

In the House of Lords on Friday the Marquis of Salisbury announced that the House was willing to pass the complete franchise measure together with the redistribution at the earliest date.

In the House of Commons Mr. Gladstone insisted that redistribution must follow the passage of the franchise bill. He deprecated the disorders in Birmingham and elsewhere, but said he hoped the opposition had seen that the country wanted the franchise bill passed and that would warn them.

An accident befell the Duchess of Cumberland on Saturday last. As she was taking part in a hunt her horse fell through the planking of a bridge upon stones below and the duchess was thrown to the ground underneath the bridge. She was quickly rescued from this position, when it was found she had suffered only slight injuries.

At the semi-annual meeting of the Grand Trunk Railway company held in London, on Thursday last, Sir Henry Tyler reported that during the half year the earnings were £222,000 less than during the same period of 1883 and the expenses £147,000 less. Sir Henry made a full explanation of the company's affairs.

The British cabinet has not yet sanctioned the advance of the Nile expedition to Khartoum. They will not decide the question before the return of Lord Northbrook, the British high commissioner, who is now in Egypt.

Lord Northbrook, the British special high commissioner to Egypt, sailed for England on Saturday.

It is officially stated that no doubts exist that Colonel Stewart and his party were massacred by Arabs near Merawe. The Canadian contingent for the Nile expedition has arrived at Wada-Halla.

According to a Chinese journal, it would seem that the Chinese soldiers who fought at Lang Son poisoned the springs at places where the French troops had to pass, and further, that they used poisoned arrows.

It is reported that the Duke of Brunswick's private fortune amounted to £15,000,000, Emperor Francis Joseph is the principal legatee.

Henry M. Stanley addressed a meeting at Manchester on Tuesday, in which he said it would never do to allow Portugal to have sovereignty over the Congo, as she had already greatly retarded trade in that region.

The total loss by the Carthage N. Y. fire is \$500,000, insurance \$143,500. There are 202 buildings burned, of which 108 are dwellings, 4 churches.

At a cabinet council meeting in Paris on Friday last, it was agreed to make a reduction of 3,600,000 francs in the appropriations for the ministries of war, finance, instruction and public works.

The Frankfort Gazette predicts the failure of the Congo conference unless English hostility ceases. It says the American Government has given Germany to understand that it will not sustain the enterprise if directed against England.

The Lisbon Journal of Commerce says the result of the negotiations of the conference will be the recognition of the principle of the sovereignty of Portugal on the Lower Congo under a guarantee of equal trading rights to foreigners and Portuguese.

M. Daumas, a member of the Marcellines municipal government, has fled, taking with him 17,000 francs intended for distribution among cholera sufferers. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

A telegram from Nijne Novgorod, says the court martial in the case of the prisoners who took part in the anti-Jewish riots at Koenarvia in June, has sentenced eleven to periods varying from twelve to twenty years at hard labor for manslaughter, twenty-seven to periods varying from one to three years for robbery, and sixteen to shorter periods. One of the prisoners has been banished to Siberia and eleven have been acquitted.

A desperate attack was made by a body of nihilists on a train carrying a mail in which was \$500,000, as it was nearing Kharkoff, who attempted to wreck it for the purpose of robbing the mail pouches. The guards who were on train opened fire on the would-be wreckers and the engineer, putting on an extra head of steam, during the confusion which followed, flew past the robbers amid a shower of bullets and brought the train safely to Kharkoff.

An attempt was made on Tuesday of last week, to shoot Leopold, King of the Belgians, by a Radical student, who was subsequently arrested.

From Egypt we learn by a telegram on Thursday last that Col. Wilson has returned and reports that tribes of Merawi are peacefully disposed, and that the country is open to the Gerend cataract, twenty miles beyond the Merawi. Nothing authentic was learned regarding Col. Stewart.

Mason Bey, governor of Massowah, desires to be relieved of his post. He finds that he cannot relieve Kassala, and fears if Sanh-it is evacuated a massacre at Kassala will follow unless troops are sent thither.

Seventy tons of stores are forwarded daily by the Sarraus railway and by camels. The weather is cooler. A large force of men is massed at Assouan, including a majority of the camel corps.

The Presidential election in the several States of the Union keep up the excitement from week to week, making a most undesirable condition of things. The character of each of the candidates is blackened by the others until one would suppose the men aspiring to the office were among the worst in the country.

Mrs. Belya Lockwood alone escapes this process of defamation and detraction. Among the worst things they have to say of her is that she wants to be a lawyer, and enjoys the notoriety which her singular position gives. Her candidature is regarded as perfectly harmless.

Mr. Cleveland, Governor of New York, and one of the Presidential candidates was attacked in the street near his residence at Albany, on Monday last week by a sort of crank named Samuel T. Boone. He was not seriously hurt. His moral character is much more seriously assailed, but he is defended by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.

On Thursday night a fire at Milwaukee, Wis., destroyed Chapman's mammoth dry goods establishment. The loss on the building is \$200,000; on Chapman's stock, \$350,000; Stark Bros. (occupying the lower portion of the building), lose \$100,000.

The total loss by the Carthage N. Y. fire is \$500,000, insurance \$143,500. There are 202 buildings burned, of which 108 are dwellings, 4 churches.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger. Truth versus Mormonism.

Mr. MacLean denied the inspiration of the Book of Mormon in the second place, because the manner in which the book is claimed to have been discovered, and the character of the testimony of the "eleven witnesses" are such as to commend themselves to any intelligent and impartial people.

The angel Maroni came to the beautiful (?) Joe Smith and told him where he would find the plates, and a supernatural pair of spectacles by which the plates could be interpreted. Joe, following the instructions of the angel, found the plates and spectacles deposited in a box under a stone.

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With Oliver Cowdery as his scribe, Joe went behind a screen and translated the plates—Cowdery remaining on the outside of the curtain. Cowdery and two others—David Whitmer and Martin Harris—give their testimony that they had "seen" the plates, and declare they "knew that they have been translated by the gift and power of God, for his voice has declared it unto us; wherefore we know of a surety that the work is true."

Such are the evidences of the authenticity of the book. Mr. MacLean put these witnesses in the witness box. The examination was most searching, and their testimony broke down. Seeing that the plates would be no evidence of the authenticity of the book, as they could not understand the writing, therefore could not compare. Hearing the voice of an angel was not accepted, as they could not tell whether it was an angel of light or an angel of darkness, and the system of Mormonism is more in keeping with the character of his Satanic Majesty.

He then proved that the witnesses were not disinterested. Five of them are Whitmers and three are Smiths—a family compact—the interest of a father in the iniquity of a son. Cowdery was, after this testimony, expelled from the church "for lying, counterfeiting and immorality. Martin Harris mortgaged his farm for \$3,000 to get money to publish the book. The speculation was not a paying one. Having spent all his funds and quarrelled with Joe Smith, he returned from Missouri to his old home in New York. In addition to the above consideration the testimony of the eleven was found to break down entirely, when it was shown to contradict the title page of the first edition of the Book of Mormon, that makes "Joseph Smith, author and proprietor." As the testimony of the eleven was found worthless, the whole rests on the veracity of Joe Smith himself, and he was proved to be without veracity—bad and only bad.

The inspiration of the Book of Mormon was denied in the third place, because the book is satisfactorily accounted for on other grounds than that of revelation. Here Mr. MacLean clearly proved by sworn testimony that the historical part of the Book of Mormon was written in 1810 and 1811, by one Solomon Spalding, a graduate of Dartmouth College. It was written as an historical romance to account for the settlement of America. Having written the work and entitled it "The Manuscript Found," he sought aid to have it published, but failed, not being able to do it himself.

The manuscript fell into the hands of Sidney Rigdon. Joe Smith, Cowdery and Rigdon mixed it up with Scripture passages and other religious ideas, and palmed it off on unsuspecting minds as a revelation from God. This statement was proven by many evidences. I will give but two or three. The first is from Solomon Spalding's brother, John Spalding. After giving the early history of his brother, he says, "He told me he had been writing a book, which he intended to have printed. The book was entitled 'The Manuscript Found,' of which he read to me many passages. It was an historical romance of the first settlers of America—endeavouring to show that the American Indians are the descendants of the Jews, or the lost tribes. It gave a detailed account of their journey from Jerusalem by land and by sea, till they arrived in America, under the command of Nephi and Lehi.

I have recently read the Book of Mormon and to my great surprise I find nearly the same historical matter, names, &c., as they were in my brother's writing. I will remember that he wrote in the old style, and commenced about every sentence with 'and it came to pass,' the same as in the Book of Mormon, and according to the best of my recollection and belief, it is the same as my brother Solomon wrote, with the exception of the religious matter. By what means it has fallen into the hands of Joseph Smith, Jr., I am unable to determine."

The above testimony was corroborated by the wife of Mr. John Spalding who was at the house of Solomon when he was writing his romance. She concludes her testimony by saying, "I have read the Book of Mormon, which has brought fresh to my recollection the writings of Solomon Spalding, and I have no manner of doubt that the historical part of it is the same that I read and heard read more than twenty years ago."

I shall only ask space for one more testimony, though many more were given by Mr. MacLean. The following is the testimony of Solomon Spalding's widow, found in an article contained in the American Encyclopedia: "The fact is fully established that the real author of the work was Solomon Spalding, who was born in Ashford, Conn., in 1761, was graduated at Dartmouth College, and was afterwards ordained. After preaching for three or four years, he relinquished the ministry, and engaged in mercantile business at Cherry Valley, N. Y., whence in 1809 he removed to Coxsack, Ohio. From Coxsack, in 1812, he removed to Pittsburg, and thence, in 1814, to Amity, Penn., where he died in 1816. He had an inveterate taste for literary pursuits, and wrote several novels, which he was in the habit of reading to his friends in the manuscript, as they were so worthless that he could find no publisher for them, while his poverty prevented him from issuing them at his own expense.

During his residence in Ohio in 1810-'11-'12 he wrote a romance to account for the peopling of America by deriving the Indians from the Hebrews, in accordance with an absurd notion then prevalent in some parts of the country that the American Indians were descended from the lost tribes of Israel. As early as 1818 this work was announced in the newspapers as forthcoming, and as containing a translation of the Book of Mormon. Spalding entitled his book "Manuscript Found," and intended to publish with it, by way of preface or advertisement, a fictitious account of its discovery in a cave in Ohio. His widow, in a statement published by her in the Boston Journal, May 18, 1839, declares that in 1812, he placed his manuscript in a printing office at Pittsburg, with which Sidney Rigdon was connected. Rigdon, she says, copied the manuscript, and his possession of a copy was known to all in the printing office, and was often mentioned by himself. Subsequently the original manuscript was returned to the author, who soon after died. His widow preserved it till after the publication of the Book of Mormon, when she sent it to Coxsack, where a public meeting, composed in part of persons who remembered Spalding's work, had requested her to send the manuscript that it might be publicly compared with the Book of Mormon. She says in conclusion: "I am sure that nothing would grieve my husband more, were he living, than the use which has been made of his work. The air of antiquity which was thrown about the composition doubtless suggested the idea of converting it to the purposes of delusion. Thus a historical romance, with the addition of a few pious expressions, and extracts from the Sacred Scriptures, has been construed into a new Bible, and palmed off upon a company of poor deluded fanatics as divine."

American Cyclopaedia, Appleton's vol. xi., p. 735.

Sackville, Oct., 1884. (To be continued.) P. S.—Let "Enquirer" read "ordained" instead of "commanded."

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