By Its Inspiring Contents Let Men Judge "The Book"

Discourse Delivered by Elder Anthony W. Ivins, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Augus: 29, 1009.

(Reported by F. W. Otterstrom.)

"Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

"Having good conscience; that whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ."

I take it, my brethren and sisters and friends, that all of us will agree that this scripture, which I have read from the first epistle of Peter, is good doctrine: that whatever our hope may be, whatever our avocation—whether it be in business, or whether it be in religion, it is a good thing for men and women to know the reason why they are occupied as they may be with the things of life. I am quite certain that a man who might be engaged in business and who could not satisfactorily explain his reasons for his occupation, and who had not faith in it and its ultimate results, would not be regarded as a wise man. If this is the case, it appears to me to be eminently more necessary that men and women who have faith in God, who believe in Christ as the Savior of the world, and that through obedience to His gospel, the doctrines which He taught, it is possible to attain to eternal life, should understand something of the nature of those doctrines. They should know the reason why they adhere to their particular views, whatever religious denomination they may be attached to; in other words, they always ought to be able to give a reason for the hope that they have of eternal life, to defend the doctrines which they advocate, to expound and explain them, in order that if, perchance, they be in error, the error may be detected and corrected. If they be right in their conclusions, then other people, benefited by their knowledge, benefited by their experience, may be brought to understand the word of God as they understand it. I suppose that among this congregation of people who are assembled here this afternoon, there are a great many men and women who have identified themselves with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and I feel certain that if they were asked to stand upon their feet, not one of the number present here would be at a loss to give a good reason for the hope that they have, a good reason for the faith they have espoused, a good reason why they have become identified with the Church, a good reason for their belief in its doctrines and the principles which it teaches. Because this is characteristic of the Latter-day Saints. This is an individual work and one in which every member must know personally the will of God, which every man and woman is entitled to know, through the gift of the Holy Ghost, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.

FAITH IN WRITTEN WORD.

One of the fundamental principles or doctrines advocated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is their faith in the written word of the Lord, as it is contained here in the Bible from which I have read. They believe it to be the word of the Lord. They believe in the prophetic utterances of this book. They believe in the historical facts that are recorded here. They believe, above all, in the witness which is borne in this book of the divinity of the mission of the Savior of the world, that Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem of Judea, was in very deed the Savior of the world, that He took upon Himself the sins of the world, was crucified and raised from the dead, in order that the resurrection might become an accomplished fact. In this there is little opportunity for controversy with other religious denominations, but we make another declaration to the world and say that we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God; and because of our faith in this book the Church has come to be known as the "Mormon" Church, and those who have identified themselves with it, as "Mormons," because of the fact that this book was written by the hand of Mormon and is, consequently, called the Book of Mormon.

JUDGED BY ITS FRUITS.

I wish to refer briefly this afternoon to some of the reasons which we have for making this declaration to the world, some of the things which are contained in this book which make it dear to the hearts of every member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I know of no better way to judge a thing than by itself. We judge a tree by the fruit it produces, and it would be a very difficult matter, after having partaken of good fruit, to convince a person that the tree from which it was gathered was evil, or that it produced evil or bitter fruit. It would be a very difficult matter to persuade a person that a worthless, bitter seedling produced good fruit, if they had eaten of the fruit and knew it was not good. It would not matter much what the testimony of others might be, to one who knows, who has himself partaken of the fruit of the tree. He knows whether it is good or evil. It is by this standard I would judge the Book of Mormon. If it is not a good book, if it is not in harmony with the written word of the Lord, then it ought to be rejected, and no amount of testimony which I might bear, or other people might bear, in regard to its virtues would count for very much. But if, upon the other hand, upon examination, we find it to be a good book, if we find it to bear witness of the things which are nearest and dearest to our hearts; if it corroborates our faith; if it is in harmony with the things which are written here in the Bible; then we have good reason to believe and to testify that the Book is good and that the doctrines which it contains are proper doctrines to be believed in and taught by men who advocate the word of the Lord.

In the first place, I, in connection with all other members of the Church, am a thorough convert to the divinity of the mission of the Savior of the world. We believe that Christ came into the world to bear the sins of the people. We believe Him to be the Son of God. We believe that through obedience to the doctrines which He taught, through faith on His name, we may all be redeemed from sin and brought back into the presence of our Eternal Father. We believe that salvation cometh through no other name and by no other means except through the name of Jesus Christ and by the means which He provides. If this is the case, any doctrine which conflicts with it could not be accepted by the Church.

HOW THE BOOK CAME.

Objection has been raised to the Book of Mormon because of the fact that it came into the world in the dispensation in which we live, through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith. Objection is raised to it because it is said, by many in the world, that the canon of Scripture is full, and that no one has a right to add to or take from the things which are contained here in the Bible, which is very true, but to corroborate the things which are there is not to add to or take from them. It is objected to because of its translation and the fact that it came into the possession of Joseph Smith in a miraculous way—that is, in a way which is not ordinary, not in the way that might naturally be expected, but through the mercy of God our Eternal Father, the plates containing the record were delivered to him by one of the men who had anciently assisted in keeping that record, which was translated and published to the world by the gift and power of God. It has been called a "Golden Bible," "Joseph's Bible;" and the people of the world have said, "We already have a Bible, and we need no more Bibles." The book has been rejected by many, and the Latter-day Saints have, probably, been criticized more because of their belief in this book than because of any other declaration of their faith.

Now I want to refer briefly to some of the things which are contained in this Book of Mormon, in order that you may judge by the book itself whether or not it is worthy of our consideration, and whether or not we can accept the American Scripture, written here upon our own land, treating of the hand dealings of God our eternal Father with the ancient inhabitants of this continent, as we accept the Bible which was written by the people of the old world and contains an account of His hand dealings with them. After I have called your attention to some of the things contained in that book—for I shall only be able to review very briefly a few of the doctrines which it teaches—I leave you to judge whether or not these are good doctrines, whether they corroborate the Bible, whether they strengthen our faith, our hope, and whether or not they are worthy of our careful consideration. In the first place, I desire to read from the title page of the book itself:

ITS INSPIRED TITLE PAGE.

"The Book of Mormon: An account written by the hand of Mormon upon plates taken from the plates of Nephi; wherefore it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites; written to the Lamanites who are a remnant of the house of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile; written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation. Written and sealed up, and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed; to come forth by the gift and power of God unto the interpretation thereof; sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by the way of Gentile; the interpretation thereof by the gift of God.

"An abridgment taken from the Book of Ether also; which is a record of the people of Jared, who were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people when they were building a tower to get to heaven; which is to show unto the remnant of the House of Israel what great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever; and also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations."

The first great purpose, then, of this book is to convince all people, both Jew and Gentile, that "Jesus is the Christ, Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations." In the face of this declaration, how inconsistent it is to question its Christianity! That is one of the objections which have been raised to it, that it leads people away from faith in Jesus Christ as the Redeemer of the world, that it is not in accord with the word of the Lord as it is written in the Bible, and which treats of his birth, his ministry, and his death. From the very beginning, from the time that Lehi and his sons and those who accompanied them went out from Jerusalem, as this record tells us that they did, and came to America, faith in Jesus Christ as the Redeemer of the world was one of the fundamental doctrines and principles which they taught. Their faith was based on that doctrine. They looked forward to his kingdom and coming a thousand years before this record was finally finished and the book sealed up. As a witness of that, let me read from the remarkable vision which was given to Nephi, before they ever left the old world:

THE VISION OF THE CHRIST.

"And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the great city of Jerusalem, and also other cities. And I beheld the city of Nazareth; and in the city of Nazareth I beheld a virgin, and she was exceedingly fair and white.

"And it came to pass that I saw the heavens open, and an angel came down and stood before me; and he said unto me, Nephi, what beholdest thou?

"And I said unto him, a virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins.

"And he said unto me, Knowest thou the condescension of God?

"And I said unto him, I know that he loveth his children; nevertheless, I do not know the meaning of all things.

"And he said unto me, Behold the virgin whom thou seest, is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh. . . . .

"And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms.

"And the angel said unto me, Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father! . . . .

"And I looked and beheld the Redeemer of the world, of whom my father had spoken; and I also beheld the prophet, who should prepare the way before him. And the Lamb of God went forth and was baptized of him; and after he was baptized, I beheld the heavens open, and the Holy Ghost come down out of heaven and abode upon him in the form of a dove. . . . .

"And I beheld the Lamb of God going forth among the children of men. And I beheld multitudes of people who were sick, and who were afflicted with all manner of diseases, and with devils, and unclean spirits; and the angel spake and showed all these things unto me. And they were healed by the power of the Lamb of God; and the devils and the unclean spirits were cast out. . . . .

"And I looked and beheld the Lamb of God, that he was taken by the people; yea, the Son of the everlasting God was judged of the world; and I saw and bear record.

"And I, Nephi, saw that he was lifted up upon the cross, and slain for the sins of the world."

This testimony, in regard to the birth and ministry and final crucifixion of our Lord and Savior, was borne by the Nephite prophet six hundred years before His birth.

Going on further, as the record continues:

"For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant, that with power, the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, who was and is from all eternity to all eternity, shall come down from heaven, among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay, and shall go forth amongst men, working mighty miracles, such as healing the sick, raising the dead, causing the lame to walk, the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear, and curing all manner of diseases.

"And he shall cast out devils, or the evil spirits which dwell in the hearts of the children of men.

"And lo, he shall suffer temptations, and pain of body, hunger, thirst, and fatigue, even more than man can suffer, except it be unto death; . . .

"And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning; and his mother shall be called Mary.

"And lo, he cometh unto his own, that salvation might come unto the children of men, even through faith on his name; and even after all this, they shall consider him a man, and say that he hath a devil, and shall scourge him, and shall crucify him.

"And he shall rise the third day from the dead; and behold, he standeth to judge the world; and behold, all these things are done that a righteous judgment might come upon the children of men."

Here is another Nephite prophet writing more than two hundred years after the former to whose words I have made reference. He testifies again that Christ shall come into the world, that He cometh as the Redeemer of the world, and that He should be crucified for the sins of the world, as Nephi had already testified. Now let me read to you another witness which this book bears in regard to the Savior of the world:

JESUS HIMSELF APPEARS.

"It came to pass that there were a great multitude gathered together, of the people of Nephi, round about the temple which was in the land Bountiful; and they were marveling and wondering one with another, and were showing one to another the great and marvelous change which had taken place;

"And they were also conversing about this Jesus Christ, of whom the sign had been concerning his death.

"And it came to pass that while they were thus conversing one with another, they heard a voice as if it came out of heaven; and they cast their eyes round about, for they understood not the voice which they heard; and it was not a harsh voice, neither was it a loud voice; nevertheless, and nothwithstanding it being a small voice, it did pierce them that did hear to the center, insomuch that there was no part of their frame that it did not cause to quake; yea, it did pierce them to the very soul, and did cause their hearts to burn.

"And it came to pass that again they heard the voice, and they understood it not;

"And again the third time they did hear the voice, and did open their ears to hear it; and their eyes were toward the sound thereof; and they did look steadfastly toward heaven, from whence the sound came.

"And behold the third time they did understand the voice which they heard; and it said unto them,

"Behold my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name; hear ye him.

"It came to pass as they understood, they cast their eyes up again towards heaven; and behold they saw a man descending out of heaven; and he was clothed in a white robe, and he came down and stood in the midst of them, and the eyes of the whole multitude were turned upon him, and they durst not open their mouths, even one to another, and wist not what it meant, for they though it was an angel that had appeared unto them.

"And it came to pass that he stretched forth his hand and spake unto the people, saying,

"Behold, I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified should come into the world;

"And behold, I am the light and the life of the world; and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning."

This is the testimony of the Savior of the world Himself, coming as He did, after His crucifixion at Jerusalem, and ministering to the people upon this continent. He Himself bore witness to the divinity of His mission, and He was the one of whom the prophets had testified, that He should come into the world. Here is another witness, in addition to those I have already read, to the Christianity of this book; and it is this Christianity, it is this faith in Christ, it is the teachings that are here contained which embody the very essence of the teachings of our Lord and Savior, as they are contained in the Bible, that have always appealed to me more strongly than any other part of this book which I hold in my hand, the Book of Mormon.

A LATER WITNESS.

Four hunded years after this date, when Christ Himself appeared to the Nephites, Moroni, the last man who wrote upon the plates from which this record was translated, the man who hid them up in the earth, the man who delivered them into the hands of Joseph Smith, the prophet of this dispensation, and the man to whom they were returned after the work was completed, bears this witness:

"And again I would exhort you that ye come unto Christ and lay hold upon every good gift, and touch not the evil gift, nor the unclean thing.

"Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in Him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is His grace sufficient for you, that by His grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God.

"Again, if ye by the grace of God are perfect in Christ, and deny not His power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy, without spot.

"Now I bid unto all, farewell. I soon go to rest in the paradise of God, until my spirit and body shall again reunite, and I am brought forth triumphant through the air, to meet you before the pleasing bar of the Great Jehovah, the eternal Judge of both quick and dead."

ALL TESTIFY OF HIM.

Now, I desire to ask you, my brethren and sisters, and my friends, who have heard these passages which I have read from the Book of Mormon, beginning with the very commencement of the work and passing on to the meridian of the work which was accomplished by the people upon this continent; then, again, reading from the testimony of the last of their prophets—I want to ask you if there is anything, in the passages which I have read, that in any degree detracts from the faith that all Christians have in Jesus Christ as the Redeemer of the world. On the contrary, it bears strong witness of His immaculate conception; it bears strong witness of the virginity and purity of His mother, Mary, a chosen vessel of God, who should bring into the earth the Savior of the world. It bears witness of His ministry; of His crucifixion and resurrection from the dead. It bears further witness that all men and women must believe in Him, must have faith in Him as the Redeemer of the world, if they would attain to eternal life. These doctrines are made so clear, so simple and so easy of comprehension, in this book, that it has attached itself to me, and my faith in it has become stronger than in any other written record in the world, that I have any knowledge of. I recommend it to all thoughtful men and women, as the strongest witness for God and His Son Jesus Christ that has ever come into the world since the things which are written here in the Bible were published; it corroborates the things which are contained in the Bible. Why, then, should Christian people object to it? That is what I cannot understand. If men and women have faith in the things that are contained in the Bible, they must of necessity believe the Book of Mormon, because it bears witness of the truth of those things. This book teaches morality—every page of it, from the beginning to the end. You may search its pages, and you cannot find one doctrine advocated which is not calculated to make better men and women of us, if we shall observe to do the things that we are there admonished to do. In justification of this statement, let me read briefly. This is a sample of the doctrines which were taught to the Nephite people:

SAMPLE DOCTRINES.

"And Alma and Amulek did go forth, and also many more who had been chosen for the work, to preach the word throughout all the land. And the establishment of the church became general throughout the land, in all the region round about, among all the people of the Nephites.

"And there was no inequality among them, the Lord did pour out His Spirit on all the face of the land, to prepare the minds of the children of men, or to prepare their hearts to receive the word which should be taught among them at the time of His coming.

"That they might not be hardened against the word, that they might not be unbelieving, and go to destruction, but that they might receive the word with joy, and as a branch be grafted into the true vine, that they might enter into the rest of the Lord their God.

"Now those priests who did go forth among the people, did preach against all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and malice, and revilings, and stealing, robbing, plundering, murdering, committing adultry, and all manner of lasciviousness, crying that these things ought not so to be;

"Holding forth things which must shortly come; yet, holding forth the coming of the Son of God, his sufferings and death, and also the resurrection of the dead."

Again: "Hearken, O ye gentiles, and hear the words of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, which He hath commanded me that I should speak concerning you, for, behold He commandeth me that I should write saying,

"Turn, all ye gentiles from your wicked ways, and repent of your evil doings, of your lyings and deceivings, and of your whoredoms, and of your secret abominations, and your idolatries, and of your murders, and your priesterafts, and your envyings, and your strifes, and from all your wickedness and abominations, and come unto me, and be baptized in my name, that ye may receive a remission of your sins, and be filled with the Holy Ghost, that ye may be numbered with my people, who are of the house of Israel."

I want to ask you if these are not good doctrines? I want to ask you if doctrines which advocate righteousness, morality, honesty, virtue, temperance, charity, love and peace are not commendable and proper doctrines to be taught to the children of men? This is what the Book of Mormon teaches from the beginning, as I have said, to the end. I have read only these two selections. It is sufficient to say that the book is full of just such doctrines; but you search in vain for any word or suggestion which justifies men and women in doing that which is wrong; you search in vain for anything which justifies iniquity or wrong-doing of any character. Because of this fact, I love the things that are contained in this book. I know them to be good, because in my own life, in my own experiences I have proven [illegible] and I am a living witness of [illegible] truth of the things that are cont[illegible] here, for I know that the blessing[illegible] God. I know that peace of mind, I [illegible] that joy and satisfaction of [illegible] follow the accomplishment of that which is good; and on the other hand, I know that wickedness never did bring happiness. I know that the evil-doer is not a happy man, that he is not justified of his own conscience, and he who is not justified of his own conscience can not expect to be justified of God. So this is another thing about the Book of Mormon which I love. This is another reason for the faith which I have in it and the hope which it gives me of eternal life.

THIS LAND OF LIBERTY.

My brethren and sisters, there is another thing connected with this book which has always appealed—appealed to me as no other book has ever done. I have never heard the doctrines of personal liberty, those ideals which are so dear to the heart of every liberty-loving American, so clearly portrayed, so plainly set forth as here in the Book of Mormon. Let me read again just a few paragraphs. We all love this land of America. We all love this government which God has caused to be established, as He has told us, through wise men whom He has raised up for this very purpose. The ancient inhabitants of this country understood the blessings which come from personal liberty, and the Lord outlined to them, by the spirit of prophecy and the revelations of His will, conditions which should exist in America in the dispensation in which we live. Among other things, Nephi wrote the following:

"This land (Ar[illegible] saith God, shall be a land of thine inheritance, and the gentiles shall be blessed upon the land.

"And this land shall be a land of liberty unto the gentiles, and there shall be no kings upon the land, who shall raise up unto the gentiles;

"And I will fortify this land against all other nations;

"And he that fighteth against Zion shall perish, saith God;

"For he that raiseth up a king against me shall perish, for I, the Lord, the king of heaven, will be their king, and I will be a light unto them forever, that hear my words."

This testimony, in regard to this country in which we live, has always been a source of strength and comfort to me, and I know it to be in accord with the desire of every patriotic citizen of this country, that this shall not be a land of kings, but a land where individual liberty shall be enjoyed, where the voice of the people shall be recognized as the voice of God, and their will be done.

I want to read just a little further, that you may know something of the sentiment which actuated these men, the builders of this great civilization which exists down south of us, in the south of North America and in the northern part of South America, and which extended up the Ohio valley and covered a great part of the United States:

"Now it is better," Mosiah says, "that a man should be judged of God than of man, for the judgments of God are always just, but the judgments of man are not always just;

"Therefore if it were possible that you could have just men to be your kings, who would establish the laws of God, and judge this people according to his commandments; yea, if ye could have men for your kings, who would do even as my father Benjamin for this people; I say unto you, if this could always be the case, then it would be expedient that ye should always have kings to rule over you. . . .

"Behold, I say unto you, ye cannot dethrone an iniquitous king, save it be through much contention, and the shedding of much blood.

"For behold, he has his friends in iniquity, and he keepeth his guards about him; and he teareth up the laws of those who have reigned in righteousness before him; and he trampleth under his feet the commandments of God;

"And he enacted laws, and sendeth them forth among his people; yea, laws after the manner of his own wickedness; and whosoever doth not obey his laws, he causeth to be destroyed; and whosoever doth rebel against him, he will send his armies against them to war, and if he can, he will destroy them; and thus an unrighteous king doth pervert the ways of all righteousness.

"And now, behold I say unto you, it is not expedient that such abominations should come upon you;

"Therefore choose you by the voice of this people, judges, that ye may be judged according to the laws which have been given you by our fathers, which are correct, and which were given them by the hand of the Lord.

"Now it is not common that the voice of the people desireth anything contrary to that which is right; but it is common for the lesser part of the people to desire that which is not right; therefore this shall ye observe, and make it your law to do your business by the voice of the people."

ALL MEN CREATED EQUAL.

I want to ask if that is not good doctrine. I want to know if it is not doctrine which commends itself to every liberty-loving man and woman in these United States, or anywhere else in the world, as far as that is concerned. It elucidates that great principle expounded by the founders of this republic of ours, that before God all men are created equal—not equal, it is true, in intelligence, not equal in capacity to do and to act, but equal before the law—and it is this God-given principle which has made it possible for the Union to be preserved. It is this principle which has placed at its head today a good man who has come up from among the common people. There is to be no royal road to greatness, but through merit and the voice of his fellow citizens, he who is to be the ruler of the land shall be chosen. I love the Book of Mormon because it enunciates these doctrines all through the book. This is only one isolated passage that I have read. I might read more, showing the struggles for liberty, made by this people, their recognition of the fact that all men were entitled to worship God according to the dictates of their consciences, and that no restrictive law should be passed which bound the consciences of men. Men were responsible to the law for their acts, and so long as they respected the rights of others, so long as they did not infringe upon the rights of their neighbors, they were entitled to protection under the law. The very fundamental doctrines and principles upon which our government rests. They are corroborated, and vindicated; and our faith in them is made stronger through the doctrines which are contained here in the Book of Mormon.

THE GREAT STORY PLAINLY TOLD

I love the Book of Mormon for one other thing, above all things else; it makes so clear the doctrines of the gospel of Christ. The story of His ministry is told here in such simplicity—so comprehensive, so simple that a child may understand it. There is no need of any misunderstanding; there is no need of any disagreement between Christian sects as to the meaning of the things which were uttered by the Savior of the world, if you take this record of the doctrines that He taught as a guide. This record, I want to say again, so far as the doctrines of the gospel are concerned, corroborates, in every respect, His teachings as they are contained in the Bible. Let me read just one short passage here, and then I shall have finished:

"And it came to pass that he spake unto Nephi (for Nephi was among the multitude), and he commanded him that he should come forth.

"And Nephi arose and went forth, and bowed himself before the Lord, and he did kiss his feet.

"And the Lord commanded him that he should arise, and he arose and stood before him.

"And the Lord said unto him, I give unto you power that ye shall baptize this people when I am again ascended into heaven.

"And again the Lord called others, and said unto them likewise; and he gave unto them power to baptize. And he said unto them, On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you.

"Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words, and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them; behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them.

"And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying,

"Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

"And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water.

"And after this manner shall ye baptize in my name, for behold, verily I say unto you, that the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one; and I am in the Father, and the Father in me, and the Father and I are one.

"And according as I have commanded you thus shall ye baptize. And there shall be no disputations among you, as there hath hitherto been; neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of my doctrine, as there hath hitherto been;

"For verily, verily I say unto you, he that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stireth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another.

"Behold, this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger, one against another; but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away.

"Behold, verily, verily I say unto you, I will declare unto you my doctrine.

"And this is my doctrine, and it is the doctrine which the Father hath given unto me; and I bear record of the Father, and the Father beareth record of me, and the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me, and I bear record that the Father commandeth all men, everywhere, to repent and believe in me." That is the doctrine of Christ, that all men everywhere shall repent and believe in him.

"And whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they who shall inherit the kingdom of God.

"And whoso believeth not in me, and is not baptized, shall be damned.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, that this is my doctrine, and I bear record of it from the Father; and whoso believeth in me, believeth in the Father also, and unto him will the Father bear record of me; for He will visit him with fire, and with the Holy Ghost.

"And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock, but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell standeth open to receive such, when the floods come and the winds beat upon them.

"Therefore go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken unto the ends of the earth."

THE BOOK INVITES THE TEST.

Now I submit these passages of Scripture, which I have read from the Book of Mormon, as a sample of what it contains, and only a fair representation and only a very small part of the good things that are contained in this book. I love them and adhere to them, and I bear witness of their truth, because of the righteousness that is contained in these doctrines, because they teach me faith, because they teach me hope, because they teach me charity, because they teach me that I must be just to all mankind, because they teach me Christ as the Savior of the world, its Redeemer, and that through faith in His name—and in no other way—can we be saved in His presence. I love them because they teach me personal liberty, because they teach me that this government of the United States was founded by God through inspired men, in order that personal liberty in the world might become an established fact, that it might stand as a light to the world. I love this book because it teaches me that this nation shall stand; that every nation that comes up against her shall perish, and that the time of the overthrow of this government will never come so long as its people shall fear God and glorify Him, believe in Him and have faith in His name. These are some of the things, my brethren and sisters, which are in this book, that appeal to me, and I believe that they appeal to every thoughtful person. From the very inception of the Church, this work has been before the world. We have desired that it might be examined—critically examined. We have sought to introduce it everywhere; it is not a book that fears the scrutiny of thoughtful men and women because the things contained in it are founded upon the principles of everlasting truth. The truth is not afraid of the light of day, it goes on, boldly, doing its work in the world. I want to ask you to give it your careful consideration, to read it, to ponder over it, to think of it, and to put it to the test—because God Himself has said, through His inspired prophet, that whoever shall read the things which are contained in this book and ask the Lord in sincerity of heart, they shall know if the things contained herein are true, and they shall know that this land of America is a land choice above all other lands; that God has dedicated it as the place for the establishment of His kingdom, for the extension of His work, and He has decreed, "Here shall the New Jerusalem stand, and to this land shall Christ come in His glory to redeem the world."

My brethren and sisters, may the blessings of the Lord be with you, to strengthen your faith, bear witness to you of the truth of the things contained in the doctrines of Christ, and may your testimony be as mine is this afternoon, to all the world, that the Lord lives, that Jesus Christ is His Son, the Redeemer of the world, that He has spoken from the heavens in the dispensation in which we live and has pointed out the way of eternal life, and invited all men and women to enter in and be heirs to His Celestial kingdom. I pray for these blessings for you all, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

School Days Again

The food to start the youngsters off with in the morning—and to constitute the best in their lunch baskets—

Bread made of

HUSLER'S FLOUR.

MADE WELL AND STRONG

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Bardstown, Ky.—"I suffered from ulceration and other female troubles for a long time. Doctors had failed to help me. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound was recommended, and I decided to try it. It cured my trouble and made me well and strong, so that I can do all my own work." MRS. JOSEPH HALL, Bardstown, Ky.

Another Woman Cured.

Christiana, Tenn.—"I suffered from the worst form of female trouble so that at times I thought I could not live, and my nerves were in a dreadful condition. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound cured me, and made me feel like a different woman. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is worth its weight in gold to suffering women."—MRS. MARY WOOD, R.F.D. 8.

If you belong to that countless army of women who suffer from some form of female ills, don't hesitate to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from roots and herbs.

For thirty years this famous remedy has been the standard for all forms of female ills, and has cured thousands of women who have been troubled with such ailments as displacements, fibroid tumors, ulceration, inflammation, irregularities, backache, and nervous prostration.

If you want special advice write for it to Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass. It is free and always helpful.

HOT-WEATHER LAXATIVE FREE

At no other time of the year is the tendency to constipation greater than during the summer months, and this is especially the time that it is most important to keep the bowels open. The heat taints food, there are germs in the water, and even fruit has its dangers. For a dozen and one reasons the bowels should be kept open—you should have at least one good passage a day, and in the case of children and young people, two a day is better. The best way to obtain such relief, and to thoroughly regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, is by the use of DR. CALDWELL'S SYRUP PEPSIN, the great laxative tonic. It is not a temporary relief like salts and purgative waters, and it does not gripe, like tablets and pills. It is so pleasant to take, and so gentle in action, that children prefer it to any other laxative. It is the children's ideal remedy for their stomach, liver and bowel troubles. Use it for constipation, indigestion, sick headache, biliousness, loss of appetite and sleep, drowsiness after eating, diarrhoea, "Summer Complaint," gas or wind on the stomach, etc. A bottle can be obtained of any druggist at 50 cents or $1.00. Thousands of families keep it regularly in the house because a laxative may be needed at any moment, and those who once use DR. CALDWELL'S SYRUP PEPSIN always prefer it thereafter.

Those who have never yet used DR. CALDWELL'S SYRUP PEPSIN and still like to make a test of it before buying in the regular way from their druggist, can obtain a FREE SAMPLE BOTTLE, either for themselves or any member of their family by sending name and address to the doctor. The sample will be sent to your home free of charge. In this way you can find out what it will do without cost. Also, if the case presents difficulties that doctors and other remedies seem unable to overcome, write a letter to Dr. Caldwell explaining how the persons suffers and he will give you his best MEDICAL ADVICE, based on half a century of experience in stomach, liver and bowel diseases, without charge. Women who have children should send for "Summer Suggestions to Mothers," containing the doctor's advice on diet, hygiene, etc., in hot weather—a very important subject. The address is

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A NARROW ESCAPE.

Edgar N. Bayliss, a merchant of Robinsonville, Del., wrote: "About two years ago I was thin and sick, and coughed all the time and if I did not have consumption, it was near to it. I commenced using Foley's Honey and Tar, and it stopped my cough, and I am now entirely well, and have gained twenty-eight pounds, all due to the good results from taking Foley's Honey and Tar." F. J. Hill Drug Co. "The Never Substitutors."

TEACHERS AND SUMMER EXCURSIONS EAST.

Chicago and return $55.00. St. Paul and Minneapolis, $52.00. Dates of sale August 12th, 14th, Sept. 10th, 11th, final return limit Oct. 31st. Diverse routes via the Chicago & Northwestern Ry. For particulars address C. A. WALKER, General Agent, 28 West 2nd South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

THE BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY,

At Provo, Utah will open September 16, 1909, with improved facilities for educational work. Ample accommodations, rooms and board. Write for information. Catalogues furnished upon application.

Wait for the big I X L auction sale commencing September 7 at 10 a. m.

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About four months intervenes between the blossoming and ripening of the cocoa pods. As the cocoa it a perennial this process is continued throughout the year and fruit may be gathered at any time.

It is all nourishing, so you don't need to be sparing in drinking

Ghirardelli's GROUND CHOCOLATE

A little is good and more is better. It smells good—tastes good—is good.

Don't ask merely for chocolate —ask for Ghirardelli's.