

Angel with  
drawn sword

-Emily  
Pfeiffer,

1885

Mormons, with the view of incorporating them through prayer, and by vicarious baptism, into the Church. She had long since completed this work for the Puritan stock from which she herself is derived, and was now engaged on behalf of other families more occupied with worldly cares, or less zealous for souls than herself.

All that is distinctive in the Mormon cult rests upon the authority of Joseph Smith. Doubt the good faith of the Prophet, or the reality of his mission, and the whole edifice crumbles to the ground. He it was who received from the Angel Moroni, instructions where to find the plates inscribed in the Adamic tongue, together with the book of Mormon, falsely called by the Gentiles, the Mormon Bible. He it was who, all unlearned as he was, a youth yet in his teens, translated this record of the ancient dwellers in the American continent; and he it was also, who some years later, accepted from an angel with a drawn sword, and under threat of destruction on refusal, the command to practice and to diffuse the doctrine of polygamy. This last forms at once the strength, and the great stumbling-block of the system; the strength in that the great violence done to natural feeling, exalts the imaginations of women with the idea that they are building up their Church with sacrifice; no less than the objective fact, that the Mormon population is through this system, at this time, receiving a great numerical increase; and the stumbling-block and stone of offence in that it must bring this people sooner or later into bloody collision with the American Government, and is in itself a retrograde movement, one which, under ordinary

# FLYING LEAVES

FROM

EAST AND WEST.

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By Jane (Daisy)  
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