

For the New-York Telescope.

### CAUTION AGAINST THE GOLDEN BIBLE.

The editor of the Palmyra Freeman declared in his paper of August 11th, as follows:—"The Golden Bible is the greatest piece of superstition that has ever come within the sphere of our knowledge."

In the Investigator, No. 12, Dec. 11, I published, by way of caution, a letter of Oliver H. P. Cowdry, in answer to my letter to Joseph Smith, Jun. Martin Harris, and David Whitmore—the believers in the said bible of gold plates—which they affirm they have miraculously, or supernaturally beheld. I sought for evidences, and such as could not be disputed, of the existence of this bible of golden plates. But the answer was—the world must take their words for its existence; and that the book would appear this month.

The editor of the Palmyra Freeman, their neighbour, adds to the above, that "in the fall of 1827, Joseph Smith, of Manchester, Ontario county, reported he had been visited in a dream by the spirit of the Almighty, and informed, that in a certain hill, in that town, was deposited this Golden Bible, containing an ancient record of a divine nature and origin. After being thrice visited thus, as he states, he proceeded to the spot, and found the bible, with a huge pair of spectacles. He had been directed, however, not to let any mortal being examine them [i. e. the plates and the stone-eyed spectacles] under no less penalty than instant death!! It was said that the leaves of the bible were plates of gold, about eight inches long, six inches wide, and one-eighth of an inch thick. [i. e. 8 plates are one inch thick, 8 long and 6 wide.] On these plates were characters, or hieroglyphics, engraved." The whole of the plates are said to weigh about thirty pounds; which would be in gold near eight thousand dollars, beside the value of the engraving.

One of Joseph Smith's proselytes, is, continues the Palmyra Freeman, "Martin Harris, an honest and industri-

Again, page 353, is written—"And there was but a few which denied the covenant of freedom." Was should have been were.—Again: "And there were some who died with fevers, which, at some some seasons of the year, was [were] very frequent."

Again, in the next page—"And it came to pass that they would not, or the more part, would not obey," &c. The following is the title-page of the Golden Bible, as published in the Palmyra Freeman:—

"The Book of Mormon; an account, written by the hand of Mormon upon plates, taken from the plates of Nephi:—

"Wherefore it is an abridgement of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites, written to the Lamanites, which are a remnant of the house of Israel; and also to the Jews and Gentiles; written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation; written and sealed and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed,—to come forth by the gift and power of God unto the interpretation thereof—sealed up by the hand of Mormon, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by the way of the Gentile, the interpretation thereof by the gift of God: an abridgement taken from the book of Ether.

"Also, which is a record of the people of Jared, which were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people, when they were building a tower to get to Heaven; which is to show unto the remnant of the house of Israel how great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever; and also to the convincing of Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations. And now, if there be fault in the mistake of men: wherefore condemn not the things of God, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment seat of Christ.—By JAMES SMITH, Junior, Author and Proprietor."

Thus we are informed that this book of Mormon was written [i. e. engraved] by the hand of Mormon, on plates taken from the plates of Nephi;—wherefore it is [not a transcript, but what a strange conclusion] an abridgement of the record of Nephi, &c. If so, why is it not called the record of Nephi? But what is also strange, this record is "written by way of commandment, and also [and or also is here useless] by the spirit of prophecy and of reve-

over the members, and also over those that were not members, who might infringe on their assumed prerogatives. It would lead him to justify the proceedings of every society, whatever those proceedings may have been. In case this country should have a religious government—or, more properly speaking, if the antichristian government of Calvin should gain the ascendancy, under the assumed name of religion, then a national creed would, of course, be established, and we might expect a series of the same events as have ever marked the triumph of that sect. Those who could not conscientiously conform to *this order*, must submit to the penalties that necessarily follow, in conformity to the acknowledged faith of John Calvin, who has proved, to the entire satisfaction of all who peruse his treatise on the subject, that it is an essential part of his religious system, to treat with bodily severity those who persevere in denying his dogmas of faith, and obstinately refuse to comply with the requisitions of the church. His sovereign remedy against the spread of heresy, which he had proved by practice, was roasting by a slow fire. Agreeable to the precepts laid down by Nashua, a person might be justified in enforcing any laws that were made for the support of uniform practice, and sound faith. It was for the promotion of what they considered good order, that the citizens of Boston thought best, by rigid measures, to put a stop to the Quakers coming among them, to propagate their anti-presbyterian and anti-disciplinarian doctrines. Surely, Nashua, agreeable to his acknowledged rule of judgment, cannot condemn them for "adopting their own convictions upon the subject," since "it must have been obvious to" the Friends, that "the evidence they thought they had to a divine call, was not evidence to the church;" the Bostonians being at that time a church-governed people. The Friends had been borne with, from time to time, until the "scene had been repeated so often, that the burden became intolerable." I think Nashua