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spiritual wives
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Mr. Editor, — I return you my sincere thanks for your liberality in offering the use of your columns to any Mormon wishing to reply to any of my communications. In writing against the Mormons, I feel no ill will personally towards any of them; neither do I fear their abuse. Let them honorably defend their doctrines; prove, also, if I have made any charges unsustained by evidence; if I have made any charges unsustained I will own up. It is my firm, honest belief, that Mormonism is calculated to uphold the worst vices of our frail nature, and as such, is an incubus on society. My object is, to show it in its true colors: and in striving to do so, I shall strictly adhere to what I know to be true, and what can be sustained by a hundred witnesses.

The 'spiritual wife' doctrine, I will explain as taught me by Elder W— e; as taught by Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Elder Adams, William Smith, and the rest of the quorum, etc., etc. It is as follows:- Joseph had a Revelation from God, that there were a number of spirits to be born into the world, before their exaltation in the next; that Christ would not come until all these spirits received or entered their 'tabernacle of clay'; that these spirits were hovering around the world, and at the doors of bad houses, watching for a chance, however dishonorably, of getting into their tabernacle; that God had provided an honorable

'Elders of Israel' sealing up virtuous women, and as there was no provision made for women in the Scriptures, their only chance of heaven was to be 'sealed up' to some Elder for time and eternity, and be a star in his crown forever; that those who were the cause of bringing forth these spirits would receive a reward - the ratio of which reward should be greater or less, according to the number they were the means of bringing forth.

This, Mr. Editor, is the substance of the 'Mysteries of the Kingdom,' in as few words as I can use to explain it. . . . .

. . . . The members of the 'spiritual' brotherhood and sisterhood are bound to keep it secret from the world and those of 'little faith'; and if found out, to defend each other to the last. They are at liberty to use the grossest slander and falsehood to terrify into silence those who dare oppose them. They all solemnly ~~disavow~~ disavow it in public; but the proof is now so palpable and self-evident that they must father it. I, as one, can solemnly prove before any court of justice, that the doctrine was taught me; and as for its being most scandalously and unblushingly practiced in Boston, Lowell, New York, Philadelphia, and its outrageous doings in the 'Holy City' of Nauvoo, I shall prove by unimpeachable witnesses.

. . . .

Respectfully Yours,
Henry Rowe.

Portland, Feb. 3, 1845.

[Note: checked very carefully - may quote verbatim]