

DIFFICULTIES IN ESTABLISHING PLURAL MARRIAGE

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(Note by H.A.: Some mistook P.M. for the spiritual wife concepts that were prevalent in America in early nineteenth century. The brethren repudiated "spiritual wifery." In establishing the Law of Consecration, there were those who mistook it for the "common stock" scriptures of the day, which the brethren repudiated. Likewise, they mistook plural marriage for the "spiritual wife" practice of the day, which the brethren repudiated. This shows the necessity of giving strict heed to the brethren and the revelations of the Lord.)

We feel it our duty to inform you of the course taken by Elder Z. Manchester since his return to this section of country. We feel that we should render ourselves culpable if we remain any longer silent as he is leveling his shafts at you and the Quorum over which you preside, stating both in public and in private that you have slandered him here and in New York, Boston and elsewhere, and that your Quorum did force upon him the "gag rule" when he had his trial in Nauvoo. The reason of this was not as you and others have asserted, because he had disobeyed your counsel, but the main reason was that you knew him to be a deadly enemy to the "spiritual wife" system and for this opposition he had received all manner of abuse from all who believed in that Hellish system. Last evening he cried out in the poor most churlish tone, "Oy! I am crushed to the earth because I am a virtuous man." The question was put to him as it had previously been at the conference on Saturday last. "Did the Twelve ever either directly or indirectly teach you the doctrine that you allude to, or did you ever hear them teach it to others?" He answered both questions in the negative asserting at the same time that the Twelve did believe and had taught the doctrine, and that they had witnessed the sufferings of innocent females whose characters have been trampled and ruined forever. He then spoke of what he knows. He spoke of Sarah Alley, and the young lady who lived with Brother Clayton and Adam's girl as he called her, with many comments doleful in their nature. He generally spends his time in travelling from house to house and is always sure to introduce some topic of conversation to excite the curiosity of all present to ask him divers questions about what he calls "the Spiritual Wife System." He then unbosoms his feelings freely, declaring that the "Twelve" teach the doctrine. . . .

Letter of J. H. Grant to Brigham Young,
Sept. 4, 1844, written at Philadelphia.
"Letters, 1844." Envelope #120.

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