

MARTIN HARRIS.

Martin Harris, who departed this life on the 10th inst., was, in a very peculiar manner, a man highly favored of God—a man favored with beholding an angel from heaven in his glory, holding in his hands ancient sacred records on plates of gold. He was an American by birth, born on the 18th of May, 1783, in Easttown, Saratoga Co., New York. He removed to Palmyra, N. Y., where he became acquainted with Joseph Smith, jr., the translator of the Book of Mormon. This great prophet of the last days, having copied some of the ancient characters from gold plates which he had found, and translated them, presented them to Martin Harris, who made a visit to New York city, and showed the characters to the celebrated Professor Anthon, skilled in ancient and modern languages. The learned professor, after his examination, spoke favorably of the characters and of the translation, and proffered his assistance; but on learning from Mr. Harris that the book was discovered to Joseph Smith by an angel, and that a part of the Book was sealed, and that the finder was forbidden to let the Book go into the hands of the public, he sarcastically remarked that "he could not read a sealed book. Mr. Harris returned and reported to Mr. Smith the results of his interview with the learned, after which Mr. Smith, being commanded of the Lord, commenced translating the Book by the aid of the Urim and Thummim. Martin Harris was his first scribe, and wrote 116 pages of manuscript, from the Prophet's mouth. Thus was fulfilled that which was predicted by Isaiah xxix. 11—14, also Book of Mormon, p. 102, par. 18.

In the year 1829, Martin Harris, in company with the Prophet, and Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer, retired to a grove, not far from Mr. Whitmer's farm-house, in Fayette, Seneca County, New York, and called upon the Lord one by one; after which an angel descended from heaven in great glory, and showed them the plates, and the engravings upon the same, and at the same time they heard the voice of the Lord out of the heavens, bearing witness of the correctness of the translation, and commanding them to bear testimony of the same to all nations. (For their testimony see all the editions of the Book of Mormon in different language.)

Thus was fulfilled the predictions of Nephi and Moroni, Book of Mormon, page 102, par. 17; also p. 525.

When the Prophet finished the translation, Martin Harris furnished \$3,000 towards the publication of the first edition.

When, by the commandment of the Lord, the Church was organized in April, 1830, Martin Harris was among the first to identify himself with the baptized Saints.

When Jackson Co., Mo., in 1831, was designated as a gathering place for the Saints, as the land upon which the New Jerusalem should be built, and where a full consecration of all properties should be required, and the holy United Order of God should be established, Martin Harris was the first one called of God by name to set an example before the church in laying his money before the Bishop.

Notwithstanding these great favors shown to this remarkable man he had, like all of Adam's race, his imperfections. He did not follow up his brethren in all their persecutions in the States of Missouri and Illinois, but remained for many years in Ohio; this gave rise to many conjectures that Mr. Harris had apostatized. But it can truly be said, that Mr. Harris never faltered nor swerved in the least degree from the great testimony given in the Book of Mormon.

Mr. Harris, a few years ago, emigrated to Utah, and like all other emigrating Saints, he, in this territory, renewed his covenants by re-baptism; and also went into the font and was baptized for and in behalf of many of his kindred who were dead.

He located in Cache Co., and continued to bear a faithful testimony to the divinity of the Book of Mormon up to his last moments. Being nearly 93 years of age, it may truly be said he fell asleep of old age. A few hours before his death, when prostrated with great weakness, Bishop Simon Smith came in, Mr. Harris stretched forth his hands to salute him, and said, "Bishop, I am going." His son says—"The Bishop told father that

he had something of importance to tell him, in relation to the publishing of the Book of Mormon in the Spanish language, by the request of the Indians in Central America. Upon learning this, father brightened up, and his pulsation improved, and although very weak, he began to talk as he formerly had done previous to his sickness, and I think that he spoke about two hours, so that you may see by this that the mere mention of the Book of Mormon, seemed to put new life into him."

FUNERAL.

His son writes—"We had a good attendance and a large turn out for a small town like Clarkston. Every respect that could be paid to him was manifested by the people." * *

* * "We put the Book of Mormon in his right hand, and the Book of Covenants in his left hand. We had a very good coffin, and finished very nicely. We inscribed on the head board the following:

"His name, and birth, and age, and place of birth, and also his death, with the words—

"One of the three Witnesses of the Book of Mormon," also their Testimony.

"There were 16 teams or wagons, well filled with the people, who entertained a kind regard for old brother Martin."