commander. An apostate first, afterwards a traitor to his own country, then a traitor to the king whose service he had accepted, he had now become a murderer, and all through his lust of power. He had denied his God, proved false to his religion and was ready for the commission of any crime that he thought would forward his interests. He was now in chief command of the army of the Lamanites, by what he probably called a skillful stroke of policy. He had united loyalists and rebels, but he was not yet king; still he could see before him the path by which he could reach the throne, and we will relate to you in our next, how he succeeded, through the commission of more crime, in mounting its steps.

(To be continued.)

The credit that is got by a lie only lasts till the truth comes out.