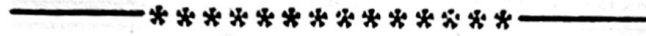
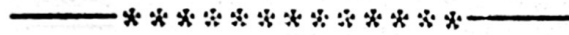


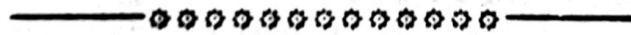
Ten Years Before The Mast.



SHIPWRECKS AND ADVENTURES AT SEA!



*Religious Customs of the People
of India and Burmah's Empire.*



**HOW I BECAME A MORMON AND WHY I BECAME
AN INFIDEL!**



BY A. METCALF.

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Martin Harris asked me to look on his face and see how it was wrinkled with old age. I never knew his correct age, but I understood him to be about ninety years old at that time. He then read that part of the prophet Isaiah, which speaks of some man "whose visage was so marred, more than any other man's, so shall he sprinkle many nations." Harris said, "I am that man," and that the vigor of youth would yet return to him, and that he would yet lead the faithful of all the Latter Day Saints back to Zion, in Jackson County, Missouri, and "I know it will come to pass, as well as I know that Mormonism is true." About two years later Harris died. Harris never believed that the Brighamite branch of the Mormon church, nor the Josephite church, was right, because, in his opinion, God had rejected them; but he did believe that Mormonism was the pure gospel of Christ when it was first revealed, and I believe he died in that faith.

CHAPTER XIV.

DAVID WHITMER'S LETTER.

In March, 1887, I wrote a letter to David Whitmer, requesting him to explain to me the condition he was in when he saw the angel and the plates, from which the Book of Mormon is supposed to have been translated. In April, 1887, I received a letter from David Whitmer, dated on the second of that month, replying to my communication, from which I copy, verbatim, as follows:

"In regards to my testimony to the visitation of the angel, who declared to us three witnesses that the Book of

Mormon is true, I have this to say: Of course we were in the spirit when we had the view, for no man can behold the face of an angel, except in a spiritual view, but we were in the body also, and everything was as natural to us, as it is at any time. Martin Harris, you say, called it "being in vision." We read in the Scriptures, Cornelius saw, in a vision, an angel of God, Daniel saw an angel in a vision, also in other places it states they saw an angel in the spirit. A bright light enveloped us where we were, that filled at noon day, and there in a *vision*, or in the *spirit*, we saw and heard just as it is stated in my testimony in the Book of Mormon. I am now passed eighty-two years old, and I have a brother, J. J. Snyder, to do my writing for me, at my dictation.

[Signed]

DAVID WHITMER.

CHAPTER XV.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES AND HISTORICAL REMINISCENCES.

A very bitter feeling seemed to be manifested by the people against me, and an attempt was made by the leaders of the church in Cache valley to divide my family and array them against me. I was informed that George Reeder, my wife's brother, who then lived in Brigham City, Utah, was interesting himself to a considerable extent in that direction. I was afraid they would be able to accomplish their design, and began to feel very badly about it, and to add to my troubles, I was indebted to the stores in Logan and Smithfield. I became so worried that I could not sleep at nights, and began to