

**MORMONISM: THE
ISLAM OF
AMERICA**

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Mormonism: the Islam of America by Bruce Kinney

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BRUCE KINNEY

**MORMONISM: THE
ISLAM OF
AMERICA**



Statue to Brigham Young and the Pioneers

*Issued under the direction of the Council of
Women for Home Missions*

MORMONISM

The Islam of America

By
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in Utah*

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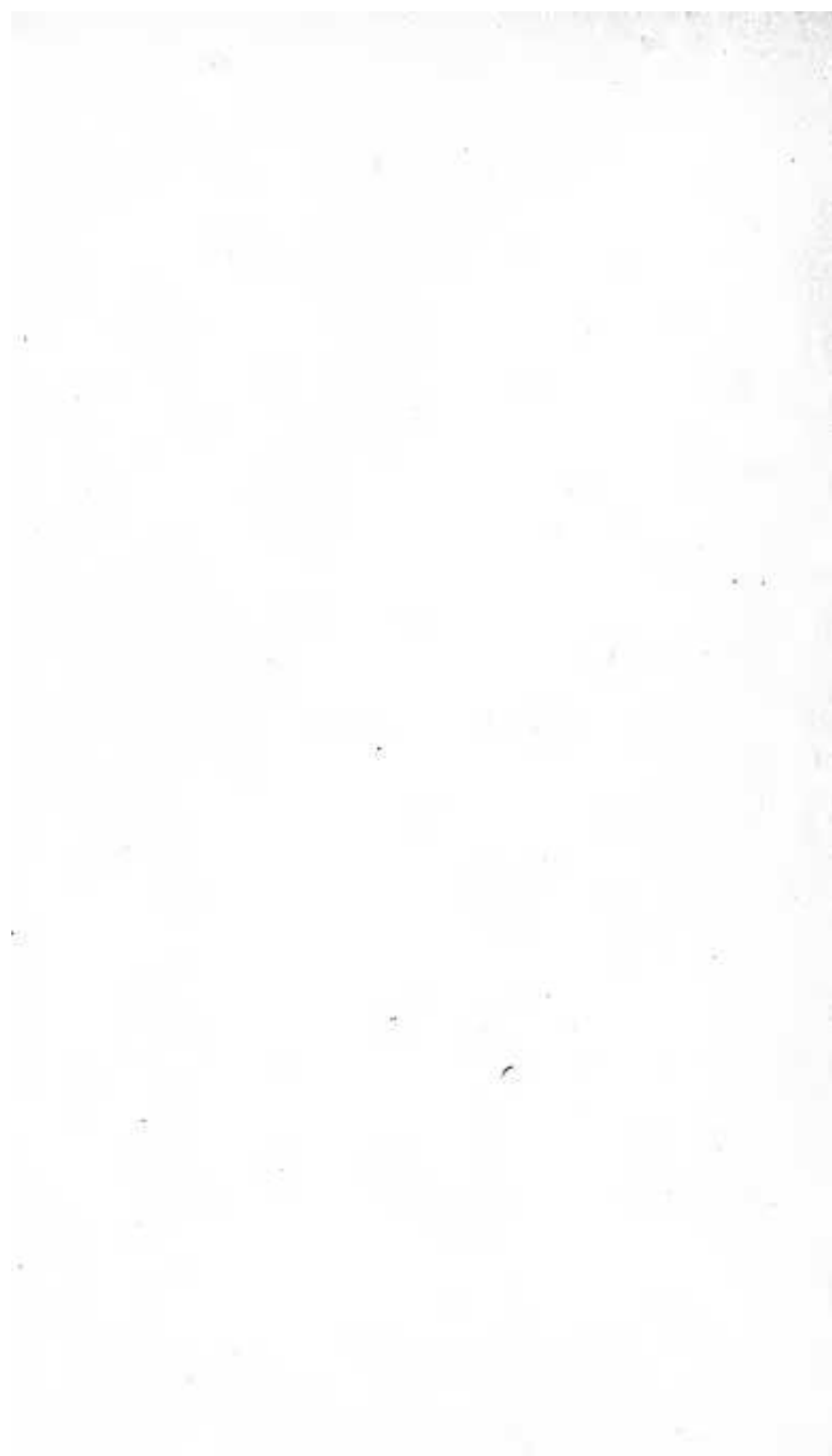
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*With remembrance of my mother, who
first taught me the way of life, and
special mention of my wife, whose lov-
ing sympathy and self-sacrificing co-
operation in service have made this
work possible, this book is dedicated
to the splendid*

WOMANHOOD OF AMERICA



From the Editorial Committee

THE title of this, the latest of the textbooks issued by the Council of Women for Home Missions, may need a word of explanation. It is generally acknowledged that Mormonism is similar to Mohammedanism in its endorsement of the practice of polygamy, and its ideas of heaven. Many other points of similarity between these systems have been noted by students, and the Book of Mormon has marked resemblance to the Koran. As all ancient religions have a modern equivalent, Mormonism can justly be claimed to be the modern form of Mohammedanism, and not incorrectly termed "the Islam of America."

While the subject considered in this book should be approached only in a spirit of fairness and Christian sympathy, it has become of too great importance in our national life to be omitted as a topic for careful study. It is in response to a wide-spread realization that this subject is a national problem, and bears an important relation to Home Missions, that the Council of Women presents this book.

In beginning its study, it is wise to free the mind of some misapprehension. Prominent

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among our national ideals are those of religious liberty for ourselves, and toleration for our neighbours' faith. No violation of this principle is involved in a candid, just and sympathetic study of any system of religious belief.

In the Handbook of our faith Christians are exhorted to prove all doctrines in order rightly to measure their truth and test their moral standards. In this spirit this text-book has been written. Dr. Kinney is peculiarly fitted to deal with his subject, both from careful investigation, and from personal acquaintance with it in Utah.

The Mormon problem is not primarily a religious one, nor should it be so considered. The hierarchy which embodies this system has extended its influence into so many lines of our national concerns, that Mormonism has ceased to be of merely theological or religious significance. It must be studied in its relation to government and commerce; to social conditions; to its influence on state policies and even on the utterances of the press, before it can be rightly understood as a factor in our present-day nationality.

In all these connections it is presented by Dr. Kinney, and while he regards with Christian sympathy the followers of the Mormon religion, he sees, and presents clearly, the dangers inherent in the designs, ambitions and methods of the all powerful hierarchy, which absolutely controls