

CUMORAH REVISITED

or

“The Book of Mormon”
and the Claims of the Mormons
Re-examined from the Viewpoint of
American Archaeology and
Ethnology

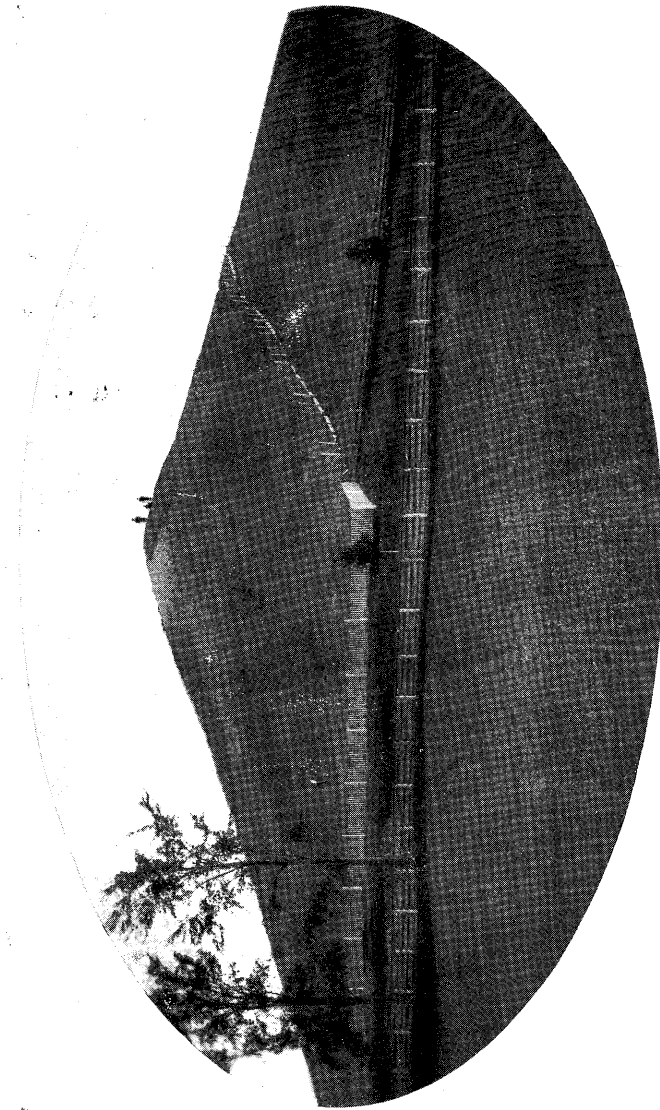
By

CHARLES A. SHOOK

“Everything fundamentally
Biblical is scientific; and every-
thing fundamentally scientific is
Biblical.”—*Joseph Cook.*

CINCINNATI
THE STANDARD PUBLISHING COMPANY

1910



“HILL CUMORAH.” Photo by Hopkins, Palmyra, N. Y.

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MORMON HYMN

Book of Mormon, hid for ages
On Cumorah's lonely hill,
Written by those ancient sages
Whom Jehovah taught his will;
Glad we hail it,
Fullness of the gospel still!

Hail this record, saints in Zion,
Hidden by Moroni's hand,
Till the God our souls rely on
Unto Joseph gave command
To translate it,
Send it forth to ev'ry land.

Hail the glorious light of Nephi,
Hail the truths that Alma taught;
We will trust in God like Lehi,
Seek the Lord as Mormon sought;
Like Moroni,
Buy the truth and sell it not.

Israel, gather round this standard;
Laman, see thy guiding star;
Judah, rally round thy banner;
Come, ye Gentiles from afar;
Book of Mormon,
It is truth's triumphal car!

PREFACE

Having been taught in childhood to believe that the antiquities of America are the work of those accomplished races described in the Book of Mormon, I early acquired an interest in the study of American archæology and ethnology that has not abated, but has increased as the years have gone by.

It was while living at Jeffersonville, Indiana, in the year 1900, that I conceived the idea of making a special study of the Book of Mormon from this viewpoint for the purpose of putting out a small pamphlet on the subject. As I entered deeper and deeper into the study, the work grew until it reached its present proportions, and as discrepancy after discrepancy between the claims of the Book of Mormon and the facts of science were discovered, I became more and more surprised that this ground had not been more thoroughly worked by the anti-Mormon polemic before, while I became more and more convinced that in the data acquired by archæological and ethnological research the opponent of this system has a mass of evidence which, if rightly used, will completely demolish the claim of the historical credibility of the Book of Mormon.

For the last half century, at least, the Mormons have put out works on American archæology, but most of these have been mere collations of passages from scientific writers, taken here and there without a consideration of the context and often so arranged as to

give an entirely different impression to the reader than their authors sought to convey. My plan has been to state fairly the Book of Mormon, or the Mormon, position on a certain point, and then to refute it by bringing to bear against it the latest and best authority obtainable. As the reader will notice, the later writings of Nadailac, Brinton, Powell, Moorehead, Dellenbaugh, Shaler, Thomas, Peet, Henshaw, Holmes and Russell have been given precedence over the earlier writings of Adair, Boudinot, Priest, Baldwin, Foster and others. American archæology is a growing science, and many of the old opinions have had to be given up as research has progressed.

I wish here to acknowledge my indebtedness to the authors from whom I quote, and to disclaim any intention of posing as an authority on American anthropology. All that I have done, for which I can justly ask credit, is to marshal the facts of archæology, already gathered, against the citadel of Mormon error. How well this has been done will be for the reader to decide.

I also wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. Charles Gibson, Mr. Jeff. D. Ward and Mrs. A. E. W. Robertson, of Indian Territory, for Indian vocabularies; to Rev. J. S. Howk, of Jeffersonville, Indiana, for lists of words in the Hebrew and Chaldee; to Rev. S. D. Peet, of Chicago, Illinois, for valuable suggestions and for information touching certain points in which his work as an archæologist has been involved; and to R. B. Neal, of Pikeville, Kentucky, and Prof. R. C. Robbins, of Mendota, Illinois, besides a number of others who have rendered valuable help in various ways.

CHARLES A. SHOOK.

BUCHANAN, Michigan, August 19, 1908.

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