

In one of these battles two million men were slain. Strange things happened in these battles. For instance we read:

And it came to pass that when all had fallen by the sword, save it were Coriantumr and Shiz, behold Shiz had fainted with loss of blood. And it came to pass when Coriantumr had leaned upon his sword, that he rested a little, he smote off the head of Shiz. And it came to pass that, after he smote off the head of Shiz, that Shiz raised upon his hands and fell; and after he had struggled for breath, he died.

Another singular occurrence was the following:

And when Moroni had said these words, he went forth among the people, waving the rent of his garment in the air, that all might see the writing which he had wrote upon the rent, and crying with a loud voice.

The book swarms with anachronisms, one of the things a fraudulent author can hardly escape and one of the surest proofs of invention and deception. We read of the "Gospel" and of "churches" six hundred years before Christ, and a hundred years before Christ "all those who were true believers in Christ took upon them gladly the name of Christ or Christians, as they were called, because of their belief in Christ who should come." After his death Christ appeared to these people in America and was transfigured before them and delivered discourses much like the Sermon on the Mount. He appeared before a multitude of 2,500 persons and commanded them, "Arise and come forth unto me that ye may

thrust your hands into my side," and the whole multitude "did thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet; and this they did, going forth one by one, until they had all gone forth." Allowing one-quarter of a minute for each person, this action would have taken over ten hours.

One of the astounding anachronisms in the book is the fact that all the Scripture quotations, which it is claimed were translated from the Egyptian language on the plates, are in the English of the Authorized Version, mistakes and all! For instance, in incorporating 1 Cor. 13:5, in the "Book of Moroni," the phrase "is not easily provoked," reads as in the Authorized Version, but the word "easily" is not found in the Greek and is dropped in the Revised Version. Joe's "Urim and Thummim," however, did not detect the absence of this word and he put it in. There are hundreds of such instances. By the same token of anachronism Shakespeare is proved to be a plagiarist, for his famous phrase "from whence no traveler can return" was used in 2 Nephi 1, 14, twenty-two hundred years before the bard of Stratford was born. Passages from the New Testament are quoted hundreds of years before it was written, and the Copernican theory of the solar system is proved fifteen hundred years before Copernicus ("for sure it is the earth that moveth, and not the sun." Helaman 12:15). Hundreds of these anachronisms betray the fraudulent author-

ship of the book. A multitude of modern words, such as "baptize," "barges," "Bible," sprinkle its pages. Ungrammatical sentences and the illiterate use of words abound.⁴

As the book had its origin in Spaulding's "Manuscript Found" as worked over by Rigdon and possibly further worked over or at least copied by Smith, we cannot tell how many of these anachronisms and other errors go back to Rigdon and to Spaulding, but we may well attribute the illiteracy to Smith, for, according to David Whitmer, a Mormon authority, he "was illiterate and but little versed in biblical lore, and was oftentimes compelled to spell the words out, not knowing the correct pronunciation."⁵

4. ORIGIN OF THE IDEAS OF THE BOOK

The general idea of the *Book of Mormon*, that it is a final revelation completing that of the New Testament as the New Testament completes the Old, has appeared from time to time. The following famous instance affords a remarkable precedent and parallel to the revelation and plates of Joseph Smith:

About the close of the twelfth century appeared among the mendicant friars that ominous work, which, under the title of "The Everlasting Gospel," struck terror into the Latin hierarchy. It was affirmed that an angel had

⁴Rev. M. T. Lamb has collected many of these in his *The Mormons and Their Bible*, pp. 44-51.

⁵*Ibid.*, p. 50.