

In the same guise asked for a pair of shoes, which Col. Webber generously gave him. Having a tooth which needed filling, he called at the dental parlors of Dr. Fred Clawson, whom he convinced, after some difficulty, that he was not an old friend and school mate, but really a minister of the Gospel from Tennessee, having a similar name, the doctor readily consented to his having his tooth filled without money or price. Thus it was proven that the Latter-day Saints were as generous, as kind-hearted, as ready to help the stranger of another religion, as were the good people of the Southern States, and for that matter of any other country. Having put these people to the test, in other words, having weighed them in the balance and found them not wanting in each case he fully explained his motive and who he was, to their mutual delight. And when the Elder returned their gifts or declined to receive the favors granted him without proper remuneration, in each case, as I understand, the brethren insisted that what they had done was in good faith on their part, and he was welcome to the same, believing that an Elder who had spent two years and upwards on a mission, laboring without purse or scrip, would be likely to stand almost as much in need of such help as would the strange minister whom he had personated.

Now some of us are a little more fortunate than others. For instance, I have several doors, and beggars come to all of them; and if ever a beggar was turned away from one of my doors I never knew it. I have always, and so have my family, contributed food and such clothing as we could spare to every one who came asking for it. Last summer a poor boy came to my house. I happened to be out of doors, around the corner of the house; I heard the voice of a man, I looked, and he was sitting on a box. I heard that he was murmuring and cursing and swearing. I stepped out and I said, "My friend, what is the matter with you?" He pointed to his feet and said, "look at my feet." The remnants of shoes which he had on were too small for him. He had worn them through the soles and through the sides, and his feet were out upon the ground. They were blistered and inflamed and painfully sore. He said he had been driven out of Davis county by the officers of the law, and was told that if he did not get out of the county he would be put in jail for vagrancy, and he had come here and asked for food, and the people who had given him food had not invited him into the house. Now I said, "my friend, why do you swear about it? It seems to me that a man in your circumstances ought to pray rather than swear. It would be much more becoming in you to humble yourself and appeal to the Lord for a little assistance from Him, rather than to curse and swear as I have heard you do. I said to him, "this is my home, this is my family who live here, I have a very large family and I have all I can do to provide for them. So far as I can find or provide labor for my children they are out at work, indeed some of them are at work who ought to be going to school. Notwithstanding all this, we are willing to help you or any other person, so far as we can, who comes to us in need; but I don't like any one to come upon my premises and use profane language, or curse and swear. Now, I advise you never to swear again, hold sacred the name of the Lord, and do a little praying, and I'll promise you, you will get along better in this world than you have done."

I then called my wife's attention to the condition of this poor boy, and she

prepared him a good warm bath, gave him a clean undershirt and a pair of socks, and a pair of boots, and a good breakfast, and sent him on his way. This is the way we treated this poor creature. But we do not treat them all that way. We could not afford to give all that come boots and socks and clothes and baths, for we have not enough to go round, but we have always managed to give something to the poor, and refuse no one who asks for food. I believe this is the general sentiment and character of the Latter-day Saints. I think all the Mormon people are kindly disposed, and are generous toward the poor and unfortunate, and that there is not a Latter-day Saint under the sound of my voice or anywhere that would not divide his portion with his fellow creature in case of need. I have this testimony to bear to the Latter-day Saints. President Cannon asks whether I would advise, where men come asking for food, that they be invited to do a little work for it. I should most decidedly be in favor of asking a man who had plenty of time on his hands, and nothing else, and who had physical strength, to devote a little of his time and strength by way of compensating for that which he received. But you want to watch them a little; I am not talking now of the Latter-day Saints who seek for employment. There are very few Latter-day Saints who have to beg, indeed I know of none, and I am sorry there are any professing to be Latter-day Saints who do beg; there ought not to be any Latter-day Saint beggars. The beggars that we have are those that are not of us, and they are sometimes very wicked in their hearts, and not at all grateful at times for what they receive. I have seen men go away from my door with good bread and butter in their hands (good enough for any king to eat, for my folks make good bread and good butter, as good as I ever ate on earth) and when out of the gate they have thrown it into the street. It was not food they wanted. They wanted money. For what? That they might go to some gambling hell or to some drinking saloon. Of course they are responsible for that. We can only judge by appearances and by the promptings of the good spirit within us; and it is better to give to a dozen that are unworthy than to turn away empty one worthy person.

There is another phase of this question that I want to refer to. There is such a thing as encouraging idleness and fostering pauperism among men. Men and women ought not to be willing to receive charity unless they are compelled to do so to keep them from suffering. Every man and woman ought to possess the spirit of independence, a self-sustaining spirit, that would prompt him or her to say, when they are in need, "I am willing to give my labor in exchange for that which you give me." No man ought to be satisfied to receive, and to do nothing for it. After a man is brought down to poverty and is under the necessity of receiving aid, and his friends give it him, he should feel that it is an obligation under which he is placed, and when the Lord should open his way he would return the gift. That is the feeling we should cultivate in our hearts, to make us a free and independent people. The cultivation of any other feeling or spirit than this is calculated to make paupers, to degrade and bring mankind down to beggary, which is a most wretched condition for men to be in. It is a bad thing for men to think the world owes them a living, and all they have to do is to beg or steal to get it. When it comes to this class of people I am very much of the mind expressed once by

Dr. Johnson, when a beggar came to him and asked alms and insisted that the doctor should be generous in helping him, "for," said he, "doctor, you know that I must live." But the doctor said, "I don't see the least necessity for it." When a man becomes a parasite, living upon the charity of his friends, I confess it is hard to see the necessity for him to live. He is no good to any one. I speak this way only of such as are able-bodied, such as have their faculties and can devote these to some industry, to some useful labor. I don't refer to the cripple, to those who are enfeebled by age, because I look at them in an entirely different light; there is a necessity for them to live, and there is a necessity for us to assist such, but there is no great need in this world for men and women who are able to work and will not work. Men come to our Bishop and to the Apostles and ask, "What shall we do? We are without employment. We cannot get anything to do, and what shall we do?" The Bishop says, "pack up your knapsack, if you have one, or if you have not take your bandana handkerchief to put your clothes into, if you have anything but what is on your back, and go out into the outer settlements where there is land to take up, where there is water to take out of the river, and where there is an opportunity for you to take up a farm, cultivate the soil, and eventually raise cows, sheep, chickens, pigs and other useful animals and produce from mother earth enough to feed and clothe you, and thereby make yourself an independent citizen, a useful member of society, and contribute something to the welfare of mankind, and prove that the world is better for your being in it. "Well, but," one of our good brethren says, "that was all right enough, Bishop, in olden times, but times are different now." Of course the times are different now. A boy starting out in the world now-a-days as we used to do, without anything, sees his neighbors enjoying the possession of good, comfortable homes, he sees a great many people that are rich, who can ride in their carriages, and have every luxury, and he, under the impression that he is as good as they and as much entitled to riches as they are, feels that because he has not as much as they have, he is in some way injured or persecuted, and envy and enmity spring up in his soul toward the rich, and he feels that they are his enemies and that he has a right to be theirs. That is wrong. It is just as easy to make a living out of the soil now with comparatively nothing to begin with as it was for the Pioneers when they first came into this valley, were it not for the pride that we have, providing we go where land and water await the labor necessary to subdue and utilize them, instead of idly coveting the possessions of others, and nursing the thought that we ought to have as good as they have. If we will go to work and earn and produce that which we need, we are entitled to it, and the Lord will bless every man who honestly and faithfully undertakes to get it out of mother earth. The Lord Almighty in the beginning, designed that we should earn our bread by the sweat of our brow, and we should produce from the earth that which is needful for food and clothing and to build us habitations. He has provided gold and silver and iron and precious stones in vast abundance in the earth, and it is legitimate for men to gather all these from the earth, because they are useful for mankind. The Lord has provided these things; and there is nothing on the face of the globe nor in its depths that God has provided for the use of man, that is not legitimate for us to take and use