When Queen Victoria Received a Book of Mormon

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**Abstract:** This article describes how in 1842 Lorenzo Snow made the presentation of a richly bound Book of Mormon to Queen Victoria, Queen of England.
When Queen Victoria Received
A BOOK of MORMON

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REPRODUCTION OF A SIGNATURE OF
QUEEN VICTORIA

Early in the spring of 1840 Lorenzo Snow, then twenty-five years of age, was appointed to a mission in England. He crossed the ocean in a sailing vessel, September 7 to October 19. After spending ten days in Manchester with Brigham Young and the others of the Council of the Twelve who had gathered there, he was assigned to labor in Birmingham until the following February, 1841, when he was appointed to “preside over the Church in London.”

About this time the Lord said in a revelation to Joseph Smith:

“Unto this end have I raised you up, that I might show forth my wisdom through the weak things of the earth and this Gospel shall be made known to the kings and nations of the earth.”

The following interesting story of Mormonism and the Queen of England has been compiled from Tullidge’s Histories written between 1877 and 1886:

Victoria ascended the throne of Great Britain just three weeks before Heber C. Kimball, Orson Hyde, and Willard Richards arrived in her realm to preach the Gospel.

Before leaving England, President Brigham Young, who had succeeded in raising means to publish the Book of Mormon, gave directions for copies to be specially prepared and richly bound for presentation to her Majesty and the Prince Consort. The honor of this devolved upon Lorenzo Snow, who was at that time president of the London conference. He made the presentation in 1842, through the politeness of Sir Henry Wheatley, and it is said that her Majesty condescended to be pleased with the gift. Whether she ever read the Book of Mormon is not known, although if the presentation did not altogether fade from her memory, Mormonism became sensational enough to provoke even a monarch to read the book, if for nothing better than curiosity; so, not unlikely Queen Victoria read some portions, at least, of the Book of Mormon.

This unique circumstance called forth from the pen of Eliza R. Snow the poem which is reproduced hereafter.

In a family album now treasured by the descendants of Lorenzo Snow, there appears a signature of Queen Victoria, also reproduced hereafter. By what circumstance it came there is not now known, but some have been wont to link it with Lorenzo Snow’s presentation of Brigham Young’s gift to a Queen and an Empress.

Queen Victoria

Of all the monarchs of the earth,
That wear the robes of royalty,
She has inherited, by birth,
The broadest wreath of majesty.

From her wide territorial wing,
The sun does not withdraw its light;
While earth’s diurnal motions bring
To other nations, day and night.

All earthly thrones are tottering things,
Where lights and shadows intervene;
And regal honor often brings
The scaffold or the guillotine.

But still her sceptre is approved;
All nations deck the wreath she wears:
Yet, like the youth whom Jesus loved,
One thing is lacking, even there.

But, o! a prize possessing more
Of worth than gems with honor rise—
A herald of salvation bore
To her the words of endless life.

That gift, however foolish deride,
Is worthy of her royal care;
She’d better lay her crown aside
Than spurn the light reflected there.

O would she now her influence bend—
The influence of royalty,
Messiah’s Kingdom to extend,
And Zion’s “nursing mother” be:

Thus, with the glory of her name
Inscribed on Zion’s lofty spire,
She’d win a wreath of endless fame,
To last when other wreaths expire.

Though over millions called to reign—
Herself a powerful nation’s boast,
’Twould be her everlasting gain
To serve the King, the Lord of Hosts.

For there are crowns and thrones on high,
And kingdoms there to be conferred—
There honors wait that never die—
There fame’s immortal trump is heard.

Truth echoes—tis Jehovah’s word;
Let kings and queens and princes hear
In distant isles the sound is heard;
Ye heavens, rejoice! O earth, give ear!

The time—the time is near at hand
To give a glorious period birth:
The Son of God will take command.
And rule the nations of the earth.

—Eliza R. Snow Smith.