A Study of Some Textual Variations in the Book of Mormon Comparing the Original and the Printer's Manuscripts and the 1830, the 1837, and the 1840 Editions

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Abstract

This thesis is a study of textual variations in the two manuscripts and the first three editions of the Book of Mormon. Successive collations of each of these were made against the text of the first edition. From these collations some 427 specific textual variations were selected for inclusion in the thesis.

The research disclosed that some genuine corrections as well as editorial revisions were made by Joseph Smith in 1837 and 1840. However, it was also concluded that some alterations of the text arose from accidental causes.

The most significant contribution of this study was that both the Original Manuscript and the Printer's Manuscript contain valuable new manuscript readings which were unfortunately corrupted by scribal or printer's errors. These readings from the manuscripts eliminate inconsistencies, clarify meanings, correct errors, restore lost words, or otherwise present a super text. Because these genuine readings went unnoticed in 1837 and 1840, the process of restoring them to the text has not been completed.

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have used the invaluable original manuscript. By careful comparison of the three editions with the manuscripts these textual variations can be identified and can usually be classified as either a genuine revision or an accidental corruption. Corrections in the 1837 Edition of 1830 Misprintings The Wayne Sentinel announced the first edition of the Book of Mormon ready for sale on March 26, 1830, just eleven days before the "Church of Christ" was officially organized. In the original manuscript, the printer's manuscript, and the 1830 edition the devil is called the "preparator" of hell.