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Book of Mormon

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Abstract: This article announces a new edition of the Book of Mormon.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1921.

EDITORIAL:

BOOK OF MORMON.

It has ever been the desire of readers of the Book of Mormon, especially of its devoted readers and students, to see it improved typographically, and in general and mechanical makeup. Several efforts have been made to issue it in better form. Some of these were successful, others apparently were not fortunate. The first edition, printed at Palmyra, in 1830, was in large type on very good paper and made a well proportioned and very presentable volume, superior to several editions that have followed it, both in America and Europe, which were made to reduce the size of the book when bound, and also its cost, so that a wider sale and distribution of it could be effected.

In 1879, fifty years after the first edition, the volume was overhauled by Apostle Orson Pratt, who divided the long paragraphs into chapters and verses, and provided its pages with copious references and footnotes. Electrotype plates were made, from which many editions were printed. The type, however, was small though of a good face, and this form, with slight changes, as new editions (some extremely cheap and unattractive) were called for, has prevailed, with perhaps a single exception, until the present time. The exception was a limited edition issued by the *Juvenile Instructor* office, in the year 1889. This was printed in very large type on fine paper, making a handsome volume to correspond with the moderate size bibles generally used in public. It was necessarily expensive, and of restricted circulation. It is a pleasure to note that progress towards the realization of our hope, for a helpful and attractive volume is being made, and we now have an edition that has taken a long step in this direction. The following official announcement of its issue explains the remarkable improvements that have been added, and commends it to the people. It is understood that a missionary edition is under way that will follow the present library edition, bringing the new volume in reach of all at low prices:

“We are pleased to announce a new issue of the Book of Mormon. From the time of its first publication, in 1830, to the present, the demand for this volume of Scripture has been constantly increasing.

So many imprints have been taken from the several sets of old plates that all of these have become defectively worn, and the

preparation of a new set of electrotypes was deemed imperative.

The necessary re-setting of type afforded an opportunity of making several improvements in bookmaking details. Among these improvements the following are worthy of special mention:

1. Instead of the small type heretofore used, the text of the new issue is printed from 8-point Bible-type, which produces a large bold-faced letter, particularly clear and easy to read.

2. The text is set in two columns to the page, Bible style, thus presenting short lines, which are easily followed, instead of the long lines of full-page width hitherto used.

3. Each chapter is preceded by a concise heading, embodying its principal contents.

4. The designation of book and chapter at the top of each page has been simplified and made much more serviceable than the old style.

5. The foot-note references have been carefully revised, and in some instances, amplified.

6. At the bottom of each page, excepting only the Book of Ether, the chronology of principal events is given, as such a time 'B. C.' or 'A. D.' The years are distinguished as exact or approximate specifications, according to the information furnished by the Book of Mormon itself.

7. Preceding the text is a 'Brief Analysis of the Book of Mormon,' which will greatly assist the reader in comprehending the relations of the several divisions or 'books' to each other.

8. Also preceding the text, appears a comprehensive account of the 'Origin of the Book of Mormon,' which is couched, almost entirely, in the words of the inspired translator, Joseph Smith, the Prophet.

9. Following the text is a 'Synopsis of Chapters' and other helps.

10. A 'Pronouncing Vocabulary' gives a simple and consistent pronunciation of practically every proper name, and of some other words, of Book of Mormon origin.

11. What promises to be one of the most helpful features of the new issue is the comprehensive 'Index,' comprising sixty-eight columns of reference data, grouped both according to subjects and to important passages. The need of an index to the Book of Mormon has long been yearningly felt and strongly expressed. We doubt not that this addendum to the volume will be greatly appreciated.

The first edition from the new plates is printed on paper of superior quality, and is supplied in a variety of better-class bindings.

We trust the publication of the Book of Mormon in this improved form will result in a more devoted study of this distinctive

volume of Holy Scripture, and in a fuller application of its saving precepts and principles in the lives of our people and amongst all who read it."

HEBER J. GRANT,
ANTHON H. LUND,
CHARLES W. PENROSE,
First Presidency."

Salt Lake City, Utah, December 24th, 1920.

THE MODERN ALCHEMISTS.

AS we of the twentieth century look back upon the "black arts" and pseudo-sciences of the dark ages, we can not but smile at the clumsy and foolish, though sincere, attempts of our ancestors to get something for nothing. Alchemy, astrology and like practices were representative of the spirit of the time. Men wasted their lives trying to make gold of the baser metals, when with the same amount of energy, properly directed, they could have acquired the wealth they so much craved.

Since the day of the alchemist the world has made great strides in most branches of learning. The alchemist has been supplanted by the chemist, who, with the intelligent use of chemicals can tear asunder great mountains and lay hold upon the treasures they contain. The modern engineer is able with the help of this new knowledge to harness the mighty rivers and make them force the desert to yield an abundance, while the power developed as a bye-product will do greater things for man than was dreamed of in the days of Aladdin of the magic lamp. All scientists have come to a knowledge that the things worth while come only as a result of hard, persistent effort. It is true, however, that the burdens of men can be greatly lightened through a careful study of the laws of the universe and the application of the knowledge thus gained to the practical problems of modern life. Thus we see that scientists have found the key to progress and are making wonderful headway in the path of continual advancement by paying the price of work and study.

Can we say the same for religion? To-day there are millions of people in hundreds of churches who would laugh at the old alchemist and his vain efforts to get something for nothing. They realize that the entire material world is controlled entirely by law, and that nothing is left to chance. The churches of the present day, instead of leading the world in knowledge, as in the days of Noah, Abraham, Moses, and their successors, are now trying in vain to keep pace with the forward rush of the other guardians of knowledge. The really deplorable thing about the whole situation is that the "Christian" churches are in their present position, as followers instead of leaders, because they