In January 1849, twenty-six-year-old John S. Davis was given full responsibility for the publications of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Wales. His calling was to fill the shoes of Captain Dan Jones, his predecessor, who was about to take a group of more than three hundred Welsh Mormon converts to America. It was while setting type for some of Dan Jones’s publications only three years earlier that John S. Davis had converted to Mormonism.

Davis published the first two volumes of *Udgorn Seion* in monthly issues, each one having a four-page printed wrapper. For this third volume, however, Davis decided to increase the frequency to twice monthly, decrease the number of pages per issue to sixteen, and eliminate the wrapper.

Davis was also assigned the task of translating and publishing the Doctrine and Covenants in Welsh, the first non-English version of this book of Latter-day Saint scripture. He carried out this assignment by distributing sixteen-page signatures of his translation along with the bimonthly issues of *Udgorn Seion*. The first signature of Doctrine and Covenants was sent out with the 22 February 1851 issue of the periodical; the twentieth and final signature was distributed twenty-seven weeks later with the 23 August 1851 *Udgorn Seion*. 
The completion of the Welsh translation of the Doctrine and Covenants was also the beginning of the Welsh translation of the Book of Mormon. Davis sent out the first signature of the Book of Mormon with the 20 September 1851 *Zion’s Trumpet* and the final signature with the 17 April 1852 issue. Thus during the entire year of 1851 Davis served two masters—that of the bimonthly periodical and that of the translation and publication of Mormon scripture.

Compared to the first two volumes of *Udgorn Seion*, this third volume contains relatively few writings of its editor. Davis’s printing of the 1822 Welsh translation of the early Jewish work “Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs” in the first fourteen issues of his 1851 periodical may well have been a convenient “filler” to allow him to devote more of his time and effort to the task of translating and publishing the Doctrine and Covenants. The reprinting of “The Nature of Miracles,” an article by Davis published four years earlier in a Baptist periodical, the inclusion of Dan Jones’s lengthy account of the “Southern Expedition,” and Jones’s previously unpublished and incomplete writings on the “Coming of the Son of Man” could possibly be classified as “filler” as well.

In the 29 November issue of this year’s periodical (p. 385), Davis admits to being somewhat overwhelmed with his two major tasks, but he also declares that *Udgorn Seion* “is not being neglected at present, for in it there are many very interesting things.” He also declares that when he has more time he promises to “make it much more worthy of being received by writing more ourselves.”

Davis’s response to a twenty-four-page anti-Mormon treatise by a William Jones from North Wales constitutes a significant break from printing borrowed writings. The first of two parts of Davis’s review appears in the 6 September *Udgorn Seion*, two weeks following the distribution of the last signature of his translation of the Doctrine and Covenants and two weeks prior to the distribution of the first signature of his translation of the Book of Mormon.

As with the English translations of the two preceding volumes of *Udgorn Seion*, this 1851 volume is being published in a “facsimile translation” format to provide the reader with something of
the appearance and flavor of the original Welsh publication. For John S. Davis to have produced the twenty-six issues of this periodical during 1851 constitutes a respectable accomplishment; for him to have also concurrently translated and published the entire Doctrine and Covenants and half the Book of Mormon in Welsh is mind-boggling.

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