SKETCH
OF THE
RISE, PROGRESS, AND DISPERSION
OF THE
MORMONS,
BY JOHN THOMAS, M.D.,
PRESIDENT OF THE S. AND E. MEDICAL COLLEGE, OF
VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES, AMERICA;
TO WHICH IS ADDED
AN ACCOUNT OF THE
NAUVOO TEMPLE MYSTERIES,
AND OTHER ABOMINATIONS PRACTISED BY THIS
IMPIOUS SECT
PREVIOUS TO THEIR EMIgrATION FOR
CALIFORNIA,
BY INCREASE MCGEE VAN DUSEN;
Formerly one of the Initiated.

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any person what we here do and see in the Temple, during a whole farce, from first to last. If we give the least idea, intimation of it, our lives are to be taken; and the way of dying it is described; our bowels are to be taken out, tongue cut out by the roots, throats cut across, &c. The Lord, his holy angels, and all that are in the room, are called upon to witness the solemn covenant we here make.

The Oath.

You do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God, his gals and these witnesses, (pointing to individuals in the room at have secret instructions to take life,) that you will from this time henceforth and for ever begin and carry out hostilities against this nation, and teach it to your children; and to keep some intent a profound secret now and for ever, so help you God.

The individual that administers this oath, next takes hold of the hand, and gives other grips, signs, words, &c., of a higher order than those given in the garden of Eden.

After being instructed in many other things in this room of lesser consequence, I am taken by a female conductor and led to another partition which they call the Veil that separates the holy from the Most-Holy place.

This thin cloth, called the Veil, is something like booklin, covers a vacancy left in the partition for this purpose, behind which stands a man in the Most Holy place. With him I converse, through this thin cloth. I here give him the new name I confidentially received, signs, motions, grips, &c., given to me at the different altars, which is a condition of my entrance through a door about three or four feet to the left, called the Door of the Celestial Kingdom of God. My conductor knocks at this door—it is opened by one from within, who asks, “Who is there?” My conductor replies, “One having kept all the commandments of God, (referring to the carrying out of principles represented and acted in this farce,) desires to enter the kingdom and be for ever with the Lord.”

SEVENTH DEGREE IN THE TEMPLE.

I now pass through this door, which brings me into a very large and spacious room, perfectly light, all nicely furnished, representing the Celestial Kingdom of God, or the highest degree of glory that man is to arrive at in the eternal world. By the last room, representing the final rest of man, we are now all clothed in the apparel of kings and queens, with crowns upon our heads, representing what we are finally to come in possession of—that is what we were ordained to in the second room, king and queen, for that is the object of this whole drama to represent what has been and will be through time and eternity. This being the last room, we come in turn, two at a time, through all the others; here we remain as long as we please, kings and queens, sometimes numbering hundreds, all conversing of course on the singular and unexpected blessing just received, as pretented, from the hand of the Lord, for which we have laboured so hard, presenting a most curious and novel sight. There is another door that enters this room. Many come in from that direction, that have gone through the initiation previously. This is the reason of so many being in that room:—The law is, that all who have thus been initiated have the privilege of coming in this last room when they please, by going first to a certain place in the Temple and preparing themselves with the kingly apparel before described, for none are permitted to enter this holy place on any other condition than giving the signs, &c., that he receives while going through this ordeal. In this room, when thus assembled, are all the Mysteries of the Kingdom taught, such as what is called the Spiritual-Wife Doctrine. The women are here instructed by this Leader, through his round-about stratagem, that they are no more under obligations to their husband, if they have one, (if he or his associates take a notion to her,) and it is their privilege to leave their lawful husband, and take another; and it is the privilege of some kings to have scores, yes, hundreds of queens, especially the King of kings, Brigham Young, the present Mormon God in California—for devil, I should say, for I have reason to believe he is the wickedest man now on the face of the earth;) and, farther, as we are all made kings and queens by this secret farce, the foundation for a kingdom is laid, also. And here is the secret of the Spiritual-Wife Doctrine:—Their kingdom is to consist in their own posterity, and the more wives—the greater his opportunity of getting a large kingdom, of course; so it is an object to one that holds this doctrine sacred, as thousands do, to get all the women he can, consequently, it subjects that portion of the female sect which he has influence over, eventually to literal ruin.

I might write a volume on this principle, of facts, as taught by this leader, but I forbear, fearing it will be considered as persecution, and the object that I intended will not be accomplished; that is, giving to the world this bare Temple Ceremony, from the fact, that it is kept a secret from most of their own people, and that it tends to evil.