

Introduction

THIS IS NOT an expose of Masonry or Mormonism. The author is not a Mason, but has made a careful study of the subject, having read more than one hundred books written by orthodox and reputable historians of the Masonic fraternity, with the desire of knowing the points of similarity that may exist in the two rituals and then seeking an explanation of that coincidence. Not a paragraph in this volume is taken from anti-Masonic writers, only the reputable historians of the order being consulted.

The purpose of this work is to call attention to the complaints and charges made about the Mormon Temple ceremony by the Masons and others, and give the Mormon answer to these unkind and erroneous assertions.

In the spirit of Christian brotherhood, with a desire to promote friendship and understanding, these chapters have been prepared.

The public is entitled to hear the Mormon answer and learn the facts on the other side of this moot question. We frankly admit that there are enough points of similarity to arouse one's suspicion. These will be carefully weighed and answered.

It is a fact that Joseph Smith had in his possession the manuscript of the Book of Abraham for seven years before any of it appeared in print, yet the section that has most to say about this subject was not printed until the very day he was admitted to the Masonic fraternity.

Furthermore, the Mormon Temple ceremony was revealed almost a year and a half before he joined the Masonic

lodge; yet he did not impart that information to his brethren until he had been a Mason for seven weeks.

Masons who visit the Temple Block in Salt Lake City are impressed by what they call the Masonic emblems displayed on the outside of the Mormon Temple.

Yes, the "Masonic emblems" are displayed on the walls of the Temple—the sun, moon and stars, "Holiness to the Lord," the two right hands clasped in fellowship, the All-seeing eye, Alpha and Omega, and the beehive. Masonic writers tell us that the Mormon Temple ritual and their own are slightly similar in some respects.

Without any apologies we frankly admit that there may be some truth in these statements.

Yes, the public is entitled to an explanation of these mysteries and coincidences. To this end the following pages are humbly dedicated in the spirit of tolerance, Christian fellowship, and good will.

THE AUTHOR