

**THE MORMONS, OR, LATTER-DAY SAINTS: IN
THE VALLEY OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE : A
HISTORY OF THEIR RISE AND PROGRESS,
PECULIAR DOCTRINES, PRESENT CONDITION,
AND PROSPECTS;
DERIVED FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATION,
DURING A RESIDENCE AMONG THEM**

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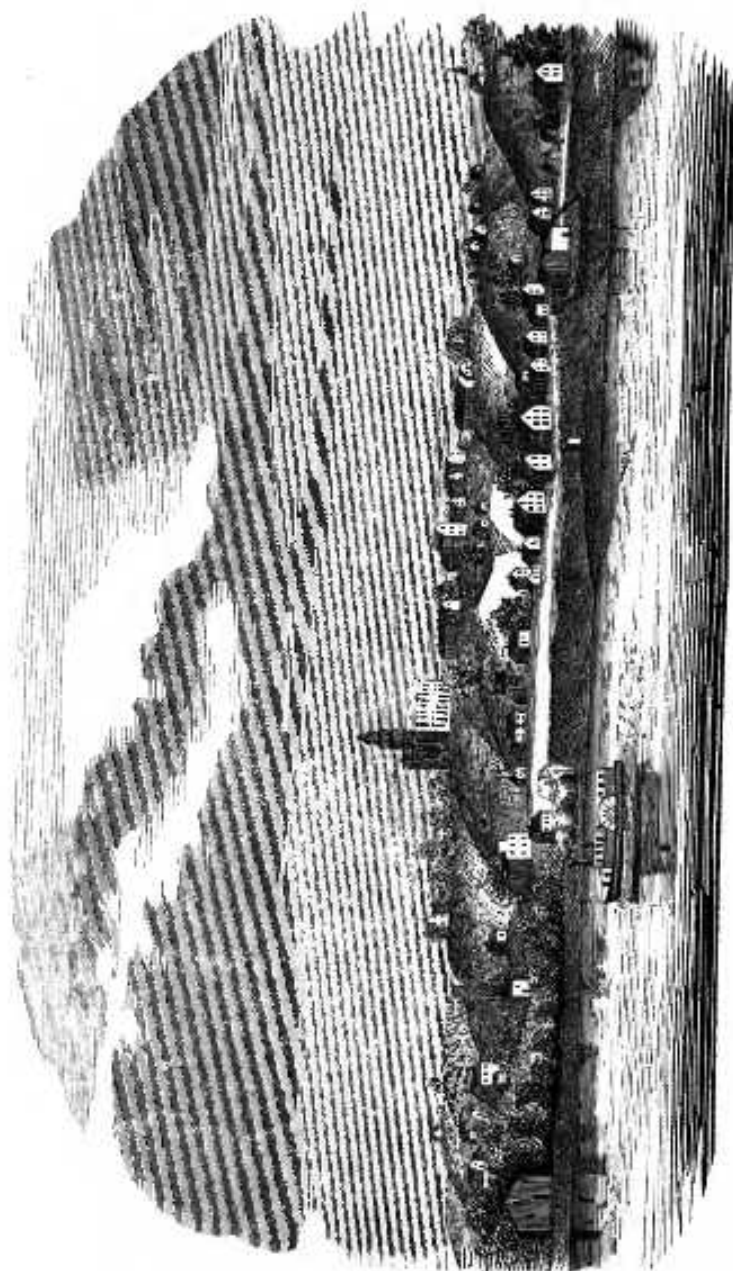
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J. W. GUNNISON

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BY LIEUT. J. W. GUNNISON,  
OF THE TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS.

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TO THE
COMMANDING OFFICER
OF THE
EXPLORING EXPEDITION TO THE GREAT SALT LAKE OF UTAH,
CAPT. HOWARD STANSBURY, T. E.,
WHO HAS SO ABLY GIVEN THE OFFICIAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESULTS OF THE
SURVEYS IN THE COUNTRY OF
"THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS,"
TO WHICH THIS BOOK APPENDS THEIR
HISTORY AND ETHNOLOGY,
AND IN PLEASANT RECOLLECTION OF OUR TOUR IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS,
IS THIS RESPECTFULLY
DEDICATED.



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PREFACE.

THIS treatise on the faith and condition of the Mormons, results from a careful observation of that strange and interesting people, during more than a year's residence among them, in an official capacity. It was conceived, that what is influencing the conscientious character of a half million souls, is worthy a serious investigation, though not pertinent to official report under government auspices.

No apology for error is here set forth, though the persecution of its advocates is deprecated.

The writer has undertaken neither the task of criticism nor controversy. His aim is not "to shoot folly as it flies," but to let folly tire on its own pinions, and reason regain its sway over erratic feeling, when the mists of prejudice on one side, and of fanaticism on the other, are dispelled by the light of knowledge.

For those who desire *facts* in the history of humanity, on which to indulge in reflection, is this offered. It were far easier to give a romantic sketch in lofty metaphors, of the genesis and exodus of the empire-founding Saints — the subject is its own epic of heroism, whose embellish-

ment is left to imaginative genius, and its philosophy to be deduced by the candid philanthropist.

Truth and justice, in few words, and as near as possible to fallible human observation, is what this exposition aims at. Facts of motive and history are collected, which concern a portion of our own fellow-citizens. These are the scholars of the workshop and the field—the leaders are students of men and things. They have been schooled in patience, perseverance, and self-denial—men of action, tried in varied circumstances.

My thanks are due to my friend F. R. Grist, Esq., for the view of the "theo-democratic" capital of Deseret. That gentleman accompanied the expedition thither, and, as an amateur, freely gave illustrations of the romantic scenery, for the public report printed by the United States Senate. What is there fully portrayed, is here lightly touched, for the Mormons constitute the picture attempted to be given, and other circumstances the frame in which it is set.

JULY, 1852.