

**JOSEPH SMITH DEFENDED, AND
HIS DIVINE MISSION
VINDICATED. AN ANSWER TO THE
ATTACKS OF HIS ENEMIES,
RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL**

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Joseph Smith defended, and his divine mission vindicated. An answer to the attacks of his enemies, religious and political by J. W. Peterson

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JOSEPH SMITH DEFENDED

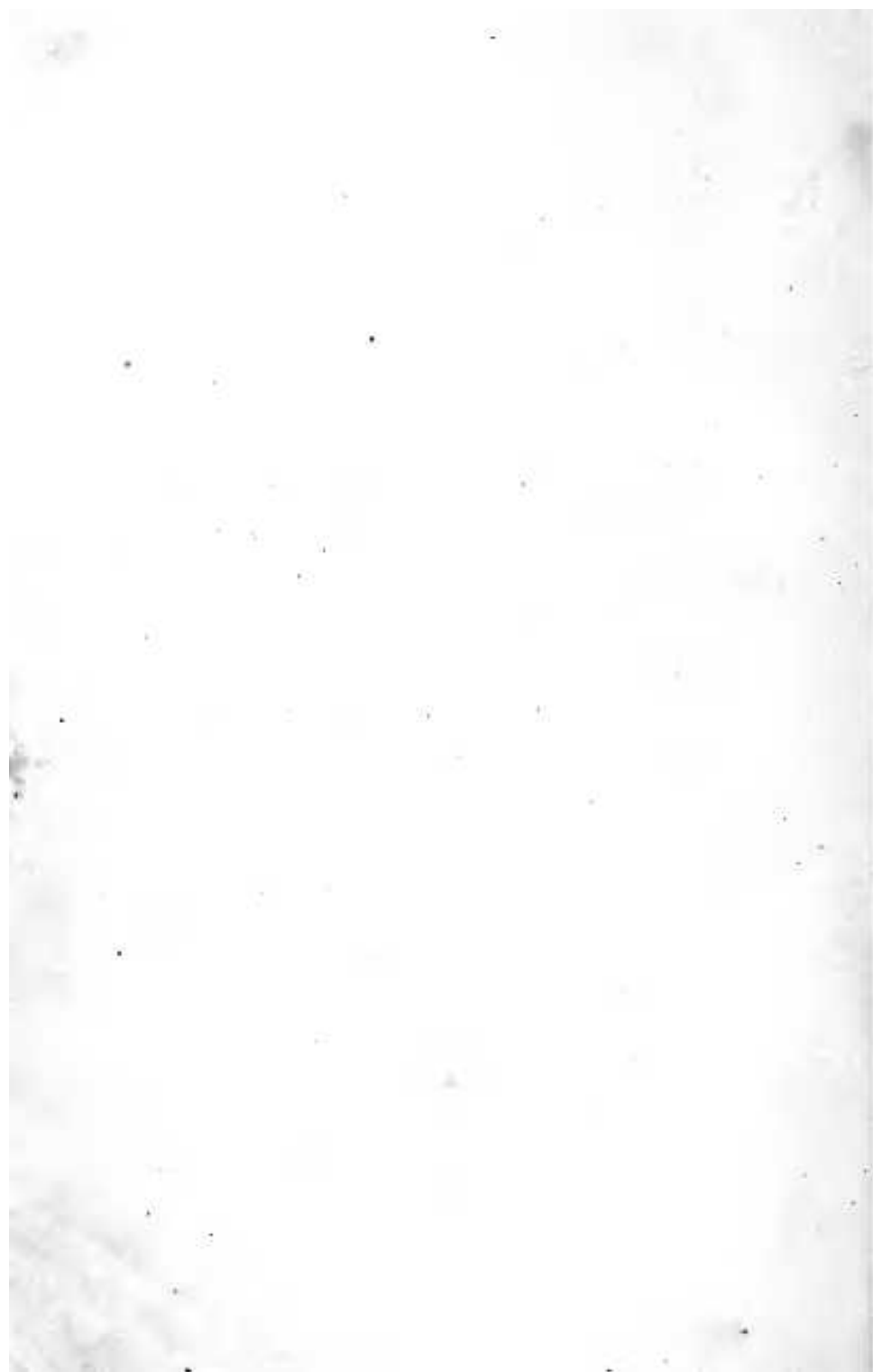
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HIS DIVINE MISSION VINDICATED

An answer to the attacks of his enemies, religious and political

BY ELDER J. W. PETERSON

LAMONI, IOWA
HERALD PUBLISHING HOUSE



PREFACE.

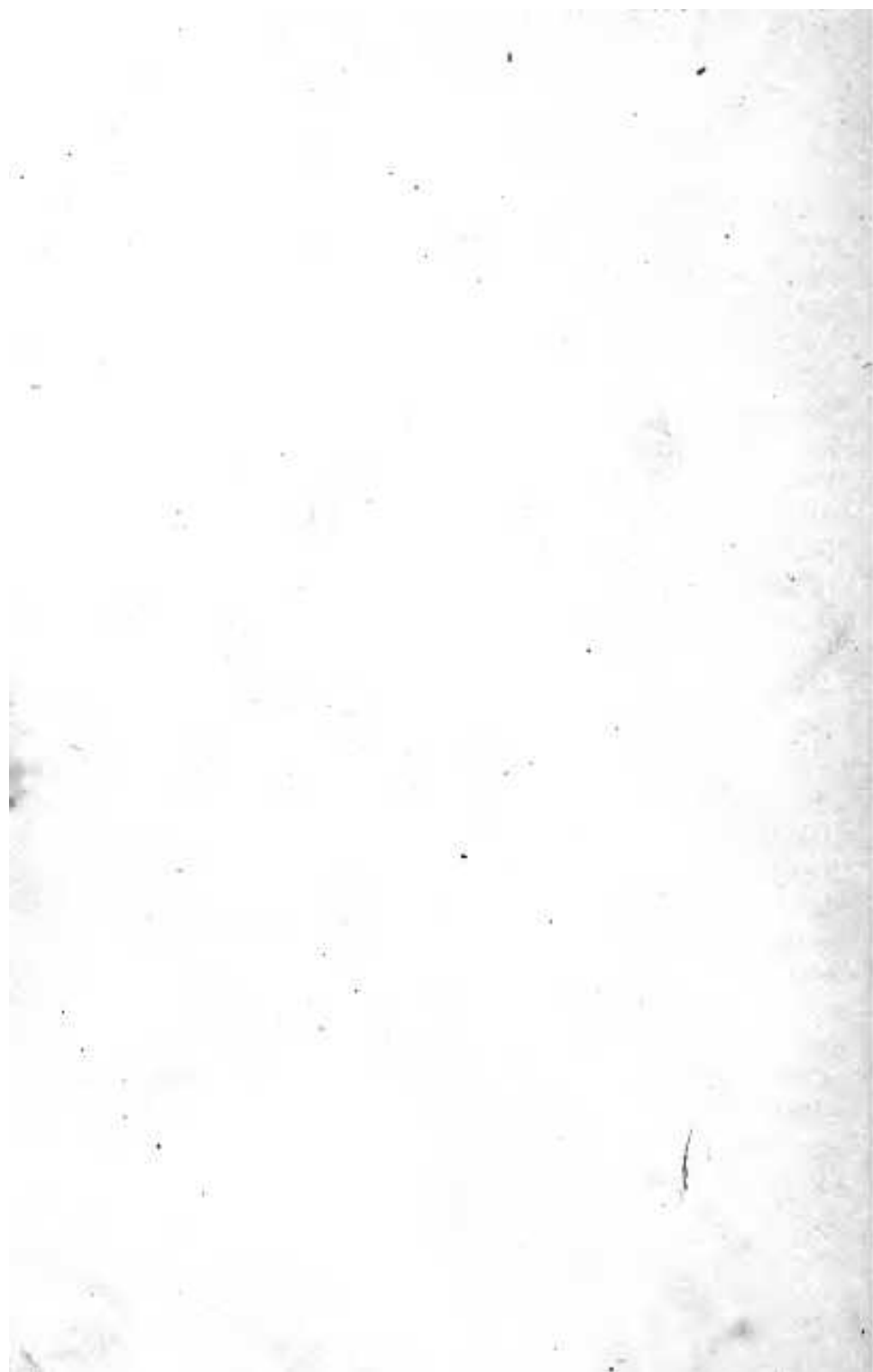
MY OBJECT in writing this book is because I see a need of such a work, and because the enemy of righteousness and truth has been so artful in vilifying and misrepresenting Joseph Smith, that I desire the truth to be placed alongside of the misrepresentations, so that those who are looking for truth may be able to discover it. I do not suppose that what I have written will convince all who read, that the Latter Day Saint faith is the "faith of Jesus," for fifteen years of public experience have convinced me that there are many who have already made up their minds that Joseph Smith was a bad man and are not willing to give proper consideration to his teachings.

There are none who are more interested in a proper solution of the question, "Who was Joseph Smith?" than we are, as our eternal salvation is at stake, and it is to our interest to be careful and fair with both sides. Unlike the fanatical class who refuse to read anything but that which is in their favor, we have read carefully both sides of this question, and can recommend to the reader the following pages as a fair, careful, and conservative view of the facts.

We send this work out as an introductory to introduce the reader to a very few of the many proofs existing concerning the character and calling of Joseph Smith.

May the Spirit that leads into all truth, guide the honest in search for it.

J. W. PETERSON.



WHO WAS JOSEPH SMITH?

CHAPTER I.

EVERY CHURCH HAS A BEGINNING—SOME ONE THE FOUNDER—
GOD THE FOUNDER OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF
LATTER DAY SAINTS — JOSEPH SMITH CHOSEN TO BEGIN IT
— EFFORTS OF ENEMIES TO MISREPRESENT — ENEMIES'
REPORT NOT LIKELY TO BE CORRECT — GOD EXPECTS MEN
TO USE THEIR REASON — MUST HEAR BEFORE JUDGING —
BOTH SIDES MUST BE HEARD — ENEMIES CONTRADICT EACH
OTHER — FACTS ONLY WILL AVAIL — SMITH'S TEACHINGS
A GIBRALTAR — ASSISTANCE OFFERED — A DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THE LATTER DAY SAINTS AND "MORMONS" —
JOSEPH SMITH NOT THE AUTHOR OF UTAH MORMONISM.

EVERY church originated with some one—every church had its founder. Those who are seeking for knowledge desire, no doubt, to hear the true story of Joseph Smith, the earthly founder of the Church of Jesus Christ, restored; as told by his friends. The Latter Day Saints have ever held that God was the real founder of the Church of which they have become members and that Joseph Smith was but an instrument in God's hands to accomplish that work. While not considering Mr. Smith the author of our faith, yet our regard for him as a man of God impels us to defend him against the vile attacks that have been made against him. Because of this effort on the part of his enemies to keep the truth from coming

before the public, many good people scarcely give him more than a passing thought and often that one thought is clothed with indifference, contempt, or even hatred. If his enemies have represented him correctly, and presented his character to the public in its true light, then no one should be blamed for being disinterested nor for considering him unworthy of further notice. But his enemies have not represented him correctly. One's friends may often fail in that regard, much more one's enemies. The latter are almost sure, as might be supposed, to misconstrue the meaning of every word and distort the intention of every act to suit their purposes.

We can assure the reader, in advance of the proof which we shall subsequently furnish, that he was really a good man and one greatly to be admired. His acts were so public and his words so plain and virtuous that it is not a difficult matter to determine his character when the facts are all examined with an unbiassed mind. Many of his opposers appear very ridiculous when their writings are compared with the facts. Others, a little more clear-sighted yet not more honorable, have resorted to misrepresentation in order to make out a case against him. Still others, with no intention, perhaps, of doing the man any injustice, yet ignorant of the true facts, have drawn largely from misrepresentations and evil stories and are caught in the same snare with those from whom they copy.

With all due respect for the opinions of those who think differently, we kindly ask and earnestly request that Mr. Smith be heard for himself. Perhaps after both sides are carefully considered, it will be dis-