

M. M. M.

THE

STAR IN THE EAST.

EDITED BY ELDER G. J. ADAMS.

VOL. I. NOVEMBER, 1846. NO. 1.

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By JAMES J. STRANG,

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PROSPECTUS.

THE present is one of the most important eras that have yet taken place in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. After having struggled for years against persecution, opposition and oppression, and been compelled to witness the martyrdom of her prophet and patriarch, and more recently to behold the usurpation, tyranny and misrule of some of her apostles and professed leaders, who, by their wicked acts, unholy and false teachings, have spread misery, disorganization and ruin in many of her branches throughout the United States, and even in England, she is now just emerging from a night of darkness and desolation; a brighter day is dawning than she has yet known. She is being renovated and purified by the Word of God, and the pure teachings of the prophet James J. Strang, the regularly appointed successor of Joseph Smith, whose claims are now becoming generally acknowledged by the Saints of God throughout the nation. Faithful elders are

being sent to all nations, and to the islands of the sea, to proclaim the Gospel, or "the dispensation of the fulness of times, that He might gather together in one all things in Christ both which are in heaven and on the earth;" this is good news and glad tidings to a suffering and fallen world of the nigh approach of the coming of our Lord and of his kingdom on the earth; and we can say with truth, "The long night of darkness is now far spent, the truth revived in its primitive simplicity and purity, like the day-star of the horizon, lights up the dawn of that effulgent morn when the knowledge of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the mighty deep."

It has pleased Almighty God, in fulfilment of his word by the mouth of his servant Joseph Smith, to appoint another in his stead, as prophet, seer, revelator, and translator unto the Church of Latter Day Saints, that the work of God might roll on in the last days in one unbroken chain until its consummation, when Zion will be established in peace and glory, Jerusalem rebuilt upon her former desolation, the Jews gathered from among all people, whither the Lord their God hath scattered them, to their own land, their temple rebuilt, unto which the "Messenger of the covenant shall come suddenly, and sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver, to purify the sons of Levi, that they may yet offer an offering unto the Lord in righteousness."

And feeling desirous that others may be made acquainted with the same truths, and led to examine the subject carefully for themselves, that they may discern between truth and error, and light and darkness, and receive the one and reject the other, we are induced to undertake the publication of this work.

"THE STAR IN THE EAST" will stand aloof from the common, political, and commercial news of the times.

Its pages will be devoted to the spread of the pure doctrine of Christ, and all the light and truth that can be obtained which stands connected with the work of God in the last days. In so doing we shall publish many revelations, and remarkable visions, which have been given to the saints in times past, and many that they are now receiving through their prophet, that are calculated, if known and understood, to throw a flood of light and glory upon events that are now transpiring among the nations of the earth.

In matters of doctrine, we shall earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints, which is *one* Lord, *one* faith, *one* baptism, *one* Holy Spirit, *one* hope of our calling, *one* God and Father of all ; in a word, *one* eternal and unchangeable order, connected with which, men are bound to deal justly, love mercy, and do unto others as they would have others do unto them.

As to "the powers that be," we shall endeavor to teach men at all times and under all circumstances, to fear God, honor, respect and obey the laws, and all who are in authority, and as followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, we shall contend strenuously for the principle of "*non-resistance*" in the broadest and fullest sense of the word, remembering that "wisdom is better than weapons of war."

As to temperance, we shall contend earnestly for men to be temperate in all things ; and particularly to beware of drunkenness and all its train of evils and abominations.

As to slavery, we shall contend boldly and fearlessly for the universal emancipation, liberty, freedom, and equality of the whole human family. And we pray God to interpose and reveal an eternal law of "BROTHERHOOD," that will redeem the poor and oppressed of the earth

from suffering and violence, and usher in the long looked for time "when every man in every place shall meet a brother and a friend."

The leading feature of several of our first numbers will be to give light and truth to the Saints and all others in regard to the claims of our worthy and highly esteemed brother in Christ, President James J. Strang, and the great work God has accomplished through his labors in the last few months, in laying the foundation of one of the finest stakes and gathering places the Saints have ever had, and renovating and setting in order all the different quorums in the Church.

We are fully aware of the greatness of the undertaking, and sensible of our own inability to perform the work assigned us; we trust we shall do much good in our day and generation; that the Saints of God will rejoice greatly when they see the "STAR IN THE EAST," and be led to return to the sheepfold, and acknowledge the shepherd whom God has placed at the head of the Flock. And in conclusion, we shall ever pray that God will give us wisdom and understanding, that we may be able to do some little towards establishing peace and righteousness on the face of the earth.

CLAIMS OF JAMES J. STRANG TO THE FIRST PRESIDENCY OF THE CHURCH.

IN order that our readers may understand the nature and organization of the Church of Latter Day Saints, we lay before them a few extracts from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, which professes to have been given by revelation through Joseph Smith, and which

every Latter Day Saint believes as the word of the Lord to govern said Church. Section 11, paragraph 4, will be found the following strong language: "I have sent forth the fulness of my gospel by the hand of my servant Joseph; and I have given unto him the keys of the mystery of those things which have been sealed, even things which were from the foundation of the world, and the things which shall come from this time until the time of my coming, if he abide in me, and if not, another will I plant in his stead."

From the preceding, we learn that if Joseph Smith is taken away, God stands pledged to "appoint another in his stead;" has God kept his promise, or has he not? "Let God be true, though every man were a liar."

Again, Section 14, Paragraphs 1 and 2: "O hearken, ye elders of my church, and give ear to the words which I shall speak unto you: for behold, verily, verily I say unto you, that ye have received a commandment for a law unto my church, through him whom I have appointed unto you, to receive commandments and revelations from my hand. And this ye shall know assuredly, that there is none other appointed unto you to receive commandments and revelations until he be taken, if he abide in me.

"But verily, verily I say unto you, that none else shall be appointed unto this gift except it be through him, for if it be taken from him he shall not have power, except to appoint another in his stead; and this shall be a law unto you, that ye receive not the teachings of any that shall come before you as revelations or commandments; and this I give unto you, that you may not be deceived, that you may know they are not of me. For verily I say unto you, that he that is ordained of me shall come in at the gate and be ordained as I have told you before."

From the above extract it is clearly shown that this appointment of successor will not only positively be made, but that it will come through Joseph and no other, and that God gave this particularly as a law unto the church. It is also clearly shown, that Joseph Smith was not to ordain, but to appoint, and that the ordination was, as God had told us before; namely, by the administration of an holy angel, and this revelation is given for the express purpose that we should not be deceived, and that we may know that any man or set of men who come before this church to lead and govern it in any other way or by any other order, are usurpers and impostors; and if we admit that Joseph Smith did not make this appointment of another, we admit that he was an impostor and a false prophet.

Again, Section 2, Paragraph 42: "The duty of the president of the office of the high priesthood, is to preside over the whole church; and be like unto Moses. Behold here is wisdom—yea, to be a seer, a revelator, a translator and a prophet—having all the gifts of God which he bestows upon the head of the church."

It will be seen from this quotation, the duties and callings of the president of the Church of Latter Day Saints; and if we should find any one acting in the capacity of president to this church, without the gifts and blessings which God bestows upon the head of the church, then we may know that such person or persons are acting without authority, and consequently all their acts are void.

Again, from Section 3 and Paragraph 42: "But behold, verily I say unto thee no one shall be appointed to receive commandments and revelations in this church, excepting my servant Joseph Smith, Jr., for he receiveth them even as Moses. And thou shalt not command him who is at thy head, and at the head of the church;

for I have given him the keys of the mysteries and the revelations which are sealed, until I shall appoint unto them another in his stead."

We here learn that Joseph Smith was appointed by God, to receive the keys of the mysteries and revelations of things which are sealed, that are to be given to another when he is taken, and not the keys of the kingdom; for be it remembered, many, very many, will hold the keys of the kingdom, not only in this world, but in the world to come; but we have no account of more than one on the earth at the same time, holding the keys of mysteries and revelations which are sealed; and in eternity no one ever did or ever will want keys of mysteries of things sealed, for there "they see as they are seen, and know as they are known;" and all who are faithful and hold the priesthood of God, will become kings and priests of God, and reign on the *earth*, and consequently hold the keys of the kingdom, as one with Christ throughout eternity; therefore, he that hath ears to hear, let him hear what the spirit saith unto the Church. We now ask, Has God fulfilled his promise by the mouth of his servant Joseph Smith?

Read the following prophetic letter, and then answer.

LETTER OF APPOINTMENT FROM JOSEPH SMITH TO JAMES
J. STRANG.

NAUVOO, JUNE 18th, 1844.

MY DEAR SON — Your epistle of May 24th, proposing the planting of a stake of Zion in Wisconsin, and the gathering of the saints there, was duly received, and I with most of the brethren whose advice I called in, were of opinion that you was deceived by a spirit not of this world, great, but not good. Brother Hyrum, however, thought otherwise, and favored the project, not doubting

it was of God. I however determined to render you an unfavorable answer for the present. But oh the littleness of man in his best earthly state. Not so the will of the Almighty. God had ruled it otherwise, and a message from the throne of grace directed me, as it hath inspired you, and the faith which thou hast in the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel, hath been repaid to thee a thousand fold, and thou shalt be like him; but the flock shall find rest with thee, and God shall reveal to thee his will concerning them.

I have long felt that my present work was almost done, and that I should soon be called to rule a mighty host, but something whispers me it will be in the land of spirits, where the wicked cease from troubling and the bands of the prisoners fall off. My heart yearns for my little ones, but I know God will be a Father to them, and I can claim face to face the fulfilment of promises from him who is a covenant keeping God, and who sweareth and faileth not to the uttermost.

The wolves are upon the scent, and I am waiting to be offered up, if such be the will of God, knowing that though my visage be more marred than that of any, it will be unscarred and fair when archangels shall place on my brow the double crown of martyr and king in a heavenly world.

In the midst of darkness and boding danger the spirit of Elijah came upon me, and I went to inquire of God how the Church should be saved.

I was upon the hill of the temple. The calm father of waters rolled below changeless and eternal. I beheld a light in the heavens above, and streams of bright light illuminated the firmament, varied and beautiful as the rainbow, gentle, yet rapid as the fierce lightning.

The Almighty came from his throne of rest. He clothed himself with light as with a garment. He ap-

peared; and moon and stars went out. The earth dissolved in space. I trod on air, and was borne on wings of Cherubims. The sweetest strains of heavenly music thrilled in my ear, but the notes were low and sad as though they sounded the requiem of martyred prophets. I bowed my head to the earth, and asked only wisdom and strength for the Church. The voice of God answered: My servant Joseph, thou hast been faithful over many things, and thy reward is glorious; the crown and sceptre are thine, and they wait thee. But thou hast sinned in some things, and thy punishment is very bitter. The whirlwind goeth before, and its clouds are dark, but rest followeth, and to its days there shall be no end. Study the words of the vision for it tarrieth not.

And now behold my servant James J. Strang hath come to thee from far, for truth, when he knew it not, and hath not rejected it, but had faith in thee, the Shepherd and Stone of Israel, and to him shall the gathering of the people be; for he shall plant a stake of Zion in Wisconsin, and I will establish it; and there shall my people have peace and rest, and shall not be moved; for it shall be established on the prairie on White River, in the lands of Racine and Walworth; and behold my servants James and Aaron shall plant it, for I have given them wisdom: and Daniel shall stand in his lot, on the hill beside the river looking on the prairie, and shall instruct my people, and shall plead with them face to face.

Behold my servant James shall lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes of Zion; and my servant Aaron shall be his counsellor, for he hath wisdom in the gospel, and understandeth the doctrines and erreth not therein.

And I will have a house built unto me there of stone, and there will I show myself unto my people by many mighty works; and the name of the city shall be called Voree,

which is, being interpreted, garden of peace ; for there shall my people have peace and rest, and wax fat and pleasant in the presence of their enemies.

But I will again stretch out my arm over the river of waters ; and on the banks thereof shall the house of my choice be. But now the city of Voree shall be a strong hold of safety to my people, and they that are faithful and obey me I will there give them great prosperity, and such as they have not had before ; and unto Voree shall be the gathering of my people, and there shall the oppressed flee for safety, and none shall hurt or molest them.

And by this shall they know that I have spoken it ; the people there and the owners of the land shall show kindness to them, for great calamities are coming on the church, and such as have not been ; and if they scatter, the ungodly of the world shall swallow them up, but if they gather to my city of Voree, there will I keep them under the shadow of my wings, and the cities from whence my people have been driven shall be purged with a high hand, for I will do it ; and my people shall be again restored to their possessions ; but dark clouds are gathering, for the church is not yet wholly purged.

And now I command my servants, the apostles and priests and elders of the church of the Saints, that they communicate and proclaim this my word to all the saints of God in all the world, that they may be gathered unto and round about my city of Voree, and be saved from their enemies ; for I will have a people to serve me.

And I command my servant Moses Smith, that he go unto the saints, with whom he is acquainted, and unto many people ; and command them in my name to go unto my city of Voree and gain inheritance therein ; and he shall have an inheritance therein, for he hath left all for my sake, and I will add unto him many fold, if he is faith-

ful ; for he knows the land and can testify unto them that it is very good.

So spake the Almighty God of heaven. Thy duty is made plain, and if thou lackest wisdom, ask of God, in whose hands I trust thee, and he shall give thee unsparingly, for if evil befall me, thou shalt lead the flock to pleasant pastures. God sustain thee,

JOSEPH SMITH.

TO JAMES J. STRANG.

This letter was received at Burlington, Wisconsin Territory, by regular course of mail, coming through the distributing office at Chicago ; and bears the Nauvoo post mark of June 19, the day following its date.

It was taken out of the post office by a gentleman not belonging to the church, and carried by him to Mr. James J. Strang, and there opened and read in the presence of believers and unbelievers. This took place before any correct intelligence of the death of Joseph and Hiram Smith had reached that part of the country. And be it known unto all the world that it was well understood at Nauvoo, that Mr. Strang had sent a letter to Joseph Smith, proposing the planting of a stake of Zion at Voree ; and that Joseph Smith had answered said letter. And furthermore, all this took place in the very same month that Joseph Smith fell a martyr in the blood-stained walls of Carthage prison.

The next question that presents itself to our minds is, did God confirm the foregoing appointment by the administration of an holy angel, according to his promise in the book of Doctrine and Covenants. Read the following extract from the church record at Voree, that was recorded at the time it was said to have occurred, and then decide.

REVELATIONS GIVEN TO JAMES J. STRANG.

Taken from the Records of the Church at Voree.

On the 18th day of June, 1844, James J. Strang was in the Spirit, and he was in the grove above the stone quarry, on White River, and he had a vision; and behold he was carried away in the Spirit to the top of the hill, in the west border of Racine; and Gardner's prairie was to the north, and the White River Marshes to the south; and he saw in the vision; and the lands round about were covered with many houses and gardens, and there were streets, and shops, and people; even a city of many inhabitants. And the city was built of stone; and there were few houses of brick, and less of wood, and the gardens were many; and a few houses were very great, and their inhabitants many.

2. There was a change in the vision, and the people with lively pace and smiling countenances thronged the streets and passed by.

3. There was another change; and they were all assembled in a vast hall, and James J. Strang, surrounded by wise men, and counsellors, and priests, and eloquent orators, arose and taught the people; and the spirit of prophecy witnesseth unto him, so shall it be; and the vision ended; and he was strengthened, but his faith was weak.

1. On the 27th day of June, 1844, at five and a half o'clock, in the afternoon, James J. Strang was in the Spirit, and the angel of God came unto him and saluted him, saying:

2. Fear God and be strengthened, and obey him, for great is the work which he hath required at thy hand. Go on in hope and strength, and falter not, and he will sustain thee, and thou shalt triumph; for the voice of the Lord, by the mouth of Joseph, will he fulfil.

3. And the angel of the Lord stretched forth his hand unto him, and touched his head, and put oil upon him and said, Grace is poured upon thy lips, and God blesseth thee with the greatness of the everlasting Priesthood. He putteth might, and glory, and majesty upon thee ; and in meekness, and truth, and righteousness, will he prosper thee.

4. Thou shalt save his people from their enemies, when there is no arm to deliver ; and shalt bring salvation, when destruction walketh in the house of thy God. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity, therefore thy God hath anointed thee with oil, and set thee above all thy fellows.

5. Thy words shall be like sharp arrows in the heart of the wicked. Thou shalt rebuke those who pervert the word of thy God. Thou shalt preach righteousness and the sublime mysteries in the ears of many people, and shall bring the gospel to many who have not known it, and to the nations afar off.

6. Thou shalt drive backward, and put to shame those that do evil, and the workers of iniquity shall fall. They shall be cast down, and shall not be able to rise. With purity will the Lord thy God arm thee, and purity and truth shalt thou teach.

7. Keep the law of the Lord thy God in thy heart, and none of thy steps shall slide. With thee is the fountain of truth. In thy light shall the people of thy God see, for thou shalt speak his word unto them, and from thy lips shall they receive it.

8. The blessing of their God shalt thou put upon them, and his curse upon evil doers ; if, after being oft rebuked, they repent not ; and before my people shalt thou go to lead them, unto my ways, for unto thee has the Lord thy God given salvation.

9. In righteousness shalt thou rule. Thou shalt redeem the poor and the needy from suffering and violence, and to thee God giveth judgment for them. Thou shalt deliver the prey from the spoiler, for God, thy God, hath put them in thy hand.

10. And in weakness will he make thee strong. Thou shalt rule among his people. Thou shalt break in pieces the rod of the oppressor and the yoke of the unjust ruler. They shall flee away, but the way of peace shall they not find.

11. While the day of the wicked abideth, shalt thou prepare a refuge for the oppressed, and for the poor and needy. Unto thee shall they come, and their brethren who are scattered shall come with them, and the destruction of the ungodly shall quickly follow, for it already worketh. Go thy way and be strong.

Here is a combination of the most powerful and soul-stirring facts to establish the claims of James J. Strang as the successor of Joseph Smith to the prophetic office, that were ever presented to establish the claims of any man since the world began.

First, observe on the 18th day of June, the very day that God inspires Joseph Smith to write and appoint James J. Strang, Mr. Strang has an open vision; again, on the 27th of June, at five and a half o'clock, the very hour and moment that Joseph Smith sealed his testimony with his blood, in Carthage jail, and before Mr. Strang had received the letter of appointment, God sends an holy angel, a heavenly messenger, from the world of most excellent glory, clothed with power and authority, and confirms the appointment, and ordains him as his successor; not leaving the church one moment without a head, who is a prophet, a seer, a revelator, and a translator unto the church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints.

REVELATION TO JAMES J. STRANG.

THE angel of the Lord came unto me, James, on the 1st day of September, in the year 1845, and the light shined about him, above the brightness of the sun, and he showed unto me the plates of the sealed record, and he gave into my hands the Urim and Thummim. And out of the light came the voice of the Lord, saying: — “ My servant James, in blessing, I will bless thee, and in multiplying, I will multiply thee, because I have tried thee, and found thee faithful. Behold my servant James, I am about to bless thee with a great blessing, which shall be to those who love me, an immutable testimony; to those who know me not a stumbling block; but to those who have known me and have turned their hearts from me, a rock of offence. Yea, let them beware, for shame and destruction walk in their tracks, and their time abideth, but not long.

A work shall come forth, and the secrets of the past shalt thou reveal. Yea, by little and little shalt thou reveal it, according to the ability and faithfulness of my church, and of my servant whom I have placed above them. Behold the record which was sealed from my servant Joseph; unto thee it is reserved. Take heed that thou count it not a light thing, nor exalt thyself lest thou be stricken, for by myself I swear that as thou servest me faithfully and comest not short, thou shalt unlock the mystery thereof, which I have kept hid from the world. Yea, as my servants serve me, so shalt thou translate unto them.

But in their weakness I have not forgotten them. Go to the place which the Angel of my presence will show thee, and there shalt thou dig for the record of my people

in whose possession thou dwellest. Take with thee faithful witnesses, for in evil will the unfaithful speak of thee, but the faithful and true shall know that they are liars, and shall not stumble for their words.

Speak thou unto the elders of my church, and say unto them, hear my voice and harken to my words for they are true and faithful. Testify, testify unto all the saints, Testify, testify in all the world. He that rejecteth you, him will I reject in the day that I come in my kingdom. Testify, testify unto him who has received my word and turned away. Let him now return unto me and obey and serve his God, lest he be smitten with a curse, and his children curse him, and his name be blotted out of the Book of Life.

Yea, those to whom I have revealed myself, let them hearken unto me now, lest they be cast off in the day of my indignation, lest the consuming fire of the day of trial burn them up. Yea, lest the second death make them his prey, and they be cast into the lake which burns with fire and brimstone.

Rejoice, ye holy, for the day of your deliverance is near; and the time of your exaltation is at hand. Faithful and true are my words, dividing the marrow from the bones, and truth from rottenness. He that rejecteth them, him will I reject, when I come in my kingdom. And while I was yet in the Spirit, the Angel of the Lord took me away to the hill, in the east of Walworth, against White River in Voree; and there he showed unto me the record buried under an oak tree as large as the body of a large man; it was enclosed in an earthen casement, and buried in the ground as deep as to a man's waist; and I beheld it as a man can see a light stone in clear water, for I saw it by Urim and Thummim, and I returned the Urim and Thummim to the Angel of the Lord, and he departed out of sight.

From the preceding revelation we learn several important truths; that God has condescended to show unto President Strang the rest of the "sealed" record; given into his hands the "Urim and Thummim," and the promise that he shall translate by the gift and power of God, what was left unfinished by Joseph Smith; given him the knowledge of the record of a fallen people, who once inhabited the place on which the city of Voree is now built. We give below the testimony of four witnesses in relation to the last mentioned record; the character of these witnesses stands unimpeached. The Southport Telegraph, a very respectable newspaper, published in the neighborhood, says: "Our curiosity was sufficiently excited to induce us to make ourself more fully acquainted with the circumstances and facts. For this end we visited the gentleman alluded to as seer or prophet. We were cordially received, the plates were shown us, and we examined the spot from which they purport to have been taken. The prophet appears to us a very intelligent man, devoid of any thing like enthusiasm, and, so far as we could judge, honest and earnest in all he said. The men who subscribe the statement, are said to be among the most honest and intelligent in the neighborhood; and, take it altogether, it is something to stagger an ordinary credulity. The popular opinion will doubtless call it a humbug: so should we, from the natural impulse of our mind; but when the testimony appears in opposition to such impulse, we are content to have no opinion about it."

THE TESTIMONY OF FOUR WITNESSES.

We, the undersigned, on the thirteenth day of September, 1845, assembled at the call of James J. Strang, who is by us and many others approved as a prophet and seer

of God. He proceeded to inform us that it had been revealed to him, in a vision, that an account of an ancient people was buried in a hill south of White river bridge, near the east line of Walworth county; and leading us to an oak tree about one foot in diameter, told us that we would find it enclosed in a case of rude earthen ware, under that tree, at the depth of about three feet; requested us to dig it up, and charged us so to examine the ground that we should know we were not imposed upon, and that it had not been buried there since the tree grew. The tree was surrounded by a sward of deeply rooted grass, such as is usually found in the openings, and upon the most critical examination, we could not discover any indication that it had ever been cut through or disturbed.

We then dug up the tree, and continued to dig to the depth of about three feet, where we found a case of slightly baked clay containing three plates of brass. On one side of one is a landscape view of the south end of Gardner's prairie and the range of hills where they were dug. On another is a man with a crown on his head and a sceptre in his hand; above, is an eye, before an upright line; below, the sun and moon surrounded with twelve stars; at the bottom are twelve large stars, from three of which pillars arise; and closely interspersed with them are seventy very small stars. The other four sides are very closely covered with what appear to be alphabetic characters, but in a language of which we have no knowledge.

The case was found imbedded in indurated clay, so closely fitting that it broke in taking out, and the earth, below the soil, was so hard as to be dug with difficulty even with a pickaxe. Over the case was found a flat stone, about one foot wide each way, and three inches

thick, which appeared to have undergone the action of fire and fell in pieces after a few minutes exposure to the air. The digging extended in the clay about eighteen inches, there being two kinds of earth of different color and appearance above it.

We examined, as we dug, all the way with the greatest care, and we say, with utmost confidence, that no part of the earth through which we dug exhibited any sign or indication that it had been moved or disturbed at any time previous. The roots of the tree struck down on every side, very closely extending below the case, and closely interwoven with roots from other trees. None of them had been broken or cut away. No clay is found in the country like that of which the case is made.

In fine, we found an alphabetic and pictorial record, carefully cased up, buried deep in the earth, covered with a flat stone, with an oak tree one foot in diameter growing over it, with every evidence that the sense can give that it has lain as long as that tree has been growing. Strang took no part in the digging, but kept entirely away, from before the first blow was struck, till after the plates were taken out of the case; and the sole inducement to our digging was our faith in his statement as a prophet of the Lord, that a record would thus and there be found.

AARON SMITH.

J. M. VAN NOSTRAND.

JIRA B. WHEELAN.

EDWARD WHITCOMB.

We had intended to publish the translation of the plates mentioned above; but owing to want of room we are compelled to defer it till our next number, when we shall publish it with a full explanation.

TO "THE STAR IN THE EAST."

BY JOHN HARDY.

"STAR IN THE EAST," whence comest thou? and why this
 Glorious brightness of thy rising? as though
 Some messenger of inspiration, endowed
 With power from on high, was coming forth among
 The sons of men, to give them words of hope, and
 Consolation; and bid the poor and weak
 Rejoice and live.

'Tis true the earth still groans
 To be delivered from that direful curse
 Entailed by man's transgression; and man,
 Himself ground under foot of brother man,
 Looks forth with eager expectation for that
 Glorious era, which tuned the harps of ancient
 Prophets, when sin and death shall cease their hold
 Upon mankind; oppression cease, and that
 Accursed traffic in the flesh and blood and souls
 Of brother man, shall be atoned for, and
 Forgotten; and righteousness, and peace,
 And joy, shall light the hearts and tune the tongues
 Of all. For these, and other works as glorious,
 God called a Joseph; but he fell, and fell by
 Hands of wicked men; and wicked men usurped
 The place prepared for God's anointed, and in
 The temple of the great Jehovah, have "showed
 Themselves as God," and there blasphemously
 Disclosed a "church without a Prophet," and closed
 The mouth of inspiration; poor simple fools!
 Forgetting those blest words of inspiration,
 "If Joseph falls, I'll plant another in his stead;"
 And though the saints, like sheep without a shepherd,
 Are wandering to and fro, hanging their harps
 Upon the willows, 'till many in despair have
 E'en been heard to say, "Where is thy God?" And though
 The places of Mount Zion lay desolate
 And waste, inherited by other people,
 Naming not the name of God, yet lift your heads, ye
 Saints, for your redemption draweth nigh;—Those words
 Have been fulfilled.

Then shine, "STAR IN THE EAST,"
 With thy refulgent brightness, e'en as in days
 Of yore, when thou didst lead the wise men of the
 East to bow before their Savior and their God.
 And thy bright beams shall speak in tones of thrilling
 Music to the ear of Saints, declaring that
 A seer and prophet, with "Urim" and with
 "Thummim," "stands up" to lead the scattered fold again
 To Zion.

Then, hail! blest "STAR!" thou harbinger of
 Better days to come. Thrice welcome to our
 Hearts and homes! and ere thy glorious beams shall cease to
 Shine, may earth, redeemed from every curse, reverberate
 With shouts of praise and gladness from tongues of
 Happy millions, singing the song of "Peace on
 Earth, good will to man."

INTELLIGENCE AND MISCELLANY.

TO OUR READERS. — Under this head we propose to publish from time to time the letters of our correspondents whether in the church or out, so far as they concern the great work of God, and the condition of the branches of the church throughout the United States, and in England, and the great principles of reformation in the present age. We particular request Lester Brooks, Moses Smith, Martin Harris and Hazar Aldrich, who have gone to England, to furnish us information for our columns. We would also invite Mr. B. Winchester of Pittsburg to give us an article from his able pen; and Mr. William Whar-ton of Philadelphia, and our old friend Mr. Rogers of New York; and many others whose names we will not mention.

We here published the letter of our appointment, from our president.

James J. Strang, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, to all whom these presents may concern.

GREETING.

I hereby order and appoint, that George J. Adams shall have Apostolic charge of all the branches of said Church, and all the members thereof, scattered abroad in the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, and in the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and all the British Islands in and near the gulf of St. Lawrence, except such as are attached to the Province of Canada; and also have charge of the travelling elders in said district, according to the Laws, Articles and Covenants of said Church, which authority shall continue in him till the same is superseded or revoked by the regular action of the constituted authorities of this Church.

Done on board the Steam-boat A. D. Patchin in the St. Clair River,
Oct. 8th, 1846.

JAMES J. STRANG.

BOSTON. — Here we are gradually and firmly gaining ground, prejudice and error is giving way before the power and influence of truth; Rigdonism has entirely crumbled into ruins. Brighamite-ism is making its last struggle, which is a very feeble one indeed, and will soon pass away

and be forgotten, or if remembered, only remembered with detestation. The church is in a prosperous condition; we have crowded meetings, and many are returning to the sheepfold — we expect to baptize some soon. The following resolutions were passed at a special meeting of this branch.

CHURCH MEETING OF THE BOSTON BRANCH.—The following resolutions were passed unanimously, October 24, 1846.

Resolved, That we believe this church to be the true church of God, organized and established by revelation. That we believe Joseph Smith, its late president, to be the Lord's anointed, ordained and sent of God to be a prophet, a seer, a revelator, and translator, and an apostle of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and an elder in the church.

Resolved, That we believe the said Joseph Smith, in fulfilment of the revelations and commandments that he had received, that he should have power to appoint his successor, did so appoint James J. Strang to the first presidency of the Church, previous to his martyrdom by wicked and ungodly men.

Resolved, That we uphold by our prayers and our faith, the said James J. Strang as First President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and all the different quorums in the church. And we pray God, he may be enabled to send the Gospel to the nations of the earth in its simplicity and purity, and bring about the restoration, spoken of by all the prophets, since the world began.

Resolved, That we will not uphold any person or persons in iniquity or abominations of whatever name or nature; that we believe our God to be a God of justice and righteousness, and that he will in no wise let the wicked go unpunished.

WHEREAS, The Aborigines of this continent have been deprived of their dearest rights and privileges, having their lands taken from them without an equivalent, and they inhumanly and repeatedly, driven from their homes, made dear to them by all the ties of domestic happiness, until they have scarcely a place to set their foot, and

WHEREAS, The Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and the Bible, all declare that they are of the seed of Joseph; that this land was given them by God himself, and although they should dwindle in unbelief and ignorance, that the time would come that they should be restored to all their former privileges and possessions, and

WHEREAS, The coming forth of the Book of Mormon, and the organizing of the Church of Latter Day Saints, had an especial reference to this work, therefore

Resolved, That we hail with unfeigned pleasure, the appointment and ordination of James J. Strang to the office of the President of this Church, having faith and confidence that he, in restoring the truth in its primitive simplicity, will endeavor to restore the down trodden red man to all those blessings promised of God, and once enjoyed by their fathers.

Resolved, That we hail with joy the announcement of "THE STAR IN THE EAST," a monthly magazine, that is to make its appear-

ance in this city, which will advocate these principles, and present them to the public in their proper light.

DAVID BROWN, *President.*

H. L. SOUTHWORTH, *Secretary.*

THE DRAMA.—Among other things we do intend to notice the Drama, as we frankly confess; we consider it one of the great engines that give tone to public morals. And rightly conducted, and properly appreciated, a mirror of nature, holding up Vice and Virtue in their true colors, that we may reject the one, and cleave to the other. Thus far the fall campaign in this city has been a complete triumph over bigotry and superstition. At the National, they have done a splendid business; and they richly deserve it; for they have taken great care to select a good stock company, and good *moral* pieces, and put them well on the stage. That with such "Star" attractions as the justly celebrated tragedian, Mr. Anderson, and Miss Julia Dean, the leading attraction of the present week, it cannot fail to draw full houses. At the "Boston," Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean deserve all the applause they receive for their chaste and correct acting; we would there were many such actors; the stage would not then be brought into disrepute. The new Howard Athæneum has been doing an overflowing business from the night it was opened, until now; and will continue, while they present such a combination of attractions as they have thus far. At this fashionable establishment, Mrs. Mowatt, Mad. Augusta, M'lle Damier, Mr. Davenport, and Mons. Fredericks, are the leading features. The NEW BOSTON MUSEUM; we are extremely glad that this establishment will soon be open, as it will give the hypocritical and long-faced professors of religion an opportunity to witness a good play without having any one to accuse them of going to the theatre, as the name of *Museum* will wipe off all the stain; we mean those characters who have not moral courage enough to know what is right and then do it.

THE SMITH FAMILY.—Mrs. Emma Smith, widow of the martyred prophet, her three sons, Joseph, Frederic and Alexander, and Mrs. Lucy, the aged mother of Joseph Smith, together with his three sisters and their husbands, and William, his only surviving brother, all acknowledge and advocate the claims of James J. Strang as the successor of Joseph Smith to the first presidency of the church. We insert the following from the Voree Herald.

I have, since I returned to Nauvoo last, for the first time been apprised of an appointment made by Joseph Smith to James J. Strang. On hearing this, I took pains to gather all the evidence that could be adduced, to see if there was any foundation at all for the claims of Mr. Strang. I called in to see sister Emma, to enquire concerning the appointment. Sister Emma says that Joseph received a letter from Mr. Strang, Hyrum was present, and he called in brother J. P. Green; at first Joseph thought all was not right, but Hyrum thought otherwise. They talked over matters awhile and came to the conclusion that Joseph would write a letter; so Joseph and brother Green went out for that purpose.

Emma also states that her son Joseph saw a woman come into a room in Far West, Missouri, and told him, this church would go to Voree; the boy was only eight years old; Joseph, his father, was in jail at the time; the boy remembers the vision, &c. Joseph before he was martyred, when on his way from the temple hill, home, saw a vision, and his mother recollects that when he came home, he put his hands upon his eyes, and prayed that the vision might pass, and that he stated he heard, as it were, music in the heavens, but the notes were low and sad as though they sounded the requiem of martyred prophets.

I remember myself that Joseph said: "My work is almost done, I feel that I shall rule a mighty host, but not in this world; the wolves are on the scent," &c. Joseph bid his wife and mother farwell, saying: "I am going as a lamb to the slaughter;" this was his impression. And I further state that Joseph did not appoint the twelve as his successor, and I was in the last counsel with him, and had an opportunity of knowing and hearing his sentiments in regard to these things. I also heard Joseph say, "that should the time ever come that Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball would lead this church, that they would lead it to hell." This was said in the hearing of sister Emma Smith. The whole Smith family of the Joseph stock join in sustaining James J. Strang. It is to be remembered that soon after Joseph and Hyrum's death, brother Green died: and he was heard by numerous individuals to say, that Joseph had appointed Strang.

WILLIAM SMITH.

This is to certify that the Smith family do believe in the appointment of James J. Strang.

WILLIAM SMITH, *Patriarch.*

LUCY SMITH, *Mother in Israel.*

ARTHUR MILLIKEN.

NANCY MILLIKEN.

W. J. SALISBUY.

CATHARINE SALISBUY.

SOPHRONIA McLERIE.

Nauvoo, March 1, 1846.