

Chapter 4

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANTI-MORMON IMAGERY, 1842-1852

After the departure of the Apostles from the British Isles, Parley P. Pratt remained behind to preside over the mission. In 1842, the mission headquarters moved from Manchester to Liverpool where it remained for over half of a century. Pratt presided in England for a year and then appointed Thomas Ward to be the Mission President, who was succeeded in 1843 by Reuben Hedlock.

The period between 1842 and 1845 was a period of slow growth for the mission. This was, in part, because of weak leadership evident in the failure of the Joint Stock Company, organized in 1845 to promote emigration and related ventures. It was soon apparent that the company's funds had been mismanaged, and Brigham Young sent Apostles Parley P. Pratt, Orson Hyde, and John Taylor back to England to settle the problem. The Joint Stock Company was disbanded in 1846.

Aware that the mission needed strong new leadership, Brigham Young sent Wilford Woodruff to preside. He remained in England from 1845 to 1846 and was replaced by Orson Hyde. The church in Britain began to experience strong growth shortly after the arrival of Woodruff, and by 1847 had entered into an era of unprecedented increase.¹

By 1850, there were 30,747 members of the church in Britain, over 3,000 more members than all of those living in Utah and the United States.² The British church had continued its rapid growth under the direction of Orson Spencer and then Orson Pratt, the prolific pamphleteer. Pratt was succeeded by fellow apostle Franklin D. Richards in 1850. Under