

Saturday, April 4

"Throw it down," and it turned into a serpent, and Moses turned to flee. God said to him: "Pick it up by the tail," and he did.

Even after that he said: "I can't do it. I can't tell these people. They won't believe me." And God said to him: "Go; but I want to say to you, Moses, that Pharaoh will not let your people go, not by a—" I was going to say a joyful, but God said, "Not by a great handful." But he did, and he accomplished the purposes which God

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gave him to do. Why? Because within him dwelt that which dwells within us, this marvelous Melchizedek Priesthood. That is the reason.

Now, I do not pray for that Priesthood, but I do pray that we may function and operate under the great call and the noble assignment which have been given to us, in such a way that we may ever honor the Priesthood, be proud of our acts, and God may smile upon that which we do, and I do that in the name of Jesus, Amen.

ELDER JOHN H. TAYLOR

Of the First Council of the Seventy

LAST week I received a letter from a man in Washington who wanted to know something about the gospel, or at least receive some tracts. His card was a very ordinary card. It only had his initials on it, and it wasn't worded very courteously, and so my first impression was that the man was perhaps ashamed to have mail come to him which had the Mormon Church stamp on it. Perhaps he was only fooling, trying to see what kind of literature or what kind of letter we would write to him. So because of all these circumstances I was rather inclined to write the way I felt at that moment, then I thought of two instances which helped me decide just what I ought to do in regard to the matter, because it is always what we have learned in the past that helps us in the present.

I remember being in a missionary group in one of the missions where I was laboring. A very humble missionary was there, and not understanding a very fundamental, easy question that had to do with the Church, he got up and asked the meaning of this Church doctrine. The brother who was presiding thought it was so ordinary that even the most dumb should know the answer, and he answered him rather sharply. From that time on the missionary did not ask another question, and he went his way alone.

Last week I heard the story of a man who walked into the Bureau of

Information, and speaking to one of the guides, said, in a friendly way: "Well, here I am again." The guide, not recognizing him, the man made the following explanation:

About a year and a half ago I came to the Bureau of Information, and was taken through the grounds. The guide was very courteous and kind. You were that guide and because you wouldn't take any tips or any remuneration for the kind way that you treated us, I decided that the least thing I could do was to buy a Book of Mormon. So I bought one and took it home with me. I put it into my library, and one day my son came to me and said: "Father, I notice you have a Book of Mormon in the library. Would you mind if I read it?" I answered, "Why, no, go ahead."

So the boy took it down and read the Book of Mormon and the father said:

He not only read the Book of Mormon, but he read a lot of other books that he had found concerning your Church. Later he joined your Church and then found a young lady whom he loved and wanted to marry. She wasn't in the Church, so he preached the gospel to her, and after a while she came into the Church. This was a year and a half ago. Do you know what I am doing today? I am just staying inside of this Bureau of Information because that son of mine, and the young girl whom he had met down in California, are over in the temple getting married. I can't go there because I don't belong to the Church. That is what you did to my family.

As I thought of these things, I knew how the letter should be answered.

Every once in a while we get rather discouraged because we can't see that people are reacting in a way that will result in good, and we think our efforts are all lost; but I presume it is just like the word that goes out on the air. Before we had receiving sets, we were insensible to radio impulses, and they passed us by. I suppose when we do an act of kindness, when we do something for somebody else, which seems to be lost, that all those fine, good things—the kindness and the mercy and the good will and the forgiveness and all the rest of the things that help men and women to be better—keep going until some day they reach somebody who has the proper receiving set, and all the truths and all the worthwhile things that have been said by you, or by any-

one else, reach somebody's heart, just as the words of the guide's message reached the son's heart, although the father did not quite understand.

May the Lord bless us and guide us as we live our lives. May we be kind and thoughtful of other men and women, and even though things do not seem to come back to us, or we cannot see the results of them, may we be assured that in some place, somewhere, they are being registered on somebody's heart, either in our wards or our stakes or out in the world, and then shall we find joy and happiness because of the good things which we have done.

May the Lord bless us, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

ELDER NICHOLAS G. SMITH

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

MY brethren, I am grateful to my heavenly Father for this Church, and for the opportunity that has been mine to visit in distant parts of the world, to meet different races and peoples, to learn that the gospel of Jesus Christ affects them all exactly the same way.

I know the gospel is true. I realize that each and every one of you, who

are watchmen on the tower, know that fact.

I pray that our Heavenly Father will bless us all, that in our lives we may evidence to Him that we know this truth.

May peace be in our hearts and homes and amongst the people over whom we preside, is my prayer, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ELDER SAMUEL O. BENNION

Of the First Council of the Seventy

MY brethren, I am very happy to be in your midst tonight, and during the day, and to partake of the spirit of the Lord that I find so abundantly among us.

I hope none of us overlooked the fine testimony that we heard from President Grant this morning, one of the most wonderful that I have listened to in some time.

I haven't thought of anything to say, except this, brethren: I trust that when we return to our homes again, that we will remember our Father's work, that we will be about our Father's business, that we will encourage the leadership

of the quorums of the Priesthood to meet together and to appoint members of the quorums to visit the inactive of the members of the Priesthood who do not attend to their Church obligations. They are good men, and if only we can just get them to become active in their work we would be doing a fine and good service. Those men are in our midst and many are fine characters and are at work in some position or another. Many hold positions of trust that are worth while, so far as our civic and business life are concerned. If we could just get these men to participate