

lives the principles of the Gospel; and then if a stranger should come into your settlement here he would say, "Why, what a strange people! How different they are to any people I ever knew! These people tell the truth. They are honest; they deal fairly one with another; they love one another; they are united; if a purse is dropped in the street, the money is safe and the owner is sought for; if an animal strays away it is perfectly safe; or if anything valuable is left outside at night it will be there in the morning undisturbed." Now, this is the character that Latter-day Saints should have; and this is true religion.

How would you feel if Brother Joseph F. Smith and myself should come here and take advantage of any of you in a trade? Suppose we had something to sell to you; it looked to be a good thing, and we assured you it was, and we got you to buy it or traded with you for something else, and after we had gone you found we had cheated you, that we had taken advantage of your ignorance, and that you had been deceived in the article, what would be your conclusion concerning us? I know what it would be; you would think it altogether unworthy of us—and it would be. If I cheated any of you, I would be unworthy of my position, I would be a fraud in the sight of God. If I traded with you—I never trade, because I think it a bad thing for a public man to do; but if I were to make a trade with you, and it did not suit you, if I felt as I should do, I would trade back again with you if you so desired. If you have a piece of property to sell, tell the value of it. Do not let the purchaser deceive himself. If he does not know what it is worth, you do. If it is an animal, and you know it has faults, you will not conceal those faults from him—that is, if you are Latter-day Saints and acting in the spirit of your religion. Do you not think that people will like you better for it? Yes, and you will succeed better. I remember watching President Young trade once. A man came into the office and he wanted to trade for a pair of mules which the President had. Brother Brigham said, "You don't want those mules, they won't suit you." "Yes they will," he said; "What kind of mules are they? they look to be very likely mules." "Well," said the President, "if you were a man that chewed tobacco, they would kick the chew of tobacco out of your mouth." He told the man candidly all the animals' faults; but the man bought the mules, and I expect he respected President Young far more than if he had concealed the faults.

Referring again to the dreadful fate which awaits those who yield to sin I want to read to you what the Lord has said about all classes of transgressors:

"And, verily, I say unto you, as I have said before, he that looketh on a woman to lust after her, or if any shall commit adultery in their hearts, they shall not have the Spirit, but shall deny the faith and shall fear:

"Wherefore I, the Lord, have said that the fearful, and the unbelieving, and all liars, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie, and the whore-monger, and the sorcerer, shall have their part in that lake which burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death."

Now, my brethren and sisters, this is not very much encouragement for men

when they commit these sins, to think that the Lord is going to save and exalt them, immediately and without paying the full penalty, in the celestial glory, because He has made promises to them. It is not very encouraging for a man to tell a lie, nor to love and make a lie; for here is the word of the Lord to us, that "the unbelieving, and all liars, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie * * * shall have part in that lake which burneth with fire and brimstone." There are some men who do not fabricate lies, but they love to tell the lies of others; they seem to take delight in repeating lies about their brethren and sisters, which they would know to be lies if they would investigate; and yet these people act as though it was all right and they were going to be saved. But do they not show by this that they love lies? We ought to refrain, not only from making and telling lies, but also from repeating lies.

The next class that is referred to is the whore-monger. No man can be saved that indulges in whoredom. I have thought sometimes that some of our people are inclined to think there is no hell, and that nobody is going to hell. I tell you there will be a large number of people go to hell; they will suffer torment, and will go where there is weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth; they will be in outer darkness, and suffer far beyond anything we can conceive of. Latter-day Saints especially who commit sin, if they die in their sin will go to hell, and they will suffer torment there until the day of redemption. But think of the length of time during which they will be in this torment! You remember what the Lord said to Martin Harris, when He told him that unless he repented his sufferings would be sore—"how sore you know not! how exquisite you know not! yea, how hard to bear you know not! * * * of which in the smallest, yea, even in the least degree, you have tasted at the time I withdrew my spirit." If any of you have the Spirit of God withdrawn from you, you can have a little foretaste of what the punishment of sinners will be. Remember this whenever you are tempted to tell a lie about the men who bear the Priesthood; but not about them alone, for no one can tell lies about anybody without incurring the displeasure of the Lord. Most of the men and women in this congregation have made covenants in holy places that they will not speak evil against the Lord's anointed. We have no business to speak against each other; we break our covenants when we do so.

I pray God to bless you. We have come here to visit you and see if we cannot do you some good. I hope that our visit will be profitable to you and to all of us. I pray God with all my heart that He will bless you in this place; bless your President, and his counselors; bless your High Council, your Bishops and their counselors, your teachers and all the Priesthood; bless you in your families, in your wives, in your husbands; bless you as parents, bless you as children; bless you in your land; bless you in your flocks and in your herds, and in all your labors. We have the right to bless the people, and I do this afternoon bless you all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that you may be filled with His Spirit and with His love, and that you may determine to serve Him with all your hearts and keep all His commandments.

That God may hear these prayers and these blessings in your behalf, I ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

LABORS IN MISSOURI.

POPLAR BLUFF, Butler Co., Mo.,
Feb. 14, 1896.

I left Salt Lake City on the 19th of September, 1894, being called to fill a mission in the Northern States, which I responded to cheerfully, leaving my family and many friends where I reside, at Mill Creek, Utah. I was appointed to labor in the Council Bluffs conference and remained one year in the state of Wisconsin, making many warm friends in that state; returning to our conference at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and receiving new fields of labor, myself and Bro. Edward Laird were appointed to Butler Co., Mo., to open up a new field. Butler county is in the state of Arkansas. We had the address of a Mr. Short; he had passed through Salt Lake City on one of his trips in the West, stopped a short time and got into a conversation with a young man on some of the principles of the Gospel and later having read statements of writers in different books, he finally subscribed for the DESERT NEWS and got somewhat acquainted with the principles that the Mormon people believe in. He wrote a letter to the office stating if any of our Elders should come through this part to call on him; he was teaching school.

We traveled 650 miles on rail and stopped at Poplar Bluff, the county seat. We were certainly strangers in a strange land, and still had twenty-five miles to go on foot. So we left our baggage in the station and started out in the direction as near as we could guess from the map. We soon got down in the swamps and heavy timber. The way they tell which is the main county road is by three notches cut on the trees of the sides of the road; but we kept on going feeling that we could not get lost any worse than we already were. We found the man we were looking for on the second day after leaving the station, and soon got acquainted with him. He made an announcement in his school that there would be meeting commencing that evening, and we held our meetings; but our attendance was small; the men came and left their wives at home when they heard we were Mormons. But the news spread like wild fire, and our names soon made it quite interesting for us. We had no place for quarters; Mr. Short was a single man, but he did all he could to get us a place, but failed. The fever got hold of me and if I had been home I suppose I would have been bed; but in this case we had to go. So we started south, but were unable to find a place to stop overnight—the people would meet us on the porch and see what we wanted before we got too close to the door. We walked till about 8 o'clock in the evening and then stopped over night under the trees. We were in Arkansas, and I was sick; but in the morning I was feeling much better. Finally we found our way back to the station and there found a place to stop. We soon got acquainted with some of the people here; I attended a lecture in one of the churches and