

Chapter 6

CONCLUSION

This book has examined the important themes developed by British anti-Mormon writers over a two decade period. The obvious purpose of this literature was to dissuade prospective converts from joining this new religion, as well as to win back to the orthodox Christian fold members of the Mormon Church still in Britain. Several important conclusions can be made concerning the writers and their pamphlets.

The first conclusion concerns the backgrounds of the various pamphleteers. Most of the writers discussed in this study can be placed into two categories. These are, ministers and representatives of other faiths, and former members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Those in the first category can be further separated into two divisions: Nonconformists and Anglicans. Most of the Nonconformists appear to have come from the industrial north and include such writers as Richard Livesey, Robert Heys, John Bowes, Samuel Haining, Richard Davis, and Dawson Burns. Those representing the Church of England tended to have more representation in the south and included such individuals as Henry Caswall, John Simons, C. S. Bush, F. B. Ashley, John Frere, J. B. Lowe, W. W. Woodhouse, and Edmund Clay.

It appears that a larger number of pamphlets were produced by the Anglican clergy than were published by Nonconformists. Anglican writers were influential in their writing because of the large network of official publishing and distribution firms such as the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge.¹