

## CHAPTER 3

### **Mercy Otis Warren; Poet, Playwright, Historian and the *Book of Mormon***

In contrast to David Ramsay's matter of fact technical style, Mercy Otis Warren's prose is what distinguishes her work. In 1805, Warren (1728-1814) published her three volume *History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution interspersed with Biographical, Political and Moral Observations*. (1)

Warren was not hesitant to document scenes of the Revolution in relation to her religious and moral values. Her accounts of Revolutionary history are selective, and secondary to the message she wished to convey. The message centered around the decay of society caused when greed and materialism replaced Christian devotion and sacrifice. She feared that her country was spiraling downward and employed her pen in an effort to reverse the trend.

She made a point to itemize atrocities that could only be conducted when civility was lost. She particularly focuses on the effects of war upon family and relations, calling upon all of her poetic talents to inspire sentimentality in the reader. Most of all, Warren dreads that a young America will falter because they do not care about, nor remember those who sacrificed life and property to give them the gift of freedom.

Culturally refined and educated, Warren produced plays and poems prior to the *History*. She also kept correspondence with many influential Americans of her day. Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams, was so impressed with Warren's style that she tried to emulate it in letters.

Warren writes as an observer, unlike Ramsay's first hand account. She was, however, more vigilant in documentation. In light of her commentaries, some of her detractors did not give Warren's *History* much value. The worth of Warren's history is its beauty, not its accuracy. Her artistic license flows throughout.

When her *History* is compared to the *Book of Mormon*, some unexpected things occur. What is considered to be unique and poetic in the *Book of Mormon* can also be found in Warren.

For instance, Ramsay would use the more accurate phrase “commander in chief” when describing a leadership position. Warren repeats it, but in another instance adds some flair and reverses the phrase. The *Book of Mormon* makes the same reversal.

398 “...chief commander...” Warren pg.  
46:11 “...chief commander...” Alma

As the *Book of Mormon* story begins, Nephi and his family set sail for the Promised Land. Trouble brews between Nephi and his disobedient brothers, Laman and Lemuel. They bind Nephi with rope and take over command of the ship. To punish the evil brothers, God causes a fierce storm to arise and blow the party off course. Nephi laments that his ageing father and mother must witness the discord and feared in addition that they would be buried in a,

18:18 “...watery grave...” 1 Nephi

Warren documents a death where horse and rider fall into a river. The rider goes to this same,

215 “...watery grave...” Warren pg.

To illustrate their strength, Warren mentions British atrocity beyond the shores of America. She articulates the result of English aggression on a foreign landscape as,

599 “...dead and dreary...” Warren pg.

In the same first book of Nephi, his father Lehi has a vision in which he sees a land that is,

8:4 “...dark and dreary...” 1 Nephi

Warren uses the phrase,

“...tenderness of a parent...” Warren pg.

237

Nephi also talks of his father's devotion as,

"...a tender parent..."

1 Nephi

8:37

Warren laments the loss of men who,

"...perished in the wilderness..."

Warren pg.

634

Nephi's mother, Sariah, worries for her sons who may have,

"...perished in the wilderness..."

1 Nephi

5:2

It is safe to assume that Mercy Warren would consult David Ramsay's history given she was well read and his was published sixteen years prior. There is considerable overlap, along with diversion in terms between Warren, Ramsay, and the *Book of Mormon*.

In documenting Arnold's trek to Quebec, Warren makes no mention of Washington's letter to the Canadians quoted in Ramsay. Nowhere in her three volumes does she repeat the theme of "liberty, property, wives and children" that Ramsay, Washington, and the *Book of Mormon* share.

Even so, her account of Arnold's expedition has similar verbiage to Ramsay and the *Book of Mormon*.

### **Warren**

### ***Book of Mormon***

"The command of this little band had been given to colonel Arnold." pg. 143  
57:6

"...my little band of two thousand..." Alma

"...with his little army almost exhausted by hunger

"...our little army..." Alma

"...hunger, thirst,

and fatigue...” pg. 144 and fatigue...” Alma  
60:3

“...a liberal supply of provisions was collected for his relief...” pg. 144  
57:6 “...supply of provisions...” Alma

Warren provides visual imagery of British crimes around the globe. An account of dead human bodies floating in rivers can be found in her *History* and the *Book of Mormon*.

“...the Ganges and the Indus were reddened with the blood, and covered with the slaughtered bodies of men...” Warren pg. 338

“...throwing the bodies of the Lamanites who had been slain into the waters...” Alma  
2:34

“...who had been slain upon the bank of the river Sidon were cast into the waters...” Alma  
3:3

Warren quotes from the letter of a British officer in India. The magnitude of death mentioned is also reflected in the *Book of Mormon*.

“The carnage was great; we trampled thick on the dead bodies that were strewed in the way...” Warren pg. 597

“...scene of bloodshed and carnage, that the whole face of the land was covered with the bodies of the dead...” Ether  
14:21

“...leaving the bodies of both men, women, and children strewed upon the face of the land...” Ether  
14:22

Warren reports in detail on war crimes of marauding parties of men. A massacre committed by “the motley materials of Indians, Tories, half-blooded Englishmen, and British renegades” involved their victims being burned alive in two neighboring forts. A similar form of execution exists within the *Book of Mormon*.

“...a neighboring garrison, where a number of women and children had repaired for safety, and setting fire to both, they enjoyed the infernal pleasure of seeing them perish promiscuously in the flames...” Warren pg. 280

“...the women and children who were consuming in the fire...” Alma 14:10

Warren laments the sheer amount of misery and needless loss due to the greed and avarice of the British Crown. Even though she is quite adequate in her description of the accounts, Warren feels at a loss to fully convey the intensity of suffering. The prophet Mormon, in the *Book of Mormon*, feels this same inadequacy.

“...neither the pen of the historian, or the imagination of the poet can fully describe...” Warren pg. 385

“...it is impossible for the tongue to describe, or for man to write a perfect description of the horrible scene of the blood and carnage...” Mormon 4:11

Mormon is documenting the disintegration of Nephite society. An extended war between the Lamanites and Nephite fuels a blood lust on both sides. Killing becomes a delight for those whose hearts are hardened from sin and death. Mormon’s son Moroni is also a witness to the final days of the Nephites as they descend into barbarity.

Warren notes the same devolution of feelings between people who were once considered friends and neighbors. Revenge motivates victims to seek satisfaction in the suffering of their enemies and the Tories in particular. Both Warren and Moroni note the same sentiments.

## Warren

## *Book of Mormon*

“...passions whetted  
by revenge...” pg. 281

“...vengeance, soon after  
taken by the  
Americans...” pg. 281

“But in this war, they  
seemed to have lost  
9:5  
those generous  
feelings of compassion  
to the vanquished foe...” pg. 278

9:18  
“...suffered themselves to be  
governed either by vindictive  
passions, or their  
feelings of resentment...” pg. 438

As in Ramsay, Warren faults the Tory loyalists, but is also sympathetic to their precarious position. The Loyalists cast their lot with the British and lost. According to Warren, little mercy could be expected from the patriots once the Tories lost the protection of British troops.

“Their situation was indeed truly deplorable; they had everything to fear if the British troops withdrew and left them to the clemency of their countrymen now elated by success, and more hardened against the feelings of humanity, by the cruel scenes of war they had witnessed.” Warren pg. 604

Quoting Governor Livingston, Warren reinforces the sentiment against the Tories.

“...they were responsible for all the additional  
blood that had been spilt by the addition  
of their weight in the scale of the enemy...”

“...waged an infernal war against  
their nearest connexions...” Warren pg.

“For so exceedingly do they  
anger that it seemeth me  
that they have no fear of  
death; and they have lost  
their love, one towards  
another, and they thirst  
after blood and revenge  
continually...”

Moroni

“They are without order  
and without mercy...”  
Moroni

Reading between the lines in the *Book of Mormon*, the Tories are synonymous with the king-men.

“Yea, had it not been for the war which broke out among ourselves; yea, were it not for these king-men, who caused so much bloodshed among ourselves; yea, at the time we were contending among ourselves, if we had united our strength as we hitherto have done; yea, had it not been for the desire of power and authority which those king-men had over us; had they been true to the cause of our freedom, and united with us, and gone forth against our enemies, instead of taking up their swords against us, which was the cause of so much bloodshed among ourselves; yea, if we had gone forth against them in the strength of the Lord, we should have dispersed our enemies...”

Alma

60:16

Warren, similar to Ramsay, Washington, and Moroni above, identifies power as the motivating force of those who cause so much contention.

“The love of domination and an uncontrolled lust of arbitrary power...”  
pg. 5

Warren

Warren comments on numerous subjects beyond the Loyalists. She held liberal views toward Native Americans and believed they could be as civilized as any European given the proper circumstances. She observes the encroachments of settlers upon the Indian tribes and has misgivings for their future. Warren recognizes that the pioneers have an advantage over the Indians in technology, education, and in sheer numbers. She predicts that their destiny is to be exterminated by the settlers. The *Book of Mormon* also predicts that the Lamanites will suffer a similar fate in the latter-days, though not to the same degree.

“However the generous or humane mind may revolt at the idea, there appears a probability, that they will be hunted from the vast American continent, if not from the face of the globe...” Warren pg. 284

“...hunted millions of those unhappy people

out of existence...”  
287

Warren pg.

“...in the latter times the promises of the Lord have been extended to our brethren, the Lamanites; and notwithstanding the many afflictions which they shall have, and notwithstanding they shall be driven to and fro upon the face of the earth, and be hunted, and shall be smitten and scattered abroad, having no place for refuge, the Lord shall be merciful unto them.”

Helaman

15:12

Warren addresses the philosophy of man being in a “state of nature” in context of the Indian striking back to preserve his land and possessions. She does not fault the American Indian for doing so and notes that the same desire motivates a refined European. John Locke (1632-1704) devotes a treatise to the subject. (2) The exact meaning of the phrase varied among philosophers. The same philosophical phrase appears in the *Book of Mormon* in relation to a sinful disposition.

12

“...that *man*, in a state of nature...”

Warren pg.

41:11

“...men that are in a state of nature...”

Alma

Warren, as a Christian, speaks against atheism. She sees religion as a cement of society and postulates that without it licentiousness will eventually reign. Law and order, to her, are only possible when man does not perceive himself greater than God and submits to God’s law.

She is concerned that defiance of the law, either God’s, or man’s under God, will destroy society. The *Book of Mormon* disdains the same arrogance toward God and law.

12

“...the hardiness of atheism sets at defiance both human  
and divine laws...”

Warren pg.

“...ye have set at defiance the commandments of God...” Alma  
5:18



“...law set at defiance...” Warren pg.  
81

“...set at defiance the law...” 3 Nephi  
6:30

“...contrary to the laws of nature and benevolence...” Warren pg.  
635

“...contrary to the laws of their country  
and also the laws of their God...” Helaman  
6:23

Warren and the *Book of Mormon* also repeat terms for God, similar to those listed in Ramsay.

**Warren**

***Book of Mormon***

“...the God of nature...” pg. 76 “The God of nature...” 1 Nephi  
19:12

“...the great Jehovah...” pg. 144 “...the great Jehovah...” Moroni  
10:34

“...Great Spirit...” pg. 285 “...Great Spirit...” Alma  
18:12

Warren addresses class distinction in society, reflecting what was said in Ramsay. The *Book of Mormon* follows with the same verbiage.

**Warren**

***Book of Mormon***

“...high birth...” pg. 236 “...high birth...” Alma  
51:8

“...distinction  
of ranks...” pg. 601 “...distinguished  
by ranks...” 3 Nephi  
6:12

“...class of men...” pg. 601 “...class of people...” Alma

32:2

“...ranks and classes...” 1:26	pg. 636	“...divided into classes...”	4 Nephi
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Warren notes the principles for which the Americans fight. They are identical in the *Book of Mormon*.

<b>Warren</b>		<b><i>Book of Mormon</i></b>	
“...their rights and privileges...” 30:20	pg. 48	“...their rights and privileges...”	Alma
“...the cause of freedom...” 46:35	pg. 146	“...the cause of freedom...”	Alma
“...cause of his country...” 62:1	pg. 168	“...cause of his country...”	Alma
“...the cause of their country...” 56:11	pg. 34	“...the cause of their country...”	Alma
“...the rights of their country...” 6:30	pg. 79	“...the rights of their country...”	3 Nephi
“...the freedom of their country...” 59:13	pg. 172	“...the freedom of their country...”	Alma
“...the cause of liberty...” 51:17	pg. 24	“...the cause of liberty...”	Alma
“...to maintain their rights...” 51:6	pg. 337	“...to maintain their rights...”	Alma

“...welfare and happiness...” 12:2	pg. 648	“...welfare and happiness...”	Helaman
“...to take up arms in defence of their rights...” 51:20	pg. 90	“...to take up arms in defence of their country...”	Alma
“...the free exercise of their religion...” 51:6	pg. 142	“...the privileges of their religion...”	Alma
“...their lives and liberties...” 43:26	pg. 103	“...their rights and their liberties...”	Alma
“...a free people...” 21:21	pg. 33	“...a free people...”	Alma

Alma 43:47 in the *Book of Mormon* offers a brief summary of the principles that Warren and Ramsay document.

“...for this cause were the Nephites contending with the Lamanites, to defend themselves, and their families, and their lands, their country, and their rights, and their religion.”

Warren repeats the sentiment of victory or death in the defense of freedom, which is duplicated in Ramsay and the *Book of Mormon*.

“...to conquer or die in defence of their country...” Warren pg. 202

“...to conquer in this place or die...” Alma 56:17

Warren uses bloody verbiage, similar to Ramsay, reflected in the *Book of Mormon*.

**Warren**

***Book of Mormon***

“...delight in blood...” 11:19	pg. 137	“...delight in blood...”	Mosiah
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“...destroyed by the sword...” 57:23	pg. 221	“...destroyed by the sword...”	Alma
“...an ignominious death...” 1:15	pg. 584	“...an ignominious death...”	Alma
“...death and destruction...” 28:14	pg. 303	“...death and destruction...”	Alma
“...fought and bled...” 60:9	pg. 617	“...fought and bled...”	Alma
“...spilling human blood...” 44:11	pg. 78	“...spill your blood...”	Alma
“...blood that had been spilt...” 57:9	pg. 604	“...blood was spilt...”	Alma
“...scene of carnage...” 5:8	pg. 316	“...scene of blood and carnage...”	Mormon

Mercy Otis Warren and David Ramsay certainly did not invent all of the previous phrases. By the same logic, neither does the *Book of Mormon*. The evident lack of originality in the *Book of Mormon* becomes more obvious with each parallel phrase and concept documented between the works. The idea that Joseph Smith may have been dictating word for word from the gold plates is an absurd position given the list of identical material already mentioned.

Warren, Ramsay, and the *Book of Mormon* encourage all to,

“...learn wisdom...”	Warren pg.635
“...learn wisdom...”	Ramsay pg.665
“...learn wisdom...”	Alma 38:9

It would appear that Joseph Smith learned wisdom from the books of his day. His problem, though, was that he did not learn enough to be more creative. For instance, the image of patriotic citizenry rallying to the flag in defense of their country, is described in all three works in the same terms.

“...multitudes flocked to the American standard...” Warren pg.  
191

“...flock to their standard...” Ramsay pg.  
274

“...thousands did flock unto his standard...” Alma  
62:5

Triangulation in terms permeates all three authors. The following samples demonstrate the commonality of verbiage and concepts consistent throughout the works.

“...plant the standard of royalty...” Warren pg.  
241

“...planted the standard of loyalty...” Ramsay pg.  
442

“...planted the standard of liberty...” Alma  
46:36

“...that manly spirit of freedom...” Warren  
pg.31

“...their unconquerable spirit of freedom...” Ramsay pg.  
156

“...a true spirit of freedom...” Alma  
60:25

“...a free government...” Warren  
pg.65

“...a free government...” Ramsay pg.  
162

“...a free government...” Alma  
46:35

“...the minds of the people...” Warren  
pg.87

“...the minds of the people...” Ramsay pg.  
450

“...the minds of the people...” Alma

17:6	
“...the freedom of future generations...”	Warren pg.
609	
“...present and future generations...”	Ramsay pg.
667	
“...unto us as well as unto future generations...”	Alma
24:14	
“...some future day...”	Warren pg.
304	
“...a future day...”	Ramsay pg.
399	
“...some future day...”	Moroni
1:4	
“...to carry the point...”	Warren pg.
108	
“...gain their point...”	Ramsay pg.
618	
“...gain the point...”	Alma
46:29	
“...the powers of the earth...”	Warren pg.
551	
“...the powers of the earth...”	Ramsay pg.
416	
“...the powers of the earth...”	3 Nephi
28:39	
“...the art of war...”	Warren pg.
270	
“...the art of war...”	Ramsay pg.
443	
“...the arts of war...”	Ether
13:16	
“...a council of war...”	Warren pg.
300	
“...a council of war...”	Ramsay pg.
363	
“...a council of war...”	Alma
52:19	

“...a state of nature...” pg.12	Warren
“...a state of nature...” 123	Ramsay pg.
“...a state of nature...” 41:11	Alma
“...the justice of the cause...” 154	Warren pg.
“...the justice of the cause...” 267	Ramsay pg.
“...the justice of the cause...” 46:29	Alma
“...neck of land...” 120	Warren pg.
“...neck of land...” 118	Ramsay pg.
“...neck of land...” 22:32	Alma
“...narrow passage...” 146	Warren pg.
“...narrow passage...” 272	Ramsay pg.
“...narrow passage...” 2:29	Mormon
“Among the slain...” 121	Warren pg.
“Among their slain...” 380	Ramsay pg.
“...among the number who were slain...” 1:30	Helaman

Considering terms already illustrated in Ramsay, Warren provides much of the same technical language regarding the battlefield. Keeping Ramsay in mind, compare Warren to the same material in the *Book of Mormon*.

## Warren

## Book of Mormon

“...surrendered themselves prisoners of war...” 57:14	pg. 182	“...surrendered themselves prisoners of war...” Alma
“...the prisoners who fell into his hands...” 52:8	pg. 191	“...the prisoners who fell into his hands...” Alma
“...fallen into his hands...” 53:11	pg. 145	“...fallen into the hands...” Alma
“...with a part of his army...” 56:33	pg. 191	“...with a part of his army...” Alma
“...his whole army...” Helaman1:20	pg. 224	“...his whole army...”
“...with his army...” 52:29	pg. 204	“...with his army...” Alma
“...took possession of the capitol...” 51:23	pg. 204	“...took possession of the city...” Alma
“...large bodies of men...” 62:14	pg. 458	“...a large body of men...” Alma
“...fled in confusion...” 52:28	pg. 374	“...fled in much confusion...” Alma
“...were obliged to retreat...” 59:8	pg. 207	“...were obliged to flee...” Alma
“...suffered much loss...”	pg. 532	“...suffered much loss...” Alma



25:6

“...great loss...” 57:23	pg. 224	“...great loss...”	Alma
“...not sufficiently strong...” 56:23	pg. 229	“...not sufficiently strong...”	Alma
“...cut off the retreat...” 4:24	pg. 277	“...cut off the way of their retreat...”	3 Nephi
“...began their march...” 4:25	pg. 269	“...began their march...”	3 Nephi
“...make their escape...” 56:40	pg. 530	“...make their escape...”	Alma
“...preparations for war...” 43:4	pg. 98	“...preparations for war...”	Alma
“...fall on the rear of the British...” 56:23	pg. 183	“...fall upon them in their rear...”	Alma
“...the rear of the British...” 56:53	pg. 203	“...the rear of the Lamanites...”	Alma
“...surrounded on all sides...” 21:5	pg. 311	“...surrounded them on every side...”	Mosiah
“...at their head...” 48:7	pg. 241	“...at their head...”	Alma
“...concealed himself in a wood...” 43:34	pg. 203	“...the army of Moroni was concealed...”	Alma

“...after two days wandering in the wilderness...” 9:4	pg. 224	“...after many days’ wandering in the wilderness...”	Mosiah
“...in possession of the first city in the union...” 1:22	pg. 205	“...in possession of the city of Zarahemla...”	Helaman
“...so profoundly secret...” 55:17	pg. 202	“...in a profound silence...”	Alma
“...threw down their arms...” 52:38	pg. 393	“...threw down their weapons...”	Alma
“...laying down their arms at the feet of the victorious Washington...” 52:38	pg. 484	“...threw down their weapons of war at the feet of Moroni...”	Alma
“...and laying them at the feet of the conquerer...” 55:23	pg. 240	“...and cast them at the feet of the Nephites...”	Alma
“...lay on their arms through the night...” 15:20	pg. 232	“...they slept upon their swords...”	Ether
“...strengthen the hands of general Arnold...” 2:8	pg. 256	“...strengthen the hand of the Nephites...”	Alma
“...the warm altercations between them...” 50:26	pg. 463	“...a warm contention between them...”	Alma
“...British troops had yet		“...did arrive in season	

met with no check...” pg. 428 to check them...” Alma  
57:18

“...freemen...” pg. 175 “...freemen...” Alma  
51:6

Warren documents the tragic massacre of the pacifist Muskingum tribe. They were converted to Christianity and lived the command to not kill, even at the expense of their own lives. A similar account occurs in the *Book of Mormon*.

“A part of the Muskingum tribe had professed themselves Christians of the Moravian sect. They considered war of any kind as inconsistent both with the laws of religion and humanity. They refused to take part with the numerous hostile tribes of savages, in the war against the Americans...”

“...they, without resistance, suffered themselves to be bound and inhumanely butchered...” Warren pgs.  
285-286

“Now there was not one soul among all the people who had been converted unto the Lord that would take up arms against their brethren; nay, they would not even make any preparations for war...” Alma  
24:6

“...they suffered themselves to be slain...” Alma  
27:3

Warren provides literary foreshadowing, as does the *Book of Mormon*.

“But we shall see in the subsequent pages of these memoirs...” Warren pg.  
195

“But behold, we shall see...” Alma  
51:10

Warren discusses the impressments of Bostonians by British commanders. The concept of citizens forced to fight each other is duplicated in the *Book of Mormon*.

“...he compelled them to form themselves into bodies under officers  
he should appoint, and to take arms in case of an attack, against their brethren...” Warren pg. 133

“...he commanded them that they should take up arms against their brethren...” Alma 2:10

Hastily constructed defenses surprise the enemy in both Warren’s *History* and the *Book of Mormon*.  
“...astonished at the appearance of such strong and defensible works, rising as it were in a night...” Warren pg. 156

“...their astonishment in the morning, when they saw some considerable works reared and fortified...” Warren pg. 119

“...the Lamanites were astonished exceedingly, because of the wisdom of the Nephites in preparing their places of security.” Alma 49:5

“...to their uttermost astonishment, they were prepared...” Alma 49:8

“...entrenchments to be thrown up...” Warren pg. 105

“...bank which had been thrown up...” Alma 49:18

“...works were erected...” Warren pg. 156

“...works of timbers...” Alma 50:3

Warren and the *Book of Mormon* note the spoils of war.

“When they returned in the morning they found...  
every thing of value was destroyed or carried off...” Warren pg.  
277

“...and carried off their grain and many  
of their precious things...” Mosiah  
21:21

“...robbed Newport, and plundered...” Warren  
pg.99

“...rob and plunder...” Mosiah  
10:17

“...plunder, rapine, anarchy, murder...” Warren pg.  
336

“...murder and plunder...” Helaman  
6:23

“...abuse of the hapless females...” Warren pg.  
297

“...depriving them of...chastity...” Moroni  
9:9

The various emotions induced by war already mentioned by Ramsay, such as discouragement and frustration, and the resulting loss of morale, are also shared by Warren and the *Book of Mormon*. Nephite armies and Revolutionary armies endure the same difficulties. The trials take their toll on the less valiant while others endure.

“...general Montgomery...embarrassed with bad roads...  
and the murmur of his little army...” Warren pg.  
104

“...repeated disappointment...” Warren  
pg.98

“...our embarrassments...” Alma  
58:9

“...he met with a disappointment...” 51:31	Alma
“Dissensions ran high among the inhabitants of Philadelphia...” 204	Warren pg.
“...dissensions among the people...” 51:16	Alma
“...there was much contention and many dissensions; in the which there were an exceedingly great many who departed out of the land of Zarahemla...” 3:3	Helaman
“Those of a different character deserted in great numbers...” 212	Warren pg.
“...many of our brethren have deserted...” 9:24	Moroni
“...the patience and fortitude with which it was endured by the faithful part of the army...” 211	Warren pg.
“...their exceeding faith and their patience...” 60:26	Alma
“...they determined to maintain...” 170	Warren pg.
“...they were determined to maintain...” 56:26	Alma
“...unshaken firmness...” 242	Warren pg.
“...firmness unshaken...” 9:28	Mormon

Americans were conscious of the fact that Britain was the aggressor and they were justified in fighting back, but only in a defensive posture, demonstrating their innocence to the world. The

Nephites are also careful to establish their innocence by only acting in self-defense.

“...the determination of the Americans, carefully to avoid every thing that had the appearance of beginning hostilities on their part...” Warren  
pg.93

“Now the Nephites were taught to defend themselves against their enemies, even to the shedding of blood if it were necessary; yea, and they were taught never to give an offense, yea, and never to raise the sword except it were against an enemy, except it were to preserve their lives.” Alma  
48:14

The concept of justice and conscience play out on both landscapes. Warren attributes some British failures in battle to a guilty conscience, because they knew they were not justified in what they were fighting for. Therefore, they had less resolve than the American patriots. Lamanite enemies experience the same hesitancy at times and the Nephites are able to withstand their attacks because they are motivated by a higher principle.

“...the impression of justice...disarms the firmest heart... to execute their guilty designs...the best troops in the royal army, were seen...flying before the raw, inexperienced peasantry, who had ran hastily together in defence of their lives and liberties...” Warren pg.  
103

“...his people were doubtful concerning the justice of the cause in which they had undertaken...” Alma  
46:29

“...Ammoron knew that it was not a just cause that caused him to wage war...” Alma  
55:1

“...we did contend with an army of thirty thousand against an army of fifty thousand. And it came to pass that we did stand before them with such firmness that they

did flee before us...” Mormon  
2:25

A guilty conscience, from sin or war, sounds the same in both works.

“...a consciousness of their own guilt...” Warren pg.  
109

“...a consciousness of his own guilt...” Alma  
14:6

Democratic sentiments of voting also sound the same in both works.

“...that the voice of the people...” Warren pg.  
24

“...that the voice of the people...” Alma  
2:7

Dates are denoted in the same form.

“...one thousand seven hundred and eighty one...” Warren pg.  
414

“...the twenty and first year...” Alma  
50:17

“...the twenty and second year...” Alma  
50:24

The *Book of Mormon* has a scriptural tone. So does Warren.

“...destruction was ripening...” Warren pg.  
453

“...ripening for destruction...” Helaman  
5:2



The Pennsylvania line revolted against Congress in 1781. Troop morale was at its lowest due to no pay, no supplies, and erratic terms of enlistment. Likewise, Moroni threatens to march on his own government for lack of support.

“...they were determined to march on congress to obtain a redress of grievances...” Warren pg. 414

“...except ye do administer unto our relief, behold, I come unto you, even in the land of Zarahemla, and smite you...” Alma 60:30

In summary, all of the major themes and language of the Revolution, documented by Mercy Otis Warren, David Ramsay, and George Washington, can be seen reenacted within the pages of the *Book of Mormon*. In addition to their accounts, the following chapters will itemize other Revolutionary writers and list their sentiments reproduced in the *Book of Mormon*.

In light of the numerous identical phrases and concepts already identified between the works, it is hard to imagine ancient Americans acting exactly like colonial ones.

For the *Book of Mormon* to be credible, an investigator must accept the following parallels to be universal between any groups engaged in war.

The colonial capitol Philadelphia, and the Nephite capitol Zarahemla, are defended by freemen, but lost to an enemy comprised of king-men. Loyalists and king-men prolong the fighting and are faulted for causing additional bloodshed. Lamanite and British aggressors are motivated by power and gain, while their opponents want to remain a free people under a free government, seeking the blessings of liberty. Nephite and American defenders, animated by a spirit of freedom and resolved to conquer or die, rally around the standard of liberty in defense of their liberty, property, wives, and children. Supplies of provisions are difficult to procure for both American and Nephite forces. Their governments are plagued by infighting, intrigue, and lack of coordination. Faithful patriots in each camp threaten to march on their respective governments in redress of grievance. They

suffer repeated military embarrassment and disappointment. Dissensions in Philadelphia and Zarahemla hamper the campaign. Appeals to God are the only hope.

Only with belief can the *Book of Mormon* survive the damning word for word and theme for theme parallels. As if the material presented so far were not bad enough, it continues to get worse.

### Notes to Chapter 3

*History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution*, Mercy Otis Warren, Reprint edition by Liberty Fund,  
Lester H. Cohen editor. Page sequences from the modern reprint edition.

*Of Civil Government*, John Locke, Great Books Foundation, Set 1, Vol. 3, Chicago

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