

**ARTEMUS WARD (HIS TRAVELS)  
AMONG THE MORMONS; PART  
I. - ON THE RAMPAGE, PP. 1-62.  
PART II. - PERLITE LITTERATOOR**

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Perlite Litteratoor by E. P. Hingston

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**E. P. HINGSTON**

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## AMONG THE MORMONS.

PART I.—ON THE RAMPAGE.

PART II.—PERLITE LITTERATOOR.

EDITED BY

E. P. HINGSTON,

THE COMPANION AND AGENT OF ARTEMUS WARD WHILEST  
"ON THE RAMPAGE."

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## INTRODUCTION.

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"WILL you go with me to California and Oregon?" asked Artemus Ward, at the Revere House, New York, one day in the summer of 1863.

California being to me what the Americans phrase "an old stamping ground"—a land with which I was familiar, I at once assented; for "*Nulla vestigia retrorsum*" is not the motto of any one who has once trodden the soil of the Golden State, nor who has once felt the luxury of life in a climate to which that of Greece is the nearest European analogue.

"And then come home across the Plains and do the Mormons as we return?" added Artemus, interrogatively.

I paused before giving a reply. It came to my remembrance that Artemus had written "A Visit to Brigham Young" in a volume already published, in which imaginary sketch he had characterized the Mormons as "an onprincipled set of retchis as ever drew Breth in eny spot on the globe."\* Visions

\* "Artemus Ward, His Book," p. 77.

flitted before me of our possible fate in a city the inhabitants of which had been so abused by one of the intending travellers. The insecurity of human life at Salt Lake had been a frequent topic for newspaper paragraphs, and I had heard of an unprepossessing body of men in that vicinity designated as *The Destroying Angels*. As delicately as I could, I hinted to Artemus the perils of the enterprise. He affected to despise all danger, and treated my warnings as lightly as Don Quixote did those of Sancho Panza, relative to the windmills of Montiel. That Artemus himself had some misgivings afterwards, if not then, is avowed by him in the chapter on Salt Lake City in the present book. No matter how the Mormons might receive us, it was decided to go; and we went.

For the information of English readers who are not familiar with the geography of the North American Continent, especially with that part of it in which the Salt Lake is situated, I venture to say a few words about the means of getting to the Mormon capital, and its situation, with especial reference to the route passed over by Artemus Ward and myself. Information relative to Utah is not very plentiful, and the books on that territory are by no means numerous. The best work I have met with is that of M. Jules Remy,\* and the next best "The City of the Saints," by Captain Richard F. Burton, but both of them are descriptive of the Utah of full five years ago; and, while that of Captain

\* "Voyage au Pays des Mormons." Paris, 1860.

Burton depicts the rosy side of Mormondom, that of M. Remy is, perhaps, written with a too condemnatory pen. It is extremely difficult, even by visiting the territory, to learn much concerning it and its inhabitants. The physical features admit of easy description, but its social life, the mighty influences which are at work for good or evil, the curious problems which are solving themselves among a singular people, the exact nature of that strange plastic power which, taking unto itself the form of a religion, is rapidly building up a community unlike any other on the globe, are all points in relation to the Mormons very little understood, and which they themselves do not wish made clear to us, whom they stigmatize as "Gentiles."

You can go to Salt Lake by crossing the Isthmus of Panama, or by being ferried across the Missouri river. In proceeding by the former route you have to brave the dangers of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and in going by the latter you have to encounter the perils of the Plains, including very ugly mountains and very loose-minded Indians. The track of travel pursued by Artemus Ward and myself was simply this: We left New York by steamer, crossed the Isthmus of Panama by railway, steamed up the Pacific to San Francisco, then went by steamboat again to Sacramento, then by railroad to Folsom, and next by coach to Placerville, where we changed our conveyance for what they please to call a "stage" in California, but which, in England, we should