

genius may take it into his head to command, whether it be treason, murder, arson, or robbery.

When the oath has been administered, the candidate is clothed with the robe of the order, and the precious ointment, or consecrated oil, poured upon his head, till it runs down upon his beard and the skirts of his garment. Then the nature, authority, and privileges, of the Holy Priesthood are explained to the candidate, together with the ultimate fate of all Gentiles, (as they term those who are not Mormons,) sectarian priests, apostates, and dissenters.

One of the most curious and ludicrous ceremonies, connected with the initiation into Order Lodge, is this: After the precious ointment has been poured upon the candidate, a hole is cut in the bosom of his shirt. (See plate.) This shirt must never, on any account, be worn again, but must be sacredly preserved, to keep the Destroying Angel from them and their families. These shirts are committed to the care of the wives of the members, and none but them must touch them, or know of their existence. They believe that these shirts will preserve them from death, and secure to them an earthly immortality; but Bishop Vinson Knight, one of the members, has recently died, so that it is evident the hole in his shirt could not save him. Joe will probably, however, say that a spiritual immortality only was promised.

The members of this lodge, in obedience to the above obligation, have no scruple whatever in perjuring themselves, when required to do so by the Prophet, or when it will conduce to the interest or advancement of the Holy Mormon Church; consequently they are the readiest and most dangerous tools of the Impostor.

The Mormon system of theology recognizes three Gods; the first of which is God the Father; the second is God the Son, or Jesus Christ; the third is God the Holy Ghost. In Order Lodge these are all represented; God the Father, by Joe Smith; God the Son, or Jesus Christ, by Hyrum Smith; and God the Holy Ghost, by George Miller. By these precious divinities the candidate is initiated into the higher mysteries of the Mormon Priesthood, of which all that need here be said is, that they fit him admirably for his holy work.