

these days, when the written Word sufficeth, are not in my church, . . ." Further down on the same page we read: There is no 'First Presidency' . . . no Patriarch . . . and wonderful to tell, the 'First Elder' hath departed from God in giving us these things, . . ."

On page 34 of his pamphlet, David Whitmer states: "We had all confidence in Brother Joseph, thinking that as God had given him so great a gift as to translate the Book of Mormon, that everything he would do must be right." The same thought is found on page 4 of the "Defence": ". . . I believed him to be the soul of honor and truth, a young man who would die before he would lie." On page 2 we read: ". . . but I fear I may have been deceived, and especially so fear since knowing that Satan has led his mind astray."

It may just be a coincidence, but David Whitmer states that Oliver Cowdery died "March 3d, 1850" (page 8), and the "Defence" is dated "March 3, 1839." Be this as it may, there are several other things that lead us to believe that the person who wrote the "Defence" had read David Whitmer's pamphlet.

CONCLUSION. After carefully examining the evidence, we have come to the conclusion that the "Defence" is probably a spurious work, written sometime after 1887 — i.e., after David Whitmer's pamphlet appeared. Until an original copy or a contemporary reference to it is found, we must regard it as spurious.

Perhaps some of our readers will have some information concerning the "Defence" or the Overstreet "Confession" which we are not aware of. If so, they can write us at: Box 1884, Salt Lake City, Utah

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