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[From the *Millennial Star*, Nov. 16, '67.]
THE "PALL MALL GAZETTE"
ON "MORMONISM."

The unexampled prosperity and astonishing success of the so-called "Mormons," under the most adverse circumstances, is attracting the attention of all thinking men. They cannot but perceive that there is power in this "Mormonism," and power, too, of a singular kind; but what that power is, and whence it comes, puzzles them exceedingly. All kinds of hypotheses have been put forth by those who consider themselves clever in discovering the hidden springs that move mankind to peculiar actions, and many predictions, based upon these hypotheses, have been uttered, oracularly, concerning the immediate downfall of this remarkable system. But all these predictions have failed hitherto, and the clever men who made them have discovered that they had blundered, and that their sagacity was sadly at fault.

However, nothing daunted at the foolish mistakes of others, the *Pall Mall Gazette* comes out with a new theory on the spread of "Mormonism," and an old prophecy revamped about its speedy dissolution. He has found out why "scores of thousands of enthusiastic and energetic men" have been "drawn together" by "Mormonism," and what will cause its complete overthrow. Wonderful man! let us hear him: He says, "The attractiveness of Mormonism has been all along two-fold. It has promised abundance to the industrial poor of Europe, and many wives to those who are discontented with the rigors of European marriage laws. Polygamy is the privilege which has drawn together its scores of thousands of enthusiastic and energetic men, who were ready to submit to the discipline of any sort of despotism, providing only this liberty of marrying was secured to them. How they came to accept the supernatural claims of their leader and his chief assistants, it is easy to understand now. They believed in his assertions and asked no proof, just as the vast majority of uneducated men and women in Christendom, accept the simple assertions of their teachers whether lay or clerical, with no more desire for evidence of the truth of these claims, than they have for a mathematical proof of the law of gravity."

Here are two reasons assigned why people will embrace this "delusion" and "imposture," in spite of all warnings and "exposures" uttered by priests and editors. The first is, the promise of "abundance to the poor." Will the *Pall Mall Gazette* explain to the world why it was that so many persons embraced "Mormonism" when it had no inducements of a temporal character to offer them? The first eighteen years of its history, is a tale of suffering, privation, and distress, enough to make the angels weep. Did the Elders, who traveled without purse or scrip among the nations, have anything to offer to the poor, except the Gospel, when the Saints were fleeing before their Christian persecutors in Missouri and Illinois? Hungry, weary, and scantily clothed, they went from place to place, sometimes, like their great Master, without a place to lay their head; and the poor, who received them into their houses, and who administered to their necessities "in the name of a disciple," did so without any prospect of earthly reward. How much land, or "abundance" of any kind had they to offer to the poor when the Saints were traveling across the great American desert, seeking for a home in the wilds of the mountains, far away from the wretches who had slain their Prophet and Patriarch? We venture to assert that neither the *Pall Mall Gazette* nor "any other man," ever heard an Elder in this Church, offer any other inducement to people to join the Church, than the promise of Gospel gifts and everlasting salvation.

So much for the "promised abundance to the industrial poor of Europe," which he considers "by far the least tempting of the two inducements." The promise of many wives, he says, is the great attracting power which has drawn so many thousands together. But we beg leave to call the attention of the *Pall Mall Gazette* to the fact, that plural marriage formed no part of the creed of the Latter-day Saints until 1843, and that until 1852 it was not publicly proclaimed either to the Saints or to the world. When that doctrine was first published the downfall of "Mormonism" was predicted by editors and preachers as a certain consequence; but as the voice of time has declared them to be false prophets, they now turn round and boldly assert that polygamy is the very cause of its success. They can blow hot

or blow cold, just as it suits them. We ask the *Pall Mall Gazette* to tell us, polygamy is the great inducement to men to join this Church, why it was passed through so much persecution, and its account without faltering, when the Church permitted no man to have more than one wife? "Mormonism" was built up and established, and became a powerful organization, before ever a doctrine of plural marriage became part of the system; and it was as the cult for its adherents to embrace the doctrine in their faith and practice when it was first revealed, as it is some editors to tell the truth, or to write against "Mormonism."

If the promise of many wives be an inducement for "so many scores of thousands of enthusiastic and energetic men" to go to Utah, what is the inducement which leads so many women to emigrate to that country? Is polygamy so congenial to the nature of the sex, that they gather to Utah in numbers as the *Pall Mall Gazette* admits they do? It is generally considered that the idea of becoming a second, third wife, and sharing a husband's home and affections with others, is positively repugnant to the female mind. Why, then, do so many women embrace the doctrines of "Mormonism" and leave their native lands to gather the far off vales of Utah? And is it rather remarkable that men should travel so far, and then submit to the discipline of such despotism" as the P. M. G. says exists in Utah, just for the privilege of having several wives, when lust and licentiousness are their ruling passions, they have such an opportunity of indulging them in this free and Christian land, and that, too, without care and responsibilities which large families must entail?

The P. M. G. says that "the Mormonite theory as to the relations between the sexes, is more outrageous than anything ever known in any semi-civilized people." Can he explain the "Mormonite theory" as he calls it? There are quite a number of his cotemporaries who are sadly ignorant upon the subject, judging from their statements and comments, and if he could enlighten them a little, he would perhaps be the means of preventing them from making so many ridiculous blunders, and would thus confer a boon upon mankind. We are sorry to say that the P. M. G. seems to be equally in the dark, when, upon the subject which he has undertaken to write about, "The Mormonite theory as to the relations between the sexes" is, that there should be no sexual intercourse between the outside of the marriage covenant, and that every woman should have the opportunity of filling the measure of her creation, that is, of becoming an honorable wife and happy mother. And unlike many social theorists of modern times, the Saints are perfecting the theory in practice, and demonstrating its excellence by its good results. No private mistresses, kept on the sly to gratify licentious appetites, disgrace the peaceful vales of Utah; no public nymphs *de pave*, in rustling silks, flaunting rags, shamelessly promenade beneath the shade trees that border the spacious streets. Such things in "the Mormonite theory" are crimes. Crimes not only in the poor degraded woman, but primarily in the corrupt and low minded beings who violate the dignity of manhood to lead frail woman astray. Crimes against our laws, civil and ecclesiastical; crimes against society which cannot be gilded over with cash. The seducer of female virtue is a thing to be shunned in the circles of the Saints, and no cloak that Mammon can make will cover up his villainy from the eyes.

What is the modern Christian theory as to the relations between the sexes judging from the practices of Christian nations? It is, that a man may have one wife whom he may acknowledge, and keep as many mistresses as his means will allow, whom he must not acknowledge; that the children who may be the offspring of his marriage shall be legitimate, and have a proper claim on him for support, but that the children born of his illicit connections shall be illegitimate, and may be cast on the wide world to fight their way through as best they may. It is, that if a frail, trusting girl should yield to the persuasions of a scoundrel, who deceives her, that she shall be cast out of society as a thing to be despised, while the hell-deserving villain who has betrayed her, shall be smiled upon as a gay Lothario, rather than be admired that otherwise for his "conquests." It is that the price of virtue is thirty pence per week. It is that prostitution is a "necessary evil," to be ignored in con-