

10% SALE 'til May 5th

Almost a year ago we decided to make Modern Microfilm Co. a full-time business. Since that time we have had much to encourage us, but we have also had several setbacks. An operation has set us back almost a thousand dollars, as well as caused the loss of about a month's time. In spite of these discouragements we have been able to continue. This has been made possible because of our customers. We certainly owe our continued existence as a company to their faithful support. Of the many hundreds of checks sent by our customers, we have never received a bad one. We feel that this is a very good record, one which our customers can be proud of.

At a time when things looked bad financially we had a 10% sale, and because of the faithful support of our customers we were able to continue. At this time we are going to have another sale, and we are optimistic that this sale will bring similar results. If we are able to continue this work, we hope to print several books which will be helpful to students of Mormonism. We have the masters ready to print the History of Joseph Smith by his mother (this is the book Brigham Young tried to destroy), and all we lack now is the money to buy the paper to print it on. We are also interested in printing a book showing all the changes that have been made in the Book of Mormon, and also a book showing the changes in Joseph Smith's revelations. These are but a few of the many books we will be able to print if our customers continue to support us as they have in the past.

This sale begins when our customers receive this notice and it will continue until May 5.

A special price list is enclosed which shows the price for each book with the 10% discount already deducted.

To avoid confusion the sale does not apply to any order placed prior to the time this paper is received.

Millennial Star

We have just completed printing volumes 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the *Millennial Star*. Since volume 1 has already been printed, this will mean that the first 5 volumes will now be available. (This is a photomechanical reprint of an early Mormon publication.)

We will take them to the binders as soon as we receive a sufficient number of orders. They will have the same type of binding (black buckram) that was used on the *Times and Seasons*.

This is a limited printing (only 250 of each volume) and we can make no guarantee that there will be another printing when these are gone.

This printing in these volumes is clear and readable, and they will be of great interest to the student of Mormonism.

After placing order allow a few weeks for delivery.

Times and Seasons

This is a photomechanical reprint of an early Mormon publication. Although our book list has a price of \$42.00 for all 6 volumes of the *Times and Seasons*, we wish to change this price to \$37.50, and for those who order before May 5, while the 10% sale is still on, the price will be only \$33.75.

Changes in Joseph Smith's History

Since printing the book, *Changes in Joseph Smith's History*, we have received new information which may be of interest to our readers.

In change number 464 (*Changes in Joseph Smith's History*, page 87) we show that many words have been deleted concerning the story of Joseph Smith's death. In the History of Joseph Smith, as published in the *Millennial Star*, the following appeared:

... he fell outward into the hands of his murders, exclaiming, "O Lord my God!" **He fell partly on his right shoulder and back, his neck and head reaching the ground a little before his feet, and he rolled instantly on his face.**

From this position he was taken by a man who was barefoot and bareheaded, and having on no coat, his pants rolled up above his knees, and his shirt sleeves above his elbows. He set Joseph against the south side of the well curb, which was situated a few feet from the jail, when Col. Levi Williams ordered four men to shoot him. They stood about eight feet from the curb, and fired simultaneously. A slight cringe of the body was all the indication of pain visible when the balls struck him, and he fell on his face.

The ruffian who set him against the well curb now gathered a bowie-knife for the purpose of severing his head from his body. He raised the knife, and was in the attitude of striking, when a light, so sudden and powerful, burst from the heavens upon the bloody scene (passing its vivid chain between Joseph and his murderers), that they were struck with terror. This light, in its appearance and potency, baffles all powers of description. The arm of the ruffian that held the knife fell powerless, the muskets of the four who fired fell to the ground, and they all stood like marble statues, not having the power to move a single limb of their bodies.

The retreat of the mob was as hurried and disorderly as it possibly could have been. Col. Williams hallooed to some who had just commenced their retreat to come back and help to carry off the four men who fired, and who were still paralyzed. They came and carried them away by main strength to the baggage waggons, when they fled towards Warsaw.

Dr. Richards' escape was miraculous; . . . (*Millennial Star*, vol. 24, page 487)

When this was reprinted in the *History of the Church*, vol. 6, pages 618-619, three hundred and seven words were deleted:

... he fell outward into the hands of his murderers, exclaiming, "O Lord, my God!"

Dr. Richards' escape was miraculous; . . .

After telling of this change we made this statement:

Apparently the Mormon Historians felt that this story was too unbelievable; therefore it was deleted.

At the time we statement we did not realize that the Mormon Historian B. H. Roberts had repudiated this story in his *Comprehensive History of the Church* (this is not to be confused with the *History of the Church* mentioned above which was edited by B. H. Roberts). In the *Comprehensive History of the Church* B. H. Roberts stated:

(Continued on page 2)

Only one life
Twill soon be past
Only what's done
For Christ will last.

It was inevitable, perhaps, that something miraculous should be alleged as connected with the death of Joseph Smith; that both myth and legend, those parasites of truth, should attach themselves to the Prophet's career. . . . Hence we have the legend of the body dragged to a sitting posture by the old well curb by the Missouri ruffian . . . the effort to behead the Prophet by the same person; the flash of heavenly light from the clear sky that paralyzed the arm of the would-be mutilator of the dead; and also paralyzing four other persons detailed by Captain Levi Williams to shoot the Prophet after he was set up by the well curb—paralyzed so that they stood like marble statues having no power to move a single limb and had to be carried away in their helpless condition by their companions! . . . Of course this whole fabric of myth and legend comes from the story of Daniels and Brackenbury, and has, unfortunately, found its way into some of our otherwise acceptable church works, and still more unfortunately has entered into the beliefs of many Latter-day Saints.

. . . Ford says that Daniels was "afterwards expelled from the Mormons, but no doubt they will cling to his evidence in favor of the divine mission of the Prophet." It was for the refutation of the governor's supposition that this paragraph, in part, is written.

. . . the great, determining facts of "Mormonism" rest on no such questionable witnesses as Daniels and Brackenbury to alleged miraculous displays of divine power connected with the Prophet's death; . . .

Fortunately for the church; fortunately for the truth of history, the church placed on record at an early date following the event an official declaration of the accepted facts and incidents attending upon the martyrdom of her two chiefest men and prophets: and it is with a deep satisfaction that one can note the absence of the myths and legends that ignorance and superstition would all too willingly attach to the tragedy of their martyrdom. (*Comprehensive History of the Church*, by B. H. Roberts vol. 2, pages 332-334)

It is interesting to note that B. H. Roberts called this story a myth in his *Comprehensive History*, and yet it appeared in the *History of the Church* as it was first published. It was removed in the 1902 edition. The reason the B. H. Roberts did not mention that this story was once in the history and later removed is obvious; if he had mentioned this fact, it would have cast a shadow of doubt upon the entire history, for if George A. Smith (who was the Church Historian at the time this story was put in the history) included "myth and legend" in the history at this point, how can we know that other parts of the history are accurate? Perhaps the history is filled with "myths and legends."

In the *Changes in Joseph Smith's History*, page 66 we show that part of Joseph Smith's explanation of the word "Mormon" has been deleted. In the *Millennial Star*, vol. 21, page 144, Joseph Smith stated:

I may safely say that the word "Mormon" stands independent of the learning and wisdom of this generation. * * * *

Before I give a definition, however, to the word, let me say that the Bible, in its widest sense, means good; for the Saviour says, according to the Gospel of John, "I am the good shepherd;" and it will not be beyond the common use of terms to say that good is among the most important in use; and though known by various names in different languages, still its meaning is the same, and is ever in opposition to bad. We say from the Saxon, good; the Dane, god; the Goth, goda; the German, gut; the Dutch, goed; the Latin, bonus; the Greek, kalos; the Hebrew, tob; and the Egyptian, mon. Hence, with the addition of more, or the contraction mor, we have the word Mormon, which means, literally, more good.

In the *History of the Church*, vol. 5, page 400, this has been changed to read as follows:

I may safely say that the word "Mormon" stands independent of the wisdom and learning of this generation. * * * *

The word *Mormon*, means literally, *more good*.

Although an omission is indicated, the changing of the last sentence is very dishonest. If the Mormon Historians had not removed the word "which" from the last sentence it would not have stood alone.

One of our readers has sent us some very interesting information which relates to this change. He stated:

Smith claimed that the word "Mormon" was formed from the Egyptian word "mon" (which he said meant "good") and the English word "more" contracted to "mor" (together meaning "more good"). How can this be when there is no Egyptian word "mon" which means good. Even if there were such an Egyptian word, how could it get combined with an English word here on the American continent sometime before 400 A.D.? The English language did not develop until the middle ages and was totally unknown in the ancient middle east.

In a letter dated April 1, 1965, the same man writes:

I might add a few words about Smith's definition of the word "Mormon" . . . the part I had reference to has been omitted from the present Church History, so I understand. While in the graduate department at Johns Hopkins University I made it a point to ask Dr. William F. Albright if there were any Egyptian word "mon" meaning "good", or anything resembling it with such a meaning. Dr. Albright is one of the world's leading authorities on the ancient near east and understood and offered courses in Egyptian. He assured me there was no such word. I wrote Dr. Sperry about this problem and he assured me he had "no off-the-cuff answer" for this problem (see letter enclosed). At the time Smith gave his definition Champollion was just working out the system of Egyptian hieroglyphics, so as far as Smith knew no one could contradict him. However, it should have been obvious, even without a knowledge of Egyptian, that an Egyptian word could not be combined with an English word and appear here in America (since it's used in the Bk of Mormon) before 400 A.D., when there was no English language until centuries later.

Perhaps some of our readers would like to comment on this problem.

Threats From Mormon Apostles

In our last mailing list we sent a photograph of letters written by the Mormon Apostles Mark E. Petersen and LeGrand Richards. In these letters the Apostles threatened to sue us. Since sending this page out we have received two interesting letters from our readers. One man, who has been through law school, made this statement in his letter to us:

I just got a copy of your handbill giving the threats from Apostles Petersen and Richards. If ever I saw a bluff Mark E. Petersen's letter is one.

. . . Now just what could his attorney do by calling on you? And if Petersen is ignorant about what you have published concerning him as he implies, just what would be the point in having his attorney call on you? If you answer him you should ask him some of these questions and also ask him if he is not aware, with all his legal knowledge, that **truth is a complete defense to libel.**

When they start fearing the truth, their position is beginning to become precarious. Your good work is beginning to tell. Good luck and more power to you.

Another man wrote directly to LeGrand Richards and Mark E. Petersen and sent a carbon copy to us. In this letter he stated:

I am today in receipt of photostats of letters you each wrote to a publisher in Salt Lake City, threatening him with a lawsuit if he published certain documents. . . . These letters you wrote are such amazing and amusing attempts to bluff that I could not refrain from commenting on them. For certainly no one with even the most elementary smattering of

common sense could be led to believe that you would be so ignorant as to institute legal action in such a situation even if you were certain of winning your case, getting many thousands of dollars in settlement, and succeeding in suppression of the published documents.

The reason I am so sure of this is that a lawsuit would result in the very publication, in much magnified and publicized extent, of the very things you are trying so desperately to suppress. They would then receive much more publicity and much more scrutiny and study than this publisher could otherwise dare to hope for.

. . . I must at least give you credit for having better sense than to proceed to carry out this ridiculous threat. However, should I be so fortunate as to be mistaken in that conclusion, and you do bring suit against this fine publisher, I hereby pledge myself to contribute from my own meager funds, \$100 toward his defense—and to exert whatever energies I can toward bringing this entire matter to light, in the firm conviction that such an action would tend to lessen the stranglehold the church has on this brainwashed and dominated area.

It is interesting to note that Mark E. Petersen has returned from Europe to attend conference. Although conference is held only 14 blocks from Modern Microfilm Company, Mr. Petersen has not called on us. Apparently Mr. Petersen's statement that "legal action will be instituted" against us amounts to nothing but a threat.

Hundreds of copies of the sheet containing the Apostle's threats to sue us were circulated at the conference of the Mormon Church, and other than the fact that one man said he would have us arrested, there was no trouble.

We are very anxious to have the sheet containing the threats of the Mormon Apostles widely circulated, and we will provide copies free to those who wish to help us distribute them.

Continued Suppression

In the first number of the *Salt Lake City Messenger* we furnished proof that the Mormon Church leaders are trying to suppress the photo-offset reprint of the *Book of Commandments* and the first edition of the Book of Mormon (these books are sold under the title *Joseph Smith Begins His Works*).

Although the Deseret Book Store (that is the Church bookstore) was ordered by the Church leaders not to sell these books, we stated that since the Mormon Church does not own Bookcraft that they could not stop the distribution of these books from that company. Recently, however, we were surprised to learn that Bookcraft was asked by the Church to remove these books from its list of books available. We also understand that Bookcraft has complied with the request and removed these books from the list. This does not mean that the Church has completely stopped the sale of these books, however, it is another step in that direction.

Modern Microfilm Company will try to supply these books as long as they are available.

The reason the Mormon Church is trying to suppress these books is that Joseph Smith's revelations and the Book of Mormon have been changed since they were first printed.

Wilford Wood, the man who had these books reprinted, was very disturbed by the fact that the Church was trying to suppress his books. When we told him that the Church was trying to suppress his book, he wrote us a letter in which he stated:

I would like to know if you would permit me to use your letter to show it to President McKay or those responsible for stopping the sale of the book at the Deseret Book Company . . . anyone who is hurt from the original story of the Prophet Joseph Smith and the foundation of the Church upon which it is built will have to pay the consequences for pretending to love the Prophet Joseph Smith and working against him.

We understand that Wilford Wood met with the President of the Church but was unsuccessful in his attempt to get the restrictions removed from the sale of his book.

None of Self and All of Thee

Oh, the bitter shame and sorrow
That a time could ever be
When I let the Saviour's pity
Plead in vain, and proudly answered,
"All of self and none of Thee."

Yet He found me; I beheld Him
Bleeding on the accursed tree;
Heard Him pray, "Forgive them, Father;"
And my wistful heart said faintly,
"Some of self and some of Thee."

Day by day, His tender mercy,
Healing, helping, full and free,
Sweet and strong, and, oh, so patient,
Brought me lower, while I whispered,
"Less of self and more of Thee."

Higher than the highest heavens,
Deeper than the deepest sea,
Lord, Thy Love at last has conquered;
Grant me now my soul's desire,
"None of self and all of Thee."

—Theodore Monod

SHADOW OR REALITY?

We have received the following comments concerning *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?*

Since seeing you folks last I've had time to evaluate your book: "Mormonism, Shadow or Reality?" In the five years I've been engaged in a special study of the Mormon faith I can say your work is the most thorough I've run across. Congratulations!
(Letter from California)

I have enjoyed *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?* . . .
Your book . . . is one of the best, if not the best, I have ever read and I hope that it will be widely read, especially by students and other writers.
(Letter from Missouri)

I am enjoying your book *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?* to the fullest.

I am enjoying recommending it to all seekers of the truth, L.D.S., and otherwise.
(Letter from Utah)

May I extend a word of congratulation on your book on Mormonism whose revised edition I have recently obtained from the Utah Evangel Press. It will be invaluable to all those studying the Mormon system and I expect to refer to it many times in the years ahead.

Not I

Not I, but Christ
Be honored, loved, exalted;
Not I, but Christ
Be seen, be known, be heard;
Not I, but Christ
In every look and action;
Not I, but Christ
In every thought and word.

—Anonymous