

Preface

To the Reader ——

As many fals reports have been Sirculated respecting ~~this~~^{the following} work
& also many unlawful measures taken by evil desineing persons
to destroy me & also the work I would inform you that I translated by the gift & power of God
& caused to be written one hundred & sixteen pages
the which I took from the Book of Lehi
which was an account abridged from the plates of Lehi by the hand of Mormon
which said account some person or persons have stolen & kept from me
notwithstanding my utmost exersion to recover it again
& being commanded of the Lord that I should not translate the same over again
for Satan had put it into their hearts to tempt the Lord their God by altering the words
that they did read conterary from that which I translated & caused to be written
& if I should bring forth the same words again
or in other words if I should translate the same over again
they would publish that which they had stolen
& Satan would stir up the hearts of this generation
that they might not receive this work

but behold the Lord said unto me
I will not suffer that Satan shall accomplish his evil design in this thing
therefore thou shalt translate from the plates of Nephi
untill ~~yeu~~ ye come to that which ye have translated
which ye have retained
& behold ye shall publish it as the record of Nephi
& thus I will confound those who have altered my words
I will not suffer that they shall destroy my work
yea I will shew unto them that my wisdom is greater then the cunning of the Devil
wherefore to be obediant unto the commandments of God
I have
through his grace & mercy
accomplished that which he hath commanded me respecting this thing

I would also inform you that the plates of which hath been spoken
was found in the township of Manchester Ontario County New Yorkk
The Author