a church.” Where did he get his author-
yity? "Why, some say he hired a monk
to translate the gospels." Where did the
monk get his priesthood and authority to
administer? "I think it must have come
down through the church of Rome, if the
church of Rome had authority.” When
these reformers came out from it they
were cut off and denounced as apostates,
and if the priesthood they received came
from the church of Rome, of course a
stream cannot rise higher than its foun-
tain, hence if the Romish church had
the authority of the priesthood to give
them she had the power to take it away.
The question therefore answers itself. If
there were any authority at all it was in
the Romish church, yet these apostates
from her united in denouncing her as the
mother of harlots. It is clear enough,
therefore, that they were all in dark-
ness, and that none of them had revela-
tions from God but were depending upon
forms of godliness without the power for
the support of their several religions,
however holy they might call them. The
result of this universal darkness and
apostasy was that God had to reveal the
priesthood anew, and through the ad-
ministration of holy angels he gave au-
thority to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cow-
dery, to baptize each other and to bap-
tize, confirm, and ordain others and to
preach and administer the Gospel to this
generation. This authority was not de-

erived from the church of Rome or any
other organization, but was given by spe-
cial and direct revelation from Heaven.

It was no sooner noised abroad
that Joseph Smith was preaching the
Gospel in its purity and administersing
its ordinances than a howl went
up from all the world that he was an
impostor, an ignorant fellow, a man
without education, and the Book of
Mormon was denounced as ungrammat-
ical. An argument was raised that if
it had been translated by the gift and
power of God it would have been strictly
grammatical. Now so far as grammar is
concerned we have King James' Bible be-
fore us which was translated two hun-
dred and fifty years ago, by a large num-
ber of the most learned men that could
be found in Great Britain, and it was
put into the best language of that time;
but since that day the English language
has undergone so many changes and
improvements that societies have been
formed in various countries for the ex-
press purpose of retranslating the Bible
so as to make it in accordance with the
modern usages of our language. When
the Lord reveals anything to men He re-
veals it in language that accords with
their own. If any or you were to converse
with an angel, and you used strictly
grammatical language he would do the
same. But if you used two negatives in a
sentence the heavenly messenger would
use language to correspond with your
understanding, and this very objection to
the Book of Mormon is an evidence in its
favor.

It has been claimed that a Presbyte-
rian minister, named Solomon Spauld-
ing, wrote the Book of Mormon; but
the very language and style of the book
are abundant evidence that it never was
written by a learned man and that it
never was written by a man who de-
signs to make a romance or novel. It
is very well known to hundreds and
thousands that this statement in rela-
tion to Solomon Spaulding is entirely
false, and that no such man ever had
any acquaintance with Joseph Smith.
It is also known to hundreds that the
Book of Mormon was written by Oliver
Cowdery, word for word as dictated by
Joseph Smith, and that the original