A FOURFOLD TEST OF MORMONISM

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A Fourfold Test of Mormonism by Henry C. Sheldon

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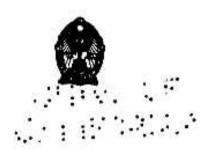
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ALERT BEE

PREFACE

Scholars generally have had such a lively impression of the utter groundlessness of the claims of Mormonism that they have been inclined to shrink from awarding those claims any serious consideration. We can appreciate this mental attitude; but we remind ourselves that it is not always wise and profitable to follow the dictates even of a just disdain. Apart from its intrinsic merits, a system which seeks to perpetuate and extend itself by a great force of missionaries kept constantly in the field may well be awarded a measure of careful scrutiny. This conviction has led us to prepare the present treatise. Our aim has been to give in brief form a comprehensive and thoroughly articulated criticism of the Mormon religion.

. . PREFACE

The footnotes indicate in general the sources from which we have drawn. It is incumbent on us, however, to make grateful mention of the information which has been furnished in personal letters of very competent observers of present-day Mormonism in Utah.

Boston University, July, 1914.

PART I THE HISTORICAL TEST

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