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Ethan Smith's View of the Hebrews - Not Notorious in Its Own Time

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Ethan Smith's *View of the Hebrews* — Not notorious in its own time!
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Despite all the lies told about Ethan Smith, Joseph Smith, a *View of the Hebrews* and *The Book of Mormon*, those lies fail a basic historical test. Ethan Smith and his work were respected by his contemporary divines and scholars and no such link with Joseph Smith was even suggested by his contemporaries.

In the reproduced pages that follow, and despite the then notoriety of Alexander Campbell's *Delusions ...*, there is not an iota of a hint that either Ethan Smith or his *View of the Hebrews* somehow were linked to either Joseph Smith, genealogically, or to *The Book of Mormon*, textually. As the recommendations attached reflect, written by then by well-known figures to whom Ethan Smith was equally well-known, no one of any intelligence or education suggested one Smith was related to the other, nor that one's book was derived from the other.

Note that while Ralph Waldo Emerson is known to have resided with his mother in Newton, MA, home of the Andover Theological Seminary, from October 1833 to October 1834, the first person recommending Ethan Smith's work, a "Ralph Emerson" is also only a coincidence of common family names.

In response to my query about the identity of Ralph Emerson, on 23 May 2011 the Archivist at the Andover Seminary responded the following.

Hello-

Your query re Ralph Emerson has been referred to me. Ralph Emerson (1787-1863) graduated from Andover Theological Seminary with the class of 1814 and was Brown Professor of Ecclesiastical History, 1829-1853. At that time the Seminary was affiliated with and housed at Phillips Academy in Andover. Ralph Emerson was born in Hollis, NH, graduated from Yale in 1811, was pastor of the Congregational church in Norfolk, CT, 1816-1829, and the church in Newburyport, MA, 1853-1859.

There is a brief file note which indicates that he was a distant cousin of Ralph Waldo Emerson, but I do not have genealogical sources here to confirm the lineage.

Diana Yount

Archives and Special Collections.

Smith's commentary on the Revelation is no more or less interesting, and dated (!) Than any other similar work. I hope this is of use.

Gordon C. Thomasson

P.S. The foxing reflects the age of the volume. I chose not to photoshop it out.

K E Y
TO THE
R E V E L A T I O N .
IN
THIRTY-SIX LECTURES,
TAKING THE WHOLE BOOK IN COURSE.

BY ETHAN SMITH,
AUTHOR OF "A DISSERTATION ON THE PROPHECIES," "VIEW
OF THE TRINITY," "VIEW OF THE HEBREWS," "KEY
TO FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE," &C.


"Understandest thou what thou readest?"—PHILIP.
"Let him that readeth understand."
"Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this
book; for the time is at hand."—JESU'S CHRIST.

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RECOMMENDATIONS.

The outlines of this work were, many years ago, submitted to the inspection, and received the approbation, of a number of the first literary divines. Since the Lectures were written, the work has been laid before such ministers, and associations of ministers, as the writer could find it convenient to consult. A journey was made to Andover, the last vacation there, in hopes of consulting the professors of that institution. All were absent but two; and one of these (Professor Stuart) was sick, and could not hear reading upon the subject. In an interview with him, I was happy to find a good general agreement with him in my views of the Revelation; and that he had discovered the same general division in the prophetic part of this book, which I have viewed essential in my exposition of it. He said this general division is palpably clear.

From the Rev. Professor Emerson, of the Theological Seminary, Andover.

"From a few specimens which I have been able to hear of Mr. Smith's Key, &c., I am of the opinion it contains original views of some portions of the Revelation, which are of such interest as to command attention, and to warrant its publication. And I trust it will, as a whole, contribute to hasten that glorious reformation of which it treats."

(Signed)

RALPH EMERSON.

Andover, May 21, 1833.

From the Rev. Messrs. Emerson and Cleaveland, Salem.

"Having attended to the plan and some of the Lectures in Mr. Smith's Key &c., we are free to say that the work is, in our judgment, the result of laborious research, evincing much ingenuity in arguments and illustrations; and that in view of the important nature of the subjects on which it treats, it is entitled to the consideration of all who desire to understand "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass."

(Signed)

BROWN EMERSON,
JOHN P. CLEAVELAND.

Salem, May 20, 1833.

From the Rev. Mr. Hopkins, Boston.

"I have perused two of Mr. Smith's Lectures in his Key, &c., with interest and profit. I believe Mr. Smith has cast new light upon at least some parts of this interesting but obscure book. The labour he has bestowed upon these Lectures, and his acquaintance with the symbolic language of the prophetic Scriptures, are a sufficient pledge to the public, that his forthcoming book will be peculiarly valuable."

(Signed)

A. T. HOPKINS.

Boston, April 9th, 1833.

From the Rev. Reuben Emerson, South Reading.

"Having attended to the work above noted, and heard a number of the Lectures, I do cordially unite in the recommendations given."

(Signed)

REUBEN EMERSON

South Reading, May 21, 1833.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

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From the Association of Salem and its vicinity.

"The Rev. E. Smith, having read in our hearing an outline of his Key to the Revelation, and some Lectures and parts of Lectures of the same (a work which he thinks to give to the public), we are free to say that, in our opinions, the importance of the subject, and the ingenuity with which his exposition is given, entitle the work to the serious consideration of the Christian community."

By order of the Association,
(Signed)

MOSES SAWYER, Mod'r. pro. ten.

DAVID OLIPHANT, Scribe.
Danvers, June 12, 1833.

From the Rev. Messrs. Nelson of Leicester, Miller and Abbott of Worcester, Gay of Hubbardston, Clarke of Rutland, and Conant of Paxton (convened at Paxton).

"Having attended to the plan and contents and a Lecture of Mr. Smith's Key, &c., we do not hesitate to say, that we think its illustrations of the types and prophecies contained in this interesting book (the Revelation) are laboured, ingenious, and to a considerable degree original; and we are desirous of its publication."

(Signed)

&c.

Paxton, May 8, 1833.

From the Rev. Mr. Burr to the Author.

"I have read a considerable portion of the Lectures in your Key, &c. in manuscript, and have attended, more or less, to every Lecture, with much satisfaction. I am well pleased with the plan of the work, and with your exposition of that difficult and highly important part of the prophetic Scripture, so far as I can judge. It appears to me that not a few rays of new light are thrown upon this closing part of the volume of Inspiration. I am highly delighted with the numerous and judicious remarks, doctrinal, experimental, and practical, with which the work is interspersed. This work, it appears to me, will be one of the few books which may live, in many improved editions, through the Millennium. It will be thought, I doubt not, by those who discern the signs of the times, a very reasonable and useful publication at this highly interesting period of the church, and the world. I therefore hope it will soon be given to the public, and be extensively read."

(Signed)

JONATHAN BURR

Boston, April 3, 1833.

From the Rev. Dr. Emmons.

"Rev. and Dear Sir

"When I, nearly seven years ago, heard you read to me some of your Lectures on the Revelation. I thought you treated that deep, difficult, and important subject in a very ingenious and lucid manner. I wish to see this work published; and I have no doubt but it will meet the approbation of good judges, and will subserve the great cause which now agitates the minds and awakens the hopes and zeal of the Christian world. The friends of Zion were never more anxious than at present to learn the signs of the times, and what they may anticipate will be the state of the church and of the world, before the Millennium, during the Millennium, and thence to the end of the world. I know all Christians *ouzhé*, and I trust they will be disposed to promote the circulation of a volume which may serve to enlighten and animate them and pursue the best means to bring on the universal spread of the gospel, and the latter-day glory of the church."

(Signed)

NATHANIEL EMMONS.

Franklin, April 15, 1833.

It was designed to have this work, before it should be given to the public, pass under the eye of a number of the first divines in the city of New-York; but, unhappily, numbers of them are abroad from the city in this sultry season of the summer. The following gentlemen have attended to it, and given their views; which are here subjoined.

From Rev. Doctors Brownlee and De Witt.

"The work, entitled a Key to the Revelation, we have heard explained, and much of it read, by the author, Rev. Mr. Smith. It is the fruit, we understand, of many years study of the prophecies. And Mr. Smith has evidently bestowed much pains to arrive at the true and correct meaning of the symbolic language of prophecy. The work is, in our judgment, of deep and laboured research. There is much ingenuity in his arguments, and his historical illustrations. It has much that is new; and his theory,—which is brought forward with becoming modesty,—seems to us to possess unity and consistency. And it does not consist merely of dry dissertations on different passages; but has a pleasing and edifying spirit of piety pervading the whole. We are persuaded that the book will be interesting and instructive to all classes of Christians: and we recommend it to our friends accordingly."

(Signed)

W. C. BROWNLEE,
THOMAS DE WITT,

*Ministers of the Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church, New-York.
New-York, August 7, 1833.*

"Having been favoured with the perusal of the Rev. Mr. Smith's "Key to the Revelation," I am happy to express my entire concurrence with the above recommendation of it by the Rev. Drs. Brownlee and De Witt. It may be read with profit by all who desire to know the signs of the times."

ABSALOM PETERS,

*Cor. Sec'y. of the Home Missionary Society.
New-York, August 14, 1833.*

From Rev. Doctor Mc Cartee, Rev. Messrs. Irvin, Spencer, and Mason.

"We have heard a portion of the Rev. Mr. Smith's Key to the Revelation read, and its general views explained by the author; and we are very happy to recommend it to the attention and patronage of the Christian public. It is a work of great research and originality, with many very important and ingenious views of Scripture prophecy. The author has evidently made himself acquainted with the peculiarities of symbolic language, and with the general design, as well as with the particular views of the prophetic Scriptures of which he treats. There is a very happy addition to all this,—in the vein of pious and practical feeling and remark, which runs through the work. It is important, peculiarly at the present period, that such works should be patronized, read, and studied; "for the time is at hand!"

(Signed)

R. Mc CARTEE,

Pastor of Canal-street Presbyterian Church, New-York.

JAMES IRVIN,

Pastor of the Second Associate Presbyterian Church.

I. S. SPENCER,

Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn.

ERSKINE MASON,

Pastor of the Bleecker-street Presbyterian Church, New-York.

New-York, August 9, 1833.

From Rev. Mr. Parkinson, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, New-York.

"Mr. Smith has read to me some of his Lectures on the Revelation; and has added his outlines, views, and the divisions of this work; and, I cheerfully say, that I feel a strong desire to see this work published, hoping it will prove a seasonable help to the church of Christ."

(Signed)

WM. PARKINSON

New-York, August 7, 1833.

From the Rev. Mr. Baldwin.

"Attempts of inferior and hasty writers on the Revelation have often resulted in mistake, not to say injurious error. Mr. Smith's Key to the Revelation has, in my opinion, better claims to our respect. It is clearly a production of deep thought and research. His plan is, to a good extent, new; and the work throughout is interesting. I have read nothing on the Revelation which afforded me equal satisfaction."

(Signed)

ELIHU W. BALDWIN,

Pastor of the Seventh Presbyterian Church, New-York

New-York, August 15, 1833.