

is a revelation to me, because that kind of care does not exist in the ordinary businesses of mankind in the world.

A GREAT MISSIONARY

President Smith was a great missionary. As we were going over to Hawaii on the boat, on the night of the captain's dinner President Smith felt that he should do something for the captain and not merely be the recipient of some favor from him. And so, as we went to the dining room that evening, President Smith had in his hand one of his favorite copies of *The Improvement Era*. It was, of course, a formal affair at the captain's table; the ladies and the men were dressed in formal attire. It took a man of the courage of President Smith to do what he did, because before that dinner was over he had gone to the captain of that ship and given to him *The Improvement Era* and paid his respects to him and his guests.

There were some of us on board the vessel who felt that, had the captain known the precious soul that his ship bore, he would have done him the honor of having called upon him and would have had his table graced by the presence of one of God's anointed. The fact that he didn't do not prevent President Smith from proceeding to give to that captain the missionary message which *The Improvement Era* contained.

God bless the memory of these brethren, and may that same spirit continue to be with the Twelve and with all of the General Authorities. May it continue to reach out as it does into the stakes and into the wards of this Church, that we may in very deed be a people known the world over for the love and the affection and the loyalty we have for one another, I pray humbly in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER STEPHEN L RICHARDS

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I'll try three sermons in three minutes. First, a tithing is not a fiftieth or a thirtieth or a twentieth; a tithing is a tenth.

Second, the inflated dollar is worth a hundred cents for one purpose: paying debts.

Third, I knew a missionary once who had marvelous success in the mission field. I asked him something about his method. Among other things he told me that whenever he went to talk to people, however much they tried to get him to digress from his main theme—talk about politics, talk about the weather, current affairs, the crops—he said, "I always politely told the people that I was sent out to talk the gospel to them. I never had time for anything else."

TALENT FOR FRIENDSHIP

We've been talking about a man during this conference who

had a remarkable gift and talent for friendship. I've been with him on many occasions when he met some old friends or business acquaintances. He always had the courage to say, in substance, "John, how's your faith? How are you feeling about the Church?" And I've seen many a man blush a little, stammer a little, and yet be willing to talk with him about his faith and about the Church.

There was probably never a time, my brethren, when we so much needed men who could go out and cultivate a talent for friendship and talk frankly to their own associates in the priesthood who have become careless and delinquent, to their business friends and to their neighbors, about the gospel and give to them the great blessing which we ourselves enjoy. May we make note of the opportunities that lie ahead of us, I pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ELDER ALMA SONNE

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

My brethren and sisters, I trust I may have the benefit of your faith and prayers during the few minutes I shall stand before you. First of all, I want to express my gratitude for the strength, the comfort, the consolation, and the increased confidence which have come to the members of the Church in the passing of President George Albert Smith. I think, in one way or another, he must have touched all of us more or less closely during his entire ministry.

SERMONS OF PRESIDENT SMITH

I remember as a boy in my teens I heard President Smith for the first time deliver a sermon in the Logan Tabernacle. The theme of his discourse was "Observance of the Sabbath Day." It was a timely message because at that time, in Logan, particularly, there was some controversy as to what extent Sunday amusements should be commercialized and carried on. President Smith's sermon was powerful. He said, among other things, "Sabbath observance is one of the great pillars of civilization." I have thought of it many times, and I am sure as I have reflected upon it that President Smith was right in his conclusions.

Years later I heard him discuss before an audience in the same place the Ten Commandments. As he often did, he referred to each one of these Commandments, and after he had made his comments, he turned to the audience and said, "You may break these commandments if you want to, but if you do, they will break you." I have never forgotten those words.

And so, President Smith has brought a vital message into the lives of each of us. When I was first called to the position in the Church which I now hold, one of the first assignments given me was to the St. Johns and the Snowflake stakes in Arizona. To my