

Norman  
Interview

(Ashbel Ritchell  
Union village, D. C.  
May 15/1831)

# Olishka's Book -

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Those who borrow it will be  
so kind as to return the same. -

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"The wicked borrow & never return".

Aug 1856.

A Mormon interview.  
Copied from Brother Ashbel Kitchell's  
Pocket Journal. - (By E.D.B.)

Some time in the year 1829 the new religion, (if so it may be called,) of the Mormons began to make a stir in a town not far from North Union. It created a good deal of excitement among the people. They stated they had received a New Revelation, had seen an angel, & had been instructed into many things in relation to the history of America, that was not known before.

Late in the fall a number of them came to visit the Believers. One by the name of Oliver Lowdree, who stated that he had been one who had been an assistant in the translation of the golden Bible, and had also seen the Angel, and had been commissioned by him to go out & bear testimony, that God would destroy this generation.

He gave him liberty to bear his testimony

in our meeting; but finding he had nothing for us, we treated them kindly, and labored to find out what manner of spirit they were of. — They appeared meek and mild; but as for light, or knowledge of the way of God, I considered them very ignorant of Christ or his work; therefore I treated them with the tenderneſs of children.

They tarried with us two nights & one day, and when they were ready to start they propoſed to leave ſome of their Books among us, to which we conſented, and they left ſeven, which we diſtributed among the people; but they were ſoon returned as not intereſting enough to keep them awake while reading. — After ſome months they called for them & took them away, except one which was given me as a preſent. — They appeared to have full faith in the virtue of their Books, that whoever would read them, would feel ſo thoroughly convinced of the truth of what they contained, that they would



be unable to resist, and finally would be obliged to unite with them. They thought it prudent to wait on us a while for the heaven to work, so that things moved on smoothly for sometime, and we had time for reflection. I believed that I should one day have to meet them and decide the matter; and, least I should do any thing that should injure the cause of God, or bring weakness on myself, I wrote home for council; but could obtain none, for the case was new and none were acquainted with it in the Church, therefore they could give no council, and they left me to exercise my judgment. — — — For some time I felt some straitened, not knowing what course to take. At length I concluded that I was dedicated and entirely devoted to God, & desired to do what was right; that if God had any hand in that work, he would inform me by some means, that I might know what to

do, either by letting me have an interview with the angel, or by some other means give me knowledge of my duty.

In this situation I remained for a long time, occasionally hearing that they expected to come after a while and lead us into the water. We continued on friendly terms in the way of trade and other acts of good neighborship until the spring of 1831. when we were visited on saturday evening by Sidney Rigdon and Lemman Copley, the latter of whom had been among us; but not liking the cross any to well, had taken up with Mormonism as the easier plan. and had been appointed by them as one of the missionaries to convert us.

They tarried all night, and in the course of the evening, the doctrines of the cross and the Mormon faith were both investigated; and we found that the life of Christ selfdenial corresponded better with the life of Christ, than Mormonism,

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the said Bigdon frankly acknowledged, but said he did not bear that cross, and did not expect to. - At this assertion I set him without the paling of the Church, and told him I could not look on him as a Christian. - Thus the matter stood and we retired to rest, not knowing what they had then in possession what they called a revelation or message from Jesus Christ to us, which they intended to deliver to day (sabbath.) and which they supposed would bring us to terms.

Sabbath morning, matters moved on pleasantly in sociable chat with the Brethren, untill I felt to give them all some council, which was for neither to force their doctrine on the other at this time; but let the time be spent in feeling of the spirit, as it was Bigdons first visit, for it might be possible that he would yet see that the foundation he was now on, was sandy, as well as those he had been on, while professing

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the various doctrines of the day; and if he should, he might desire to find a resting place - something substantial to place his feet on, where he would be safe; therefore I wished him to know what we had, and by what spirit we were moved &c

He said he would subject himself to the order of the place, and I left them.

A little before meeting, another one came from the Mormon camp as an assistant, by the name of Parley Pratt.

He called them out, and enquired how they had got along? and was informed by Bigdon and Leman, that I had bound them to silence, and nothing could be done.

Parley told them to pay no attention to me, for they had come with the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the people must hear it, &c.

They came into meeting and sat quietly untill the meeting was through, and the people dismissed; when Sidney Bigdon arose and stated that he had a message



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from the Lord Jesus Christ to this people; could he have the privilege of delivering it? He was answered, he could. He then said it was in writing; could he read it? He was told he might.

He then read the following Message.

### Norman Message.

Hearken unto my word my servants Sidney, & Parley & Leman, - For, behold, verily I say unto you, that I give unto you a commandment that you shall go and preach my gospel which ye have received, even as ye have received it, unto the Shakers.

Behold I say unto you, that they desire to know the truth in part, but not all, for they are not right, and must needs repent.

Wherefore, I send you my servants Sidney and Parley to preach the gospel unto them; and my servant Leman shall be ordained unto this work, that he may reason with them, not according to that which he

received of them, but according to that which shall be taught him by my servants, and by so doing I will bless him; otherwise he shall not prosper.

Thus saith the Lord, for I am God, and have sent mine only begotten Son into the world for the redemption of the world, and have decreed that he that ~~deceives~~ receiveth him shall be saved, and him that receiveth him not shall be damned!

And they have done unto the son of man, even as they listed, and he hath taken his power on the right hand of his glory, and now reigneth in the heavens, & will reign till he descend on the Earth to put all enemies under his feet; which time is nigh at hand. I the Lord hath spoken it. But the day & the hour no man knoweth, neither the angels in heaven; nor shall they know untill he come. — Wherefore I will that all men should repent, for all are under sin, except them which I have reserved unto myself; holy men that ye know not of.

Wherefore I say unto you, that I have sent unto you my everlasting Covenant even that which was from the beginning and that I have promised I have so fulfilled, and the Nations of the earth shall bow to it; and if not, of themselves they shall come down, for that which is now exalted of itself shall be laid low of power; - Wherefore I give unto you a commandment that ye go among this people and say unto them like mine Apostle of old, whose name was Peter, Believe on the name of the Lord Jesus who was on the Earth & is to come; the beginning & the end; repent & be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ according to the holy commandment for the remission of sins; and whoso doeth this shall receive the Holy-ghost by the laying on of hands of the Elders of this Church. — And again I say unto you, that whoso forbideth to marry, is not ordained of God; for it is ordained of God unto man, therefore it is lawful that man should have one Wife, and they twain

shall be one flesh; and all this, that the Earth might answer the end of its Creation, and that it might be filled with the increase of man, according to his creation before the world was made.

And whosoever forbideth to abstain from meats, that man should not eat, the same is not ordained of God - for behold the Beasts of the field, & the fowls of the air, and that which cometh of the earth, is ordained for the use of man for food and for raiment; and that he might have in abundance; but it is not given that one man should possess that which is above another. - Wherefore the world lieth in sin, and wo be unto man that sheddeth blood, or wasteth flesh and hath no need. - And again, verily I say unto you, that the Son of Man cometh not in the form of a woman, neither of a man, travelling on the earth.

Wherefore, be not deceived, but continue in steadfastness, looking forth for the



Heavens to be shaken, and the earth to tremble, and real to & fro like as a drunken man, and for the vallies to rise & be exalted, & for the Mountains to be made low, & for the rough places to be made smooth; and all this when the angel shall sound his trumpet.

But before this great day of the Lord shall come, Jacob shall flourish in the wilderness and the Lemnites shall blossom as the rose. - Zion shall flourish upon the hills, and rejoice on the mountains; and shall be assembled together to the place which I have appointed. - Behold I say unto you go forth as I have commanded you. -

Repent of all your sins, - ask and you shall receive - knock & it shall be opened unto you. - Behold I will go before you and will be your reward - I will be in your midst and you shall not be confounded. Behold I am Jesus Christ, and I come quickly, even so Amen.

(Saf.)

May 4<sup>th</sup> 1831.Should be  
March

At the close of the reading, he asked if they could be permitted to go forth in the exercise of their gift and Office. — I told him that the piece he had read, bore on its face, the image of its author; that the Christ that dictated that, I was well acquainted with, and had been, from a boy; that I had been much troubled to get rid of his influence, and I wished to have nothing more to do with him; and as for any gift he had authorized them to exercise among us, I would release them & their Christ from any further burden about us, and take all the responsibility on myself.

Sidney made answer — This you ~~can~~ cannot do; I wish to hear the people speak. I told him if he desired it, they could speak for themselves, and stepped back and told them to let the man know how they felt; which they did in something like these words; that they were fully satisfied with what they had, and

wished to have nothing to do with either them or their Christ. — On hearing this Rigdon professed to be satisfied, and put his paper by; but Parley Pratt arose and commenced shaking his coattail; he said he shook the dust from his garments as a testimony against us, that we had rejected the word of the Lord Jesus.

Before the words were out of his mouth, I was to him, and said; — you filthy Beast, dare you presume to come in here, and try to imitate a man of God by shaking your filthy tail; confess your sins and purge your soul from your lusts, and your other abominations before you ever presume to do the like again, &c. While I was ministering this reproof, he settled trembling into his seat, and covered his face; and then turned to Lemman who had been crying while the message was reading, and said to him, you hypocrite, you knew better; — you knew where the living work of God was;

but for the sake of indulgence, you could consent to deceive yourself & them, but you shall reap the fruit of your own doings, &c - This struck him dead also, and dried up his tears; - I then turned to the Believers and said, now we will go home and started. - Sidney had been looking on all this time without saying a word; as he had done all he did only by liberty, nothing was said to him, and he looked on with a smile to see the fix the others were in, but they all followed us to the house. - Parley's horse had not been put away, as he came too late; he mounted and started for home without waiting for any one. - Sidney stayed for supper, and acknowledged that we were the purest people he had ever been acquainted with, but he was not prepared to live such a life.

He was treated kindly and let go after supper. - But Lemman tarried all night and started for home in the morning. He had a large farm, and about 100



Mormons were living with him, on it. When he got home, he found the Mormons had rejected him, & could not own him for one of them, because he had deceived them with the idea of converting us. He felt very bad; - was not able to rest; - came back to us & begged for union.

After some consultation we concluded to give him union, and help him through; and to accomplish this, I went home with him, and held a meeting in the dooryard, among the Mormons; but few of them attended. They appeared to be struck with terror and fear lest some of them might get converted; but they could not get out of hearing, without leaving the place, so that I found that they understood the subject. - I stayed over night, and in the morning I had conversation with the Elder, whose name was Knight.

In the course of the conversation, I stirred the feelings of an old man, that

proved to be the Elders Father, which so raised the indignation of the Elder that he let on me his heaviest mectets, he poured it on at the top of his voice, and wound up by informing me that unless I repented I should go to Hell!

I waited with patience untill he was thro'; and then asked him if he would hear me; - to which he consented.

I told him if the words he had spoken had came from a man of God they would have caused my knees to have smote together like Belshazers, but coming as they did from a man that lived in his lusts - who gratified a beastly propensity, and often in a manner that was far below the beasts, and at the same time professing to be a follower of Christ, his words had no weight, but passed by me without making any impresion.

I then gave him a lecture on the subject of the cross, and a life of self-

denial which was fully satisfying to all present, who had the right end of the story. — I stayed all day, and assisted them to settle their affairs. — I wrote for them two or three hours, and after I was thro' I took hold of the Elder and walked the floor, amusing him with a number of pleasant things, and lastly I repeated part of a verse of an old hymn, which reads thus,

But now as I close  
One thing I'll propose  
To the man that salvation would find  
No longer put your trust,  
In a man that lives in lust,  
For how can the blind lead the blind."

At the recital of these words, he loosened his hold and made for the door, and here ended my labors for the Mormons for that time.

Ashbel Kitchel.

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MI ATTAUH HAUR

CAUDOLLIPNA

~~MISHOR~~ ZERUBBABEL LE

MISHOR HOTSIA

EBEN ROSH TESHU

A. ANN ANN LEE.

*What art thou great Mountain, in the  
presence of ~~him~~ who was sown in Babylon.  
Thou art changed into a plain.  
And he shall bring forth the*

*(see over)*

cap stone whose name is Ann Ann Lee.  
Grace, grace, towards her

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The above translation is said to be literal. Produced by a learned Divine (George Bush of Columbia College, New York) At the request of Brother Robert White.

The same was done by William R. Buppell of the Wesleyan Seminary Wilkesham. Mass.

The following is the literal rendering of the foregoing by Levi David, a young German Jew

Who art thou great Mountain Before Zerubbabel. She shall bring forth a head stone which shall be called Ann Ann Lee.

Gez 4-7

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